

THE JOURNEY

Photo Credit
David Swenson

Summer 2021

Pelican Valley Catholic Community Newsletter
Our Lady of Victory, St. Elizabeth, St. Leonard



Journey into Summer

By Fr Alan

The journey into summer this year seems promising and positive. In our part of the world the pandemic has lessened its grip on us...thanks to widespread vaccinations. Also, thank you as parishioners for all your cooperation and understanding of the church protocol that has helped us get to where we are today. It is wonderful to have good attendance and full participation once more in the celebration of Mass, although we continue to be mindful of and prayerful for those among us who remain vulnerable, and other parts of the world that are still suffering greatly from the Corona virus.....our brothers and sisters in Peru (Fr. Lucho and his parish), India, Brazil, and other places.

As our Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community leaders assess "where we're at" a word that keeps coming up is "reset". It's time for a "reset" of ministries and priorities especially as we plan for the fall and the coming school year. We continue to look at ways we can share resources, including staff, so that our Catholic Community can remain vibrant and flourish. The ministries of Faith Formation, youth and young adult ministry, evangelization, and business administration easily come to mind as opportunities for greater collaborative efforts. I will keep you posted through the bulletin as well as announcements at church as we make decisions about staffing and programs.

When I was a youngster, our pastor would always tell us to have a lot of fun over the summer, but "remember not to take a vacation from God." That included not taking a vacation from Sunday Mass! I share those words of wisdom with you and pray that you will have a wonderful and blessed summer.

El viaje hacia el verano de este año parece prometedor y positivo. En nuestra parte del mundo, la pandemia ha disminuido su control sobre nosotros ... gracias a las vacunaciones generalizadas. Además, gracias como feligreses por toda su cooperación y comprensión del protocolo de la iglesia que nos ha ayudado a llegar a donde estamos hoy. Es maravilloso tener una buena asistencia y una participación plena una vez más en la celebración de la Misa, aunque seguimos siendo conscientes y orando por aquellos de nosotros que siguen siendo vulnerables y otras partes del mundo que todavía sufren mucho por el virus Corona.Nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Perú (P. Lucho y su parroquia), India, Brasil y otros lugares.

Mientras nuestros líderes de la Comunidad Católica del Área de Pelican Valley evalúan "dónde estamos", una palabra que sigue apareciendo es "reiniciar". Es hora de "restablecer" los ministerios y las prioridades, especialmente a medida que planeamos para el otoño y el próximo año escolar. Seguimos buscando formas en las que podamos compartir recursos, incluido el personal, para que nuestra comunidad católica pueda seguir siendo vibrante y floreciente. Los ministerios de Formación en la Fe, el ministerio de jóvenes y adultos jóvenes, la evangelización y la administración de empresas vienen fácilmente a la mente como oportunidades para mayores esfuerzos de colaboración. Los mantendré informados a través del boletín y de los anuncios en la iglesia mientras tomamos decisiones sobre el personal y los programas.

Cuando era joven, nuestro pastor siempre nos decía que nos divirtiéramos mucho durante el verano, pero "recuerden no tomar vacaciones de Dios". ¡Eso incluía no tomar vacaciones de la misa dominical! Comparto esas palabras de sabiduría con ustedes y oro para que tengan un verano maravilloso y bendecido.

En esta imagen: padre Alan Wielinski, pastor, y padre Lucho Palomino, Chimbote, Peru, con algunos feligreses que asistieron a la misa en español del mediodía el 18 de abril en St. Leonard. El padre Lucho presidió y predicó esta misa y varias otras durante su estadia en Minnesota.

In this picture: Father Alan Wielinski, pastor, and Father Lucho Palomino, Chimbote, Peru, with some parishioners who attended the St. Leonard noon mass in Spanish on April 18. Father Lucho presided over and preached at this Mass and several others during his stay in Minnesota.



STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

By Michael & Mary Loreno



On the Saturday morning before Easter, members of the Our Lady of Victory Stewardship Committee, along with Social Concerns Committee members and other interested volunteers, gathered together to make "Easter Bags" for OLV youth. The goal of this focused group was to make an Easter Bag for each young person who attended any of the Easter Masses. The group formed an assembly line to fill white lunch bags with religiously themed jelly beans, chocolate and other sweets that were sealed with a religious sticker. The group successfully completed 250+ Easter Bags!!!

The saying of "many hands make light work" or Ecclesiastes 4:9, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor" came to life for the volunteers who had enough time to safely socialize and get to know each other during COVID times. The volunteers shared their time to do something special

for the youth of OLV and received the gift of welcoming hearts as their personal reward.

The Stewardship Committee's goal is to grow our faith community by welcoming parishioners and showing appreciation to those who make the Catholic tradition and faith part of their lives. Mothers are an essential part of supporting our youth in the "follow-through" of the Catholic tradition. And mothers were celebrated on Mother's Day with a carnation from the Stewardship Committee, as a sign of their importance in our church. On Father's Day, during this Year of St. Joseph, our appreciation for OLV fathers will be celebrated with a special gift to bring light to their importance in the Catholic family.

The Stewardship Committee will continue to appreciate all of the OLV Family with our Sunday- Funday July 18th! We will celebrate with Mass, games, entertainment, food and fun to express gratitude for the incredible families of Our Lady of Victory!



Pictures by
Teresa Thompson



St. Leonard Pork in the Park Event

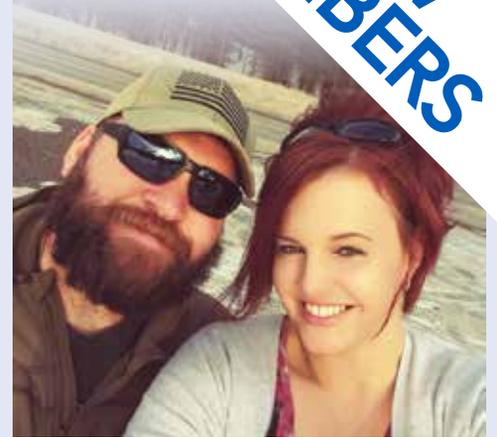
The Pork in the Park event, in conjunction with Art in the Park (by the Pelican Rapids Chamber of Commerce) is on Saturday July 24th. St. Leonard Parish serves (on the parish lawn) a dinner of roast pork, potato salad, baked beans, dinner roll, and beverage for \$10; \$5 for children under 6. OR we serve a roast pork sandwich on wheat or white sandwich bun, potato chips, pickle and beverage for \$5. Beverages include lemonade, coffee, and water. Seating is picnic tables between St Leonard Church and the park. Serving is from 11am to 2pm. Hope to see you there!

Mary Bongers

NEW MEMBERS



TIM AND JESSA RASMUSSEN
 (Left) Tim and Jessa (Kokott) Rasmussen were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria in November of 2019. Later they moved to the Rasmussen family farm west of Fergus Falls where they both work passionately in agriculture. Alongside them daily is their dog, Rue. Tim completed RCIA in the Spring of 2021. Welcome, Tim and Jessa!



AMBER NIEMI
 Amber Niemi moved with her children, Ashtynn (9) and Taylor (4,) to the Fergus Falls area from Detroit Lakes. Before their move, they were attending OLV regularly with family members. In the Fall, the girls were baptized Catholic and Ashtynn started school at OLV. At the same time, Amber started her journey to becoming Catholic through the RCIA program. She joined the Church at the Easter Vigil this year. She and Steve Koep will be married on June 26th at Our Lady of Victory. Welcome, Amber!



MITCHELL CARBERT
 Mitchell Carbert was confirmed in the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil this year. He and his fiancé, Madison, were married on June 5th at St. Joseph Church in Devils Lake. Mitch works for Titan Machinery. Welcome to OLV, Mitch and Madison!



BILL MADISON
 Bill joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil this year. He is engaged to Amanda Aschnewitz. He says, "I have an amazing soon-to-be-wife, three great kids, and two so-so dogs!" Bill works for Vector Windows. Welcome to Our Lady of Victory Church, Bill!

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY *Baptisms*

EMMETT CARTER CASEY
 3-11-21
 Andrew & Sarah Casey

KAYDEN JAMES WELLNITZ
 4-25-21
 Jonathan & Stacey Wellnitz

NATALIE VAN SANTEN
 3-27-21
 Brandon & Dana Van Santen

JAYDEN DIANE KOLSTAD
 5-15-21
 Steve & Jennifer Kolstad

LINDY JEAN NORMAN
 4-3-21
 Tyson & Kayla Norman

ARIEZ JEROME KOLSTAD
 5-15-21
 Steve & Jennifer Kolstad

KING PAUL MICHAEL PIECEK
 4-10-21
 Michael Piecek & Cherry McGee

BRAXTON JAMES BECKMAN
 5-21-21
 Rory & Samantha Beckman

HENRIETTA LEE KLEVEN
 4-16-21
 Nikolai & Britta Kleven

ARIA ELIZABETH KREIN
 5-23-21
 Blake & Josie Krein

CRUZ LALN SAUER
 4-24-21
 Shane & Raina Sauer

EFFIE LEE DAVISON
 5-23-21
 Tanner & Terina Davison

CHLOE ANN WELLNITZ
 4-25-21
 Jonathan & Stacey Wellnitz



RAY AND JANICE HUNT
 Ray and Janice moved to Fergus Falls from Hallock, Minnesota in October of 2020. Ray is a retired police officer and Jan retired from United Valley Bank. They were both active in choir at their previous parish. Ray collects Indian artifacts and likes to fish, hunt, and watch birds. Jan likes to hike, read, and bake. They moved here to be closer to their 2 children and 4 grandchildren. They are excited about their new parish. Welcome, Ray and Janice!

FAITH FORMATION GRADES 6-10

By Jennifer Dummer



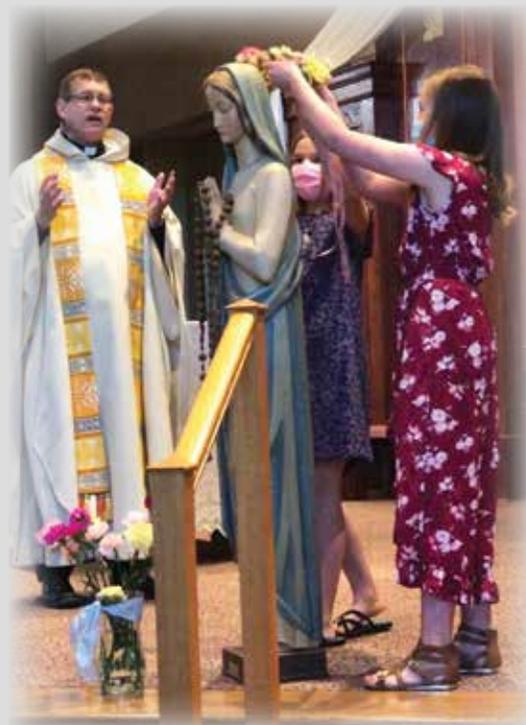
After a year of closures, OLV faith formation for grades 6-10 resumed in-person meetings in late March. The group met from 7:00 – 8:15 pm each week from March 24 until May 5, with exception of Holy Week. The students had the opportunity to participate in a Tenebrae prayer service during Lent, a teaching Mass with Fr. Patrick, a glow in the

dark rosary, and a variety of other activities, games, and small group discussions. They concluded their “short but sweet” faith formation year with a fun night at the home of Pat and Rachel Tuel. The evening included a feast of tacos, fajitas, and s’mores, games, and a closing prayer around the campfire with Fr. Alan. In ten short weeks the youth learned

Glow-in-the-dark Rosary

more about the Catholic faith, made new connections with other OLV youth, and had a little fun along the way.

May Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven



May Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven took place at the Our Lady of Victory School Mass on May 7th. Mary was crowned with flowers by two fourth grade girls: Marissa T. and Gracie K.

OLV School Strategic Plan

By Rachel Cox

Every seven years our school prepares for the MNSAA accreditation process. Part of this process includes shaping a new strategic plan to guide the school toward meeting its goals. We are in the final year of our current accreditation period, which means that we will start our self-study in the 2021-22 school year with an on-site visit the following school year. We have made great progress toward achieving the goals set in our current plan. As stakeholders in the school, we want to share our progress with the parish.

One objective of our current strategic plan is to attract new families while retaining current students. To help meet this objective, we formed a committee dedicated to developing and implementing a marketing plan. The marketing plan focused first on reaching out to current families and creating a social media presence on Facebook. This also resulted in promotional video shared on our Facebook page and website. The parish newsletter was also utilized to provide school news and connect with parish families. The past few years have shown strong retention across current families as well as attracting new families due to our reputation for quality programming.

We also strive to retain and attract new families by keeping tuition affordable. One way in which we do this is through the scrip program. The scrip program was previously used strictly as a fundraiser for the school. Now, the rebates that families earn from buying scrip gift cards go toward the following year's tuition. In the last school year, families reduced tuition costs by over \$2,000 using scrip.

One of the successful programs we offer that retains and attracts families is the Barton Tutoring System for students with dyslexia. There were 14 students enrolled in Barton tutoring in the 2020-21 school year. We are the only school in the Fergus Falls area that offers this service. The

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACC YOUTH

By Jennifer Dummer

This summer the youth from the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community will be participating in two fun and educational events. The first event is Totus Tuus, which is sponsored by the St. Cloud Diocese. Totus Tuus will be held at OLV June 20-25 and is a weeklong program led by four trained college students that helps young people in grades 1-12 grow in their understanding of the faith and love for Jesus and His Church. Students in grades 1-6 will meet Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm and youth in grades 7-12 will meet Sunday – Thursday from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The cost is \$25 for students in grades 1-6 and \$10 for youth in grades 6-12, with a family maximum of \$75. The program is open to all students in our ACC and beyond. Registrations are now available.

The second event is the Steubenville Youth Conference in Rochester, MN July 23-25. Thirty youth in grades 9-12 and seven adults from our ACC will be attending this transformational weekend conference. The youth will hear from dynamic speakers, participate in praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and Reconciliation. In addition, the conference organizers are partnering with Birthright Rochester and will be collecting baby products to benefit pregnant women in need. The group of attendees will soon be collecting baby item donations from our ACC parishes to bring with them to the conference. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our youth!

cost of the program is included in tuition fees throughout the school year, and families pay an hourly rate to tutor throughout the summer. We have enrolled two new students to our school as a direct result of our tutoring services.

As our school continues to grow due to its reputable programs, we find ourselves short on space. Creating a safe, attractive learning facility that accommodates growth is another objective of our current strategic plan. This objective led to the development of the OLV Building Enhancement Committee. This committee worked to identify the school and parish successes and challenges to determine how facility space supported or limited these endeavors. Information gathering meetings targeted different church and school groups to identify all the facility needs. In early spring of 2020, an architect was hired to create project plans and a consulting group was hired to conduct a feasibility study. Unfortunately, all of this planning was

put on hold as COVID-19 hit.

Our hope for the future is to pick up those initiatives that were put on hold during the pandemic and to continue making strides toward meeting our strategic goals. Moving forward, we depend on our school staff, families, and all stakeholders to support our school mission and ensure its success.

STEUBENVILLE
ROCHESTER

20
21 TOTUS TUUS



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

By Susan Ward

To understand the power of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, everyone should spend an hour with Deacon Pete, preferably at Perkins enjoying a cup of coffee and an enlightening conversation.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church offered a special day of Adoration Friday, April 30th from 9am until 9 pm. People from five different parishes participated. Father Patrick, Father Alan, and Father Kuhn also offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the day. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives us the opportunity to come together with sincerity of heart to praise God for all He has done for us. Deacon Pete knows that adoration and fasting prompt him to step back and hear God's message. God wants our prayers and our good works.

Deacon Pete is pleased that Minnesota has more perpetual adoration chapels than any other

area. These chapels are accessible 24 hours a day; OLV and St. Leonard both have adoration chapels that are always accessible. Adoration is available at St. Elizabeth after the 6:30 Thursday evening Mass.

Kathy Grise, a member of St. Elizabeth, shared these comments: "The day of adoration for me was a special day of reflection, prayer, and thanksgiving. I tried to spend as much time as I could that day to thank God for the many blessings of the past year. As a senior citizen, the previous year had been a great trial and tribulation, as it was for many people during the COVID-19 pandemic. I couldn't help but reflect that day on how turbulent the year had been for parents, students, businesses and particularly the church. I'll never forget Holy Week and Easter of 2020; it felt like the world had turned upside down and inside out. Looking back and reflecting on all that happened in 2020 was an important reminder of



Altar on the Day of Adoration

how much God sustains us and holds us up in the most adverse times of our lives. God loves us profoundly and we should never feel alone."

Additionally, Byron and Marsha Kidder shared these comments: "We felt a sense of peace spending some quality time during Adoration. We were reflecting on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection while relating this to ours. During this most intimate time with Jesus we were praying for wisdom and guidance as we continue our spiritual journey as to what is truly right and wrong in the eyes of Jesus."

Thanks to all who participated in the planning of and prayerfulness of this special day.

DEACON IN FORMATION AT ST. LEONARD PARISH



Alejandra and Mario Mancilla

By Nancy Hilber

Mario Mancilla, a resident of Pelican Rapids and a long-time member of the church of St. Leonard of Port Mauritius is currently in formation for the Diaconate. The role of Deacon in the Roman Catholic faith is an ordained position and years of study and work are required

to qualify for this role. While there are many deacons in the diocese, there are few of Hispanic descent, as Mario is. This class of candidates for ordination includes five men of the Spanish speaking members of the church in central Minnesota.

Mario and his wife Alejandra met in California, married and lived there for almost twenty years. They have three children: Eduardo and Esmeralda (both born in California), and Miguel (born in Minnesota.) They eventually moved to Pelican Rapids where several siblings of Alejandra live. Up to this point, they did not attend church. However, they had a sacramental wedding ceremony early on in their residency here. Alejandra started attending church and inviting Mario to join her. They were noticed by the late Fr. Richard Walz who at that time was the pastor. He sought them out and asked them to participate in the

Spanish language Mass, where they both became readers at the services. This led to working with youth groups and they eventually found themselves working with the entire Spanish speaking congregation.

Adding much fervor to their church work was participation in the Koinonia retreats in Belle Prairie. When asked why Fr. Richard noticed them, they are unable to pinpoint what he saw in them, but he saw something and time has proven him right. For years there was talk of Mario becoming a Deacon, but the length of time and the cost of the needed studies seemed prohibitive. Then a program was set up in Melrose for one weekend a month; the couple both studied and learned with teachers from St. Mary of the Lakes Seminary in Chicago and the Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral, a Spanish program for leadership. When that

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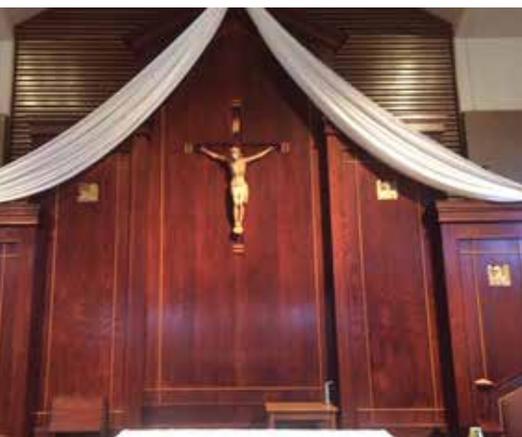
NEW TESTAMENT SYMBOLISM OR OLD TESTAMENT MYTHOLOGY?

By Vince Thoma, STB
(*Bachelors in Sacred Theology*)

Ever wondered what those four figures are on the wood paneled wall directly behind the altar at OLV? Strange looking? Unclear as to what they are? Are they reflections of God in Old Testament worship? Or are they New Testament symbolism?

During my four years of theology while in the seminary preparing for the priesthood, I cannot recall one lecture that was devoted entirely to these four figures. It was taken for granted that biblical patrologists regarded them as being representative of the four gospel writers – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. So what figure represents which gospel writer? St. Irenaeus (circa 120/140 - 202/203), a priest in Lyons (at that time a Roman province of Asia) is believed to be the first to attribute these four images to the four gospel writers. A tradition developed to incorporate these four images onto the altar walls of many Catholic churches.

Matthew wrote his gospel to show that Jesus, who was rejected by the Jewish people, was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. Matthew wanted to confirm the faith of the Jewish Christians. The figurine in the wood panel behind the altar that represents Matthew is appropriately the winged angel (upper right looking at the paneled wall). Some view it rather than an angel as a winged person or Jesus coming into the world fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament.



Mark wrote his gospel primarily for the Gentiles – the Christians of Rome. Mark wanted to impress them, so he emphasized the royalty, the kingship, the power of Jesus on earth, His divinity. The first sentence of Mark's gospel is "... the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Accordingly, the figurine in the wood panel that represents Mark is the winged lion (lower left looking at the paneled wall).

Luke was a Gentile convert ... a convert from paganism. Luke's gospel can be described as a book of joy. However, Luke also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. This writing is filled with the boldness of the apostles in their preaching the faith throughout the known world of that time. St. Peter, St. Barnabas, St. Philip, St. Stephen, St. James, and, of course, St. Paul are relentless and fearless in their proclaiming the Messiah Jesus. Accordingly, the figure in the wood panel that represents Luke is the winged ox or bull (upper left looking at the

paneled wall).

John's gospel has often been described as a gospel that soars with the divinity of Christ. Christ is the Word made Flesh to bring life to all mankind. The figurine in the wood panel that appropriately represents John is that of a rising eagle (lower right). Eagles soar high into the heavens from which Jesus came.

Old Testament reference is made to what appears to be four animals with faces and wings. It is found in the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 1. Reading of this First Chapter of Ezekiel will set one's imagination loose. Dig out your bible and reference this chapter. New Testament reference can be found in the Book of Revelation, Chapter Four, Verses 6 to 9. These two sources could make for an interesting movie.

A point of interest to many is that the four panels in Our Lady of Victory came from the old OLV church.

NEW EVANGELIZATION OFFICE: RCIA

By Mammias H. Mammias

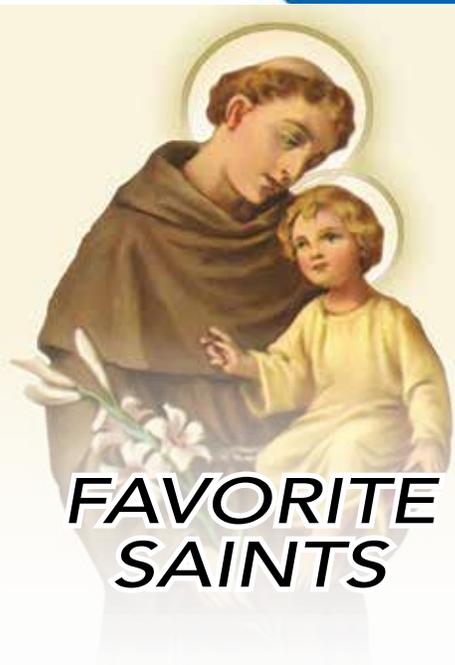
From left to right:
Timothy Blaine Rasmussen, Mitchell Lee Carbert, William James Madison, Glen Valley.
Not pictured: Charlene Cynthia Zakaras (While she couldn't be present for the picture, she was welcomed to the church at the Easter Vigil.)



This year, as in so many situations, the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program at Our Lady of Victory Parish took on a different format. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most of our interaction was through Zoom. However, this situation did not dampen the enthusiasm with which the RCIA candidates and team approached each session.

In addition, the remote learning format did not in anyway change our ability to form and deepen relationships and friendships. As we know the call to discipleship is a call to a relationship and that relationship, as the Lord Jesus tells us, is a friendship with Him. **"I no longer call you servants because**

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FAVORITE SAINTS

ST. ANTHONY By Marcia Williams

St. Anthony of Padua is my favorite saint. He has been a friend in heaven since I was young. His powerful intercession has been a constant in my life.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD By Marissa Mary Thoma (Age 10)

I like many saints, but Saint Mary is my favorite saint. One reason St. Mary is my favorite saint is because she is the Mother of Jesus who saved us from our sins, and the Mother of us all. Another reason is that St. Mary was brave to say yes when the angel Gabriel came, and she also had to be strong during the crucifixion of Jesus. I hope I can be brave and strong like St. Mary too.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA By Deb Forstner

When I was going through a difficult time in my young adulthood, my Grandma Forstner mailed me the prayer of St. Teresa of Avila, written in my grandma's writing on notepaper. The prayer was as follows:

"Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes.

Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices."

Receiving that prayer was a comfort to me, and made St. Teresa of Avila one of my favorite saints. Other fun facts about her include that she would levitate when she experienced rapture in prayer. And once, after falling off a horse on her way to visit a convent, she reportedly said to God, "Lord, if this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" It is her intimacy with our Lord God and her humor that appeals to me about this. Another quote from St. Teresa: "For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God."

BLESSED GIORGIO FRASSATI By Joe Connelly

Pier Giorgio Frassati was a young man full of life who looked to brighten the lives of others around him. He was born and raised in a wealthy family from Turin, Italy (1901-1925). He was only 24 when he died from polio. It is believed he contracted this from one of his many visits to the sick and poor in the "slums" of Turin.



Blessed Giorgio Frassati

Pier lived a humble life despite his wealthy upbringing. Growing up, he had an allowance to buy food and use the bus, but he instead rode his bike and used his allowance to buy food for those in need or even gave it away. By the time he was old enough to drive, his father gave him a car which he ended up selling and giving most of the sale to those less fortunate. He loved the outdoors, and was an avid rock climber and hiker. He would bring his friends to new places and would even lead a hike to a mountaintop church for any and all who wished to have the experience.

Pier is not yet fully inducted into Sainthood yet is considered to be Blessed. With his attributes of selflessness and caring for others, he looked to be a light for those around him, spreading love and joy everywhere he went.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
If you would like to submit information about your favorite saint for the next issue of *The Journey*, email Deb at daforstner@gmail.com



DEACON IN FORMATION AT ST. LEONARD PARISH Continued from page 6

program finished, they continued at St. John's University, in Colledgeville, in the Emmaus Institute program, again going for one weekend a month for two years. Mario will resume this schedule in September. With his fellow candidates, he will be ordained as a Deacon of the Catholic Church sometime in the spring of 2022.

If you shop at Larry's Supermarket in Pelican Rapids in the mornings, you will know Mario, who is a familiar face there.

Tributes to the Boy Saint

By Tom Hintgen

Back in the late 1950s, at our Lady of Victory School, teachers told students about a boy saint by the name of Peregrine, a martyr, whose remains and relics were in a crypt at the old St. John's abbey church west of St. Cloud.

The remains and relics were later moved to the new abbey church at St. John's in 1961. The dedication that year in the lower level of the new church took place on July 19. Included in the ceremony was the consecration of the relic chapel and crypt altar.

Nuns who taught at OLV School in the late 1950s and early 1960s referred to St. Peregrine, as "the boy saint" since he was 12 when he died in the second century after the birth of Jesus Christ.

Peregrine died because he and three other Christians refused to worship the Roman Emperor Commodus in Italy. Each became a martyr for his personal beliefs.

"Constancy in Christ prevailed for Peregrine and the others who were put to death," said one

historian.

The boy saint, Peregrine, has the same name as an older Italian saint known as the patron of cancer patients who lived in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Remains and relics of St. Peregrine were preserved for purposes of veneration, first in Italy, and then taken to Germany in 1731.

In 1895 Fr. Gerard Spielman of St. John's Abbey visited his home country of Germany. He petitioned the Prince of Loewenstein for the remains and relics of St. Peregrine. The request was granted. The remains and relics were temporarily moved to New York, where Fr. Spielman was stationed as assistant pastor.

In 1927 the church in New York was rebuilt. This necessitated the removal of the remains of St. Peregrine.

The remains and relics then found their way to the old St. John's Abbey church near St. Cloud in Collegette. The move to the new church at St. John's took place in 1961 with the aforementioned consecration of the relic chapel and crypt altar.

The move of the remains and relics from New York to St. John's was in accord with the original intention of the donor. Stipulated was that the remains and relics be



The final resting place for the boy saint, Peregrine, is in the lower level of St. John's Abbey Church west of St. Cloud.

kept under Benedictine auspices.

Over the years the treasured remains of St. Peregrine, the boy saint, have been in an excellent state of preservation. Relics are covered in silk.

The boy saint's feast day is celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

A footnote: The lower level of the abbey church at St. John's is currently closed due to renovations. Reopening may not take place until mid-August. That's when visitors will hopefully be able to again visit St. Peregrine's shrine.

NEW EVANGELIZATION OFFICE: RCIA

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a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

Each RCIA candidate and team member remained committed to our sessions and our learning. I was so impressed in our conversations by the ability and eagerness with which the candidates interiorized the lessons and displayed a good grasp of the material. I was particularly moved by the way each

candidate experienced their RCIA journey as a calling from the Lord Jesus to follow Him. It seemed that in every case, for each person, this was a pilgrimage toward a deeper understanding of the chief teachings of the Catholic Faith, so as to know and love Christ more. Each week we met, I was inspired and encouraged in my work of the New Evangelization.

At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed into the Church and confirmed five new Catholics. What a grace it is that our community is blessed with these new members; this is a great sign of

hope for our parish in particular, and the Church in general. Even though the Church throughout the world and even locally has and is facing many challenges, the Holy Spirit continues His work of enlightening minds and inflaming hearts. Despite the human frailty and weakness we read about and see in many of our leaders and shepherds, there are still those who come to know and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Way, the Truth, and Life.

Perpetual Light

By Connie Graff



FATHER BERNARD WESSLING

There is a burial site at St. Otto's Cemetery that is honored by its location, near the outdoor altar and the Crucifix. The Pastor of OLV from 1921-1957, Father Bernard



Wessling, is buried there. Born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1888, Bernard was ordained on June 7, 1913 and served in WWI as a chaplain from 1914-1918. After serving as a priest in Louisville for two years, he was called to serve in the St. Cloud Diocese. Father Wessling pastored in St. Alexis, West Union, Donnelly, Herman and Norcross before arriving in Fergus Falls in 1921. I wonder if he knew upon his arrival that OLV Catholic Church would be his home for the next 36 years! Father Wessling supervised the rebuilding of OLV Church which was largely destroyed by the tornado that brought death and destruction to Fergus Falls in 1919. He also undertook establishing OLV School along with the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls.

OLV parishioner, Delphine Silber-nagel, remembers Father Wessling as a "wonderful priest with a flair of a good politician. He was well loved throughout Fergus Falls for his care and respect for veterans and for entertaining not only parishioners but Lutheran clergy and community



Father Bernard Wessling gravesite at the Memorial Day Service 2021

members as well."

Father Wessling was involved in the Fergus Falls community as he was president of the Fish and Game Club and a member of the American Legion, serving as MN State Chaplain. It was said of Father Wessling that he "typifies good will between Catholic and non-Catholic." I would add that he knew how to get along in a community that was largely Lutheran. He was widely known for providing instruction and converting many to the Catholic faith. Vincent Yzermans noted in his writing in "The Spirit in Central Minnesota" that at the time of his silver jubilee in 1939, it was remarked that "almost half of the families in the parish had either a father or mother who was one of his converts." Current OLV Pastor, Father Alan Wielinski, noted that Father Wessling was "a priest ahead of his time in his ecumenical efforts."

Just a month after retiring, Father Bernard Wessling died on November 23, 1957. His body laid in state at the church, and his funeral was an impressive celebration of his life. The Fergus Falls Journal editor describes Father Wessling as "having a fine personality. His kindness, his

tolerance and his devotion to his pastoral duties have endeared him to the entire community." Accolades for a priest who served God well and befitting a burial place of honor.

GEORGE & MARGARET JURGENS



Born and raised in Milbank, South Dakota, George and Margaret were married at Annunciation Catholic Church in Renville, SD on August 30, 1958. The young couple lived in several small towns in MN and ND before settling in Fergus Falls, joining OLV parish in 1968. The Jurgens lovingly welcomed four children to their family: Brenda, Nancy, Cheryl and Ben.

George was employed by Otter Tail Power for 35 years and Margaret worked at Fergus Falls Bank and Trust before together starting a goose decoy business in 1980. "North Wind Decoy Co." became one of the largest goose decoy suppliers in the U.S.A., eventually being sold to Cabela's Sporting Goods. Although both George and Margaret were involved in the start up and running of their business, Margaret served as president and was instrumental in its success. Granddaughter, Becca, shared that her Grandpa "was a hard worker and an incredible business man who valued a strong work ethic. He was to the point and honest, unapologetically himself, and I loved that about him."

George enjoyed the game of hockey which he coached at the youth level and also officiated at

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hundreds of games at the high school and college level. He was proud to help and organize the first ever Fergus Falls girls hockey team in 1973 named "The O'Meara Shamrocks". (O'Meara's Department Store had to be the sponsor I'm assuming!).

Pat and Susan Ward of St. Elizabeth Parish shared fond memories of Margaret, who was a sister of Pat's. "Our family has wonderful memories of Margaret Mary! She was the oldest of 9 kids so her idea was always, the more the merrier. She frequently loaded all the kids in her car and headed for an adventure. We all feel blessed for the wonderful memories she gave us." Susan adds, "Fun was the center of everything when Margaret Mary was a part of it. She loved gatherings, especially family ones." Niece Elizabeth remembers Margaret Mary's great laugh, her generosity and loves that even now she is constantly popping up in her memories. Nephew Pat remembers always being happy around her, how special she could make you feel and how much love she radiated. Another niece, Jessica, describes her Aunt Margaret Mary as an amazing hostess who served the best sandwiches and had a mind blowing pantry of snacks and pop. Jessica shares she accompanied Margaret to Sturgis to sell hats worn by motorcycle enthusiasts. They saw a lot of "chaps and cheeks and nearly peed our pants laughing!"

Following the death of their grandson, Mackenzie Mykle Knutson, son of Brenda and Randy, it was important to George that he be surrounded by family and plots were purchased at St. Otto's. Grandpa George and Grandma Margaret are buried near Mackenzie. The location was perfect as a flowering crab tree was nearby and the Jurgens family enjoyed the lovely blossoms at their home in Devils Lake. It was at this time that George and Margaret paid for other children's funerals,

anonymously, as George always said "If you have to brag about it, it's not helping others."

It is said there are "saints living among us." By that statement I don't mean to imply that this writer knows who the saints are, for only God knows that. However, I do believe that every person buried at St Otto's had shared at least one saintly quality of a holy person during their time on earth. As I learned more about this couple from their family members, saintly characteristics were described over and over. Generosity, kindness, welcoming, contagious laughter, being in Nana's presence felt like being wrapped in a big, warm hug, thoughtfulness, going out of your way to help others and never wanting recognition for good deeds, are



the legacy given by George and Margaret Mary. Saintly qualities indeed.

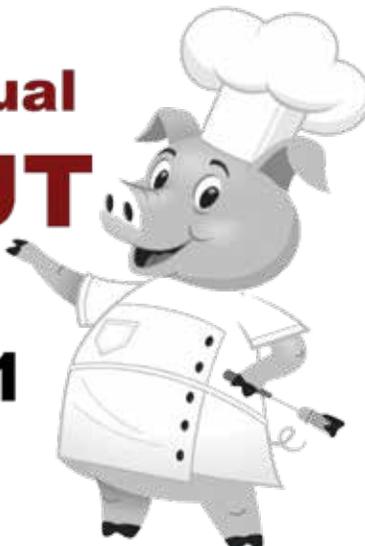
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church's

35th Annual PORKOUT

Sunday,
Aug. 15, 2021
 Elizabeth, MN

- ▶ **10:00 am Outdoor Mass**
- ▶ **11:00 am – 1:30 pm**
Serving Slow Roasted Pork On The Spit With All The Trimmings
 Baked Potato, Corn, Cole Slaw, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Buns, Dessert, Milk, Coffee
- ▶ **11:00 am – 3:00 pm**
Enjoy the afternoon with

Garden Produce	Silent Auction	Bingo
Kid's Games	Penny Raffle	Treat Walk
Craft & Bake Sale	Ice Cream Treats	Pop Booth
Beer Garden	Bean Bag Tournament	
- ▶ **3:00 pm – Raffle**
Over \$4,000 In Prizes – Cash, Certificates & More!



Cost:
\$10.00 Per Person
 5-10 yrs. \$5.00
 Under 5 Free

Great Food & Activities!
Fun For The Whole Family!

▶ **Everyone Is Welcome!**

**PELICAN VALLEY AREA
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Our Lady of Victory, St. Elizabeth, St. Leonard

**C/O 207 North Vine Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537**



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:30 pm Our Lady of Victory
Sunday 8:30 am St. Elizabeth
Sunday 8:30 am Our Lady of Victory
Sunday 10:30 am St. Leonard
Sunday 10:30 am Our Lady of Victory
Sunday 12:00 pm St. Leonard Spanish Mass

*Our Lady of Victory School
(K-6th grade)
Learning Ladder Preschool
(3-5 year olds, full and
half day)
218/736-6661
www.ffolvschool.org*

REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD MAN

By Lee Krogh

(Author's note: This is a slightly revised version of a poem found while rummaging through old scrapbooks. I wrote it 35 years ago to kick off OLV's "Renew" program, which I was honored to chair. Reprinted in the *St. Cloud Visitor* back then, it seems to me to be equally appropriate today.)

ROADBLOCKS TO STEWARDSHIP

Lord, you've made your message clear...It's all laid out.

"Feed the...Clothe the...Give drink to...Shelter the...Visit the." But...
car repairs are...
and medical costs have...
and the roof needs...
and the carpet looks like...

Honest, Lord. I'm up to my neck! This isn't 30 AD. There's taxes..inflation...insurance...IRAs. There's the Vikings...the Twins...The Wild...cable TV.

And have you priced a golf membership lately?
How about a new refrigerator? A washer-dryer?
A gallon of gas...of fuel oil...of milk?

"You've got to do something about those teeth."
"But mom, I can't wear *that* old rag."
"We've got to leave *something* for the kids."
"I know it was expensive, but..."
"OK. So when are you going to get around to it?"
"Hey Joe! When you're done there, would you mind...?"

It's not that I don't believe, Lord.

"Whatsoever you do...Sell all that you have...Greater love than this..." But...
I'm tired. I'm worried. I'm a little afraid.
I don't know how...
I need a *little* time to myself!
Have you asked George?

So c'mon, Lord! Be fair. After all, it's a dog-eat-dog world out there!