

THE JOURNEY

Photo Credit
David Swenson

Fall 2021

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



Pelican Valley Community Format Is Working Well

By Tom Hintgen

Church members of Our Lady of Victory, St. Elizabeth, and St. Leonard in Pelican Rapids can take comfort that the change to the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community is meeting expectations.

"The three parishes definitely have their own personalities and cultures," said Fr. Alan Wielinski, "but historically they have worked well together to serve Catholics in our area."

The three parishes, even before the merger, shared pastors at various times, celebrated a joint Confirmation, and held retreats together.

"So there is good ground to build on, including the strong faith, good will, and zeal of so many people," Fr. Alan said.

Fr. Alan and Fr. Patrick Hoeft each say they feel energized by serving the three parishes, generally alternating weekends between presiding at the three OLV Masses and the three at St. Elizabeth and St. Leonard.

"The daily Mass and Word and Communion schedule, along with opportunities for adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, seem to serve the communities well," Fr. Alan said.

Both priests say the combined weekend bulletin as well as the ACC Journey newsletter have been well received.

"We now have a part-time youth minister, Emily Hebert, serving our Area Catholic Community," Fr. Alan said. "She has been introduced at all three parishes and is beginning to meet youth and prepare for some upcoming diocesan and parish events." Emily will work alongside New Evangelization and Young Adult Minister, Mammias H. Mammias.

Fr. Alan and Fr. Patrick note that parishioners are increasingly attending Mass at each other's church, so there is some sense of ACC identity and familiarity growing.

The Diocese of St. Cloud points out that, in order to continue to thrive, parishes must come together to collaborate for the mission of the universal church.

All across the diocese, Area Catholic Communities include two or more parishes in a given area. The diocese has 131 parishes in 16 counties in central Minnesota with more than 125,000 Catholics. The vision is to reenergize Catholics so that all parishes thrive in the Diocese of St. Cloud.

Bishop Donald Kettler emphasizes that every parish is unique, and leaders from each parish play an important role in meeting the needs of the entire Catholic Area Community.

The Bishop adds that each Area Catholic Community will determine the best approach for good stewardship of facilities, finances, staff and programs to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs.

El formato comunitario de Pelican Valley está funcionando bien

Por Tom Hintgen

Los miembros de la iglesia de Our Lady of Victory, St. Elizabeth y St. Leonard en Pelican Rapids pueden estar tranquilos de que el cambio a la comunidad católica del área de Pelican Valley está cumpliendo con las expectativas. "Las tres parroquias definitivamente tienen sus propias personalidades y culturas", dijo el P. Alan Wielinski, "pero históricamente han trabajado bien juntos para servir a los católicos en nuestra área". Las tres parroquias, incluso antes de la fusión, compartieron pastores en varias ocasiones, celebraron una Confirmación conjunta y realizaron retiros juntos. "Así que hay un buen terreno sobre el que construir, incluida la fe fuerte, la buena voluntad y el celo de tanta gente", dijo el P. Alan. P. Alan y el P. Patrick Hoeft dice que se sienten llenos de energía al servir en las tres parroquias, generalmente alternando los fines de semana entre presidir las tres misas OLV y las tres en St. Elizabeth y St. Leonard. "El horario diario de la Misa y la Palabra y la Comunión, junto con las oportunidades para la adoración y el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, parecen servir bien a las comunidades", dijo el P. Alan. Ambos sacerdotes dicen que tanto el boletín de fin de semana combinado como el boletín de ACC Journey han sido bien recibidos. "Ahora tenemos una ministra de jóvenes de medio tiempo, Emily Hebert, que sirve a nuestra comunidad católica del área", dijo el P. Alan. "Ha sido presentada en las tres parroquias y está comenzando a conocer a los jóvenes y a prepararse para algunos de los próximos eventos diocesanos y parroquiales". Emily trabajará junto a la ministra de Nueva Evangelización y Jóvenes Adultos, Mammias H. Mammias. P. Alan y el P. Patrick notó que los feligreses asisten cada vez más a una misa en la iglesia de los demás, por lo que hay un sentido de identidad y familiaridad de ACC creciente. La Diócesis de St. Cloud señala que, para continuar prosperando, las parroquias deben unirse para colaborar por la misión de la iglesia universal. En toda la diócesis, las comunidades católicas del área incluyen dos o más parroquias en un área determinada. La diócesis tiene 131 parroquias en 16 condados en el centro de Minnesota con más de 125,000 católicos. La visión es revitalizar a los católicos para que todas las parroquias prosperen en la Diócesis de St. Cloud. El obispo Donald Kettler enfatiza que cada parroquia es única y los líderes de cada parroquia juegan un papel importante en la satisfacción de las necesidades de toda la comunidad católica del área.

El obispo agrega que cada comunidad católica del área determinará el mejor enfoque para una buena administración de las instalaciones, las finanzas, el personal y los programas para satisfacer las necesidades pastorales y espirituales.

OLV's Stewardship Committee Sunday Funday at Roosevelt Park, Celebrating Fr. Patrick's First Year



Though Fr. Patrick has been ordained for approximately one year, COVID restrictions prevented many celebrations at that time. This outdoor Mass was OLV's way of offering him congratulations on that great Sacrament in his life and his service to us.



John Schmidt, Parish Trustee and Knight of Columbus, presents Fr. Patrick a gift.



Fr. Patrick and his statue of St. Patrick are practically wearing identical vestments!



Fr. Patrick pictured with his parents, Nancy and Bill.

OLV Building Enhancement Committee Update: Spring 2022 Feasibility Study to Review Parish Facility Needs and Improvements

By Mark Thoma, Chris Carlson, and Father Alan

Prior to April of 2020, the OLV Building Enhancement Committee had been meeting for ten months to review our church and school facilities, and to discuss potential improvements that could be made to maintain and enrich the delivery of ministries and services, consistent with our parish mission statement: "We are sent to love and serve, as we journey toward the Kingdom!" Then COVID-19 hit, and along with most of the world, our committee paused all activities.

While our church and school community continues on the path to finding a new normal, our facility needs remain. So far, parish leaders have taken two steps towards professionally researching the space and infrastructure issues, communicating that information to the parish, and testing the will and desire of parishioners to financially support potential facility improvements and expansion.

The first step was to retain a local architect, Design Intent Architects led by Scott DeMartelaere, who has over 25 years experience in facilities planning, building programs, and design. Scott's focus has been to interview parish user groups to obtain their feedback on potential space needs. The second step was to retain Hal Johnson and Associates (HJA) from Bloomington, Minnesota who have 48 years of experience with conducting parish Feasibility Studies.

The Feasibility Study process will begin by creating a presentation document that includes our mission, history, ministries, finances, a Facilities Analysis Report, proposed improvements to remedy identified deficiencies, cost estimates (not formal bids), and the potential next steps. The information will create a vision and action plan to provide renovated and expanded facilities to support the mission and ministries at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

and School.

To obtain feedback from all interested parishioners, the Feasibility Study will include several open parish meetings, written and online tools for obtaining input on the proposal, confidential interviews with a portion of meeting attendees, and written/online surveys from the remainder of meeting attendees.

At the conclusion of Feasibility Study, HJA will provide a comprehensive report and recommendations that will be made available to all interested parishioners to review before proceeding with any further steps.

More information will be forthcoming over the winter months. In the meantime, please set your sights on this important parish planning process that will take place next spring, after Easter.

Thank you!

MOVIE NIGHT

By Teresa Thompson

The OLV Stewardship Committee sponsored a weekly movie night located at the OLV parking lot Wednesday evenings from July 7 thru August 18. In the case of inclement weather this event moved to the school gym. The fun began at 8:30 pm for social hour with the movie starting at 9:30 pm. Season One of "The Chosen" was enjoyed by many. The movie and the concessions were free with good will donations being accepted. To add to the excitement, tickets for \$1.00 were sold for a chance to win "The Chosen" merchandise such as a t-shirt or sweatshirt. There were two lucky winners each night.

"The Chosen" is an original series produced by Dallas Jenkins. It offers viewers a glimpse into what the daily and extraordinary life of Jesus Christ and his disciples might have looked like over 2,000 years ago.

Over \$500 was collected from good will and the ticket sales. Half of this will be donated to pay-it-forward for production of "The Chosen" and the other half to Our Lady of Victory School.

The committee plans to show Season Two of "The Chosen" next summer!



DOROTHY APPERT

Dorothy Appert is the mother of OLV Parishioner, Darren Appert. She grew up in Glen Ullin, N.D. She has three grand-daughters and three great-granddaughters. Dorothy's husband died two-and-a-half years ago. She enjoys reading, jigsaw puzzles, going to coffee with friends, and playing with her great-grandchildren.



NEW MEMBER

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY *Baptisms*

June 6
JORGE RAMIREZ
(Jorge is an adult)

June 6
ANDERS JAMES NELSON
Adam and Oriana Nelson

July 3
TIFFANY CERVANTES
Jose and Maria Cervantes

July 3
GUADALUPE CERVANTES
Jose and Maria Cervantes

July 24
ANNALIE FRANCO
Efrain and Yuliana Franco

August 29
BRIGGS DAVID SOLAND
Ethan and Miranda Soland

WELCOME ALL!

INSPIRING OUR YOUTH

By Craig Hebert

"Young people, do not be afraid to be holy!" "Humanity is in urgent need of the witness of free and courageous young people who dare to go against the tide and proclaim with vigour and enthusiasm their personal faith in God, Lord and Saviour." Pope St. John Paul II

Trying to catch our new Youth Minister for a brief interview has been like trying to catch a walleye in Lake Alice - you can try, but it will prove to be a challenge! For Emily Hebert (pronounced "A-Bear"), summer's fleeting days have been filled with everything from running in a mud and obstacle race, performing bridesmaid duties for showers and weddings (three to be exact), catching a few Minnesota Twins games, working on graduate school studies, taking tickets at Otter events, participating in OLV music ministry, beginning the ACC Youth Minister position, and the big one just around the corner - preparing for the start of the school year as a 5th grade teacher. Full schedule, indeed, but in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "If you want something done, ask a busy person."

You may have read Emily's introduction in our August 1st edition of the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community bulletin, or you might have seen her introduced at a recent Mass, but if you are interested in more, the writer was able to catch her for a some questions and answers:

Q: Why did you want the position as ACC Youth Minister?

A: I think there is a need for a stronger youth community in the parishes, and I want to help make that happen.

Q: Is this a new position?

A: This is a new position for the ACC.

Q: What unique qualities do you bring to this position?

A: Past experience with our faith formation program as participant and chaperone.

Q: What are a few of your responsibilities?

A: Organize a youth group within our ACC of grades 6 through 12; provide opportunities for Catholic youth at conferences such as the Steubenville Youth Conference and retreats like we've done at Castaway Club; identify need for and organize service projects.

Q: What challenges do you anticipate?

A: Kids are involved in a lot of things already, but we hope to bring them something that they don't have right now.

Q: What are some of your goals as Youth Minister?

A: Strengthen the faith community among youth and families in the ACC; to help bring our parishes together; unite efforts to provide more youth opportunities; to help youth learn more about their faith.

Q: How will this work with the ACC parishes?

A: My office is at OLV, but I will be working with youth from all three parishes.

Q: Who will you be working with?

A: Faith formation leaders from each parish and our priests and deacons.

Q: Do you have anything planned yet?

A: Beginning plans for a Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference at Castaway and a NET (National Evangelization Team) retreat.



Emily Hebert, ACC Youth Minister, introduces herself prior to Mass at St. Leonard Catholic Church

Emily always welcomes questions and comments from you, our ACC family. If you miss her at church or around town, give her a call at the OLV parish office at 281-736-2429 or email at emily@ffolvchurch.org. If you would like to help out or participate in our youth ministry, please call, email, or speak with her.

PRAYER FOR OUR YOUTH

We offer to you, Loving God, the gifts and needs of youth.

Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities in their lives.

Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know they are valued and valuable beings.

Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know they are needed in this world.

Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike.

Guide us, as we continue to grow in appreciation of the many gifts of young people, in the ministry opportunities we offer to them, in the journey of faith we walk with them, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Source: Holy Spirit Catholic Parish in Duncanville, TX

FATHER PATRICK'S WORK IN COSTA RICA

By Susan Ward



Parishioners from St. Elizabeth's, Our Lady of Victory and St. Leonard's were treated on a Saturday night to Father Patrick's experience in Costa Rica. Father joined four missionaries and a group of college students in bringing God to many young people. Their mission was to bring a deeper conversion to Christ and to grow in holiness with others.

Mass was celebrated every day with the group, and they also spent an hour each day in silent prayer. Students expressed how powerful it was to spend an hour in silence with the Lord. There were hours of adoration daily, plus talks given by various student leaders. Students said the talks helped them dig more deeply into their prayer life as well as create spiritual friendships with each other as they grew in holiness together.

Since all the students on the mission trip were college athletes, sports played a big part in helping them grow in holiness together. The Costa Rican children would show up

to play soccer, kickball, frisbee, jump rope, run, and dance. They frequently talked about the Lord and their relationship with God. The students turned off their phones for the week, which was an important factor in creating time for students to develop spiritual friendships with each other and with God. Father Patrick said one of the "high moments" was witnessing God at work in people's lives. The evening was even more special for us as Father Patrick's family joined us at Brenny Hall.

Thanks, Father Patrick, for the special evening.



Grandparents Joann and Sylvester Ludwig, Father Patrick, Nancy and Bill Hoeft



Several OLV parishioners helped in the historic home of our beloved, deceased Fr. Bill Gamber, in preparation for an auction sale that was held on August 29th.

ST. LEONARD BEEF DINNER

By Mary Bongers

St. Leonard will be serving a BEEF DINNER on Wednesday, October 20th from 4-7pm

Includes roast beef, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, dinner roll, and dessert

\$10 - Reduced prices for children.

Dinner will be served in the church basement, take out dinners will be available. This event will include a silent auction.



Celebrating 25th Anniversary

By John Schmidt



Fr. Joe Korf, past OLV pastor, with current pastor, Fr. Alan.

On Tuesday evening August 31, 2021 at 6:30, OLV parishioners gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the church. The original dedication took place on August 25, 1996 with Bishop Kinney performing the dedication. Father Joe Korf, OLV pastor during planning and construction, recalled the dedication and gave a beautiful description of how the new church came about. He pointed out that during the dedication and the blessing of the new church with holy water by Bishop Kinney, it rained and God blessed the new church with refreshing and blessed rain. Current pastor, Father Alan Wielinski, led the prayer service.

The building of the church was several years in the making. A great deal of prayer was said by parishioners for a successful project. The original prayer was created by

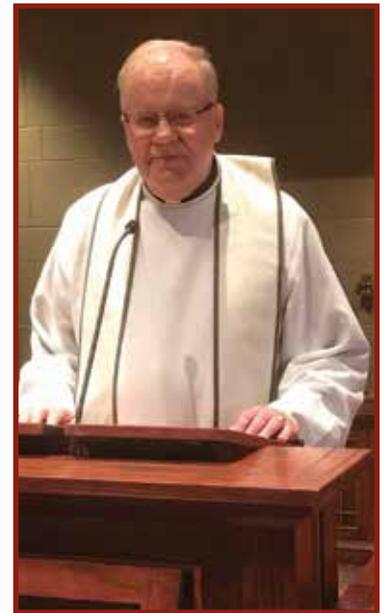


Lee Krogh was a lector at the prayer service

Father Joe, slightly changed during construction, and said until the dedication. Father Joe talked about how the construction estimate came in at \$1.4 million, and the financial planning consultant said we could only afford \$900,000. Father Joe said "If God wants a church built here, there will be a church built here."

A reception of punch and cookies was served, giving everyone an opportunity to visit and recall moments during the planning and construction. Don Linn gave some brief tidbits on the planning, the building, and the people involved in making it happen. Bill Giesen, Chair of the Building Committee gave his huge three-ring binder of notes, drawings, meetings, and events to OLV parish for keeping in our archives. A table had a huge number of articles, documents, and pieces of information that Mike and Marlys Lucy had kept in their responsibility as Publicity and Public Relations. Jeff Wachlarowicz, a Trustee at the time, recalled how beautiful the church

bell was sitting on the ground during construction. He suggested we should find a way to make it visible for all to see as a reminder of our rich and storied past, that has brought us to today, and a reminder of what we can be in the future.



Fr. Joe shared memories of building OLV church



OLV Church Building Committee - L to R; Don Linn; Mike Lucy; Marlys Lucy; Paul Beyer; Bill Giesen Chairman; Father Joe Korf; David Spies; Jeff Wachlarowicz; Irma Roers; Dennis Roers; Richard Blee; Absent Margaret Krogh and Virginia Robertson

First Communion at St. Leonard's

On Sunday August 29th at St. Leonard's, the Sacrament of First Communion was celebrated with a bilingual Mass at noon. These children made their First Confession the week prior. Congratulations to them and their families! Many thanks to Mario Mancilla and the catechists: Hana Villagomez, Beatriz and Camila Franco. This is the class that had been postponed because of the pandemic. So grateful that the time of receiving the forgiveness of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the gift of the Eucharist has come for these special children.



St. Elizabeth's Assumption Mass and Porkout

By Deb Forstner

This year was St. Elizabeth Catholic Church's 35th Annual Parish Porkout celebration. For this 35th year, the calendar also fell on an important Marian Feast Day: The Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption into heaven, which is celebrated every August 15th. The day began with an outdoor Mass (see pictures which reflect the beauty and joy of this Eucharistic Celebration). Mass was followed by the famous and delicious pork dinner with all the trimmings in Brenny Hall, along with a raffle, music, fellowship and fun. Thanks to all who have made the Porkout such a success this year, in the past, and for years to come!



ST. LEONARD PORK IN THE PARK A SUCCESS!

By Mary Bongers

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the delicious Pork dinner July 24th in Pelican Rapids, and to those who donated time and money to participate. The weather was perfect and the food even better! After expenses, the total net profit came to \$1766. And you can't put a price on the community goodwill and fellowship experienced during the preparation and serving. Diners raved about the food and thanked us for providing the only hot meal during the Art in the Park event. A special thank you to the coordinators: Maria Stokka, Cyndy Stotesbery, and Julie Ann Holt. Kudos to all of you for a job well done. Another thank you to Jason Stetz for his preparation of the pork. It was delicious! Blessings on all of you.

Phil Stotesbery,
Maria Stokka
(coordinator),
Orville Shannon,
Fr. Alan Wielinski,
Pam Haggemiller,
Pat Scheman,
Alejandra and
Mario Mancilla,
in front is Nancy
Hilber and Deacon
Joe Hilber. Volunteers not pictured are Ken Scheman, Cyndy Stotesbery, and Julie Ann Holt.



CALLING ON

OLV SCHOOL
ALUMNI

Are you an alumni of OLV School? Are you familiar with the school's history? Do you have a good memory for faces and names? OLV School is in the process of updating and digitizing its alumni database. We are looking for a couple of historically minded individuals who would be willing to help sort through our current alumni list, make updates as needed, provide additional background information, and possibly look through old class photos. The group would meet one Friday a month to discuss OLV School history while enjoying coffee and donuts.

Our hope is that an updated database will help us keep in touch with our former students and families. OLV School would love to share all the great things we have going on, promote upcoming events, celebrate the accomplishments of former students, and connect with those who have a vested interest in the school. We would also like to create fellowship events for targeted groups, like hosting a social hour for parents of recent graduates.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, please reach out to me (Rachel Cox) at rcox@ffolv.org or call 218-736-6661 ext. 28.

ST. LEONARD'S LECTORS

By David Hilber

There are several ways that lay people can participate in the Mass: Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Choir Member, and Lector. I sing in the choir and on many Sundays, I read the scriptures as a lector. On a personal level, I find that I feel much more connected to the service when filling each of these roles. Today I will briefly talk about being a lector. Let's start with a definition.

Lector (from The Catholic Dictionary): One of the ministries adapted to present day needs in the Latin Church, otherwise known as reader. He functions partially as the subdeacon did previously. He is appointed to read the word of God in the liturgical assembly. Accordingly he reads the lesson from Sacred Scripture, except the Gospel, in the Mass and in other sacred celebrations; recites the Psalms between the readings in absence of the psalmist; presents the intentions for general intercessions when the deacon or cantor is absent; and may also direct the congregation in the singing. If necessary he also assumes the responsibility of instructing any of the faithful called upon to read the Scriptures in any liturgical celebration. (Etym. Latin lector, reader; from legere, to read.)

At St. Leonard's, the lector reads the first and second readings and presents the intentions for general intercessions. Our choir sings the Psalms.

So, what does it take to be a lector? First, you need to be comfortable reading aloud in front of a crowd. If you don't like the sound of that, you might not want to be a lector. But if you are OK with that, and you are strong reader, and you are not thrown off by the occasional odd name or phrase, you might find it very rewarding and enjoyable. When available, most parishes will provide lector training, which will help with your comfort level and

your presentation. Here are a few tips that make this easier and are also helpful for any public speaking you might do.

1) Preparation: Read the assigned readings - out loud if possible - several times before Mass. Pay attention to what the important words and/or phrases are. Ask yourself if you know the essential message of the reading. Before Mass, check that the correct readings are in place on the lectern. Knowing what you will be reading BEFORE you read it significantly reduces the chance of unwanted surprises while you are reading.

2) Presentation: Bottom line up front - Don't rush, speak slowly, loudly, and clearly. And try to act as if you know exactly what you're doing - even if you don't. Keeping this demeanor can be helpful in ensuring that if anything goes wrong, you don't panic - take a deep breath if needed, then take the necessary steps to correct the situation. If you find yourself doing the wrong reading, stop and take the time to find the correct reading, then start again. If you stumble over a word, correct yourself and move on; don't apologize or lose your confidence, we all make mistakes.

3) Eye Contact: I put this as its own entry because it is important, and it is the one I most often am guilty of not following. Eye contact helps the lector connect with the congregation - it makes the reading more of a spiritual relationship than simply a dry recitation of the words. To be effective at this, try to not keep your eyes fixed on the reading and avoid quick glances up and down. Connect with the congregation by making eye contact towards the end of sentences and important passages. And look around the congregation, not just at one area, or at people you know. In practice, this is much harder than it sounds, but it can make the difference



St. Leonard's 10:30 Mass Lectors
Back Row – Chris Hovden, David Hilber, Charles Krekelberg, Daniel Husted;
Front Row – Maria Stokka, Nancy Hilber, Pat Scheman; Not shown: Katie Bultman

between a good reader and a great lector.

So if this sounds like your cup of tea, step forward, take the training, and proclaim the Word of the Lord to your fellow parishioners.



Mass at the Schuetze Farm

By Deb Forstner

It has been a tradition at Our Lady of Victory that a Mass around harvest time is held to celebrate the Eucharist in God's beautiful, natural, outdoors world. This year, members of our Area Catholic Community were invited to come to the farm of Dick and Marcy Schuetze on the very pleasant evening of August 10th. Fr. Alan officiated, Deacon Dean (who grew up on a farm himself) preached, and the Schuetze's hospitality was shared with the presence of their children, grandchildren, and many happy parishioners. Thank you to Jeff Jennen for leading us in song.

Summer Altar Server Training at OLV

By Deb Forstner

Sessions were offered this summer for students to learn the ropes (literally when it comes to the ropes they wear around their waists!) about the ministry of altar serving. These sessions were led by Deacon Dean and Sarah Pawlowski. Besides doing some walk-through practice, in-depth Altar Server notes were provided. At one session, experienced server, Alexis Thoma, noted that she likes helping out around the altar, as that brings greater involvement with the Mass. She did note that as a beginner, the timing of ringing the bells had been stressful, and she waited until fifth grade to do that part of the ministry. She also noted that adjusting to substitute priests can be challenging. She added that helping



with the Good Friday cross and in general, serving during the Easter Triduum services are special honors.

Thank you to all the servers, past, present and future, who help at Masses throughout our Area Catholic Community!



All are welcome
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
 207 North Vine Street, Fergus Falls

FALL FESTIVAL

September 19, 2021

Turkey Dinner 11am- 1pm

Grand Raffle Drawing 2pm

Beer & Wine Garden

BINGO

Silent Auction

Country Store

Cake Walk

Children's Games

Quilt Raffle

Black Hills Getaway Raffle

Grand Raffle

Prizes include:

\$10,000 cash

Resort Weekend

Getaway

Dozens of cash prizes

Tickets \$25 each

Tickets available at: Our Lady of Victory Church, Little Chief Outpost, Rhode Insurance, Fergus Home & Hardware and Minnesota Motors or by calling (218) 736-2429.

ACE REPORTER IN GUATEMALA

By Deb Forstner

The Children of St. Peter program allows for people to sponsor children in Guatemala in their educational costs. As the editor of the Journey, I was so very pleased when I saw that the girl I sponsor was using her journalistic skills to interview visitor Fr. Lucho Palomino about the need to conserve water. Here is an example of one of her questions and Fr. Lucho's reply:

Reporter: Cuales son los riesgos de la escasez del agua?
 What are the risks of water scarcity?

Fr. Lucho: No ay alimentos y no ay vivida para los humanos u las plantas, y los animals.

There is no food and there is no life for humans and plants and animals.

If you are interested in learning more about the Children of St. Peter program, contact Mayme Hofland at the OLV parish office, or go to the organization's website: www.childrenofstpeter.org



Fr. Lucho is interviewed about the conservation of water by the student I sponsor



Ace Reporter

Perpetual Light

By Connie Graff



Lorraine & Donald Anderson



Danielle

DON ANDERSON

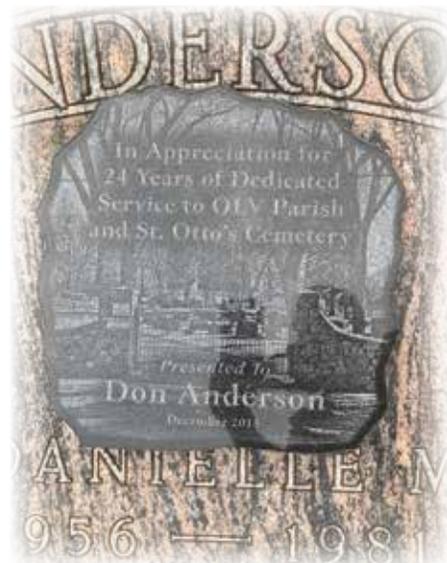
It takes many faithful and dedicated volunteers for any organization to operate successfully and it's no different in parish life. Imagine serving your faith community for 24 years for a cause held dear to your heart. That's the case for OLV parishioner, Don Anderson, who was caretaker at St. Otto's cemetery. When he "retired" from that position, he was given the plaque pictured in appreciation. This plaque now sits on the tombstone of Don's wife, Lorraine and daughter, Danielle and where Don will be buried when the Lord calls him home. I had a delightful visit with Don, who at 93 years old still lives independently (along with Charlie his cat) in the same house where he and Lorraine raised three daughters, Victoria, Deborah and Danielle.

Don and Lorraine met in biology class at the Wadena high school and were married March 28, 1946. Housing was difficult to find at the time and the young couple rented the upper floor of a farmhouse. Don rode his bicycle into Wadena where he worked in a clothing store for 25 cents/hour. A position with the Daily Journal brought them to Fergus Falls where they lived ever since. Don was raised in the Missouri Synod Lutheran faith and Lorraine was a Catholic. In visiting with Father Joe Fridgen, Don remarked that he regretted not attending church with his wife and daughters, which led Fr. Fridgen to encourage Don to join the Catholic faith, which he did on December 19, 1978. Don recalls he and Lorraine

serving as greeters in the old church and as gift bearers at Mass. Lorraine, along with her friend, Helen Arens, were instrumental in starting a grief support group. Don also became a lector, usher and he served as Parish Council President. Mary Lou Enderle and Don were the committee chairs for the very first OLV Fish Fry. Don bought the walleye directly from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, borrowed a fryer from the VFW, and with Mary Lou cooking up a storm in the kitchen, the very first OLV Fish Fry was a success! His involvement with St. Otto's cemetery began when Roy Hintgen recruited Don's help, eventually leading to Roy stepping back as sexton and Don taking over. Don is quick to credit Leona Swanson for her dedicated years of St. Otto's record keeping.

Don and Lorraine's daughter, Danielle Marie, was just 9 years old when she was diagnosed with diabetes. Many hospitalizations and doctor visits followed, both locally and in Minneapolis and the Mayo Clinic. Danielle died in 1981 at the age of 24 and Father Tim Wentzel officiated at her funeral service. Don describes the pain of losing a child to death as unimaginable unless you've experienced it. Danielle was buried at St. Otto's cemetery, with Lorraine joining her when she died in 2006.

On the living room wall at the Anderson home, hangs a family tree with Don and Lorraine at the



very top. Tree branches include their daughters with smaller branches indicating grandchildren and great grandchildren. All because two teenagers met in biology class and fell in love! Don describes his life now as content. He's had a blessed life, and in his own words, "I'm ready to die. I look forward to being reunited with Lorraine and Danielle."

Thank you, Don, for your many years of service to OLV!

See Pg 11 for Michael Glas story.

MICHAEL MARTIN GLAS



Mike Glas was a one-of-a-kind, kind of a guy. Living every day to the fullest in his 54 years on this earth, Mike was easygoing, upbeat and a friend to many, connecting with people of all ages. He was hardworking, was dedicated to his wife Brenda and family, and passionate about hunting, fishing, golf and pinochle. Even when a hunting excursion didn't bring the expected results, Mike would come home with a very descriptive story of his time enjoying the great outdoors which he loved so much. Brenda describes her husband as someone who could make connections with people of all ages by making eye contact and taking a genuine interest in what they had to say. He loved to visit with his neighbors and was a great storyteller.

Michael Martin Glas was born December 14, 1961 in Grafton, ND to Martin and Karen Glas. He was a talented basketball player in high school, and after graduating from Grafton High in 1980, Mike enrolled at North Dakota State School of Science, earning an architectural drafting and estimating degree. It was in Wahpeton that Mike met his future wife, Brenda, (whom he affectionately nicknamed "B") and they were married July 30, 1983. The young couple settled in Fargo, where Mike continued his education at NDSU, earning a business degree. Mike loved learning, and Brenda



always thought he would've made a great teacher himself. Because Mike's father immigrated to America from Germany following WWII, Mike had a special interest in history and staying in touch with family who remained in Germany. Brenda and Mike were fortunate to visit Germany and enjoyed visiting with Mike's grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins. Brenda's comment on this trip was that "we gained about 50 pounds between us due to relatives owning a pub/restaurant that served good beer and food!"

Since 1989, Mike and Brenda have called Fergus Falls home, raising their two boys, Jarvis and Austin, here. Brenda is a long time employee of Lake Region Health Care, and Mike worked in the construction field for Great Plains Natural Gas for many years. He was employed by Ed Neuman Painting at the time of his untimely death on October 6, 2016. Mike died of natural causes doing what he loved, being in nature deer hunting with a brand new bow.

At the time of his death, Mike and Brenda had become "Papa and Nana" to Willow and Daniel.

Although Mike didn't have a lot of time to be a grandpa, he taught them life long lessons just as he did as a father to his boys. Willow has a book of Papa memories, and both she and Daniel love to wrap up in a quilt and a blanket that hold special memories of their grandpa. After Mike died, a trip to Disney World was enjoyed by the entire family, fulfilling a promise

Mike had made to Willow. Another granddaughter who was named after Mike, Emberly Mika, was born after his death. The first time Brenda held the newborn she felt like Mike placed the baby in her arms and recalls it as a great and wonderful feeling.

Just a few months before his death, Mike helped his sister, Kristi, with funeral arrangements when her husband died unexpectedly. Because Mike helped make decisions for his brother-in-law's service, his own preferences were known to Brenda, which helped her make decisions when planning Mike's own service. Brenda decided that her and Mike's final resting place would be in the columbarium at St. Otto's Cemetery.

Brenda has always been a friendly gal with a genuine smile, and although she dearly misses Mike, she's been determined to continue to find joy in her life. She describes "not wanting to be stuck in grief" and says she learned about passing through the stages of grief through The Beginning Experience program, which helped her. Brenda continues to be aware of Mike's presence and has truly felt his embrace, complete with a kiss, while sleeping. There have been other signs from Mike too involving his dog that comforts Brenda. Mike wasn't famous or rich in his earthly life, but what priceless and treasured memories he created for all who knew and loved him.

NOTE: St. Otto's columbarium was completed in 2015 and 25% of the



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REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD MAN

Simple Words of Faith from Three Great Poets

No one disputes the fact that the Bible has long been the most read, most loved, most quoted and best selling book in the world. Its words provide a guide for living that has never been equalled and a reward for following that guide has no parallel.

Nonetheless as an ex/old English teacher I feel compelled to put in a word for great poetry. Why? Because it often expresses religious concepts in different, but still memorable ways. For example:

In "To a Waterfowl", William Cullen Bryant sees the same "Power" that enables migratory birds to overcome the long distances and natural hurdles they face annually when seeking their nesting places as guiding him.

*He, who from zone to zone
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone,
Will lead my steps aright.*

Emily Dickinson, famous for saying much with few words, expresses her unflinching faith in the promise of eternal life thusly:

*I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea;
Yet know I how the heather looks,
And what a billow be.*

*I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven
Yet certain am I of the spot
As if a chart were given.*

Finally, and perhaps my favorite, are these words of Walt Whitman from "Leaves of Grass", written nearly 150 years ago. Whitman saw God in everything.

*Why should I wish to see God better than this day?
I see God each hour of the twenty four, and each moment then.
In the faces of men and women I see God, and in my own face in the mirror.
I see letters from God dropped in the street, and every one is sign'd by God's name.
And I leave them where they are, for I know that wherever I go
Others will punctually come, forever and ever.*

Lee Krogh
(With the help of three really great poets)