

THE JOURNEY

Photo Credit
David Swenson

Summer
2022

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



Fr. Patrick Hoefft
Photo taken by
Teresa Thompson

As I come to the final days of my time in the Pelican Valley ACC, naturally I am reflecting on the two years I've spent in these communities. This being my first parish assignment as a priest, I came here without having any previous experience of priestly ministry. To be completely honest, I was a little bit nervous about leaving the seminary and transitioning to parish life. Leaving behind the rhythm of prayer, study, and brotherhood at the seminary to move into priestly ministry was a big shift from the life I had come to know and love during my seven years of priestly formation. Yet one of the best surprises of priestly ministry (which shouldn't have been a surprise) is how life-giving and joyful the priesthood is.

It's been such a joy to be so involved in the parish and to be a part of peoples' lives. Celebrating Mass, preaching, hearing confessions, visiting the hospital and nursing homes, school Mass with the students and classroom visits, baptisms, marriage prep, end of life ministry and funerals, invitations to dinner, RCIA, faith formation, meetings with individuals, coffee and rolls, and the many many other aspects of priesthood have filled me with an abundance of gratitude, joy, and life.

I'm especially grateful for all the people I've gotten to know during my time here. Moving on to my next parish assignment in Little Falls and Belle Prairie, I will be working with Fr. Ben Kociemba to cover three parishes. In some ways I'm sure this transition will be similar to what I experienced when I moved from the seminary to our ACC: there will be some sadness in leaving behind the life I've come to know and love here, yet there will be many blessings and joys to come as I continue to live the priestly life among new people in new places. Please continue to keep me in your prayers, and if you are ever in Little Falls, please stop in and visit. I will certainly keep you all in my prayers, and I hope the changes happening in the parishes here will be an opportunity for everyone to grow together as disciples of the Lord.

May God bless you in abundance,
Fr. Patrick

A medida que llego a los últimos días de mi tiempo en el ACC de Pelican Valley, naturalmente estoy reflexionando sobre los dos años que pasé en estas comunidades. Siendo esta mi primera asignación parroquial como sacerdote, vine aquí sin tener ninguna experiencia previa en el ministerio sacerdotal. Para ser completamente honesto, estaba un poco nervioso por dejar el seminario y hacer la transición a la vida parroquial. Dejar atrás el ritmo de oración, estudio y hermandad del seminario para pasar al ministerio sacerdotal fue un gran cambio

en la vida que había llegado a conocer y amar durante mis siete años de formación sacerdotal. Sin embargo, una de las mejores sorpresas del ministerio sacerdotal (que no debería haber sido una sorpresa) es cuán vivificante y gozoso es el sacerdocio. Ha sido una alegría estar tan involucrada en la parroquia y ser parte de la vida de las personas. Celebrar Misa, predicar, escuchar confesiones, visitar el hospital y los hogares de ancianos, Misa escolar con los estudiantes y visitas a los salones de clases, bautizos, preparación para el matrimonio, ministerio para el final de la vida y funerales, invitaciones a cenar, RICA, formación en la fe, reuniones con personas, café y rollos, y los muchos otros aspectos del sacerdocio me han llenado con una abundancia de gratitud, alegría y vida. Estoy especialmente agradecido por todas las personas que he conocido durante mi tiempo aquí. Pasando a mi próxima asignación parroquial en Little Falls y Belle Prairie, estaré trabajando con el Padre. Ben Kociemba para cubrir tres parroquias. En cierto modo, estoy seguro de que esta transición será similar a la que experimenté cuando me mudé del seminario a nuestro ACC: habrá algo de tristeza al dejar atrás la vida que he llegado a conocer y amar aquí, pero habrá muchas bendiciones y alegrías por venir mientras sigo viviendo la vida sacerdotal entre nuevas personas en nuevos lugares. Continúe manteniéndolo en sus oraciones, y si alguna vez se encuentra en Little Falls, visítenos. Ciertamente los mantendré a todos en mis oraciones, y espero que los cambios que suceden en las parroquias aquí sean una oportunidad para que todos crezcan juntos como discípulos del Señor.

Que Dios te bendiga en abundancia,
Padre Patricio

LONG TIME CHOIR DIRECTOR RETIRES

By Nancy Hilber



Bev Terhune

One of the truisms of life is that everything changes; nothing remains the same. Some changes affect you more than others, and that was the case at St. Leonard's Church in Pelican Rapids when we said goodbye to our choir director, Bev Terhune, on April 27. Few people attending that church can remember when she wasn't the choir director since her time in that position has spanned over twenty-five years.

Bev and her husband Tim moved to Lida Township about twenty-five years ago to run North Shore Resort. Bev states that it was the same time that she realized she needed God back in her life and started going regularly to church. She found herself participating in the choir, and they made use of her natural ability at the piano. She soon became the director of the choir for a time that has definitely featured the thick and the thin. She well remembers times when the choir was her and one other singer and other times when it was just her.

In more recent times the choir has solidified into a small but mighty group who consistently provide music which enhances the prayerful atmosphere and is pleasing to the congregation. She has been instrumental (no pun intended) with bringing her choir and the Spanish choir together for bilingual services. During her time at St. Leonard's, she



Bev with members of the choir.

upgraded the keyboard clavinova to a small but mighty instrument which easily adapts to the differing vocal ranges of the choir. She was also a valued consultant in the purchase of the clavinova that is the keyboard at St. Elizabeth in Elizabeth.

Bev and Tim sold their resort last year and bought a home in Fergus Falls. They planned to build

a lakeside home but decided that would not be necessary. And so Bev will be doing other projects, especially gardening, that she will find more time for. The choir presented her with a statue of St. Fiacre, the patron saint of gardeners, and with our best wishes, we send her on her way.



Gerry Leonard, parishioner of OLV, donated an American Flag with an engraved stand in honor of her husband Mike.

The flag will be in the OLV gathering space, and also in the sanctuary for special occasions, such as shown in these photos taken on Memorial Day 2022.





*Marisa Baune and Kevin Kavanagh,
Zayne, Kasyn, Quintin,
Cooper, and Kiana*

**MARISA BAUNE & KEVIN
KAVANAGH FAMILY**

Originally from Wabasso, MN, Marisa taught in Murdock, MN for eight years and is now a middle school math teacher in Ashby. Kevin owns Kavanagh Electric. They enjoy playing outside and spending time with family at the cabin on Otter Tail Lake. Welcome to OLV!



TOM SHEA

Tom has retired from a career in education and is now living in Fergus Falls – close to his daughter, Rachel Tuel, and her husband, Pat, and their sons, Matthew and Lucas. Hailing from a family of 11 children, Tom, and his wife, Cathy, had four children and seven grandchildren. Welcome to OLV, Tom!



JON & SARAH MCCAIN

Jon and Sarah were married in Cambridge, MN in 2015. They have four children: Logan (Hilary) Hershey, Dylan (Jesi) Hershey, Kody McCain, and Katie McCain. Welcome, Jon and Sarah!



MARLENE GEASE

Marlene has re-tired from health care, but still feels the call to share the Catholic faith – to bring peace, hope, and comfort to those who are suffering from health issues, neglect, or loneliness; Cke friends and enjoy fellowship; to promote joy and Catholic values in the home. Marlene and her husband, Steve, have five children and six grandchildren (so far) between them. Welcome, Marlene!



**MYLES & MAUREEN
VOSBERG**

The Vosbergs both recently retired from jobs with the State of North Dakota and moved from Bismarck, ND to Fergus Falls to be closer to their family; three daughters, one son-in-law, and three grandkids. They enjoy the Minnesota lakes country! Welcome, Myles and Maureen!



RON & LAURIE TURCHIN

Ron and Laurie are returning members of the OLV family. They have been married for 42 years and have two children and nine grandchildren. Ron is an avid fisherman and hunter, and in his retirement enjoys helping his son, Scott, at Turchin Electric. Laurie enjoys quilting, gardening, hiking, and spending time outdoors with all of their grandchildren. Welcome back, Ron and Laurie!



Jerry Freitag

JERRY FREITAG

Jerry comes to OLV from Brooks, MN where he was a member of St. Joseph Church for over 30 years. He was a lector, youth group leader, and trustee, and is a Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. He is now retired from his insurance (primarily agriculture) agency. Jerry has six sons: Four live in Minnesota, one in Colorado, and one in Virginia, and 15 grandchildren. Welcome, Jerry!

**WELCOME
ALL!**

Thank You, Mrs. Zierden

By Rachel Cox

At the end of June Tonya Zierden will retire from the position of principal at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School. Her retirement comes after 8 years of service to our parish school. Although I have only served at the school with her for the last 2 ½ years of her tenure, I would describe her leadership as selfless, thoughtful, and humble.

One recent experience in particular sums up Tonya's faithful leadership. At the end of the school year, the students were practicing fire and lockdown drills. One of the preschool classes had a lot of questions about lockdown drills and came to Mrs. Zierden's office for answers. They wanted to know where Mrs. Zierden goes during a lockdown drill, what room would she go into and lock the door. Her response to the students was that she has two jobs as their principal: 1. Keep all the students safe, and 2. Help students learn. She told them that if there was an emergency or danger that required a lockdown, she wouldn't be locked in one of the classrooms. Instead, she would call the appropriate emergency services or do whatever action was required to keep students safe so that they can return to learning.

As I listened to her response, I couldn't help but think that this is how she approached all her duties as principal. Tonya acted in the face of challenges, and in the last 2 ½ years, she has definitely encountered many unique challenges presented while leading a school during a global pandemic. However, she faced everyday challenges with the same head-on leadership style. She let her teachers manage their classrooms in ways that made them and their students most successful. She trusted their expertise and openly listened to their ideas and concerns. She approached student discipline with dignity and fairness. She listened to parents' concerns with openness and thoughtful deliberation. She also shared in students' joys and successes, calmed nerves of those trying new things or moving on to new adventures.

In short, she did not sit back and lead from behind her office door. She

Retirement from her school principal position will allow Tonya more time to spend with her family. Here are the Zierdens!

Front row (l-r) Tonya Zierden, Brook, Shane; Back row (l-r) Cole, Nathan, Tonya's husband Dan, Jade



Mrs. Zierden (in blue OLV shirt next to Fr. Patrick) with the 6th grade graduating class. Mr. Jake Raths, sixth grade teacher in yellow shirt, has been hired to be OLV School Principal beginning July 2022.



Mrs. Zierden in dunk tank.

rolled up her sleeves and managed the school's daily tasks with a servant's heart. Not every school has a principal who would cook and serve food or sit in a dunk tank at the end of the school year. OLV School has

been lucky to have Tonya Zierden serve as its principal for the last 8 years. She has touched the hearts and lives of many students, families, and teachers. Thank you, Tonya, for your dedicated leadership.

LOOKING BACK ON STRIDES WITH NEW EVANGELIZATION

Story and Photo By Tom Hintgen

Mammas H. Mammas, a native of Ethiopia, became coordinator of the New Evangelization Office at Our Lady of Victory Church in 2015. This year, while heading in a new direction in life, he takes pride in efforts made with New Evangelization the past seven years.

New Evangelization had its roots in the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s, and was carried forward by popes and into the 21st century, most recently by Pope Francis.

"The New Evangelization Office had as its first task to help the members of the OLV parish attain a more in-depth understanding of our faith," Mammas said.

"At the very heart of the apostolate of the NEO was a desire and effort to make all one in Christ. This was the great prayer of the Lord Jesus the night before he gave his life, that his disciples would be one in mind and heart."

The ministry of the NEO was welcomed by sister parishes in Pelican Rapids and Elizabeth. Fruits of the labor took place even after the onset of Covid 19.

The NEO sponsored a Come and See Program for people interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

Headed by Mammas, the NEO coordinated the RCIA program which is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Those interested in becoming Catholics spend a year learning about the faith while being mentored by other seasoned members of the church.

Through the lead of Mammas, his office started a monthly get together with young couples who went through the process of the RCIA. The get togethers allowed young couples to support and encourage each other.

"We also took up the work of community building with fellowship among people of all faiths," Mammas said. "Friendships were developed."

Mammas, in looking back, expresses appreciation for good committee members the past seven years. He and active participants branched out, interacting with the

Salvation Army, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy, M State Fergus Falls, youth pastors at various churches and with others in the areas in and around Fergus Falls, Elizabeth and Pelican Rapids.

"Students from different countries and origins came to know each other and grow in their faith," Mammas said. "These students, in turn, helped members of the parishes to have a wider awareness of the true universality of the church."

The NEO sponsored monthly suppers within the OLV community to allow individuals and couples to meet each other and interact with the pastor and deacons on personal levels.

"Relationships were grounded on mutual trust and friendship and not just on ceremonies and customs," he said.

All the while, New Evangelization on the local level adhered to the words of Pope Francis: "New Evangelization is bringing light to our world. Radiate the joy with God's love inside us. People will see our joy and how we love and take care of each other and be drawn by this love."



Mammas H. Mammas looks back on his seven years serving Our Lady of Victory and area parishes with New Evangelization, a mission defined by Pope Francis.

Baptisms

COLSON TIMOTHY MAHLER

Nathan & Molly Mahler

3/13/2022

AUDEY RAE PEETERS

CJ & Nicole Peeters

4/3/2022

LAUREN DEL TURGEON

Dion & Amy Turgeon

4/17/2022

COOPER THOMAS KAVANAGH

Luke Kavanagh &

Marisa Baune

5/1/2022

KIANA JEAN KAVANAGH

Luke Kavanagh &

Marisa Baune

5/1/2022

BENNETT CHARLES LACEY

Don & Lisa Lacey

5/22/2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

25 Years as a Shepherd



By Nancy Hilber

After the excitement of the holidays and Valentine's Day our late winter doldrums are swept away by the arrival of Fr. Lucho Palomino's annual visit. From Chimbote, Peru where he is pastor of a large and loving congregation, he visits us for a month to six weeks each year, assisting Fr. Alan and trying to see the multitude of friends he has made here. This year was a very special visit. Fr. Lucho's 25th anniversary as a priest was last year on December 12, but due to the pandemic he was unable to fully celebrate at his parish, Sagrada Familia. So the ACC powers that be decided we should celebrate here, and on Saturday March 12, a 25th anniversary mass was celebrated at OLV with a lovely party afterwards.

Fr. Lucho gave a wonderful homily and let slip that he was a "terrible kid" growing up. Fortunately his pastor Fr. Hector was there to help, teaching him religion and philosophy and being a general inspiration. After graduating from high school at age 17, he studied at seminary where he would discern his calling... marriage or priesthood. He had a girlfriend at the time but eventually chose the religious life.

As told many times before, Fr. Lucho's ministry was, by his request, in the mountains of Peru, a time he cherished very much, but then he got sick with leukemia. The outlook was dire as it was resistant to the one line of medical treatment he could get in

Peru. However, he had made a good friend in Fr. Alan Wielinski years before, who happened to check up on him and subsequently spearheaded a rescue trip to the States and Mayo Clinic. Their treatment was successful in stemming the progress of the disease. He has had successful check-ups annually at Mayo for eight years, and we benefit from his annual visits.

There are a few changes in his life: he can no longer be in the very thin mountain air for long periods of time, so he is now pastor at Paroquia de Sagrada Familia in Chimbote, an oceanside city not too far from where he was raised. Also, his immune system is questionable although you

wouldn't know it to see or talk to him or go to one of his Masses. He has traveled all over his country and is very knowledgeable about its history and present situations. Judging from the panorama of pictures shown at his celebration, he is at home in the jungle or the desert and not afraid to buddy up to alligators or anacondas or pythons or whatever else is guaranteed to make me run and hide. His sense of humor is never absent for long, and there is always a smile on his face. His caring and ability to minister to all people from all walks of life make him a gift to all who know him. Truly he has the heart of a shepherd.



Fr. Lucho, the good Shepherd



Fr. Lucho and author Nancy Hilber at St Leonard



Outside of Fr Lucho's home parish in New Chimbote, Peru

THE WORLDWIDE SYNOD CLOSE TO HOME

By Vince Thoma & Deb Forstner

In May of 2021, Pope Francis declared the beginning of a "Synod on Synodality," saying he wanted to hear from all the baptized in every diocese throughout the world. Not only did he want to learn of their opinions; he wanted people to be truly listened to in a non-judgemental and open manner. Our Holy Father specifically said he wanted to hear from the disaffiliated and marginalized, younger people, the homebound, the institutionalized, people whose hearts have been broken by the Catholic church, people whose hearts have been blessed by our church, and people of other faith traditions. The Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community has been very proactively involved over the past two months in the local, grassroots phase of the synod.

As a part of this listening process, ten people from our Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community were trained in either or both individual or group listening facilitation. They are Father Alan, Father Patrick, Connie Graff, Rhonda Petersen, Diane Aschnewitz, Jeff Aschnewitz, Mario Mancilla, John Schmidt, Vince Thoma, and Deb Forstner.

This group of facilitators met on two occasions to plan implementation of this listening process for our ACC. The first circular was put in the parish bulletin on Easter weekend to reach out and make everyone in our community aware of planned events and to give everyone an opportunity to be listened to. There has also been a link publicized where people could privately answer the six questions

on-line. To paraphrase, those six questions included exploring what hopes/dreams/vision you have for the church; how the church could build trust; what wounds need addressing; and if you could tell Pope Francis one thing, what would it be?

"Listening Sessions" were held with the Knights of Columbus, at assisted living/group homes, and several sessions in private residences gathered around their dinner table. Other sessions were held with the WinGS group, St Joseph's Men's group, and parish gatherings that were scheduled at Our Lady of Victory, St Elizabeth, and St. Leonard. Likewise, students in the OLV Faith Formation Class Grades 6-10 were given the opportunity to consider and write down their answers. Sessions could be found at a table where parishioners were eating donuts after Mass at OLV, and at the community settings of Dairyland and Fergus Brewing Company. Many individual one-to-one sessions were held. All in all, approximately 150 parishioners participated in this Listening Synodal endeavor, with an unknown number also taking time to respond to the survey link made available by our Diocese. We are so grateful to all who have answered Pope Francis' call for input.

To the ten listener volunteers, the task seemed to be, at times, overwhelming. There were only eight weeks to gather the listening information and have it passed on to our St Cloud Diocesan officials for compilation and further action. The Diocese had hoped that each listener would be able to report responses



Synod sharing group in Pelican Rapids



At Fergus Brewing Company

from eight people. The listeners from our Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community far exceeded those expectations.

Input was received that showed a mixture of concern, hurt, and deep love for the Church. It can also be said without any doubt that the information expressed has deeply affected our own lives as facilitators. As one participant said, "We all have our stories to tell. We are all in the same boat."

Some people have questioned what will become of all this input. Answers received to the questions are entered confidentially in a diocese database. At a Listener meeting this May in Albany, MN, it was learned that people from Diocesan offices have been assigned to read the answers to one of the questions and process the trends. These people reported on what they have found so far, with more to go. A separate report was given as to what the Hispanic Community has had to say, and answers in Spanish from 14 members of St. Leonard have now been added to that. Brenda Kresky of the St. Cloud Diocese Planning

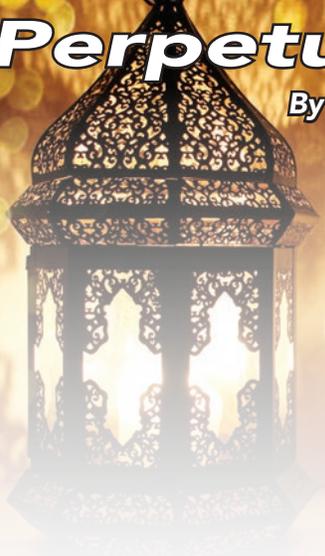


Listening session in Brenny Hall

Continued on Pg. 9

Perpetual Light

By Connie Graff



Barney and Janet Gervais

EMILE AND EVA GERVAIS BARNEY AND JANET GERVAIS NATHAN EVAVOLD

Three generations of the Gervais family are buried near each other at St. Otto's Cemetery. Emile Gervais (1888-1966) who was born in Currie, MN and Eva Lord Gervais (1889-1975) who was born in Manteno, Illinois were of French Canadian ancestry. Emile was one of 13 children in a family where their Catholic faith was a priority. Two of his brothers lived as Benedictine Brothers at Notre Dame. After Emile and Eva's marriage in 1911, they homesteaded in Montana where Eva described her view out her window as "one lone tree with the wind howling all the time". The young couple relocated to Marshall, MN where Emile worked as an auditor for the St. Paul Agriculture, Dairy and Food Inspection Department. Emile and Eva were parents of 8 children, including Bernard "Barney" Henry Gervais, born in 1924. After graduating from high school, he attended St. John's University where he played football and learned to ski and golf from the monks; two passions he enjoyed throughout his life. Barney truly enjoyed his college experience at St. John's. The next 2 years found Barney serving his country in the army during WWII. Meanwhile, Janet Robson, who was born in Pipestone in 1929 and also graduated from Marshall high school, found a summer job as a lifeguard at the Marshall swimming pool, as did the returning GI, Barney Gervais. That summer romance resulted in

marriage on September 3, 1949 and after Barney graduated from dental school on the GI bill, the young family moved to Fergus Falls in 1952. Barney had 2 requirements for a location for his dental practice; the town must have a Catholic Church and a golf course. Lucky for our community that Fergus Falls fit the bill. Along with his partner, Tom Greenagel, Barney treated his patients with skill and kindness. He served within the dental profession as a member and officer of the West Central District Dental Association and at the state level on the Ethics Committee of the MN Dental Association.

Janet immersed herself in her role as mother to Meg, Marty, Phil, Matt, Tom, Amy, John and Joe. She was an avid reader and enjoyed playing bridge, walking, quilting and fortunately for Barney, loved to golf and ski. Central to the Gervais family during these years of raising their children was their Catholic faith. In addition, the values of a positive outlook, a good sense of humor and appreciation of the great outdoors were instilled. The family home was near Hannah Park and the neighborhood provided all the enjoyment of small town living along with many outdoor activity opportunities. Daughter Amy recalls her dad, along with other dads, providing free ski lessons to children at the local ski hill "Old Smoky". Although their lives were busy, Barney and Janet felt strongly about serving their church and community. Barney was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a church trustee and



Nathan Evavold

served as chair of the OLV School Board, where the Gervais children received their early education. He was also a member of the Fergus Falls Park Board, Toastmaster's Club and a board member of Young Life. Janet was a member of Catholic Daughters and sang in the choir for decades. She was a board member of the Library, YMCA and the Pioneer Home and volunteered with the Red Cross. A trip to Toronto in 1984 to see Pope John Paul II was a highlight for the couple.

Their social life centered around their friends at the golf course and at church. Retirement found Barney and Janet remaining active and enjoying their role as grandparents of 24 grandchildren; attending their activities whenever possible. Spending summer months in Minnesota and winter months in Sun City West in Arizona, provided opportunities for golf year round. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Sun City West was their faith home while away from Our Lady of Victory. Janet belonged to both church choirs and a highlight for her was traveling to Rome with the Arizona choir and singing in St. Peter's Basilica. Both Barney and Janet were blessed with good health prior to Barney's death in 2004 from injuries received in a car crash and Janet's death in 2015 from a respiratory infection.

Buried near Emile and Eva and Barney and Janet, is Nathan Joseph Evavold. His parents are current OLV members, Daryl and Amy (Gervais) Evavold. Although Nathan's life on this earth was short as he died at 3 months old of SIDS, he was dearly loved and treasured. Daryl and

Continued on Pg. 11

FOURTH GRADER'S WRITING EARNS MONEY FOR HABITAT AND HIS CLASSROOM

By Deb Forstner, Faith Formation Facilitator

Fourth graders throughout Fergus Falls were invited by our local Kiwanis Club to write on this topic: "If I had \$100 to give away, what would I do?" OLV parishioner and Faith Formation student Frank Butenas was one of four winners based upon his essay, which spoke to the benefits of helping fund Habitat for Humanity. On May 17, Frank read his essay at the Kiwanis Club meeting held at the YMCA, and Stan Carrigan of Habitat was there to accept the \$100 check. As a surprise to Frank and the other contest winners, an additional \$50 was donated by Kiwanis for use in each student's fourth grade classroom. Executive Director Stan Carrigan designed a coin with a golden hammer as an award for people who make significant contributions to the Habitat for Humanity organization. Frank was presented this coin by Mr. Carrigan, who added that Frank is the first young person to be given this honor. We are proud of you, Frank!



Frank and his coin.



Frank reading his essay.



Stan Carrigan displaying and explaining honorary coin.



Frank Butenas, Fourth Grade Faith Formation Student; Megan Butenas, Parent; Stan Carrigan, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director

THE WORLDWIDE SYNOD CLOSE TO HOME

Continued from Pg. 7

Office asked those in attendance at the Albany session to write on post-it notes what themes they seem to have been hearing, and to group them with similar trends on the wall. Bob Choiniere was there to present to us from Fordham University. Bob has left his teaching position to go to Rome and help serve in this unique Synod process. As he put it, Bob has been so enthused about this particular synod with its strong involvement of the laity that he wanted to "go to headquarters!" The Bishops will be going to Rome in October 2023 to consider the input that has been received from participants world wide. The theme of that meeting will be: *For a synodal Church: communion, participation,*

and mission.

Here is an excerpt of the Synod Prayer. *We stand before You, Holy Spirit... With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it... Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.*

May we continue to pray as this process moves forward, for our Church, and for the whole world.



Bob Choiniere, Presenter

SAVE THE DATE

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A
T
E

STEWARDSHIP DAY

Sept. 16th, 9am - 3:30pm
Albany, MN

FOR: Everyone!
Especially those who participate or have an interest in stewardship/discipleship

FEE: \$0.00
BY: The Diocese of St. Cloud Office of Stewardship and Development

More details will be included in the church bulletin and the diocesan website as the time gets closer

Easter Vigil

This Easter, the Vigil was held at OLV for all three parishes of our Area Catholic Community. Ministers such as lectors and musicians represented each ACC location. A reception was held in the OLV Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Catholic Daughters.



A HISTORIC EVENT AT ST. ELIZABETH

By Susan Ward

The Pancake and Sausage Supper began at St. Elizabeth's in 1956, one year after the men of the church formed their Men's Group. Obviously there was a motive to their method. It was a great start of a tradition which has been enjoyable to hundreds of people over six decades.

A year later, the Wedlls, Kellers, Hoepers, and many other parishioners were starters of the tradition to hold a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast for the parish and the community.

While the tradition continues, the preparation has changed. In the early days, the men made their own sausage. Lorny Wedll is credited with having the tasty recipe that the men used to make their own sausage from scratch.

It was no small project. The men needed 3 pigs and 1 beef. The pigs were donated by Jack Riestenberg, and Norb Hendricks donated the beef.

Now the real work began. The men would gather and butcher the meat in one day. The next day they would grind all the meat and get it ready to be stuffed in the pork casings.

After the stuffing, the next step was to deliver the casings to Lester Martinson's grocery store in Rothsay and put the casings in his BIG walk-in smoker. The end result was 600-700 pounds of homemade, delicious sausage.

Even though the men do not make their own sausage now, the men's Pancake and Sausage Breakfast has been a huge hit every year, filling Brenny Hall.

This year, I asked the Roers family from Foxhome if this was the first time they had come to the breakfast. They answered, "We have been here many times." When asked what they like the most about it, they enthusiastically replied, "EVERYTHING!"

I also asked Diane Scott about



This trio of Pats all enjoyed the St. Elizabeth pancake and sausage breakfast. Father Patrick, Pat Baker, and Pat Ward. Pat Ward has been designated by Bill Wedll as the breakfast CEO!

her attendance at the breakfast. Diane said that she too has been to the breakfast many times; in fact, she has never missed!

When asked why she has been such a faithful attendee, Diane answered, "The food is excellent and I like watching men work!"

This is a tradition that we hope continues for even more decades.

Reflections of an Old Man

By Lee Krogh

Goodbye, and Thank You!

How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Ulysses*

With these words, Tennyson describes the desire of Ulysses—the Greek hero who “Strove with gods”—to keep striving, even in his old age.

Those words have stuck with me since my college days. No, I never “strove with Gods,” but I have tried *not* to “rust unburnished.” To that end, I continued to work part time for my former employer for ten years after retirement. I played tennis and golf into my mid-80’s (first hole in one at 80, second one four months later). I continue lecturing and have written for this publication since its first issue (with a brief pause for a serious medical condition).

Nonetheless, after eight years and nearly forty “Reflections,” and with my 90th year in clear view (but, thankfully, still in good health), I feel it’s time, as the athletes say, to hang it up.

The decision wasn’t easy. Putting my thoughts in writing has given me a chance to look more closely at my faith. I hope that, in some small way, it’s done the same for you!

Before closing with a final thought, I find great pleasure in extending sincere thanks to Rhonda Peterson for offering me the freedom to express my thoughts and ideas freely, to Deb Forstner for her constantly positive feedback, and to those of you who have inspired my continued efforts by expressing your enjoyment of them!

* * *

You may be familiar with the question, “If you were put on trial today and accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” It’s a good question, isn’t it? Fortunately, the words of Jesus—recorded by more than one apostle—give us the path to ensuring a positive verdict: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40.

And so, in an environment challenged by climate change, war, pandemic disease, political chaos, racial tension, financial disparity, horrific mass shootings and gender confusion (among other divisive and hatred-inducing subjects), I intend to focus my attention on living in a manner that, when the Judge’s verdict comes in, it will be a resounding, **GUILTY**

I’m sure I’ll fall short at times, but I’m just as sure that attaining that goal will require enough effort to save me from rusting unburnished!

Goodbye, thanks, and love,

Lee

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thank you, Lee! Your column of reflections will be missed.

OLV Stewardship Committee Update

By Gary Fults



Gary and Melinda Fults

A few years ago, my wife, Melinda and I were asked to be part of Our Lady of Victory’s Stewardship Committee. I was a little uncertain about joining at first but am so grateful we said YES. This committee has done so many wonderful things for our church community since it was started by Father Greg many years ago. A few of the things the Stewardship Committee does are Stewardship Renewal, Summer Outdoor Mass, Outdoor Movie Nights,

Mother’s Day Flowers, Father’s Day gifts, and Easter Baskets for kids.

We have gotten to know and work with a lot of parishioners along with building our Faith. Our hope is that this group can continue to help our parish to always be a warm and welcoming environment for everyone who walks through the door.

Here is a list of some of our upcoming events. All are welcome to attend any of these events.

SUNDAY FUN DAY - July 24 at Roosevelt Park with a Mass, hog roast, and activities for all.

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT will be Every Wednesday evening this summer (beginning June 16th) showing the second season of the “Chosen” series. Popcorn and beverages available.

A **DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT** Aug 14th including a Mass, a light lunch, speakers and a showing of the St. Faustina movie.

PERPETUAL LIGHT

Continued from Pg. 8

Amy realized on the day of Nathan’s death, that it would be their faith, family and friends that would help them cope with their grief. Amy also felt support from her “Mom’s Bible Study” friends. And in 1985, she was instrumental, along with others, in founding “SHARE”, a support group for parents experiencing the loss of a child. This group hosted an annual “Holiday Memorial Service” to provide support and care during a tender time of year.

Three generations of one family will be four, when the time comes for Daryl and Amy to be laid next to Nathan. Generational love experienced in this life and extending beyond into the next life, where the most perfect love resides.

**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

BEGINNING IN JULY

Sunday 9:30 am Our Lady of Victory
(REPLACING 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Masses at OLV)

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

First Communion

Twenty-six second graders at Our Lady of Victory Church received their First Communion on May 1, after receiving formation under the leadership of Sarah Pawlowski. At St. Elizabeth, one student received her First Communion, with teaching by Ryan Schlosser. St. Leonard did not have any children receive their First Communion this spring due to COVID concerns.



Students lined up with excitement.



Mrs. Pawlowski leads the children in prayer.



OLV First Communion

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL