

THE JOURNEY

Photo Credit
David Swenson

Summer
2023

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



Message from Father Alan

The picture with my message is of my mother and me taken on Memorial Day at a special Mass at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, my hometown. Memorial Day also happened to be the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. And so Father Joe Backowski, presider for the Mass, had a beautiful message in the homily, partly highlighting the sacrifices of all mothers (parents) who lost their sons, the veterans that we honor with this holiday. Mother's Day....Father's Day....Memorial Day....these holidays call forth an abundance of affection, appreciation and prayer for loved ones both living and dead. My father's grave is at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley; I offered my Mass that morning for Dad.

I hope that these early days of summer are going well for you; I know that there are many children and youth (and teachers!) enjoying a well deserved vacation from school. Another big holiday coming up soon is the Fourth of July. May everyone enjoy another time of giving thanks for all who have gone before us to secure the many freedoms we enjoy as we celebrate our country. And may everyone have a safe, relaxing, and reinvigorating summertime...never forgetting to give thanks and praise to God.

Celebramos la Fiesta de la Visitación de María con su prima Isabel. Un detalle interesante mencionado en el Evangelio es que María fue DE PRISA para estar con su pariente. ¡Y luego se quedó para una larga visita!

El significado es este. María se dio cuenta de que su gran misión de parte de Dios estaba comenzando. Estaba lista, dispuesta y gozosa para responder al pedido de Dios. Poder compartir la experiencia con Isabel que también estaba respondiendo a Dios, fue algo maravilloso, por supuesto divinamente inspirado como parte del plan de Dios.

Como María e Isabel, cada uno de nosotros tiene que encontrar su lugar en la historia de Dios. Cuando lo hacemos, oramos por la misma aceptación y entusiasmo que ellos mostraron. La historia de Dios nos incluye a todos. Todos tenemos nuestro papel que desempeñar. ¡No son solo los sacerdotes y diáconos, o los obispos y el Papa! Son los padres y los abuelos, los maestros, los cónyuges, los tíos y las tías, los empleados de las tiendas y las secretarias... hay un papel especial en la historia de Dios para cada uno de nosotros. Apresurémonos a responder a Dios con fe y amor.



Shirley Wielinski and her son, Fr. Alan

*Abundant
Summer Blessings*

FR. ALAN

Confirmation 2023

One of the three sacraments of initiation is baptism. It is in this sacrament that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation also is a sacrament of initiation in the Catholic Church, and it is a sacrament tied to the Holy Spirit. At confirmation, we do not receive more of the Holy Spirit. Rather, the Holy Spirit we received at baptism is enhanced within us so that we can go out into the world spreading the Gospel by using the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

To prepare for confirmation, the candidates spend time attending classes to learn about their Catholic faith. The lead catechist for OLV and St. Elizabeth confirmation students is Deacon Dean Pawlowski, and for St. Leonard it is Deacon Mario Mancilla. The topics range from learning about the existence of God, who Jesus Christ is, the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Counsel, Fortitude, Wisdom, Fear of the Lord, Piety, Understanding, and Knowledge), Sacred Scripture, how to pray, and many other topics. The candidates also have opportunities to practice living out the Gospel by going out into the parish and the community and performing services for others.

Preparing for confirmation is learning about the Catholic faith and then learning how to make it their own. It is through this process that these students grow in their personal faith and in their relationship with God. To understand how much this means to the students and how they grow in their relationship with God and their faith, Fr. Alan interviewed several of the candidates for confirmation this year. Students shared with him about meaningful ways they have experienced prayer, such as in Eucharistic Adoration, doing less asking and more listening, starting a morning and night prayer routine with parents, and feeling closer to God in Mass.

The following two examples are from students' own writing about what confirmation means to them:

"Confirmation helps a person remain faithful to his or her baptismal commitment to witness to Christ and to serve others. When you are confirmed, you gain a new identity as a full member of the Church.



Bishop Patrick Neary serves as the main celebrant.



Used with permission: Photographer Steve Janssen

Your personal relationship with God strengthens." – Wendy Diaz

"Confirmation means serving others. When I get confirmed, I want to help serve others, and with the help of the gift of the Holy Spirit, I'll do just that. Helping to serve others will allow the Holy Spirit to come to them. And getting confirmed will allow me to be a greater help to Christ. I will be able to have a tight bond with Him. Getting confirmed will unite me with Him in greater depth, allowing me to state my faith to Him. Having this ability will help me in my path; the path Jesus has for me. This love will only grow, as will

my knowledge and my faith. I am really glad I will be able to get confirmed, and using the abilities that Christ gave me to serve others."

- Hailey Zavala

As you will likely recall from your own confirmation, each student chose the name of a saint for a "confirmation name." The following two essays from confirmands at St. Leonard explain their choice:

"I chose the saint San Judas Tadeo...he is considered to be a direct intercessor to Jesus Christ, as a saint to appeal to in difficult and

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Baptisms

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

IVY DREW YAGGIE
Andrew & Katie Yaggie
3/12/2023

TATE CHRISTOPHER KUTZER
Christopher & Tara Kutzer
3/23/2023

OCTAVIA BLAKE REVERING
Charles & Tami Revering
4/2/2023

MARJORIE JO SMIEJA
Thomas & Katie Smieja
4/15/2023

CALVIN CORY GARRETT SOLAND
Brandon & Jade Soland
5/20/2023

THOMAS ANTHONY HOEPER
Jesse Hoepfer, Hannah Machado
& Jonathan Nuytten
5/20/2023

ARIELLA EVELYN HOEPER
Jesse Hoepfer, Hannah Machado
& Jonathan Nuytten
5/20/2023

NATALIA ROSE HOEPER
Jesse Hoepfer, Hannah Machado
& Jonathan Nuytten
5/20/2023

ST. ELIZABETH

PEYTON LOREN ROBINSON
PARKER MAE ROBINSON
JOSIE LYN ROBINSON
Shawn & Madison Robinson
3/26/2023

HENRI THOMAS MORTIMORE
Matti & Alexis Mortimore
4/9/23

OAKLEY IDA KOLLE
Daniel Kolle & Kellie Carroll
6/4/23

ST. LEONARD

ISABELLA SAAVEDRA
Ramon & Veronica Saavedra
4/29/23

BRAYAN GRAVE LEON
Carlos & Catalina Grave-Leon
5/21/23

HEYDIN-EDITH SALGADO
Eddy Salgado Zamora & Marling
Cordoba
5/28/23

EDGAR ROMERO
Gerardo Romero & Liliana Saavedra
5/28/23



NEW OLV MEMBERS

KARA BURNS

Kara was welcomed into the Church at Our Lady of Victory Church during the Easter Vigil. Kara is a U.S. Army veteran of the War in Afghanistan.



She was born and raised in Fergus Falls where most of her family still resides. Welcome to the Church and welcome to OLV!

JERRY FLETCHER

Jerry has returned to OLV after living out of the area since 2016. Welcome back to Our Lady of Victory!

ERIC & LAUREN HERZOG

Lauren is from Fergus Falls and grew up attending OLV. Eric and Lauren met after attending St. John's (Eric) and St. Thomas (Lauren). Their son, Callum, was recently baptized at OLV. Welcome Herzog family!

DENNIS & RITA NAU

Dennis and Rita have a son and a daughter and six grandchildren. They moved from the Twin Cities metro area and now reside in Fergus Falls. Welcome Dennis and Rita!

SANDY PENKE

Sandy joined Our Lady of Victory this past May. She is a retired Head Start teacher. Sandy served as a valued member of the Elementary Faith Formation Team this school year. She currently resides in Wendell. We officially welcome you to our parish, Sandy!



WELCOME NEW ST. LEONARD MEMBERS

ELVIS AND KAROLL ALDANA-MONTENEGRO and their son Dolcar.

PEDRO AND MARTA GRAVE and their daughters Maria and Teresa, and son Pedro.

Becoming Catholic: The Formation and Rituals We Follow

By Jennifer Dummer



Jennifer Drummer blesses Kara

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which unbaptized and baptized adults of other faiths seek to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. As a convert to Catholicism myself, I understand the journey that RCIA participants embark on as they learn about the many facets of the Catholic faith. I participated in the RCIA process and entered the Catholic Church in 2002. Since that time, I have been on a journey of faith in which I have grown to love Christ and His Church more and more with each passing year. Recently, a part of my journey has come full circle when I was given the opportunity to coordinate the RCIA process here at OLV.

The number of individuals seeking to enter the Church vary from year to year, and this past fall one woman made the commitment to begin the RCIA process as a catechumen. A *catechumen* refers to an unbaptized individual who is seeking to receive all three sacraments of initiation which include baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation, while a *candidate* refers to an already baptized individual who desires to receive the Eucharist and to be



Fr. Alan, Kara Burns and Josh Epping

confirmed in the Catholic Church. Kara Burns, her sponsor Josh Epping, and I met regularly from September through April to discuss many topics of the Catholic faith, including salvation history, the Holy Trinity, the seven Sacraments, Mary and the Saints, the Mass, prayer, and many aspects of the Christian life. With Josh by her side, I witnessed Kara's prayer life and participation in the parish grow. On Sunday, February 26, Kara, Josh, and I journeyed to St. Cloud to participate in the Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral. There I had the great privilege of presenting Kara to our newly installed Bishop Patrick Neary, and I attested to her readiness to receive the sacraments of initiation. On Saturday, April 8, during the glorious celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass, Kara was baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist for the first time.

The Church welcomes others to enter more deeply into the Catholic Christian faith and to learn more about



Kara's Baptism

Christ's Church. The RCIA process is typically organized as weekly meetings beginning in September and concluding at Easter, but alternative arrangements may be made as needed throughout the year. If you or someone you know has considered becoming Catholic and would like to know more about the RCIA process, please contact me at jennifer@ffolvchurch.org or 218-736-2429 Ext. 15.



Student Enters National Essay Contest

Chloe Budke, seen here with her Faith Formation Catechist, Ken Todd, made the extra effort to write an optional essay about how she has experienced God in her life. Chloe's writing showed many references to her love of Jesus and Mary. Chloe is the daughter of Bob and Julie Budke.

We are proud of you, Chloe!

Service at the Texas Border

By Fr. Jeff Ethen | Photo by Fr Jeff Ethen

Fr. Jeff Ethen gave an El Paso, Texas border experience presentation last month to the OLV Parish Social Concerns Committee. He shared about how he, along with two diocesan deacons and their wives, worked a week at the El Paso Diocese Immigration Center.

Invited by El Paso Diocese Bishop Mark Seitz, they provided hands-on service to the mostly Mexican and Central American immigrants.

The El Paso center processes 50 guests per day. They have US sponsors and pass through the center within

24 hours. They are offered showers, clothes, meals and a cot.

Small parish and diocesan groups are welcome for a week or so. "The reality of the border debunks the myth of immigration," Fr Ethen said. "The political is quickly replaced with the personal."

Visiting groups meet with border justice advocates, historians, border guards and relief organizations.

Visits can be arranged through the St Cloud Diocese Multicultural Office, or by contacting Fr. Ethen through the Pelican Valley ACC.



A Nicaraguan child received a doll from Fr. Jeff Ethen last November at the El Paso Diocese immigration center. She chose the one that was almost as tall as she was.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church A Biblical Walk Through the Mass with Dr. Edward Sri

By June Clark

During the 2023 Lenten Season, a group of St. Elizabeth's parishioners participated in a study on The Mass.

Dr. Edward Sri writes, "The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

The words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass are rich in meaning.

The Mass transcends time and space as it makes present to us the life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Everything we say and do in the Liturgy reveals what it all means and why it all matters."

The group appreciated the fact that the study provided a deeper understanding of the Mass and inspired them to be more connected with Jesus at the Mass.



Seated: June Green, Wanda Zimmerman, Pat Baker, Jean Paler; Standing: Kristi Riestenberg, Dini Schauff, Jerry Schauff, Cathie Wilde, June Clark, Joan Brusven, Carol Rengal

Confirmation 2023

Continued on from Pg 2.

desperate situations. And he is credited with many miracles... I chose San Judas Tadeo (aka St. Jude) because he is one of the saints who will help you in times where you need to be saved." - Daniel Garcia

"The saint I chose for my confirmation was Saint Jane Francis de Chantel. I don't see it as I chose her as my saint, but more like she chose to be my saint, as she knew we are similar because of the hardships she had to go through. She inspired me that someone who can go through so much can still move on with their life and be okay. She had lost children at infancy, and her husband was murdered. Later on, her son was killed, and the plague had struck. Yet she continued to persevere and found her way to God. Saint Jane and I have the connection of losing close loved ones and having hardships. But no matter what I go through I still find light at the end of the tunnel, and I know that God will always be by my side helping me through the darkness." - Susana Coronado

We encourage the readers of this article to reflect upon the reason you chose the confirmation saint you did, and how the example and intercession of this saint can be of help to you; perhaps there are instances of this in your past, now in your present, and into your future.



Fr. Lucho the Miracle Man

By Nancy Hilber

Just about everyone who reads this newsletter knows or is aware of Fr. Lucho Palomino. Every year he makes the pilgrimage from his parish in Chimbote, Peru to Fergus Falls (in the winter, his favorite season!) While here, he sees old friends and makes new ones, helps Fr. Alan with his punishing schedule, and double checks at Mayo Clinic that he is still in remission from leukemia. His visit this year was a little different. Peru has been undergoing increasing political unrest making it off limits for visiting him at this time. This has had negative effects on his parish, Sagrada Familia, making life worse for already impoverished parishioners.

And so, an idea was born: have a fundraiser for Fr. Lucho to help his parishioners' lives improve. The fundraiser was spearhead by OLV's new secretary, Marlene Gease. Many people from the ACC parishes jumped on board, and Michael

Burgraff from A Center For The Arts was a key player, giving much needed advice and donating the theater for an hour long presentation by Fr. Lucho, which highlighted the beauty and the woes of his beloved country. Mayme Hofland gave significant help in developing with Fr. Lucho the slide show that guided his presentation, and keeping tabs on the financial giving. Each donation made before the presentation represented a purchased seat in the theater and all seats were "purchased" prior to the performance.

The point was to be able to donate and stay home, watching the streamed performance, but people also paid for a seat to actually be there. Fr. Alan and Fr. Jeff Ethen were on hand to introduce Fr. Lucho and keep the hour



Choir from St. Leonard provided entertainment.

running smoothly. The Spanish choir from St. Leonard Parish in Pelican Rapids entertained musically to a very warm reception. And at the end the priests and the choir and the audience joined in for a spirited few choruses of "Alabare."

This capped off a wonderful night. In the end, this fundraiser,

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A STAY-AT-HOME SELL-OUT SAMBA CHARITY EVENT FEATURING FR. LUCHO PALOMINO

Support Lucho's work against violence, hunger, and suffering in Chimbote, Peru!

Purchase a "seat" in support of Fr. Lucho's mission in Chimbote, Peru and help us fill EVERY SEAT at the A CENTER FOR THE ARTS theatre.

Fr. Lucho will be LIVE STREAMING from AC4TA at **8:00pm on Monday, March 27.** Visitors are welcome to watch the LIVE event on OLV's Facebook page or stop by the AC4TA that evening to watch!

Reserve your "seat" and donate NOW at www.ffolvchurch.org OR open your camera and scan the code below!

Poster designed by Emily Stawarski

2:54

Our Lady of Victory Fergus Falls MN was live. March 27

Comments and reactions will appear based on when they were shared during the video.

Donate HERE to Fr Lucho's mission

Open link

This will take you to <https://w...>

Comments

Comment...

A view from the livestream



Fr. Jeff Ethen served as Master of Ceremonies, sharing jokes and fundraising updates.



Fr. Lucho relaxing after fundraiser, very happy with results.



Fr. Lucho presents about the various needs in his parish.

which hoped for at least \$10,000, had reaped an astonishing \$44,000. Fr. Lucho has been back in Peru for several months and is helping to clothe and feed those who need it. The parish has a pharmacy where medications can be obtained for affordable prices. School supplies which we would take for granted are being provided. And as much as possible, the homeless and sick are rescued from the streets and given lodging. We miss him but will see him before too long; in the meantime what a wonderful feeling to have been able to exercise our Christianity to help those who need it. And with a lot of help from Marlene's miracle team, we can truly call Fr. Lucho a miracle man.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas 50th Biennial Minnesota State Convention was held in Detroit Lakes, MN April 21-23, 2023. Seven members from Fergus Falls Court St. Cabrini #1466 were in attendance. Darlene Hight was elected Treasurer of the State Board and Kathy Nordick was appointed as District Deputy for the Fergus Falls and Moorhead local courts.



Front Row L-R: Darlene Hight, MN CDA State Treasurer, Shirley Seyfried, Past National CDA Regent, Sharon Stevens, Court St. Cabrini #1466 Regent, Bonnie Hein, Court St. Cabrini #1466 Vice Regent, Phyllis Novak. Back Row L-R: Kathy Nordick, District Deputy, and Theresa Tomhave

Pi/3.14 Day

On March 14th (in Math circles, known as Pi/3.14 Day), students at OLV earned the opportunity to watch as whipped cream pies were thrown in the faces of their principal, Mr. Jake Raths, and Phy. Ed. teacher, Mr. Jesse Schneeberger by randomly selected children. This incentive was earned as the students had more than doubled their fundraising goal by selling tickets to the Catholic United raffle. Thanks Jake and Jesse for being such good sports on behalf of the students and their Catholic education.



Mr. Raths explains the "why" of this special day.



Two whipped cream faces.



Getting ready.



Number one!



Some of the onlookers!

INSPIRED AS A TEEN, ANDREW JENNEN GIVES BACK TO TEENS

By Deb Forstner, Faith Formation Facilitator

When Andrew was a teenager at St. Olaf Catholic Church, his mom, Nancy Jennen, brought the Edge Curriculum to their Faith Formation program. Now as an adult, Andrew has been using the same curriculum to help teach middle school students about the Catholic Faith and to grow in their love of the Lord.

Andrew does so in engaging ways, including games for team building and fun. These pictures were taken

on the last evening of Faith Formation this year, which included leaders connecting with students in basketball. If you might be interested in helping

with middle school Faith Formation this year, contact Andrew through the OLV parish office.



Adult Leaders Pictured: Jeff Jennen, David Schroeder, Andrew Jennen



Rachel Tuel, middle school Faith Formation Catechist



Action!

OLV BIBLE STUDIES

By Teresa Thompson

During Lent of 2023, the Bible study class was "No Greater Love, A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion."

The classes usually run about an hour, up to two hours at the most. We have small-group discussion followed by a video presentation. This has been a fun way to learn about our Catholic faith by reading assigned scripture readings and answering questions in a workbook. Our reference materials are the Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Two sessions are offered, one at 1:00 pm and one at 7:00 pm, Mondays. We hope to start another study this fall! (One in the fall and later, a study in the spring.) Be watching in the bulletin for announcements when the time is nearer!



LEFT: Back Row: Chuck Klaers, Darlene Draeger, Louise Wentworth, John Schmidt; Front Row: Doreen Combs, Becky Lee, Donna Cole, Don Cole
RIGHT: Judy Sateren and Teresa Thompson of afternoon Bible study.
Tony Gettel is the leader of evening Bible study at OLV.

Little Jewish Baby Boy

THIS POEM IS BY EDITH DANIEL, SUBMITTED BY DARLENE DRAEGER

**Little Jewish baby boy
A tree was planted
The day You were born**

**Your Mama watched it grow
As well as You
Throughout the years**

**Your friend came over
To climb the tree
Together you were full of glee**

**Mama watched you play
With friends
And knew it would
One day end**

**Your father Joseph
Worked with trees
Especially after
They were freed**

**You beside him
In the dust
To follow your Father
Was a must**

**You had twelve
Very special friends
Some who stuck
With You to the end**

**For most it was
Another tree
But for all
New Life given by Thee**

**You climbed the tree
One last time
And someone had
To take You down**

**Back to a cave They made a bed
To lay Your head
For You were dead**

**As custom be
The women came
With spices to anoint**

**They could not find You
Where You lay
The stone was rolled away**

**The woman named
Just like your Mom
Looked all around
You could not be found**

**Then the Gardener appeared
Or so she thought
And called her name
Her soul completely bought**

**You spend some days
With your twelve friends
One was gone
A new one came**

**But You weren't done
Your story to tell
You've just begun
To ring the bell**

**Your story told
Again and again
Year after year
At the table we bend**

**We do assemble
One and all
Around the table
You gave to all
To share the bread and wine**

**Again we hear the bell
As Your Body and Blood fell
And we drank at the well**

**A tree was planted
The day You were born
And now it blooms within us all**

**Emanuel—God with us
Emanuel
Again we hear the bell**

Learning about Discipleship

By Alejandra Mancilla



Christine Pinto, presenter

At St. Leonard, there were three sessions (January, March, and April) with Christine Pinto from the St. Cloud Diocese - Catholic Education Ministry. The focus was on discipleship from baptism.

Christine led us through the entire rite of the sacrament of baptism, and how we become kings, prophets, and priests; what that means and how those things apply in our lives.



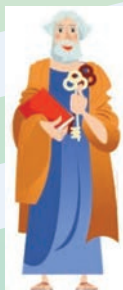
Attendees at Discipleship session, St. Leonard Church basement

Average attendance was thirty people per night. We served dinner, and had the opportunity to share and ask questions.

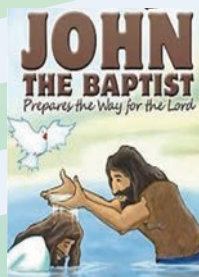
In summary, people enjoyed the sessions, Christine's Spanish is very good, and we all learned something to put into practice.

CHILDREN'S MISSION: SUMMER SAINTS

For children in our ACC going into
First Grade to Fifth Grade this coming Fall
WILL BE HELD AT OUR LADY OF VICTORY
THREE NIGHTS | 7/25-27 | 6-8 PM



SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL
June Feast Days - Tues, July 25



JOHN THE BAPTIST & ST. MARY MAGADALENE
July Feasts Days - Wed, July 26



ST. CLARE OF ASSISI & HER FRIEND ST. FRANCIS
August Feast Day - Thurs, July 27



PRAYER, VIDEOS, SNACK AND STORY TIME, CRAFTS, AND GAMES!

Registration \$10 per student | DEADLINE JULY 16TH

Contact Deb Forstner at OLV if you want to help or have your child in this program!

THE WALLS ARE TALKING!: History of Dairyland Comes to Life

By Deb Forstner

Pat Connelly was one year of age when he and his family moved to Fergus Falls and Our Lady of Victory Parish. Jean Svendsgaard was born and raised in the parish of St. Elizabeth. Today this married couple, parents of Brianna and Joe, have been owners/operators of Dairyland for 26 years out of its 68 years in existence. This makes them the longest to hold that position, though Pat actually began working at Dairyland back when he was 14 years old, at the time that his brother, Chuck Connelly, bought the business in 1982.

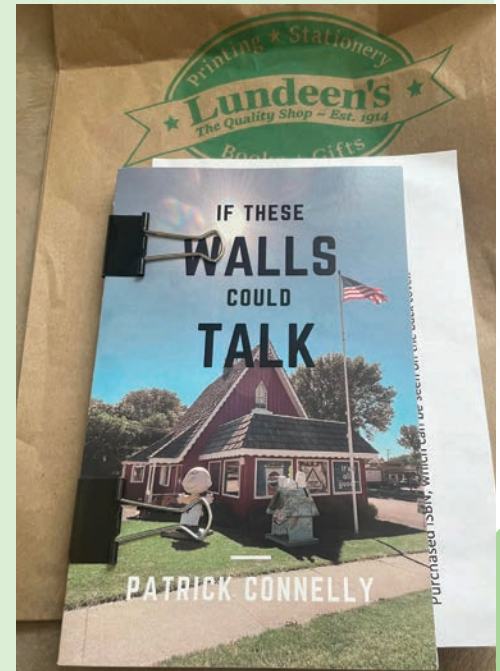
There is an interesting spiritual fact about Dairyland! Pat and Jean have had it blessed before opening for the season every year since 2011. They first had Fr. Greg Paffel come to do the honors, and they recall after the blessing that young Joe, seeing the weather turn blustery as the winter wind blew snow off the roof, declared that the blessing was really working!

This year, that tradition continued with both Fr. Alan and Fr. Lucho coming for the blessing prayer, also giving Pat and Jean holy water to bless all the important places such as the fryer and the ice cream machine. Then all present for the blessing were treated to a Henny Penny Chicken meal, and delicious dessert enhanced by Guatemalan coffee.

This year marks a very special event in Dairyland's life: the publication of a book! Pat's mom, Joanne, has known her son to be a good writer, and with her encouragement, he has it now in complete form. Victor Lundeen is his chosen publisher, and Otter Tail Power will do the binding. The book's voice is Dairyland's, as the shop speaks to what it has seen over the years, from its first owner Bert Skogmo, to its current crew; to back in the 50's customers, to the current business climate. The overall motto that Dairyland repeats

as an important reminder is: Keep it simple. Keep it fun. Keep it friendly. Anyone in our ACC who knows Pat and Jean Connelly know that they are all three of those things.

Be on the lookout for when the book will be available for sale, and special events/signings.



The book!



Pat and Jean Connelly, Fr. Lucho, Fr. Alan



Pat and Jean Connelly, blessing all aspects of Dairyland using Holy Water given to them by Fr. Alan.

**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 9:30 am Our Lady of Victory
Sunday 10:30 am St. Leonard
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

SAINTHOOD UPDATE

Several months ago I stated my desire to become a saint and asked you not to laugh. Ha!

Fact is, just as doubt as to my ability to rid myself of three of the worst of my faults was beginning to stir my anger (sorry, I'm too proud to tell you what they are, but there are clues in this sentence) I came to a painful realization: I had forgotten that, except in extraordinary cases, sainthood requires the performance of a miracle!

A miracle! Fat chance, right? So, my goal beyond reach, what now?

Well, once I got used to the idea that sainthood wasn't in the cards, the answer was quite simple. *Keep plugging away.* After all, I knew I'd never make the PGA tour or Wimbledon, get to play Hamlet on the Broadway stage or win the National Book Award. But I kept plugging away and was rewarded with two hole in ones, several (consolation) tennis trophies, the opportunity to play roles like Henry Higgins, Fagan, and King Arthur on the summer theatre stage, and the privilege of sharing my reflections with fine people like you. Not the rewards I might have aspired to, it's true, but well worth the effort. Add to all that the joy of having the finest wife and sons (4) a man could ask for, and to me it's a recipe for a near-perfect life.

Keep plugging away. I think that's what God wants me to do. And He's told me exactly how to do it! You know the answer as well as I do, but it can't be stated too often: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There are no greater commandments than these* (Mark 12, 30 -31).

It can't be an accident that Matthew (22, 37-39), Luke (10, 27) and John (34-35) have Jesus expressing that idea in much the same way.

All the above being true, I'm determined to *keep plugging away.* No, doing so won't earn me the reward I had aspired to. It will, however, help me come as close as possible and grant me a reward far greater than any I have earned or could earn on earth!

Well worth plugging away for, far as I'm concerned.

Lee Krogh