

# THE JOURNEY

Photo Credit  
David Swenson

Fall  
2023

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



## THE JOURNEY HOME

By **Deb Forstner**, Journey Newsletter Editor

Here is something I've come to know about taking a journey: one never knows exactly how it is going to turn out. A person can strategize and plan, read in depth, even get in the best possible physical condition for making the trip. Yet, things may happen beyond one's control, leading to detours, unexpected turbulence, or even roadblocks where a person needs to put it in reverse and try an entirely different way. But with our Catholic Christian faith, we have Sacraments, and they help strengthen us throughout this journey of life.

On Sunday evening July 31, 2023, I had my last phone conversation with my mom. She had taken a fall earlier in the day, but was in good spirits. Nothing was broken, and though she was sore and her leg badly bruised, she claimed it to be just yet another chapter in the book of life. In the next couple days, she never fully woke up, though our family was blessed by some lovely words and moments from and with her. The biggest blessing for me perhaps was when my parents' parish priest quickly responded to the call to come with sacred oil to anoint her, and laid a small piece of Holy Communion on her tongue. I have witnessed several final sacramental anointings so beautifully performed by priests during my years working as a hospital chaplain. However, it was a surreal and tearful experience for me as the reality sunk in that unlike those situations, this was MY mom. She died the morning of August 2nd.

I am certainly not the first among you to experience the loss of a loved one to death. But I

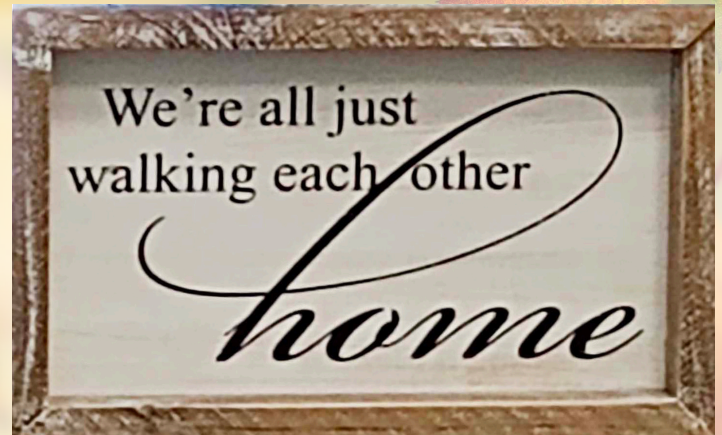


Photo provided by Darlene Draeger

believe, as the sign pictured on this page says, we all are really walking each other home, to that next place called heaven. I think of the photo I have of my mom in her First Communion dress, and I picture her in bed at age 88 receiving her final piece of consecrated bread on this earth. How blessed we are to be on this journey as Eucharistic people.

This is a time of Eucharistic Revival in the United States. Please look within this issue of The Journey to learn a bit more about what that means, including information about a walking pilgrimage that will be taking place in 2024. In the meantime, as we walk up the aisle at church to receive the Eucharist; and as we prayerfully return to our pews; or if we are lucky enough to receive Communion in the form of Viaticum, which means soon before our bodies die and our souls go to heaven; remember that this revival is to help us believe totally in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. There really is no finer gift.

# Knights of Columbus participate in Faith Build

By Tom Hintgen



A Fergus Falls Knights of Columbus work crew helped build a new Habitat for Humanity house Tuesday, Aug. 22, near the Fergus Falls YMCA. Our Lady of Victory Church is among several area church groups sending in work crews for one or more days this year.

This year the Fergus Falls Knights of Columbus Council 3118 answered the call to be among the representatives of close to 25 area churches helping to build a Habitat for Humanity house near the Fergus Falls YMCA.

A work crew pitched in and worked on Tuesday, Aug. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each crew member saw this as a labor of love, on a day with high temperatures close to 90 degrees.

"It was a productive day with good fellowship," said Grand Knight Jeff Jennen, adding that the local KC's also donated \$400 for building materials for this Habitat house.

Joining Jennen in the house-building work on Aug. 22 were KC members Don Asplund, Dave Schroeder, Harlan Jones, Bob Welle, Les Wolf, Steve Koep, Lance Sateren, Ben Johnson and Tom Hintgen.

Supplying lunch for the work crew were Catholic Daughters Sharon Stevens and Theresa Tomhave. The Catholic Daughters Court 1466 donated \$200 for building materials.

Praising the local Knights of Columbus work crew was Paul Shol, Habitat for Humanity Faith Built outreach coordinator.

"We thank you for your participation and inspiration to grow and renew the KC's while partnering with the local Fergus Falls Habitat for Humanity," Shol said. "Your work is also

an inspiration for the entire Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community."

At the start of each work day, Shol leads a prayer for the success of the building project, the family who will live in the house, the safety of work volunteers, good weather, and for God to provide the funds and materials.

The KC's who worked on Aug. 22 took pride in helping to move along the house-building project. Some KC's worked with soffit and fascia materials while others helped with concrete work, hauled insulation and other materials from a nearby Habi-



When Jennifer Whore spoke at the Catholic Daughters meeting on June 8th, she explained how Habitat for Humanity and twenty-three area churches are involved in supporting the build of her new home. She expressed much gratitude, and pointed out how the home's location on Lenore Way seemed significant to her, as the name Lenore means light; therefore, she considers the home to be located on the "Lighted Way." Jennifer feels very supported by Habitat staff, who have also been working with her on practical skills such as budgeting as a new homeowner.

tat storage area, and performed other tasks.

Many participants, from OLV and other churches, enjoy learning and practicing house construction techniques.

All day long workers keep in mind the Faith Build mission to join forces as disciples of Jesus Christ to help provide a safe and affordable home for a family in Fergus Falls.

**This year, Deacon Dean Pawlowski's ordination date of June 16 fell on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. As on most Friday mornings, he spent time in church for Eucharistic Adoration, with many OLV parishioners and Fr. Alan joining him. After adoration, people enjoyed coffee, rolls, and conversation in the Fellowship Hall. Next, during the celebration of 9 AM Mass, Fr. Alan led a blessing over Deacon Dean and his wife Sarah. We thank Deacon Dean for these first five years serving as Deacon, and best wishes for many more years to come.**

**Fr. Alan blessing Sarah and Deacon Dean Pawlowski**



Photo provided by Marlys Lucy



# NEW OLV MEMBERS

**WILL & SARAH HARREN,  
WITH DAUGHTER KINSLEY**



Both Will and Sarah grew up in Central Minnesota, and attended college in Fargo, which is where they met. They married in the summer of 2021 at St. John the Baptist Church in Meire Grove. Kinsley was born into their family in November 2022, and they recently purchased their first home in Fergus Falls. Welcome Harren Family!

## ERIC & LOIS FISCHBACH



Eric and Lois moved to Fergus Falls now that they are retired. They have four adult children, ranging in age from 42 to 24. Welcome Eric and Lois to OLV!

## ST. LEONARD WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

- Jesus and Maria Guadalupe Moreno
- Marling Cordoba
- Adrian Chavez
- Claudia Alejandra Cruz



## SPIRITUAL FIRST AID



Did you ever think of the **BIBLE** as being like a **SPIRITUAL FIRST AID KIT** for whatever ails your soul?

A program of training known as Spiritual First Aid provided these Scripture verses for us to reflect on for treatment. May looking up and reflecting upon one or more bring comfort!

### SCRIPTURE ENCOURAGEMENT HANDOUT

Instructions: Read these passages to find peace during times of adversity. Research shows that reading encouraging scriptures can reduce distress by increasing hope, refreshing our minds, and reminding us of God's love.

**GENESIS 16:13**  
God sees us.

**JONAH 2:2**  
God hears us.

**PSALM 23:4**  
God is with us.

**JAMES 1:5**  
God grants wisdom to those who ask.

**EXODUS 2:25**  
God knows our suffering.

**PSALM 34:18**  
God is near the brokenhearted.

**MATTHEW 11:28**  
God receives us when we're overwhelmed.

**ROMANS 8:35,37**  
God loves us deeply in suffering.

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:10**  
God shows up in our weakness.

**ROMANS 8:39**  
We can trust nothing can separate us from God's love.

**HABAKKUK 3:17-18**  
We can choose to trust God.

**ISAIAH 41:10**  
We can choose not to be bullied by fear.

**1 PETER 5:7**  
We can choose to release our fears to God.

**MICAH 6:8**  
We can love our neighbors as God instructs.

**PROVERBS 17:17**  
We can love those closest to us.

**ACTS 20:35**  
We can care for the vulnerable.

**1 JOHN 4:18**  
We can accept God's love as the antidote to fear.

**MATTHEW 6:33**  
We can seek God and His righteousness.

# KC's, Catholic Daughters Celebrate 75 Years

By Tom Hintgen

In 1948 Our Lady of Victory Church member Al Hartl led the chartering for a new Knights of Columbus council. His wife, Ruth, led in the organization of a Catholic Daughters of America court.

A joint 75th anniversary celebration was held June 24, 2023, spearheaded by longtime KC member John Schmidt who served as banquet emcee at the OLV fellowship hall. State KC's and Catholic Daughters representatives also were in attendance and spoke during the celebration.

That same day, at the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass, both the KC's and Catholic Daughters were recognized for their 75 years of service. Fr. Alan Wielinski spoke about the history and missions of each organization.

Later, at the evening banquet, KC member Jeff Jennen and Catholic Daughter Sharon Stevens, who each head their local organizations, spoke to more than 100 people in attendance at the OLV fellowship hall.

The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by a priest, Michael McGivney, in New Haven, Connecticut. The Catholic Daughters were established in 1903 at Utica, New York. Over the years both organizations have been involved with various educational and charitable causes, while embracing the principles of religious faith.

Council 3118 was chartered in Fergus Falls with Father Bernard Wessling choosing the name "Our Lady of Fatima." The local Catholic Daughters 1466 chose the name "Court St. Cabrini."

Youth and family activities have also been emphasized by both the KC's and Catholic Daughters here in Fergus Falls for the past 75 years. "Our charitable activities have been many and varied," Schmidt said.

The following are examples of Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters support at the local level.

## Knights of Columbus

As an example of support for youth activities, the local KC council sponsors Cub Pack 612 which currently has 42 members. KC members assist the OLV marathon for non-public education and provide

financial support to Children of St. Peter in San Pedro Huertas in Guatemala.

Family and social activities over the years have included lake outings, pork chop feeds, hayrides, Christmas caroling and dances. KC's have provided food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas, rung bells for the Salvation Army and strongly supported Father Lucho and his work in Peru.

## Catholic Daughters

Back in the 1960s the local Catholic Daughters held Christmas parties for residents of the Fergus Falls

State Hospital, later known as the Regional Treatment Center. In the 1970s the organization donated to Father Tim Wenzel's work with area migrant workers.

In the 1980s Catholic Daughters purchased new songbooks for the OLV parish and provided funds for major church projects. In the 1990s members adopted Far East mission orphans. Since 2001, the Catholic Daughters have obtained grants from the MN State Catholic Daughters to help sponsor and build three Habitat Homes in Fergus Falls.

*Continued on Pg 5.*



*At Mass prior to the anniversary program/dinner, KC's served as honor guard. (Photos by Harlan Jones)*



*Fr. Alan expressing gratitude for the service of KC's and Catholic Daughters, and also for Good Shepherd statue he received as a gift.*



*Knights of Columbus Group*



*Catholic Daughters Group*

# Steubenville 2023

By Emily Hebert, ACC Youth Minister



Franciscan University of Steubenville has put on youth conferences each summer for many years. The ministry has grown to 20 annual conferences across the country and tens of thousands of teen attendees. There is something special about these conferences, that is for sure. Weekends at these conferences are Spirit-filled and life changing for all who attend, teens and adult chaperones alike. In fact, many young priests and religious credit these conferences for beginning their journey toward finding their vocation. This year, we had 15 young women from our ACC attend the conference.

A weekend at a Steubenville Youth Conference consists of dynamic speakers, praise and worship, Mass, time to connect with other teens from the region, and Eucharistic Adoration. Speakers from around the country share about their faith and the struggles and triumphs that come with life as a Catholic. They lead us in prayer and guide us to think about our own lives – where we can find Jesus and where we need Jesus. Some of the impactful things about these conferences for teens (and adults, too) are seeing hundreds of people just like them all coming together to celebrate and learn about their shared faith, seeing dozens of priests and religious brothers and sisters, and growing closer to the people who came on the trip with them. The high point of the weekend for many is Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday night. This is a time for us to gaze upon Jesus, full-

ly present in the Eucharist, to offer Him praise, and give Him our burdens. The weekend concludes with Mass and a message of hope to our teens that they are not the future of the Church but they are the Church, here and now, and are called to be holy.

This year's theme was "Refuge," based on Matthew 11:28. Speakers shared how we can find refuge in Jesus no matter what life is throwing at us. There is a home for us when we are tired and weary. Our worth and identity are found in Him and there isn't anything we can do to change that. We were also encouraged to take action in our faith in a world

that is quick to distract us and tear us down. We are called to seek the Lord through our daily lives in prayer and especially through the Sacraments.

Thank you to all who supported our trip to Steubenville St. Paul this year financially, through fundraising and other donations, and with prayers. The ACC has been incredibly supportive of our teens attending the conference and they are very grateful for the opportunity to attend these conferences. There is hope and passion in the young Church! Please continue to pray for our teens and their families.

## KC's, Catholic Daughters Celebrate 75 years

Continued from Pg 4.

Catholic Daughters, as the new century got underway, further supported seminarians and Catholic religious workers. Member Shirley Seyfried was active at the local, state and national levels of Catholic Daughters, serving as National Regent.



ABOVE: Financial Secretary and State Treasurer Darlene Hight and husband Craig; Regent Sharon Stevens.



LEFT: Looking through the program before dinner.

# On Eagle's Wings

EDITOR'S NOTE: When I read this podcast transcript, I immediately hoped it could be something I could share with readers of this newsletter. It is being reprinted with permission of the On Being Project, online at [onbeing.org](http://onbeing.org)

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO READ AND ENJOY!

## Words of Billy Mills

Original Air Date: May 20, 2016

"The number one objective of my Olympic pursuit was to heal a broken soul." Gold medalist Billy Mills set a world record in the 10,000-meter race at the 1964 Games. He shares how running created a refuge for spirituality and personal growth.

Billy Mills grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He is the first and only American to win the men's 10,000 meters race in the Olympics. He is the co-founder of Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

**BILLY MILLS:** My name is Billy Mills. I was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, which is the second largest reservation in the nation. I live in Fair Oaks, California now.

My first memory of running was a Jesuit priest gave my father what I'll call a book, but it was actually a collection of articles and one of the articles said, as my dad read them to me, "Olympians are chosen by the gods," and I wanted to become an Olympian. I wanted to be chosen by the gods, and it had absolutely nothing to do with the Olympic Games. My mother had just died and I thought if I was chosen by the gods, even if they were the Olympic gods, perhaps I would be able to see my mother again.

At that point I had just turned nine. My mother died, she had passed about a year earlier. So my first memory of the Olympic Games or of running, I should say, evolved around what I'd call a very sacred element of maybe seeing my mother again.

My dream, at that point I thought I would try boxing. I had six fights in the ring, zero wins and six losses and that hurt. [laughs]

I tried basketball. I was slow. I got in for a game and lost it because I went to the wrong basket and scored two points. Football hurt.

But I ran and then I felt spirituality. I could feel my feet pounding against the earth. I could breathe in and if the wind is blowing in the right direction, a quarter of a mile away you'd be some wild flowers and I could inhale the fragrance of the flowers and it felt spiritual.

The first official track meet I was in, the little Indian boys lined up. We go into this white community and all of the young white athletes had on track shoes, track uniforms. I had on basketball shoes, Levis, and a t-shirt. At the School of Mines in Rapid City, South Dakota, I got dead last in the 400 meters, but I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the movement, the activity.

So when my dad died and I was 12, I didn't really pursue much running. Then I get to high school. I am 5'1", 102 pounds, the second smallest young boy at the school, Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kansas. And the coach was talking to us and he simply said, "one of you can do something magical in sport. One of you could become a great athlete." Just having the coach point at me saying, "One of you could do something magical," I felt it was my dad speaking to me. My sophomore year, the third race I ran I won — was undefeated the rest of my high school career.

So I came out of high school with the fourth fastest mile in the nation, making good grades, ended up with a full athletic scholarship at the University of Kansas.

My practice as I got ready for the Olympic Games started when I was still in college and I came so close to suicide. Soci-



ety was breaking me. I was caught between Plessy vs. Ferguson, white and black America, equal but separate, being overturned with Brown vs. Board of Education. So in many ways, if you were not a white athlete or a black athlete, you didn't fit into this change that was occurring in America, white leadership, black leadership, in conflict for equality.

So if you were maybe Latino, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, male, female, you didn't really fit into that equation so I felt like I didn't belong, yet I was facing some of the racism. When I made All-American, and this has happened at several occasions, many people were taking photographs, but there was always one photographer three years in a row who asked me to get out of the photo.

And I remember a little bit of me breaking. I go back to my hotel

*Continued on Pg 7.*



## On Eagle's Wings - Cont. from Pg 6.

room and I'm going to jump. And I didn't hear it through my ears, I heard it underneath my skin. Movement. And the movement, in many ways, formed a word, the energy of the movement. I felt I could hear, "Don't," four times. The fourth time powerful, gentle, loving, "Don't." And, to me, it was my dad's voice.

So I'm crying and I wrote down a dream: gold medal, 10,000 meter run. The Creator has given me the ability. The rest is up to me, believe, believe, believe, believe. And what I did, I took the Native American culture, tradition, spirituality. They became the core of my Olympic pursuit, simply because I felt the virtues and the values of culture, tradition, spirituality that are positive, would give me confidence, would give me direction, would give me a clarity of mind to make a positive decision and stay the course and that became the core of my Olympic training.

It was, in a sense, not to win a gold medal at the Games, although I wanted to try to win the gold med-

al, I wanted to try to get a world record, but the number one objective of my Olympic pursuit was to heal a broken soul. And I look back, it just blows me away, a 77-year-old man, and I know what it is to be broken, but I also know what it is to be on a healing journey. You feel you're never healed, but the journey, you know, is a lifetime.

I'll tell you what went through my mind when I was running my Olympic race. So now we're in Tokyo, Japan. The race is under way. Lap after lap, runners fall behind. I remember crossing the three-mile within one second of my fastest three-mile ever but we had over three more miles to go. There was absolutely no way I could continue, but it was just one more try, one more try.

One hundred twenty meters to go. I feel like I'm 12 yards behind. I've got to go now. Lifting my knees, lengthening my stride, pumping my arms, coming off the final curve, 95, maybe 85 meters. I can see the finish line. And as I go by the runner that moved into lane five so I can go by

him, I look and out of the corner of my eye on his jersey I saw an eagle. It was back to my dad, so powerful. "You do these things, Son, someday you can have wings of an eagle." It was wings of an eagle. "I can win. I can win. I can win." Sixty meters to go, maybe 55 meters to go, the thoughts were so powerful, I may never be this close again. I've got to do it now.

I felt the tape break across my chest. An official came up to me and he says, who are you? Who are you? And I go, oh my God, did I miscount the laps? He said, finished, the new Olympic champion and I put one finger up and I said, did I win? Number one? He says, new Olympic champion. I said I've got to find the runner, to tell him the eagle on his singlet helped me win. I found him. I look and there's no eagle. It was simply a perception and I realized that perceptions create us or destroy us, but we have that opportunity to create our own journey.

## PRAISING GOD AND LOVING IT

By Nancy Hilber

This is a story about something dear to our hearts at St. Leonard's: the 10:30 choir. It goes back a long way and has had much turnover in the years it has been in existence. My experience with the choir goes back quite awhile also, to Fr. Alan's first tour as pastor here.

As summer visitors "way back when" I would sing with the choir whenever I was in Pelican Rapids. When the church expanded, the old sacristy by the altar became the new choir area and there they sing to this day. Many really talented and influential leaders came and went. My memories are of Doris Kapaun playing the small organ that somehow was tucked in that area. Also, there was Ann Boen on guitar and Barb Haberman on the keyboard. Eventually Bev Terhurne became the leader and keyboard player and held that position for many years.

The choir evolved for all those years and received much praise and thanks. Unbowed by the spectre of singing different languages, the choir became fluent in Latin during

Holy Week and, of course, Spanish when needed. The 12 PM Spanish Mass also was forming and improving and eventually bilingual Masses became a reality. These Masses continue and are conducted on Holy Days, Christmas and Easter, and whenever we feel like it.

Eventually, after many fruitful years, Bev moved to Fergus Falls and reluctantly stepped away from music in the church. Then I became director, which was ...well...interesting. I have been director for about a year and a half and have gone from trembling, stumbling pianist to someone a little more confident after accepting the fact that I do best playing by ear. Also there is much guitar where I am ably assisted by the brilliant Chris Hovden when he is available. Also, our son David is



Front: Nancy Hilber, Pat Scheman, Natalie Hilber, Eva Kelly, Sue Thompson; Back: Chris Hovden, David Hilber, Mike Strand, Glenn Moerke, Steve Pederson

doing well with 4 string guitars and baritone ukuleles. Some of the singers have been there longer than me, some newer, and our newest member actually sang for years with the "old" choir. All are friends and will have attended our choir party by the time you read this. Say a prayer for the choir when you think of it, we are grateful for them!

# SUMMER SAINTS

By Deb Forstner, Faith Formation Facilitator

Saints with summer feast days was the theme of this July's program for children going into the first through fifth grades. Twenty-seven children, mostly from OLV but also representing St. Leonard and St. Elizabeth, participated with a GREAT team of adult and teen volunteers. Each evening started with prayer in the church followed by videos portraying the life of two of the six saints we learned about. Those saints were St. Peter, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Clare, and St. Francis. Examples of activities related to these saints included rock painting in honor of St. Peter, blind and water game relays due to how St.

Paul was blinded by light during his conversion and John baptized with water, and resurrection roll baking in honor of St. Mary Magdalene being the first to be witness to Jesus' resurrection (see recipe on next page). Students moved between stations of read-aloud stories and snacks, crafts, and outdoor games. Even though St. Francis' feast day is in October, because he is so closely connected to the life of St. Clare (feast day August 11), we had a big screen movie about St. Francis while eating animal crackers. The students displayed excellent, cooperative behavior, and showed at the end when Fr. Alan came to ask about their new saint friends, that they had learned much.



Nancy Jennen and Mike Rheault, games station leaders.



Aiden Bruck, prayer and station transition leader.



Elise Rogholt and Krystal Crance, baking.



Judy Mach assists in the Crafts Room.



Teresa Thompson and Pep Ross, story readers.



# RESURRECTION ROLLS

1 pkg refrigerated crescent rolls  
8 large, fresh marshmallows  
1 T. butter, melted

1/4 c. sugar  
1 t. cinnamon

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Preheat oven to 350. Mix together the cinnamon and sugar. Open the crescent rolls and flatten each piece. Dip the marshmallow into the butter and then roll in the cinnamon sugar mixture. Place the marshmallow on the crescent roll and then wrap the roll around the marshmallow, pinching any seams. Place on a greased baking sheet.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Enjoy immediately. The children were delighted to see that the marshmallow/"Jesus" was no longer there... He has risen!

*We read some scripture and talked about the importance of the Resurrection, and for us, we focused on Mary Magdalene who was the first to witness Jesus Resurrected!!*

CRESCENT ROLLS - represent the cloth that Jesus' body was wrapped in {Matt 27:59}

LARGE MARSHMALLOW - represents Jesus and His purity

MELTED BUTTER - represents the oils of embalming {Luke 23:56}

CINNAMON & SUGAR - represents the spices used to anoint the body of Jesus {Luke 23:56}

## St. Elizabeth Children's Ministry

By Alli Neuleib

My name is Allison (Alli) Neuleib. I am a 3rd generation parishioner of St Elizabeth's Parish. I currently reside with my husband Landon outside of Rothsay, MN. We have 3 children, Billy 6, Bella 3, and Clayton 1.



Allison Neuleib

If you haven't seen me at St Elizabeth before it's because I'm usually running in one direction or another. I may be singing, decorating, organizing or just chasing my kids around. My hobbies include: gardening, canning, reading, and raising my kids to chase their dreams.

I would say that my faith was ingrained in me from a very young age, being in church every Sunday with my parents and grandparents. I attended elementary school at OLV, CCD at St Elizabeth, and Confirmation classes with St Leonard. I have had a solid foundation for my faith set for me. My grandparents especially taught me the importance of prayer. For example, the rosary can be said in approximately 15 minutes, and one of the things my grandparents would do is pray a rosary every time they took a drive to Fergus Falls from their home outside of Elizabeth. No radio, no distractions, just a few minutes of prayer together to bring us peace before we moved on with the chaos of our day. Participating in the Mass has also been a big part of my faith journey, I started as a server for Fr Alan when I was 8 yrs



Alli and Family

old until I joined the church choir, decorating for holidays, and helping wherever I'm needed.

God has given us all gifts to share, and we should SHARE THEM. My family has always been involved in our parish in one form or another in many different roles over the last 60+ years. I have also followed in those footsteps. Some jobs are more enjoyable than others, but all are rewarding.

As the director of the St Elizabeth Faith Formation this year, our goal is to teach Catholicism and strive to get the children involved in the church. I would love to see more kids involved in the Mass on Sundays, or helping more with fundraisers for the parish.

Staying involved in the Mass and in the church is really what helped me find my 'WHY' when it came to: Why do you choose to go to church every Sunday? Why do you choose to participate in the Eucharist? Why do you choose to be Catholic? etc. I feel like we need to show the children of our parish our why, and that is how we are going to give them a strong faith foundation as they grow.



# Are Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us? EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

By Deb Forstner



## NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

We are in the middle of a three-year National Eucharistic Revival. You may recall that on October 5, 2022, the St. Cloud Diocese brought to OLV information about Eucharistic miracles, as documented by Blessed Carlo Acutis, along with workshops and prayer experiences, and a talk by the chair of the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, of the Diocese of Crookston. This year, we are encouraged to bring awareness of the real presence of the Eucharist through parish level activities. The Mission our ACC sponsored with the two Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ sisters from Texas emphasized throughout the importance of and love for the Eucharist.

Another example of this emphasis will be on Saturday, September 23, from 9:30-11 AM at OLV Church. At that time, there will be a session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, or those who would be interested in this ministry. The workshop is free, and through the generosity of the "Building Bridges for a Thriving Mission" program, the book, *Living Liturgy for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*, will be given free to all participants.

For 2024, plans are taking shape for a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. As you will see on the graphic of the US map, there will be four routes, coming from four directions of our



country, and all ending in Indianapolis, Indiana for a five-day Eucharistic Congress. This Congress will be filled with prayer, general and breakout sessions, liturgy, concerts and entertainment. Organizers are planning on 80,000 Catholics in attendance, with the large events being held at Lucas Oil Stadium. The dates of the Congress are July 17-21, 2024. This will actually be the 10th Eucharistic Congress held in the life of the Catholic Church, but the first in 83 years.

But let's back up! What was that about a pilgrimage, and merging together from four sides of America? Each of these routes has a different spiritual sponsor, related to the part of the country the walkers are starting from. The names and locations of those four routes are: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route, starting in New Haven, CT; St. Juan Diego Route, starting in Brownsville, TX; St. Junipero Serra Route, starting in San Francisco, CA; and the Marian Route, starting at the Mississippi Headwaters, Lake Itasca, MN.

Here are the current plans for getting things started for the Minnesota/Marian Route of this journey. There will be an opening ceremony at the Sanford Center in Bemidji the day before Pentecost Sunday, May 18, 2024. Then the pilgrimage will officially start on Pentecost (May 19, 2024) at Lake Itasca. The pilgrimage will be a Eucharistic Procession

with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and all are welcome to walk as able, whether that is for a block or multiple miles. Each of the routes will have 12 Perpetual Pilgrims (four dozen young adults total), who will travel the entire way, staying with hosts, led by clergy, and followed by a support van. People can join the pilgrimage at any point, or if the route does not come close to where they live, people are encouraged to make their own route, perhaps starting and/or ending at holy places close by.

Much more information is available online by going to [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org), where there are links to information about the reasons for the revival, the congress, the pilgrimage, and ways to subscribe to emails to help one to begin praying for renewal. These subscription opportunities include the "Revival Spark Series" and other ways to stay connected as more specific plans are being made. The Diocese of St. Cloud website also has a Eucharistic Revival Section for more information.





# Summer BAPTISMS



## OUR LADY OF VICTORY

VANDER VINCENT SKONSENG  
Ashley Skonseng  
6/11/2023

CALLUM BLAKE HERZOG  
Eric & Lauren Herzog  
6/18/2023

OAKLEIGH EVERLY JEAN DeMAR  
Raymond & Amy DeMars  
7/30/2023

ALAN RUIZ  
Jose Luis Perez IV & Andrea Ruiz  
8/22/2023

ALEXANDRA PEREZ RUIZ  
Jose Luis Perez IV & Andrea Ruiz  
8/22/2023

## ST. LEONARD

MIRIAM DAYANA LEON RIQUIAC  
Samuel Leon Ciprian  
& Marta Alicia Riquiac Chon  
7/2/2023

MARIA OVIDIA CASTELLANO  
& XIOMARA YAMILETH TIÑO  
María Guadalupe Andrea Martinez  
& Erix Rolando Tiño  
8/19/2023

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL!

WELCOME TO OUR  
AREA CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY.

**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 ALL ARE WELCOME...

That's been one of my favorite hymns ever since the first time I heard it. I liked it even though I knew there were a few people—even of my own faith—who don't believe the words apply to those who, in a variety of ways, aren't quite the same as the rest of us.

Thankfully, my liking for the hymn was confirmed a year or so ago when Pope Francis spoke what I (no theologian, understand) consider to be the most important five-word sentence ever spoken by a pontiff. In response to a question as to the place of such persons in the church, he responded with a question of his own: *"Who am I to judge?"* Even though those words reflect the words of Jesus (*"Judge not lest you be judged"*) they were not received with joy—or even acceptance—by everyone. They did, in fact, cause dissension in some places. And that dissension continues to exist within a small minority.

It's for that reason, I suppose, that I was doubly pleased a few months ago. That's when, while in Portugal, the Pope used just three words to reinforce his previous statement. Those three words left no doubt as to what he meant by it: *"Everyone,"* he said, *"is welcome!"*

In light of those two papal pronouncements, I was privileged to be in the congregation on the Feast of the Transfiguration. That's when, in response to Father Alan's question as to who was welcome in our house, several hundred parishioners responded three times with a rousing, heartfelt, *"Everyone!"*

It was a moment I'll never forget. It was a keen reminder that mine is a universal faith, that I have no right to judge or look down on those who might not have been created exactly like me, and that I belong to a loving, vibrant faith community.

Thank you, Pope Francis, Father Alan—and fellow parishioners—for those faith-filled, confirming moments!

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place!*

Lee Krogh

