

The Church of Our Lady of Victory

Ministry Handbook



“Who do you say that I am?”

Matthew 16:13

Living a Life of Eucharistic Stewardship

Is the grateful response of a Christian Disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

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Rosary
Sacristan

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Area Catholic Community Council

Pastoral Council

The purpose of the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community Pastoral Council (PVACC) shall be to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ better known among the people of God of the ACC, to work with the Pastor relating to the pastoral mission of the PVACC, to foster pastoral activity in the PVACC and to serve as an advisory board to the Pastor. The Pastoral Council is not a decision-making body, but rather a research and advisory group. Four members from each parish are appointed by parishioners nominating members to serve a three-year term, with up to two consecutive terms.

Parish Committees

Board of Education

This is an advisory committee for the parish whose task is to review, monitor and evaluate the educational activities of the entire school. Board members serve 1-2 three-year terms.

Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee is responsible for showing available plots, keeping burial records, and providing perpetual care for the cemetery grounds. This committee ensures that the cemetery always honors the souls of the faithful buried in St. Otto's Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Church Environment

To enhance liturgical celebrations and reflect the current liturgical season, our worship space is decorated with fabric, flowers and art. Lay Ministers with artistic or interior design skills are needed to plan the space, as well as people who can assist with the physical needs of preparing our sanctuary for worship.

Fall Festival Committee

The Fall Festival is held the 3rd Sunday in September. It is a celebration of our faith community that brings together fellowship, food and fun for all ages and is the biggest fundraiser of the year. There is an opportunity for creative people to develop "Theme Baskets" to be sold at the Silent Auction on the day of the festival. This occasion offers many opportunities to volunteer. Everyone is invited to share in this event to support our parish.

Finance Council

This is an advisory council for the parish. It meets monthly to assist the pastor and the Parish Business Administrator with the decisions that affect the financial stability of the parish. The council is composed of the pastor, parish administrator, two trustees, one liaison person from the Pastoral Council, and seven members who are appointed.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee seeks to emphasize the importance of human relationships within our parish community. With this purpose in mind, our committee hopes to promote enrichment for our fellow parishioners and to facilitate social opportunities that will meet the needs of all: the youngest to the eldest, married, widowed, divorced and single.

Indoor Plants/Flowers

Members of this ministry provide upkeep of the parish indoor plants and flowers.

Lenten Fish Fry Committee

The Lenten Fish Fries operates every Friday during Lent (not including Good Friday). Lay Ministers cook, serve and oversee dessert and beverage tables, set up and clean up. All proceeds benefit the parish.

Maintenance

Periodically, the parish needs help with special projects such as: yard work, plumbing, carpentry, painting and electrical work. Parishioners with experience in buildings and grounds maintenance help to manage the upkeep of church property.

Mini Cleaning of Church

The church cleaners ensure the church is ready for all liturgical celebrations. They clean the sanctuary and sacristy and arrange the prayer books in the pews among other things to keep things neat and tidy.

Money Counters

Lay Ministers count the money collected through the weekly collection and special events.

Outdoor Grounds Assistance

Lay ministers help to manage the outdoor plants to enhance the landscape.

Parish Life

The Parish Life Committee strives to promote a positive faith-based community environment. The Committee provides Our Lady of Victory community members with a way to be involved and informed in the happenings of our parish. Some examples of the information shared in this committee would include reports from the clergy, school, finance, faith formation, ACC, and various active ministries in our parish. Members of the Committee are anticipated to have a 3-year term with meetings held 4-6 times per year.

Members will bring suggestions or concerns from parishioners to the committee for discussion. Meeting minutes will be posted.

Social Concerns

This team invites all parishioners to proclaim the Good News through active participation in programs that serve those in need. They also seek to educate parishioners on the Catholic Social Teaching based on Vatican II, as well as the teachings of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Council, to shape a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace.

Stewardship and Evangelization Committee

The Stewardship Committee, with the direction of the pastor, encourages parishioners to embrace stewardship as a way of life: to give freely of their Time, Talent and Treasure. The committee promotes the four pillars of stewardship (hospitality, prayer, formation, and service) within themselves and the parish by creating opportunities for parishioners to further relationships with each other. For example: coordinating pilgrimages and retreats; publication of the Stewardship ACC Newsletter; SunDay FunDay; Mardi Gras; and by supporting all parish ministries. The committee plans the annual Commitment Renewal and follow-up with leaders concerning ministry participation. Members serve 1-2 three-year terms.

Votive Candles

This ministry is scheduled in one-month blocks to replace the votive candles as needed on a weekly basis.

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee is designed to reach out to new members and help them feel welcome at OLV. They are open to new suggestions and especially new members.

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Eucharistic Adoration

Being involved with this ministry will help you make prayer and spending time with our Lord a greater priority in your life. Consider being a regular adorer in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We try to have two people present for each hour of Adoration. Bibles and other prayer and meditation books are available to enhance your hour of Adoration. Often you will not need them as the hour of silent meditation goes very quickly. If you are not able to commit to a regular time, you are welcome to come to the Chapel at your leisure.

Living Stations of the Cross - A New Ministry

Each Lenten season the Living Stations of the Cross bring the death and resurrection of Jesus "to life". Members of the parish present a still-life portrayal of the stations of the cross. Dressed as people from the first century, this hour-long prayer is a visual reminder of the sacrifice and celebration that comes from Jesus' dying and conquering death; even death on a cross. There is an opportunity to become part of the cast, music or participate by praying in the pews.

Marriage Preparation

The community of Our Lady of Victory cherishes the witness of couples in their life-long commitment to each other. Sacramental marriages that take place in any diocese in Minnesota must participate in two programs: 1. A diocesan approved Marriage Preparation Course (See <http://omf.stcdio.org/marriagecourse-information> for the dates the Marriage Course is offered) and 2. Take the pre-marriage inventory and review it with the pastor or a married couple trained in reviewing the inventory. Usually these are done at least six months before the wedding. Married couples are needed to guide engaged couples through this preparation and to host engaged couple sessions.

OLV Mother's Prayer Group

No matter your age or state in life, God has created all women to "mother" in some way, so please consider joining us for lively discussion as we study our faith and minister to each other. We also pray for our church and school community with the "heart of a mother". We welcome new members at any time, so feel free to drop in as able even if you can't make it every week. We offer a Zoom option if that works best for you. Following the OLV school calendar, meetings are every Thursday in the St Joseph Room 1:00-3:00 beginning September 28th. Come study and pray with us!

Prayer Chain

Dedicated people pray privately each day for requests that are either phoned or emailed to the Prayer Line. All requests are kept confidential. Those on the Prayer Line receive prayer intentions and then pass them on to the person next in line.

Rosary Group

The parishioners of Our Lady of Victory have historically had a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother through praying the Rosary. This group meets Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. in the church to pray the Rosary. Lay Ministers are always needed to lead and participate in saying the Rosary.

Rosary Leaders

Lay Ministers in this ministry take turns leading the Rosary prior to Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass or Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass. The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells.

St. Joseph's Men's Group

All men are welcome to join St. Joseph's Men's Group. The vision is "That each man may encounter, experience, and share God's love and by God's grace let no man leave unchanged". Men are invited to join on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. for Adoration followed by the Rosary. We then break for coffee, fellowship and a brief study of the weekend Mass readings in the Fellowship Hall. Meetings wrap up about 9:15 a.m., with intercessory prayer for the needs of the men.

Seven Sisters Group

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a "holy wasting" (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ. Each member commits to a Holy Hour on a distinct day of the week, thus covering a complete week. The commitment is to the day assigned; the Seven Sister may pray at any time on that day. If unable to offer the hour for that day, a substitute should be called. The Holy Hour is best done in Adoration, but it can be done anywhere.

WinGS (Women in God's Spirit)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit Galatians 5:25

This is an opportunity for women of all ages to come together in a welcoming environment, to pray and support one another through the Blessed Mother with her

Holy Rosary. We gather twice a month 9:00 AM in a members home. Following the Rosary, the group will gather intercessory prayers and reflect on the Sunday Scripture. All are welcome and bring a friend!

Pastoral Care

Funeral Luncheon Committee

The Funeral Committee Lay Ministers are compassionate persons who assist the family of the deceased by providing a meal after the funeral. Lay Ministers from Our Lady of Victory make up the lunch staff, and they work to provide a lunch for the family and friends of the deceased.

Head, Heart and Hands in Service

This new outreach ministry engages volunteers to share presence, prayer and deeds with homebound parishioners through sacramental, spiritual and charitable forms of service.

Pens and Pals

Recognizing the need to offer inclusion in Adult Faith Formation to parishioners with disabilities, Pens and Pals is a new ministry. It is intended to love and serve persons in our faith community with disabilities by creating a trusting partnership between all abilities of adult parishioners. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love and compassion. The Pens and Pals outreach program will engage parish volunteers in partnering with persons with disabilities in a variety of any-age, any-ability activities. This ministry is intended to provide friendship and inclusion to our parishioners with disabilities; and build a bond between parishioners of all abilities. "Whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters you do unto me" (Matthew 25: 40).

Outreach Programs

Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel Tree program is a ministry in which parishioners purchase gifts anonymously for those less fortunate. Gender and age are received from the Salvation Army as well as various human service organizations throughout the community. Many families are blessed through the fellowship of both giving and receiving, as the gifts are delivered by parish volunteers to the Salvation Army in time for Christmas.

Bulletins/Mailers

Lay Ministers insert pages into the bulletin and help with bulk mailings as needed.

Coffee & Rolls after Mass

The coffee and rolls ministry are part of our hospitality which is more than saying hello and welcome. Here we create a forum where families can gather with old friends and meet new ones. It may seem like a small thing, serving donuts and coffee, but relationships are built on time spent together. Groups and parish members of all ages volunteer to serve on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 Mass. Typically, 3-4 people are scheduled to set up, serve and clean up.

Drivers for Home Bound

Lay Ministers provide transportation to Mass, appointments, etc., for sick and home bound parishioners.

Foodshelf

The Foodshelf serves area families who are in need. Donations of nonperishable items and money are needed for the success of this mission. Nonperishable items may be dropped off in the gathering area and donations of money can be given through the weekly envelopes. Lay Ministers assist with transporting these items to our local food shelf. Lay Ministers also help distribute items at our local food shelf, stock shelves, serve on the board and unload trucks. Donations of produce from summer/fall gardens are appreciated.

Jail Ministry

"I was in prison, and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:36

Lay Ministers will be working with incarcerated men and women in the county jail. Requirements include having an open mind, open heart, and a willingness to be the hands of Christ to God's children who are temporarily separated from their faith communities. Lay Ministers are needed to: share the Sunday Scripture and offer Holy Eucharist; weekend REC retreat team, and prayer warriors who spend time in prayer either at home or in the adoration chapel asking Jesus to lead all those in need back into Him and asking the Holy Spirit to guide those who work directly with the incarcerated, especially during REC weekends.

Meals By Wheels

Quarterly, our parish takes its turn for a week, picking up meals from the Senior Center and delivering to homebound people in our community.

Photography

With the various events sponsored by our parish, there are many opportunities to capture our parish life on film. Individuals with their own cameras are needed to attend these important events to take photos of our parish family. Professionals and amateurs are invited to help.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl begins with the shawl maker saying prayers for the recipient. The intentions are continued during the creation of the shawl. Shawls are blessed by the Priest before being delivered. When a person wraps oneself in a prayer shawl, the shawl serves as a reminder of the mercy, peace, and compassion that can be found in God's loving embrace.

Quilting Group

Our mission is to make quilts from recycled jeans. With the proceeds we purchase bibles for the First communion and Confirmation classes. We also have provided vestments for the priests, deacons and altar servers. New members are welcome. Meets after Mass Thursday mornings or 10 a.m in St. Joseph's room.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members with 50 hours of training through a national Christian based program. Stephen Ministers walk alongside a person who is experiencing life challenges such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation or other difficulties. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual support with listening, empathy, encouragement, helping the care-receiver process their feelings and connecting them with God by praying for and with them.

St. Roberts Mission Circle

Meetings begin with devotion and praying the Rosary. A business meeting is held, and we close with coffee. Membership is maintained with the St. Cloud Mission Office. Members donate homemade dish towels and clothes, hats, mittens, quilts, rosaries and other items for mission efforts. Donations are made to the St. Cloud Mission and St. Cloud Seminarians. Local donations are made to OLV Prayer Shawls, OLV Baptismal Garments, and Someplace Safe. Meeting: Third Tues. of the month at 1:30 pm Sept - May.

St. Theresa Circle

This is a social group who gather to provide friendship, socialization and support for one another. It's a good group (comprised mostly of senior women) to get to know fellow parishioners. All are welcome. Meeting: Second Tues of the month at 1:30 April - Dec.

Stewardship ACC Newsletter

The Journey is the newsletter of the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community (ACC). The purpose of the newsletter is to help share about parish news, upcoming events, and spiritual formation in our ACC. We benefit from Lay Ministers from all

three parishes who are willing to write articles, take pictures at events, and proofread.

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Server

The young men and women who answer the call to serve at the altar as servers fulfill an important duty. They are called to help the celebrant, to set the table, and assist as he receives the gifts of the community. They do all these things as invisibly as they can to not distract from the solemnity of Mass. Training is provided. Servers should arrive 15-20 minutes prior to Mass.

Altar Server for Funeral Mass

Adults who are available and willing to act as an altar server for a funeral Mass are invited to consider joining this ministry.

Small Altar Linens

To preserve the beauty and life of the altar cloths. It is appropriate for those who care for sacred vessels, cloths, and other instruments of the liturgy to accompany their work with prayer. This ministry is scheduled in one-month blocks. Linens are washed, pressed, and folded weekly or at least every other week basis.

Altar Albs Care

The Alb Cleaning Ministry is responsible for washing the Albs for the altar servers each month. The Alb is a full-length white linen ecclesiastical vestment with long sleeves that is gathered at the waist with a cincture cord. The word "Alb" is a Greek word meaning "white". This ministry is scheduled in one-month blocks. Each month a different size Alb is washed, pressed if necessary and returned for the weekend Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest and deacon with distributing the Body and Blood of Christ at daily, funeral and weekend Masses. Ministers must be confirmed, practicing Catholics. Attendance at an annual training is required.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for Homebound

Members of this ministry visit those who are confined to hospital, nursing homes and assisted living. The purpose of this ministry is to provide an opportunity for those who are unable to attend Mass to receive a spiritual visit and receive Christ in the Eucharist. It also shows the concern and support of Our Lady of Victory Church community. Ministers must be confirmed, practicing Catholics. People serving in this ministry are scheduled on a rotating basis.

Greeters and Ushers (Welcome Team)

Greeters provide a warm welcome to parishioners and visitors. Ushers serve by helping to seat parishioners before Mass, pass the offertory baskets, help direct people for communion, cleaning up after Mass, setting up extra chairs at Masses with increased attendance (such as Easter and Christmas), hand out the bulletin after Mass as well as other various duties. Both of these ministries are open to youth involvement. Serving on the Welcome Team is a great way for new members to meet people. Welcome Team Members arrive 20 minutes before scheduled Mass times.

Lectors

Lectors are ministers of the Word of God; they proclaim the Scriptures during Mass. Please consider this ministry if you have a clear speaking voice and are comfortable reading in front of people. The parish provides a resource entitled "Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word" to help readers familiarize themselves with the Scriptures. Lectors are scheduled cycle basis at the Mass time of their choice. Attendance at an annual training is required. Lectors are also needed for funerals and daily Mass.

Offertory Procession

Parishioners bring up the gifts of the bread, wine and offerings at Mass. This is a great opportunity to involve the family.

Sacristan

The ministry of Sacristan is open to all those who are commissioned as a Eucharistic Minister and will be trained by one of the Deacons. The ministry has the privilege of preparing the items needed at the Eucharistic table and returned to the Sacristy after Mass.

Technology - Audio/Visual

Coordinates with the Priest, the Music Ministry, and office staff to provide audio and video resources and support to those resources for parish Masses and special religious events. Training is provided.

Music Ministries - "All are Welcome"

Cantor

The Cantor is responsible for greeting assembly as Mass begins and providing musical leadership that fosters the "full, active and conscious participation" of the assembly. This ministry requires an audition.

Choir Member

Choir Members play a special role in leading the congregation musically during weekend, holiday, wedding, funeral, and other special Masses throughout the year. As there are numerous opportunities available, one can sing as little or as much as desired.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir enhances liturgical music at. Members need not have experience playing bells but should be able to follow tempo beats and read a line of notes.

Instrumentalist

Instrumentalists are a very important component for enhancing the sung prayer of the community during Mass, as they provide a foundation for congregational singing. Whether you play piano, organ, guitar, a string, reed or wind instrument, we are always looking for instrumentalists to assist with weekend, holiday, wedding, funeral, and other Masses throughout the year. Though we welcome instrumentalists to join us during weekend Masses, having the added beauty of additional instruments is especially important during the holidays and other special Masses. All ages are invited.

Faith Formation

Baptism

A Baptism class is required for those parents who are having a child baptized into the Catholic faith for the first time. Children who are 7 years old or younger are considered an "infant" regarding baptism within the Catholic Church. If your child is age 7 or older, we will work with you to find the best pathway that leads your child to the sacrament of Baptism - and the other sacraments. Currently, we do a baptism preparation meeting on an as needed basis.

Childrens Liturgy of Word

To make the Scriptures more accessible to young listeners, the parish offers a separate Liturgy of the Word for children. The children process out of the church at the beginning of Sunday's 9:30 Mass to attend a kid-centered teaching of the Sunday scriptures, and then return to Mass at the offertory. Creative volunteer teachers are welcomed.

Confirmation

The comprehensive Confirmation program teaches students about the Sacrament of Confirmation and prepares them to receive this Sacrament of Initiation. Other youth

ministry activities may include retreats, rallies, mission, and service opportunities. Lay Ministers are needed to assist with this program.

Elementary Faith Formation

The program is our parish religious education for children in 1st through 5th grade, on Wednesday afternoons following the school year schedule. Lay Ministers serve as teachers and assistants and help prepare and clean up after snack. It is so rewarding to make a difference in the faith life of children.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

This comprehensive First Communion program teaches and prepares students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Lay Ministers are needed to assist in this program.

Youth Faith Formation

This program, which serves as our parish Religious Education program for sixth through 12-grade students, consists of dynamic programs that bring high school students and middle school students into a living relationship with God and each other. With a love for the Eucharist and a belief in the vitality of our faith, Youth Faith Formation participants help shape our parish and prepare themselves to spread the Gospel. Retreats and other special activities will be held throughout the year. Lay Ministers serve as speakers, teachers, and assistants.

Adult Faith Formation

Bible Study

Come join fellow parishioners as we learn more about the transforming power of the Bible with various program studies. We meet during the months of September - May on most Monday afternoons. You can attend either at 1p.m. or 7 p.m. No prior Bible Study experience required.

Parish Library

OLV's Parish Library, located in the Church Gathering Space, works similar to the "Little Free Library" concept where books are donated and shared. Parishioners are encouraged to donate Catholic/Christian books of interest, no check out required. Please place donated books below the bookshelf.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This program is led by the leadership team from the parish. RCIA presents teachings of the Catholic Church, spiritual support and prayer for adults discerning their call to

join the Catholic Church. It is also a wonderful way to revisit the religious education you received in the past. Weekly meetings are held September until shortly after Easter, with occasional breaks for holidays. Parishioners are needed as team members, sponsors and prayer partners. Participating in RCIA will help you grow in your faith as you help others grow in their faith!

Traditional Catholic Teachings

Explores the history and biblical teachings of the traditional Roman Catholic Faith. All would like to dig deeper into the traditional Roman Catholic faith are invited to participate in discussion groups, education, Bible Studies, etc. Dates and times will be determined by the group.

Supporting Organizations

Catholic Daughters

Catholic Daughters of the Americas engages in creative and spiritual programs, which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their faith in meaningful ways. Our national projects include Habitat for Humanity, Holy Cross Family Ministries (formerly Father Patrick Peyton's Family Rosary), Laboure Society, Support our Aging Religious, and National Center on Sex Exploitation. Our State and Local projects include Habitat for Humanity, Support our Aging Religious, and Support our Seminarians. All Catholic women 18 and over are welcome to join. They are also welcome to attend our local meetings. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month September to December and February to June.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity (a project of both Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus) of Otter Tail County is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness here in Otter Tail County. All are welcome to help build homes, communities, and hope in Otter Tail County by volunteering in this ministry.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council, and community activities.

Faith Enrichment Opportunities

Beginning Experience

Beginning Experience is an international program that helps facilitate the grief resolution process for those who have suffered such a loss through separation, divorce or death and frees them to again love themselves, others, and God. This is accomplished by offering time-tested and copyrighted grief resolution programs presented by trained peers. Founded by a Catholic nun and rooted in the Christian tradition, the ministry's open, ecumenical spirit serves those of all faiths. Beginning Experience of Central Minnesota is just one of over sixty teams serving communities across the United States. Team members lead participants through a program of presentations, private reflection, and small group sharing. A sense of community develops in an atmosphere of care and support that is the hallmark of each Beginning Experience weekend. www.beginningexperiencecentralmn.org

Demontreville Retreat

Demontreville Retreats provide an opportunity for men of all religious backgrounds and convictions to spend a quiet weekend away from the noise and confusion of the business and social world. Retreats begin every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and conclude after supper on Sunday evening. www.demontrevilleretreat.com

Koinonia Retreat

Are you thinking about doing something for yourself to enrich your faith journey? Koinonia is a community experience in Christian living designed especially for adults 20 yrs. and older. It is a Catholic Retreat program sponsored by the Diocese of St. Cloud. The scheduled weekends begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and end on Sunday evening about 5:00 p.m. Full or partial scholarships are available for those in need. Applications and dates are available at www.centralmnkoinonia.org

Marriage Encounter

The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is on communication between husband and wife who spend a weekend together, away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's not a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor group sensitivity. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together. It is a time to rediscover each other and together focus on your relationship for an entire weekend. Every marriage deserves that kind of attention! www.wwme.org

Pacem in Terris Hermitage

Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) is a Franciscan Center of Spirituality located near Isanti, MN, called to serve God's people through prayer and by providing the opportunity to retreat into the silence and solitude of a simple hermitage environment. The hermitages are nestled amid the natural beauty of forest, prairie, and a wildlife lake. Away from the struggles and influences of a secular society, the hermit/guest enters into the freedom of a "desert-like" environment, following Christ's example where "he would often go off to someplace where he could be alone to pray." Once free from the fast-paced, noisy, and over-scheduled life the hermit can more easily be aware of their needs both personally and in relationships. It becomes possible to listen, truly listen, to one's inner voice and the voice of God - allowing God to become the sole retreat director. www.paceminterris.org

Residents Encounter Christ (REC)

REC is a two-day retreat for jail or prison residents, designed to give the residents a chance to learn about Christ and how He can change their lives. REC is based on the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Team positions are open to adults who have participated in TEC, Koininia, or Cursillo. The team is predominately staffed by Catholics, but non-Catholics are warmly welcomed. www.rec-connect.org

Retrouvaille

This program offers a weekend experience, with six follow-up sessions, designed to provide the tools to help put marriages in order again. It is for couples with troubled marriages, including separated or divorced couples, who want their marriage to work. For information and registration: www.helpourmarriage.org

Together Encountering Christ (TEC)

TEC is a three-day retreat weekend based on the Paschal Mystery and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. TEC originated as "Teens Encountering Christ" in 1965 as a retreat experience for high school students. There are active TEC centers throughout the United States and foreign countries. CENTRAL MINNESOTA TEC began in 1978 and is one of several TEC centers in Minnesota. CENTRAL MINNESOTA TEC changed its name to "Together Encountering Christ" to better reflect the presence of both teen and adult participants on the weekends. The retreats are held on the grounds of Holy Family Parish, Belle Prairie, Minnesota, just north of Little Falls on Highway 371 twelve times a year. <http://www.cmtec.org/intro/index.html>

Stewardship of Treasure

In the fall of each year, the parish asks us to focus on the Stewardship of Treasure. Treasure is one of the three 'T's that form the tripod of spirituality of stewardship. We recognize all we are and all we have we have received as gifts from God. We thank God for these gifts by dedicating a good portion of them to carry out his plans and purposes in our time and in our place.

As we transition to doing commitment renewal online, we are mindful of the need to maintain confidentiality of your gifts. So, rather than have a place to write in your offering pledge on the participation form, just check the Treasure Commitment box and Mayme will contact you.

“Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be.” Blessed Pope John Paul 1