

# THE JOURNEY

Photo Credit  
David Swenson

March  
2024

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



## FROM FATHER ALAN...



This time of Eucharistic renewal continues to be filled with blessings for our Pelican Valley parishes. People are being drawn to Christ and to follow Him as missionary disciples. God has also sent a great missionary disciple into our midst from Peru!

At the beginning of Lent we welcomed Father Lucho Palomino as our new parochial vicar.... through past visits he is already known and loved by many. Father Lucho is a priest of the diocese of Chimbote, Peru, ordained in 1996. Born on May 11, 1969, he has two brothers and three sisters. His parents are Leonor and Maximo. Please keep Father Lucho's mother in your prayers as she recovers from a recent stroke.

In his early priesthood Lucho ministered to impoverished rural parishes in the Andean mountains. He worked with development in these communities and learned to say mass in the indigenous language of Quechuan. Most recently he was pastor of a large parish, Sagrada Familia, in the coastal city of Chimbote where he significantly increased the parish's outreach ministry to the poor, helping with food, medicine, the environment, and education. Father Lucho brings to us his passion for evangelization and justice for everyone.

Bishop Patrick has been very generous in assigning Fr. Lucho to us! Bishop Patrick will also be here at OLV on Saturday, March 23 to conduct a bilingual synodal listening session (he is fluent in Spanish). Watch for details...all are invited!

May God continue to shower blessings upon our three parishes and our school as we prepare to enter Holy Week and celebrate Easter!

*Fr. Lucho arrived in  
Minneapolis on  
February 5*



## DEL PADRE ALAN...

Este tiempo de renovación Eucarística continúa lleno de bendiciones para nuestras parroquias de Pelican Valley. La gente se está sintiendo atraída a Cristo y a seguirlo como discípulos misioneros. ¡Dios también ha enviado a un gran discípulo misionero entre nosotros desde Perú!

Al comienzo de la Cuaresma le dimos la bienvenida al Padre Lucho Palomino como nuestro nuevo vicario parroquial... a través de visitas pasadas ya es conocido y querido por muchos. El Padre Lucho es sacerdote de la diócesis de Chimbote Perú, ordenado en 1996. Nacido el 11 de mayo de 1969, tiene dos hermanos y tres hermanas. Sus padres son Leonor y Máximo. Por favor mantengan a la madre del Padre Lucho en sus oraciones mientras se recupera de un derrame cerebral reciente.

En sus primeros años de sacerdocio, Lucho ministró en parroquias rurales empobrecidas en las montañas de los Andes. Trabajó con el desarrollo de estas comunidades y aprendió a decir misa en la lengua indígena quechua. Más recientemente fue párroco de una parroquia grande, Sagrada Familia, en la ciudad costera de Chimbote, donde incrementó significativamente el ministerio de extensión de la parroquia a los pobres, ayudando con alimentos, medicinas, medio ambiente y educación. El Padre Lucho nos trae su pasión por la evangelización y la justicia para todos.

El Obispo Patrick ha sido muy generoso al asignar al P. ¡Lucho a nosotros! El obispo Patrick también estará aquí en OLV el sábado 23 de marzo para llevar a cabo una sesión de escucha sinodal bilingüe (habla español con fluidez). Esté atento a los detalles... ¡todos están invitados!

¡Que Dios continúe derramando bendiciones sobre nuestras tres parroquias y nuestra escuela mientras nos preparamos para ingresar a la Semana Santa y celebrar la Pascua!

¡GRACIAS especiales a todos los que ayudaron a que Mardi Gras fuera un gran éxito! Un agradecimiento a los KC por la decoración; a las Hijas Católicas por hacer palomitas de maíz y servir pasteles; a Pat Tuel y su equipo de cocina por la deliciosa comida; a Rick Fiedler, Jeff Jennen y los Misioneros de Cristo por su maravilloso entretenimiento; a todos los que trabajaron detrás de escena; y especialmente a todos los que vinieron a celebrar y dar la bienvenida al P. ¡Lucho de vuelta! ¡¡¡Gracias!!!

# 15th Annual Denim and Diamonds Gala Fundraiser for Our Lady of Victory School

By Krystal Crance

On Saturday, April 6, 2024, Our Lady of Victory School will host our 15th Annual Denim and Diamonds Gala Fundraiser. This fundraiser is Our Lady of Victory School's largest fundraising event of the year and offers a little something for everyone. 15 years ago, this fundraiser started and at that time was called Steak and Wine. It was an excellent opportunity for families, friends, and parishioners to gather and show support financially for the school while enjoying a wonderful meal and having a good time. The name may have changed, but the goal remains the same. The Gala, as it is now referred to, is an opportunity to come together as a community and support Our Lady of Victory School. This is truly a night to remember, one for adults to enjoy together with great food, drinks, and fun!

Each year, the goal is to make the event even better than the year

before. Last year, some new games were added during the social hour and this year there will be even more! This year our silent auction/social hour will begin earlier, at 4 pm, to allow people more time to browse the auction items and play the new and exciting games. Also, historically this was quite an elegant event and though we expect that to continue, our theme this year "Denim and Diamonds", suggests formal attire is optional. We want everyone to feel welcome and know that there is something for everyone at this fundraising event. This event is not just for parents of students and parishioners. We would love to see new faces as well as alumni and past attendees. We want to see this event grow and be even more successful than in years past, one that people look forward to attending year after year. The Gala begins at 4 pm with Dinner at 7 pm and the live auction will begin

at 8:30 pm. A table of 8 costs \$400, two tickets are \$100, or an individual ticket for \$55. Tickets can be purchased by calling the school at 218-736-6661.

If you would like to donate, please make arrangements by calling the school. We would gladly welcome new silent auction donations, cash donations, gift card donations, bottles of wine for the evening, and/or promotional business items for prizes. You can also check out our Amazon gift & gifting registry: OLV School.

Thank you for your support

*"The purpose of Lent is to give us the opportunity to trust God completely so we can see that He is all we need."*

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

In preparation for leaving on sabbatical last fall and to ensure his parish responsibilities continued smoothly, Father Alan requested various people to assist with some of the many details. One compassionate detail he wanted addressed was that the people who would stop in to the office with requests for assistance with food, rent, gas, utilities, furniture, etc., would be listened to and assisted as we as a parish community could. This became the backdrop for the establishment of an Emergency Assistance Committee.

The work of this committee is highly confidential. Father Alan asked a couple of parishioners to join with the Business Manager and the OLV secretary to help determine emergency financial assistance for those seeking help.

One of the first tasks was to gain awareness of community re-

sources and their application and determination process, in order to share this information as appropriate. Fergus Falls, along with Otter Tail County, has many resources for anyone needing short or long-term assistance. We work with Social Services, Salvation Army, MA-HABE, and Ruby's Pantry just to name a few local resources. We also learned that none of the other churches in our community provide crisis assistance.

Our parish does provide crisis assistance for food or gas. For other requests, information is shared to help the individual/family get the assistance they need. Since this committee was established five months ago, there have been dozens of requests from the broader Fergus Falls community.

In each monthly packet of envelopes, there is an envelope for donations to the emergency fund.

Thank you to all who have so generously contributed your resources to benefit others! If you or if you know of anyone facing a crisis, contact Mayme or Don at the church office. 218-736-2429

**Reflection:** Saint John Neumann took seriously our Lord's words, "Go and teach all nations." From Christ he received his instructions and the power to carry them out. For Christ does not give a mission without supplying the means to accomplish it. The obstacles and inconveniences are real and costly. Yet when Christians approach Christ, he supplies the necessary talents to answer today's needs. The Spirit of Christ continues his work through the instrumentality of generous Christians.

# New ACC Members

**ST. ELIZABETH'S WELCOMES:**  
**Marshall & Mary Ohe**  
**Hayley Gladback**

**ST. LEONARD'S WELCOMES:**  
**Father Lucho Palomino of**  
**Chimbote Peru**

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY WELCOMES:**  
**Christopher Heimarck**  
*Submitted by Christopher Heimarck:*



My mother, Lois Elaine (Leiseth) Heimarck was a potter who was well respected as an artist. My father taught Leadership and Hospital Administration at Concordia College. I grew up in Moor-

head, Minnesota in a loving home and have three brothers and three sisters. I graduated from high school in 1990 and then majored in Philosophy and graduated college at MSUM in 1994. I worked 22 years with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Telephone Relay. I also worked for 2 years at KPMG LLP, an accounting firm. I am very proud to have graduated RCIA on Dec. 16, 2023. I am very proud to be able to call myself Catholic as it is both very much a privilege as well as a responsibility. I pray daily to St. Michael the Archangel as well as Mother Mary. Thank you.

# Baptisms

MAYA JADE MANCILLA  
09/16/23  
Parents: Eduardo Mancilla &  
Tanya Fisher

KINZE JULIETTA GALL  
09/23/23  
Parents: Daniel J. & Katie M. Gall

ROSALEAH GUZMAN  
11/22/23  
Parents: Alfredo & Veronica Guzman

SOPHIA ALIYAH MARTINEZ  
01/06/24  
Parents: Nelson & Maria Martinez

VIVIAN OHE  
Parents: Marshall & Mary Ohe

MAVERICK JAMES KOEP  
12/2/2023  
Parents: Chad & Jenna Koep

AMELIA ROSE OLSON  
12/9/2023  
Parents: Aaron & Anyssa Olson

KELLEN JAMES STEER  
12/17/2023  
Parents: Joshua & Miranda Steer

ASHTON MICHAEL WALTER  
12/29/2023  
TREVEN SCOTT WALTER  
12/29/2023  
LIVEAH ANN WALTER  
12/29/2023  
Parents: Jonathan & Amy Walter



Ashton, Treven, and Liveah Walker



Maya Jade Mancilla



Sophia Aliyah Martinez

KATHERINE MAE ARRAS  
1/20/2024  
Parents: Elijah & Ashley Arras

NOLAN RICHARD MOGARD  
1/27/2024  
Joshua & Haliegh Mogard

## Thank You Deb Forstner!

Deb Forstner has been the editor of The Journey newsletter for the past 4 years. After being the lone editor for this period of time, it's taking two of us to replace her! Deb took over the editorship of our newsletter from Rhonda Antrim-Peterson. Now that we have evolved from being a stand-alone parish to a member of the Pelican Valley Catholic Community, the newsletter strives to serve all 3 parishes, keeping our congregations in touch with each other's activities and news. Deb's attention to detail and color presented readers with an interesting and inviting format, which is both enjoyable and easy to read. Thank you Deb, for your dedication and skill in serving our parishes as editor of The Journey these past 4 years!



# A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

By John Schmidt



Mayme Hofland

the evenings' theme. The evening started with socializing while bidding on silent auction items.

Close to 100 people enjoyed the festivities as they reminisced about events over the past five years and events leading up to the formation of the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Children of St. Peter. The program started with Mayme Hofland, Executive Director, showing slides of accomplishments in San Pedro Huertas, Guatemala by sponsoring children to go to school and get an education. She showed a short video of Ana, who manages the program in San Pedro, expressing appreciation for what is being done. Starting with two children the organization has grown to sponsor over 75 children. John Schmidt talked about special moments from his four trips to San Pedro that influenced his activities as a board member. Jonathon Piekarski talked

about the children he has sponsored and the impact that sponsorship has had on his family. Greg Arends served as Master of Ceremonies.

The Live Auction was lively with Cody Aasness as Auctioneer convincing those attending to spend their money on the many items. In between he provided entertainment.

A well-done program booklet in color had pictures of over 30 children that are available to be sponsored. Sponsorship is \$70 a month or \$840 a year per child.

The booklet included a listing of the 30 silent auction items as well as the 15 live auction items. A special thanks goes to the 62 sponsors and gracious donors, listed in the program booklet, who provided items and time to make the evening a huge success. The annual Gala is the main fundraiser for Children of St. Peter.

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL WALLEYE FISH FRY**  
February 23, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22  
**FRIDAYS 5:00PM-7:00PM**  
Meal includes batter fried walleye, choice of potato, coleslaw, dinner roll & dessert  
**DINE-IN, DRIVE THRU, OR TO-GO!**  
Drive-Thru will be on the WEST side of the church on Oak Street  
Our Lady Of Victory Catholic Church  
207 N Vine St  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
**+218-736-2429**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### ST. ELIZABETH

Let's go to St. Elizabeth's for breakfast Sunday, March 17th!  
This is their 68th Men's Pancake, Sausage and Ham Breakfast!

Serving time is between 8:30-1:00. Free will offering.  
The Christian Women will be having a Bake Sale also.  
More information will be provided in Sunday Bulletins.

### OUR LADY OF VICTORY

**FISH FRIES MARCH 1, 8, 15, & 22 SERVING 5-7PM**

*Bishop Patrick here Saturday, March 23  
to conduct a bilingual synodal listening session.*

**First Holy Communion on April 14 at the 10:30 Mass.**

**Confirmation will be on April 28 at 2 PM.**

Along with St. Elizabeth and St. Leonard, OLV will host three other smaller churches at our Confirmation and will host a reception in OLV Fellowship Hall after the service. If anyone can help with this reception contact Emily Hebert or Deb Forstner at the OLV office.

### ST. LEONARD

**St. Leonard's will have 17 children celebrating their  
First Holy Communion early in May.**

### PELICAN VALLEY ACC

**Lenten Penance Service 3:00pm Sunday March 17th at OLV.**

# ALFRED

This is a story of Alfred, a man of unshakable faith. Alfred was born August 9, 1845, in a small town about 25 miles southeast of Montreal, Canada. The infant was so frail that the parish priest baptized him "conditionally" in an emergency ritual the following day. Alfred was number 8 of 12 children, 4 whom died in infancy. Sickness and weakness dogged him from birth. The family lived in poverty. His father was killed in a lumbering accident when he was nine and his mother passed within three years leaving him orphaned at the age of 12.

Following his mother's death, Alfred was placed under the care of Timothée and Rosalie Nadeau of Saint-Césaire, Quebec. While with the family, he attended catechetical lessons taught by his parish's pastor, André Provençal. It was during these lessons that he developed his two lifelong devotions: Saint Joseph and the Passion of Christ. Alfred was confirmed at age 12.

When he was 14, the family sent him to school. However, Alfred was soon removed from school, as he had only learned to read and sign his name, both with difficulty. Timothée Nadeau intended to train Alfred as a laborer, not seeing a need for an orphan to be educated. Alfred had a series of short-lived occupations, working as a farmer, tinsmith, blacksmith, wheelwright, cobbler, and baker, all of which he was too physically weak to sustain. Searching for work at the age of 18, he joined several of his relatives in work at textile mills across Connecticut and Rhode Island before returning to Canada a couple of years later.

The pastor of his parish, André Provençal, noticed the devotion and generosity of the young man. He decided to present Bessette to the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal, writing a note to the superior, "I'm sending you a saint." Because of his state of health and lack of education, the religious authorities were reluctant to accept him into the Congregation. But the new master of novices intervened, saying, "If this young man becomes unable to work, he at least will be able to pray well." He was finally accepted. Alfred Bessette made his perpetual profession at age 28 in 1874. He took the name



**ABOVE:** Wax figure of Brother André standing behind his desk in his actual office in the Oratory.

**RIGHT:** Between one of the many pairs of columns where crutches and canes left behind are hung.

of Brother André as a tribute to Fr. Provençal. André was given the humble job of gatekeeper at Notre Dame College, and also served as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. He never lost his sense of humor, joking:

*"My superiors assigned me to the gate, and there I stayed for forty years."*

Brother André as gatekeeper welcomed everyone. People warmed to this humble man and would tell him their stories. He talked to people, listened to them and occasionally gave them advice. Soon, Brother André was receiving the ill and downtrodden. His great confidence in Saint Joseph inspired him to recommend the saint's devotion to all those who were afflicted. It wasn't long before people began to talk about favors obtained. People claimed that they had been cured through the prayers of Bessette and Saint Joseph, and they were grateful their prayers had been heard. More and more stories began to emerge about scientifically inexplicable healings. Bessette steadfastly refused to take any credit for these cures. With unending patience and perseverance, he guided people to Saint Joseph, a true vehicle for God. He prayed, and the healings multiplied. A sensitive man, one could often see him crying with his ailing visitors or moved to tears by their woes. The reason he was so beloved and embraced by his peers and his community is because he was so much like them.

*"It is God and Saint Joseph who can heal you, not I! I will pray to Saint Joseph for you."*

With so many of the sick coming to see the porter, the school officials decided that Bessette could no longer continue with his ministry at the college as he had become quite controversial. Many religious supported



him, others questioned if he was a fraud or con artist. However, he was permitted to receive the sick at a nearby tramway station.

*"Do not seek to have these trials lifted from you. Instead, ask for the grace to bear them well."*

Bessette's desire to see Saint Joseph honored led him in 1904 to launch a campaign to build a chapel for that purpose. The chapel quickly became too small to accommodate the sea of humanity that flooded in month after month. After being enlarged four times, a crypt large enough to hold 1,000 people was inaugurated in 1917. This would become the foundation to build the Oratory, the world's largest sanctuary dedicated to Saint Joseph. There is a pair of 300 stairs side by side from the bottom of the hill to the front door of the Oratory. Thousands of people have gone up these steps in prayer to the entrance of the sanctuary with the aid of wheelchairs, crutches, canes or on their knees. Many have walked out leaving their mobility aids behind. Crutches and canes now fill the spaces between the sanctuary columns.

Brother André's reputation for holiness spread throughout the world. He steadfastly denied it, giving all credit to God who heals through Saint Joseph's intercession. He died on January 6, 1937, at the age of 91. For a week, despite the harsh weather, almost a million people filed past his remains. Today, his body lies in a simple tomb inside the breathtaking shrine that now stands on Mount Royal. As early as 1941, many efforts were made to have him recognized as a saint. He was declared Blessed by Saint John Paul II in 1982 and canonized by Pope Benedict in 2010.

Saint Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal is known around the world as a place of pilgrimage.

Saint Brother André pray for us.

# Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

A delicious pancake breakfast was served to about 150 people on January 29. Eggs made to order, sausages, and fluffy pancakes were enjoyed by all! The Fellowship Hall rang with fellowship and laughter, and the scent of maple syrup and coffee wafted down the hall to draw people in. The proceeds from the breakfast were donated to the OLV Teachers' Fund to be spent on classroom materials. Thank you to all who attended and all who cooked and served this wonderful breakfast! A big thank you also to those who helped put the kitchen back in order for the school lunches on Monday!



*"How would you like your eggs?"*

## We are grateful for all the "behind-the-scenes" people in our ACC community – Silent Servants

Have you noticed the healthy plants and flowers that decorate the worship space and gathering area of Our Lady of Victory? Bev Miller says: *"I'm just in and out. I try to come when not many people are around."* She is usually at OLV Mondays and Fridays taking care of the indoor plants. It usually takes her about 45 minutes each time. During the summer she can be found tending to the outdoor plants.

During the pandemic Bev asked if anyone was watering the plants and learned there was a definite need! She sees her service as "something to do." Bev is a Eucharistic Minister for Pioneer Home and treasures her relationships with the residents she visits. She counts her



blessings that she is able to serve others.

Bev moved to the area in 2010 to take care of her aging parents. Both are now gone. Bev makes her home within our community and church. We are grateful Bev chooses to call our parish home!

## Catholic Schools Week

This year's Catholic Schools Week was January 31-February 4, 2021! Catholic Schools Week is a nationwide celebration of Catholic education that focuses on what it brings to the Church, community, and nation. At OLV, various activities mark Catholic Schools week, including special field trips like bowling, SkyZone, skiing, and a school dance.

The sixth-grade class took a moment to reflect on the many memories they have made during Catholic Schools Week over the years and to be thankful for their opportunity to be a part of the OLV fam-

ily. There were many memories, but we have chosen a few highlights to share. Enjoy.

### What is your favorite Catholic Schools Week memory?

In my fourth grade year, some classmates and I were at Andes for our first year skiing for Catholic Schools Week. On one of the rides on the ski lift, another student was joking around about falling off the ski lift. At that time I was so scared of the lift because it had no bars in the front. Later that day we were skiing



## Father Lucho has arrived!

Father Lucho received a warm welcome at St. Leonard's February 5th. We are so pleased Bishop Neary was able to arrange for Fr. Lucho to be parochial vicar for our ACC. Fr. Lucho will be residing in the newly updated rectory at St. Leonard's. Welcome Fr. Lucho!

down our favorite runs that had no one on them, Cloud Nine and Paradise. Since no one was on them, we would all bomb them and race down to the 4-person chairlift, which was right next to both of the hills. Since it was a 4-person chairlift, we felt safer. That year at Andes was by far my favorite one! -Sarah

My favorite memory was when we went tubing in second grade at Andes. We went to the one lane that you get to spin around while you're going down the hill and called it "The Tornado." My friends went down with me, and they went over the side into the other lane and almost pulled me with them.

-Barrett

### Who do you want to thank for sending you to OLV School and why?

I would like to thank my dad and my grandma because they are the ones who had the idea to bring me to OLV. I really like OLV School. The people are nice, and the teachers are great. -Caleb

I want to thank my parents for sending me to OLV School because I love all the teachers and activities. -Jaydee

I would like to thank my friends and family; they said Our Lady of Victory School is more fun than homeschooling, and homeschooling was not my favorite. My new school is way more fun, and the teachers here help me. Mrs. Parker, Mr. Raths, and Mr. S., our PE teacher, help a lot of people here at OLV. -Avery

I would like to thank my mom and my dad for sending me to OLV. I had the best time of my six years here going tubing and skiing during Catholic Schools Week. When I grow up I will maybe send my kids here so they can have fun too at Catholic Schools Week. -Jaxon

# FIRST ANNUAL OLV CHILI COOK-OFF

The OLV Catholic Daughters is an active group of women that serves the parish in many different ways. This past year, they hosted a bake sale, a salad luncheon, and Bunko night—all as fun-raisers and fundraisers for the many organizations that they support. Their financial donations are gifted to Habitat for Humanity, prayers and support for seminarians, and state and national support for Catholic religious men and women, among others. One of their combined strengths is “thinking outside the box”. That’s how they came up with the idea of hosting The First Annual Chili Cook-off!

After 4:30 Mass on Saturday, February 10, about 130 hungry people made their way to the Fellowship Hall to be “judges” of ten different crockpots and roasters full of delicious homemade chili. The chili ranged from super spicy, to sweet and spicy, to low sodium and chick-

en chili even made an appearance! Each diner was given a small sample of the different chilis and then chose their favorite to eat for dinner.

## JUDGES DECLARED THE FOLLOWING WINNERS:

- 1st Place:** John’s Deer Camp Chili - recipe by John Schauff
- 2nd Place:** Sweet and Hardy Chili - recipe by Theresa Tomhave
- 3rd Place:** Santa Fe Chicken Chili - recipe by Amanda and Bill Madison

Table themes winners were the Aschnewitz, Fischer-Heck combined team. Chili winners each received a customized cutting board and spoon and the Tablescape winner was bestowed a Loving Cup trophy.

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended and all who volunteered to make the chili!

One of the goals of Catholic Daughters is to find a fun way to in-



volve young families and the First Annual Chili Cook-off was a huge success! Look for the sequel coming in February 2025!

# Mardi Gras - Fat Tuesday!

By Marlys Lucy

Mardi Gras Festivities began with a 5:30 Mass, moving right into a festive, entertaining evening! Our Fellowship Hall was decked out in fine fashion to do our Mardi Gras-Fat Tuesday celebration. Great food, beverages of all sorts, snacks, and most of all the musical entertainment by Rick Fiedler and Jeff Jennen and by our friends from St. Leonard’s parish - Misioneros de Cristo in Pelican Rapids doing some wonderful Spanish numbers. The entertainment was great!

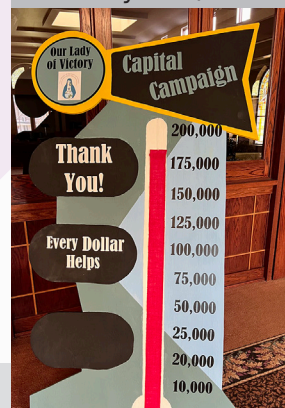
Many thanks goes out to our Knights of Columbus and to Lone Koep and the Stewardship committee.



## OLV CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

*“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*  
1 Corinthians 9:11

Thank you to the many donors who have contributed to the OLV Capital Campaign! We are well on our way to a new roof for both the church and school, and updated lighting for the church sanctuary. The church and school roofs are in need of being replaced and the lighting in church needs to be updated. As of February 21st, our thermometer



pushed past the \$181,226 mark! Thank you for your ongoing generosity as it will make these needed repairs become a reality!

**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**

**Beginning Palm Sunday OLV will return to 4:30, 8:30, and 10:30**

**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** **Some Thoughts about "embracing everyday tasks"**

*To our God who is living, with praise and thanksgiving. The tasks of our everyday lives we embrace.*

I like that hymn. Its sprightly lilt makes it a joy to sing! Recently, reflecting on the first two lines got me thinking.. My Webster's tells me that a task is "any piece of work," "sometimes difficult and/or unpleasant;" that everyday means "something dull, routine, or ordinary," and that embrace means "to receive gladly or accept willingly."

So, do those two lines suggest that I should thank and praise God for-and receive gladly the difficult or unpleasant pieces of work I'm faced with, even the dull, everyday ones?

I could well be wrong-and I often am-but I think it does.

Sure, it was always easy to thank and praise God for easy, enjoyable things. Things like standing on the first tee with my good friend early in the morning with the sun's angle so low that the dewy fairway appeared perfectly green and every leaf on the trees was clearly delineated; things like listening to the congregation join the choir in rendering a heartfelt rendition of *How Great Thou Art*; things like enjoying a few hours with one or more of four wonderful sons, and having my beautiful, caring, indispensable BFF wife come home from her annual physical and tell me that her doctor wants to be invited to her 100th birthday party!

But what about the many dull, often difficult (but nearly always important) everyday tasks? Tasks like shoveling snow, ironing, getting to work on time, slicing and dicing, shaving, making beds, changing messy diapers, paying bills, mopping floors and scores of other less-than-pleasant everyday tasks? I must confess that I was never inspired to praise and thank God for them.

But reflecting on the first two lines of that hymn has changed things. It's convinced me that I should not only perform those everyday tasks willingly, but *embrace* them, praising and thanking God for them. After all, it's those dull, boring, everyday tasks that make the many more beautiful, important, pleasant moments of life possible. No, like my stumbling attempts at being the person I'd like to be, I won't always be successful – but I'll keep trying!

Lee Krogh

PS: Speaking of "tasks", sincere thanks are in order for Lone Koep and Mary McGovern for accepting this one, to Deb Forstner for her fine work over the past several years, and to Rhonda Antrim Peterson who did such a great job of getting this whole project off the ground.