

# ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

CLEVELAND, OHIO

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Stewardship: A Need to Give
- 3 Stewardship and Discipleship Begin With Love
- 4 Serving Christ With Share a Meal
- 6 The Faith Journey of St. Genesis
- 7 “An Avenue to Be Close to the Parish and Close to the People in the Parish”  
*The St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Finance Council*

## Gardening and Growing in Happiness The Garden Club

Although we know that our church is much more than mere walls, we as humans cannot help but gravitate toward beauty. Something about it captures our spirits, lighting our hearts and bringing us to new heights of prayer and devotion. This is why each new church is designed and maintained with such care. For parishioner Mary Pat Partridge and her fellow Garden Club members, this beautification all begins with the parish grounds –the first visible part of parish life.

“I think beautiful gardens make it look like our church is alive and vibrant,” Mary Pat says. “I think, too, that people are drawn to a pretty location and that it helps bring them through our doors, which later helps them open the doors to their hearts.”

Formed and led by Steve Hanigosky, the Garden Club is dedicated to creating and maintaining our parish grounds. Although initially only responsible for maintaining the front portion of St. Ignatius of Antioch’s church, the ministry has grown over the years to include all parish grounds, from areas surrounding the parish school, rectory, to the actual church itself.



*Through the lovely flower beds planted around the Church grounds, the Garden Club helps show the vibrancy of God’s Church.*

Mary Pat first became involved after seeing the ministry advertised in a parish pamphlet. Having always enjoyed gardening, Mary Pat thought the ministry would be a “great way to give back.” Seeking to positively occupy her time during a difficult period in life, Mary Pat was unprepared for the way that the ministry would grow into her life, changing it for the better.

“This ministry came into my life when my husband was very ill,” she says. “All of a

*continued on back cover*

# STEWARDSHIP

## *A Need to Give*

When the church needs a new roof or the local food bank needs donations, we jump at the chance to give for the sake of the need. It's part of our human nature – we identify a need, and we want to give of our time, talent and treasure to help.

But as a stewardship people, we are called to give of ourselves not simply because the Church has needs, but because each of us has a *need to give*. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "We need to give our money to individuals and families in need, to the Church, and to other worthwhile charitable organizations because giving money is good for the soul and because we need to return thanks to a loving God for all of the many blessings each of us has received" (67).

As fellow members of the Body of Christ, created in God's image, we should strive to go beyond simply co-existing with one another on earth. The life we live should be fueled by love for each other. This love should dictate how we live – by giving of ourselves.

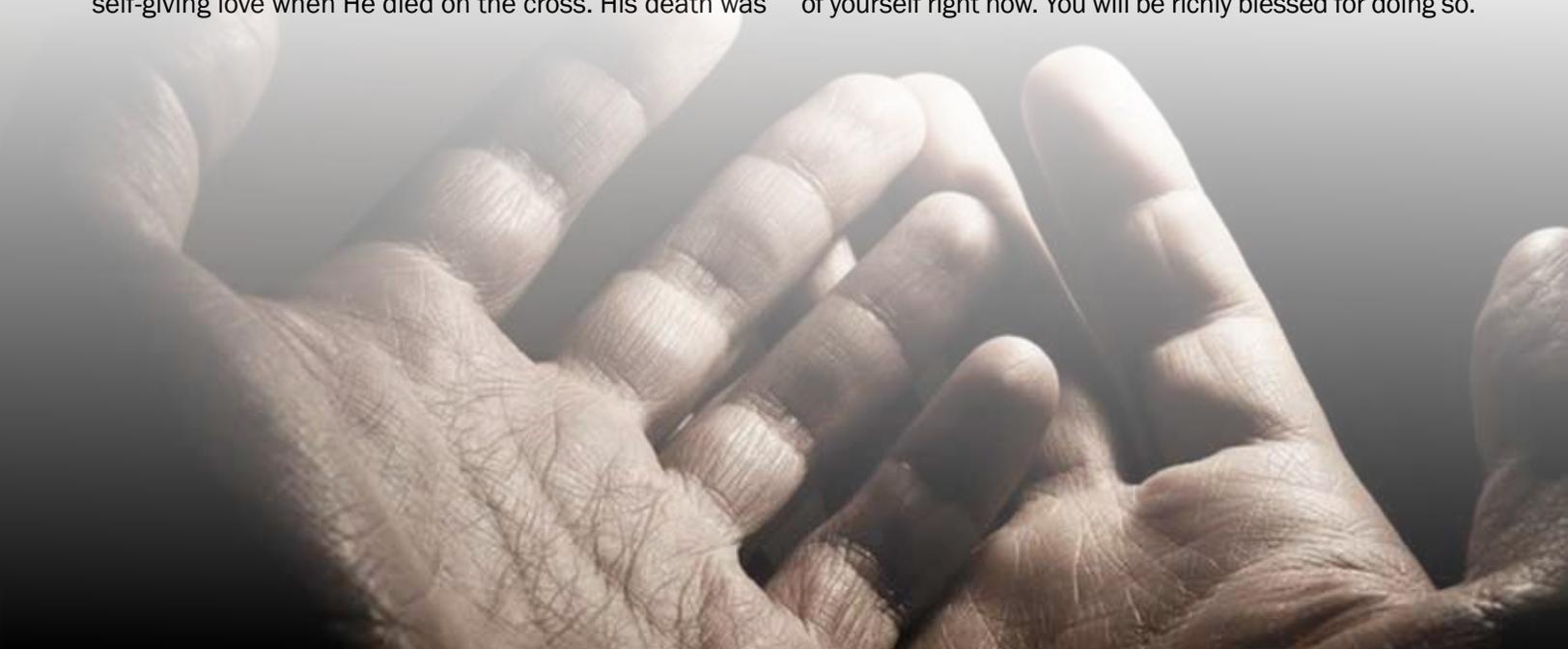
Jesus Christ showed us the perfect example of this self-giving love when He died on the cross. His death was

a completely selfless act. He gave of Himself for our sake, offering us – through that gift – life everlasting.

As Christ's disciples, we follow His example, and we give of ourselves for the sake of others, out of love and an inherent need to give.

That's not to say that we gain nothing through our gifts. In fact, in His goodness, God sees to it that we do. Most of us have experienced what happens when we give of our time, talent or treasure. We feel as though we get more out of it than we give. If you speak to someone who serves at the soup kitchen or someone who has made it a regular practice to tithe to the Church, you are likely to find that he or she feels blessed to be able to give. As the U.S. Bishops point out, "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

Find out for yourself. Get involved in a ministry. Make a commitment to put some money in the collection basket next Sunday. Don't wait to find out if there is a need – give of yourself right now. You will be richly blessed for doing so.



*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# Stewardship and Discipleship Begin With Love

Dear Parishioners,

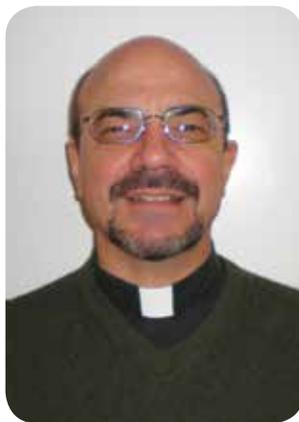
In John 13:35, Jesus says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” So many times, the Lord calls us to love one another. This was one of the Gospel readings back in April. On that particular Sunday, Pope Francis gathered with a large group of teenagers, and the whole theme of his homily was built around that message. It is a message that is equally appropriate for all of us, young and old.

Pope Francis is well aware of modern technology and modern communication, especially with how it is so prevalent among today’s youth. He also said in that April homily, “Happiness cannot be bought; it is not an app that you can download on your phones, nor will the latest update bring you freedom and grandeur in love.”

The pope explained that “Love is the Christian’s identity card, the only truly valid ‘document’ which identifies us as followers and disciples of Christ.” Nevertheless, we must work to constantly renew this card, because if it ever expires, we cease being witnesses of the faith. If we are really followers of Christ, then genuine love needs to shine forth in our lives. As Pope Francis said, “Before all else, love is beautiful, and it is the path to happiness.”

Who among us does not want to be happy? We all strive for that, and the Lord gives us a formula for achieving it. It may seem simple on the surface, but we all know how difficult it can be. Love – the kind of love to which we are called by Jesus – is work. Lots of work. It takes effort, renewal, conversion, and persistence.

During his homily, Pope Francis completely captured the essence of stewardship, and of love. He declared, “Look to the Lord, who is never outdone in generosity. We receive so many gifts from Him, and every day we should thank Him... Let me ask you something. Do you



thank the Lord every day? Even if we forget to do so, He never forgets, each day, to give us some special gift. It is not something material and tangible that we can use, but something even greater, a lifelong gift. He offers us His faithful friendship, which He will never take back.”

Gratitude is, of course, at the very basis of stewardship. It is this thankfulness that should inspire us whenever we run up against one of life’s many roadblocks – those things that make it hard for us to love as we should.

If we rely on the Lord, we can accomplish this love. As the pope said in closing on that day in April, “Loving in this way, you will be recognized as disciples of Jesus. And your joy will be complete.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Troha".

Fr. Michael Troha



## Serving Christ With Share a Meal

Every so often, we realize that the little acts of kindness we do can go a long, long way – especially when it comes to helping God’s poor.

“One day, a woman who came to Share a Meal told me that the meal we gave her was the only one she had eaten that day,” says Jennifer McLeod, a Share a Meal volunteer. “Hearing her comment made me grateful that we had been able to provide the meal for her, but sad that we could do so only twice a month.”

Share a Meal is a community outreach program, hosted by a cooperative effort between St. Ladislav and St. Ignatius of Antioch parishes, which provides hot meals and companionship for community members on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Ignatius School Cafeteria. The program normally serves 130 to 150 people, and is

open to anyone in need of a hot meal. The meal served varies, but is usually something basic and delicious such as spaghetti and meatballs, or meatloaf made from scratch. Donations of produce, baked goods and bread are also available for attendees to take home as they wish.

Share a Meal is coordinated by St. Ladislav parishioner and St. Vincent

de Paul Society – SVdP – member Barbara Hammond, along with the help of many other SVdP members and parishioners from both parishes. Our parish takes up a collection once a month to fund the ministry.

“The youth group of St. Ladislav Parish comes and serves the meal to the people,” Jennifer says. “It is really nice, and I think it gives the



# Meal

attendees more dignity to have the meal brought to them, instead of making them stand in a line.”

Those who work with the ministry find it is an ideal way to live out the call to stewardship in many ways.

“As it says in Matthew 25, when you serve the least of these, you serve Jesus,” Jennifer says. “Volunteering with Share a Meal has

really helped me to grow in my faith. I started helping out with this ministry because I was looking for a way to contribute and give back to God. But I think I have received more out of participating in it than I expected. Sometimes, I feel I have even received more from the ministry than I have given. There is a wonderful sense of fellowship between the volunteers who work with Share a Meal, and I have made some great friends.”

In the end, Share a Meal is a fantastic way to bless everyone involved – both those who serve and those who are being served.

“Share a Meal means a lot to the people in our area. It fosters a sense of community,” Jennifer

says. “So often in today’s technology-based society, people don’t come to know their neighbors well. Through Share a Meal, the local people come together and meet those who live around them.”

Furthermore, the ministry is a way for people in all walks of life to take share the Good News of the Gospel.

“The good thing about this ministry is that you don’t have to be particularly skilled to do it, and it is such a great way to evangelize,” Jennifer says.

*For more information on Share a Meal, please contact the parish office at 216-251-0300 or Jennifer McLeod at 216-952-2620.*



## THE FAITH JOURNEY OF *St. Genesisus*

Being a performer and a comedian may sound like a fun way to make a living.

St. Genesisus, an outstanding actor, playwright and comedian in late Imperial Rome, certainly did have some fun for a while. But his career and life came to an abrupt end when his work ultimately led him to Christ.

Genesisus was a comedian of some renown, but in the fourth century, Christians were often discouraged from becoming actors because ancient Roman comedy was highly sexual, crude and offensive.

In the year 303, Emperor Diocletian launched what would be the last great Roman persecution against the Christian Church. So, Genesisus used the persecution as an opportunity to write a comedy about Christianity. He thought it might attract the attention of the Emperor, increase his fame, and make him some money in the process.

Genesisus approached leaders of the Christian community in Rome and presented himself as a catechumen seeking Baptism. He was then invited into a period of instruction in the faith, in order to learn the beliefs of the Christians. He was particularly taken by the idea of Baptism. But at the time, he had no plans to convert to the faith – it was all just a part of his plan to research new material to use for his comedy.

But a strange thing happened to Genesisus as he began to work on his play, which was to be a comedy

on Baptism. As Genesisus began teaching the other actors about Baptism, he began to believe, and a desire to be baptized grew within his heart.

The opening night of the play was a great success, with Emperor Diocletian in attendance. But at some point during the play, the Holy Spirit touched Genesisus. He was no longer acting.

“You fools, I wish to die a Christian,” Genesisus said. When the

other actors asked him why, he said, “All my life I have been a fugitive, and only today have I found God.”

Everyone, especially Emperor Diocletian, laughed as Genesisus spoke. Genesisus, standing in a pulpit designed to look like the goddess Venus, began to preach to the audience. He told the crowd how he once hated Christians and enjoyed insulting them. He told the crowd how he deserted his own family as a child because they were Christians.

From there, Genesisus addressed Diocletian, stating that he wrote the play to mock Christians, but had been converted on the spot during the course of the play, by the power of Holy Spirit. “I now know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God, the Light, the Truth and the Mercy of all who have received His gift of Baptism,” Genesisus said. “O great Emperor, believe in these mysteries! I will teach you, and you will know the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God.”

Diocletian was furious and stopped the play, having the troupe arrested and beaten, while Genesisus was condemned to torture. Through all of his sufferings, he continued to confess that Jesus was God. When this failed to break his spirit, Diocletian ordered Genesisus be beheaded. His final words were, “Our Lord Jesus Christ is God and we shall have life in His name.”

St. Genesisus is the patron of comedians and actors. His feast day is Aug. 25.



**AUG. 25**

**SAINT  
GENESIUS**

# “An Avenue to Be Close to the Parish and Close to the People in the Parish”

## *The St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Finance Council*

**A**nthony (Tony) Grego was appointed to the parish Finance Council last year, and subsequently elected Chair. For Tony and the others, the work done by the council in an advisory capacity to Fr. Troha is a responsibility they take very seriously.

“We have been appointed to act as good stewards of parish funds and finances along with Father,” Tony says. “I am honored to be a part of it. Being on the parish Finance Council gives me an avenue to be close to the parish and close to the people in the parish. I feel like the others on the council and I continue the good works done by our faith community. In a significant way, we help and advise Father on financial matters.”

Under the Catholic Code of Canon Law, a parish finance council is mandated: “In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the prescript of *Canon 532*.” (537). In turn, *Canon 532* states clearly that the pastor is the responsible party; the process of decision-making is his, with the advice of lay boards like the Finance Council.

Currently our Finance Council consists of five appointed lay members, Fr. Michael Troha, the school principal, the parish bookkeeper, the finance assistant, and Sr. Dianne Piuanno SND, parish Pastoral Associate. The lay members are appointed by the pastor and serve three-year terms.

“Our council is a wonderfully diverse group with a wealth of background and experience in finances,” Tony says.

“Among the lay members alone, we have an attorney, a small business owner, and an accountant. Everyone, including the parish representatives, has a good understanding of our parish and school operation.”

The Finance Council meets six times a year.

“I prepare an agenda based upon input from Father and the staff, and once the agenda is set, it is distributed to the members,” Tony says. “Our meetings open, of course, with prayer. Then, Father and Sister have an opportunity to alert us or consult us on matters they deem crucial. We examine financial statements carefully, and do an ongoing review of the budget, both income and expenses. We often compare items to last year to see if there are variances we need to discuss. We also discuss any current projects that require our attention.”

As indicated, the Finance Council is advisory in nature. In addition, our council oversees the accounting practices and all bank accounts of the parish, as well as approving the annual diocesan financial report, which is submitted to the diocese.

“We have just completed the budgeting process,” Tony says. “Budgeting and being prepared for what may happen financially are important to our work.”

“We have done much in recent years in relation to the idea of stewardship,” he continues. “To really be a stewardship parish, we need people who are willing to share their gifts. There is no question that I and the others on the council agreed to serve because we recognize that this is a good way to share our gifts, our talents and experiences. There are many similar ways a person can serve the parish and the Church, and we encourage them to consider ways they can do that.”



*If someone is interested in more information on the Finance Council, or if they might wish to be a part of it, they may contact Fr. Troha or Sr. Dianne at the parish office, 216-251-0300. The Ministry Fair – during our annual Stewardship Renewal – also provides an opportunity to learn about the Finance Council and express interest in it.*

# ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

10205 Lorain Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44111  
216-251-0300

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Cleveland OH  
Permit #749

Check out our new website:  
[sioa.weconnect.com](http://sioa.weconnect.com)

Change Service Requested

## Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## The Garden Club *continued from front cover*

sudden, I had all of this time on my hands. The Garden Club gave me an opportunity to realize that the Church truly is always there for you. Getting involved in the Church like this gave me a purpose and helped me feel supported when I felt helpless—not being able to do anything for my husband.”

United by their common purpose and interests, the Garden Club breaks down typical age and social barriers, forming deep and lasting friendships. This, in turn, has provided Mary Pat with a true sense of family.

“Working with these older members has filled a kind of void in my life,” Mary Pat says. “Both my husband’s parents and my parents died by the time we were 25. Thanks to this ministry, I have wonderful friendships and I know they would be there for me in an instance if I needed help.”

Giving countless hours of their time to raise funds through the Pancake Breakfasts, solicit plant donations from parishioners and friends, plan new projects, and finally create and maintain parish flower beds, Mary Pat

has repeatedly been impressed by the joyful generosity exemplified by her fellow volunteers.

“The people involved are truly so generous with the little free time that they have,” Mary Pat says. “It requires so much of their time to water those flower beds and execute our plans, but they are all so happy to serve and it really has been so welcoming.”

That joy, says Mary Pat, has truly been contagious, growing to increasing proportion. In fact, thanks to the hard work of a Garden Club member, the ministry was recently been awarded a grant from the City of Cleveland to continue its work of beautification.

“We’re not just asking parishioners to support us anymore,” Mary Pat says. “Cleveland knows that St. Ignatius is improving and, through this grant, is allowing us to do even more.

“Everyone just wants a little smile in their life,” she continues. “And I just think that is what the Garden Ministry does. It just makes you happy.”

*If, like Mary Pat, you have a love for gardening and are interested in becoming more involved in the community, perhaps this is the ministry for you. To learn more about the Garden Club, please contact Steve Hanigosky through the parish office at 216-251-0300 or by email at [shanigosky@hotmail.com](mailto:shanigosky@hotmail.com).*