



# Holy Family Area

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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## Catholic HEART Workcamp Offers Youth a Chance to Serve Those in Need

For many teenagers, summer means more time for friends, relaxation, lake time and maybe paid work.

This wasn't the case for Andrew Janssen, along with 10 other local youth. They spent June 15-22 at Catholic HEART Workcamp in Denver, volunteering for local people across the city. The group took a van, joined by Fr. Paul along with two chaperones. Three words to describe the camps, which happen all across the United States and internationally, are "love," "serve" and "connect."

The mission of Catholic HEART Workcamps are "to share the love of Christ as we serve the neglected, broken-hearted and the marginalized in any way needed."

Last year, through Catholic HEART Workcamp, Andrew traveled with a local group to Mishawaka, Ind. — he knew he wanted to go on this year's trip before he even came home. The teens stay in a school with other teens from all over the United States. They break into groups for their service tasks, so they mix with their new friends from across the nation.

"We get to meet so many people," Andrew says. "It's funny to hear all the different accents."



*Eleven youth, two adults and Fr. Paul traveled to Denver through Catholic HEART Workcamp from June 15-22.*

Andrew spent last year doing home renovations, painting and cleaning for those in poverty in Mishawaka. This year, he helped a gentleman get rid of clutter, clean, mow and paint.

"This was my favorite part because he told me stories and I got to see a lot of history," Andrew says.

Teens can choose if they want to do a variety of service opportunities depending on the city. The website states there are opportunities

*continued on back cover*

# The Eucharist and Stewardship as a Way of Life

More than 20 years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. This document was an invitation to follow Christ, Who gave of Himself for us. Each of us is called to serve our neighbors and to be stewards of God's creation and of all that has been entrusted to us. However, to truly understand stewardship, we must look to the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the total gift of our loving Savior to us. Stewardship is our response to that gift.

Even the word "Eucharist" implies stewardship. The word "Eucharist" finds its roots in the Latin word *eucharistia*, which in turn came from the Greek word *eukaristos*, which meant, quite simply, "gratitude" or "thanksgiving." How fitting that we, who are called to be a stewardship people, celebrate at the focal point of every Mass an act of thanksgiving and gratitude — namely, the reception of Jesus' gift to us — the Eucharist.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the bishops speak of the Eucharist in this way: "The Eucharist is the great sign and agent of this expansive communion of charity... we enjoy a unique union with Christ and, in Him, with one another. Here His love — indeed, His very Self — flows into us as disciples and, through us and our practice of stewardship to the entire human race."

When we receive Christ's Body in the Holy Eucharist, we hear the minister say, "The Body of Christ." To this, we respond, "Amen" — which means in Hebrew, "Yes; it is so." This is the essence of stewardship. We should enter the Church for Mass out of "gratitude." We recognize the presence of the Lord in Holy Communion, and then we truly receive the Lord. What is left for us to do is the fulfillment of stewardship — that is, sharing what we have received in love of God and neighbor. Our entire experience speaks to stewardship — we are grateful; we recognize the real presence of the Lord; we receive the



Lord; and then we share what we have received.

Christ's gift to us through the Eucharist is an invitation to us. We are called to give beyond what is convenient or what may be comfortable. We are called to forgive even when forgiveness may not be deserved; we are called to love even when that love is not returned. We are called to love as God loves us.

The Eucharist is stewardship celebrated. The Mass is more than a ritual. It is an actual encounter with God, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We need to respond to the Eucharist with our complete selves. What we experience in the Eucharist should, in turn, translate into our daily lives. We are committed to the Church, which is Christ's body. We show our love for His body by acts of charity and generosity. We spend time in prayer, expressing our gratitude and our love.

God's greatest gift to us is Christ's great love for us — this was shown when He was crucified on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to give us eternal life. God's love for us is without limit, and He offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Stewardship is how we respond to that gift.

**"The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' 'The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and the works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church.'" — Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324**

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# The Mass is a Gift, to God and Our Parish Community

My Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We are now approaching the returns to school, the completion of vacations, and the time when things here at our parish get busier again.

We call them vacations, but the British call them “holidays.” Of course, it’s easy to see that the words “holiday” and “holy day” share the same roots. There was a time when the only “holidays” people experienced were indeed “holy days.” That included Sunday, to be sure, but the reason people had these “holy days” was to celebrate religious times and occasions.

We’re all pretty familiar with the term “Holy Day of Obligation.” In fact, there is one this month — Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank in the Church — and as we are told in the *Code of Canon Law* (1247), “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.”

Note that what this actually says is that Sunday is, in fact, a Holy Day of Obligation — we should view our weekly Mass attendance this way, as well. Sometimes in our busy modern lives, we may lose sight of how important this is.

Of course, our Mass attendance goes hand in hand with stewardship — how we take and responsibly use



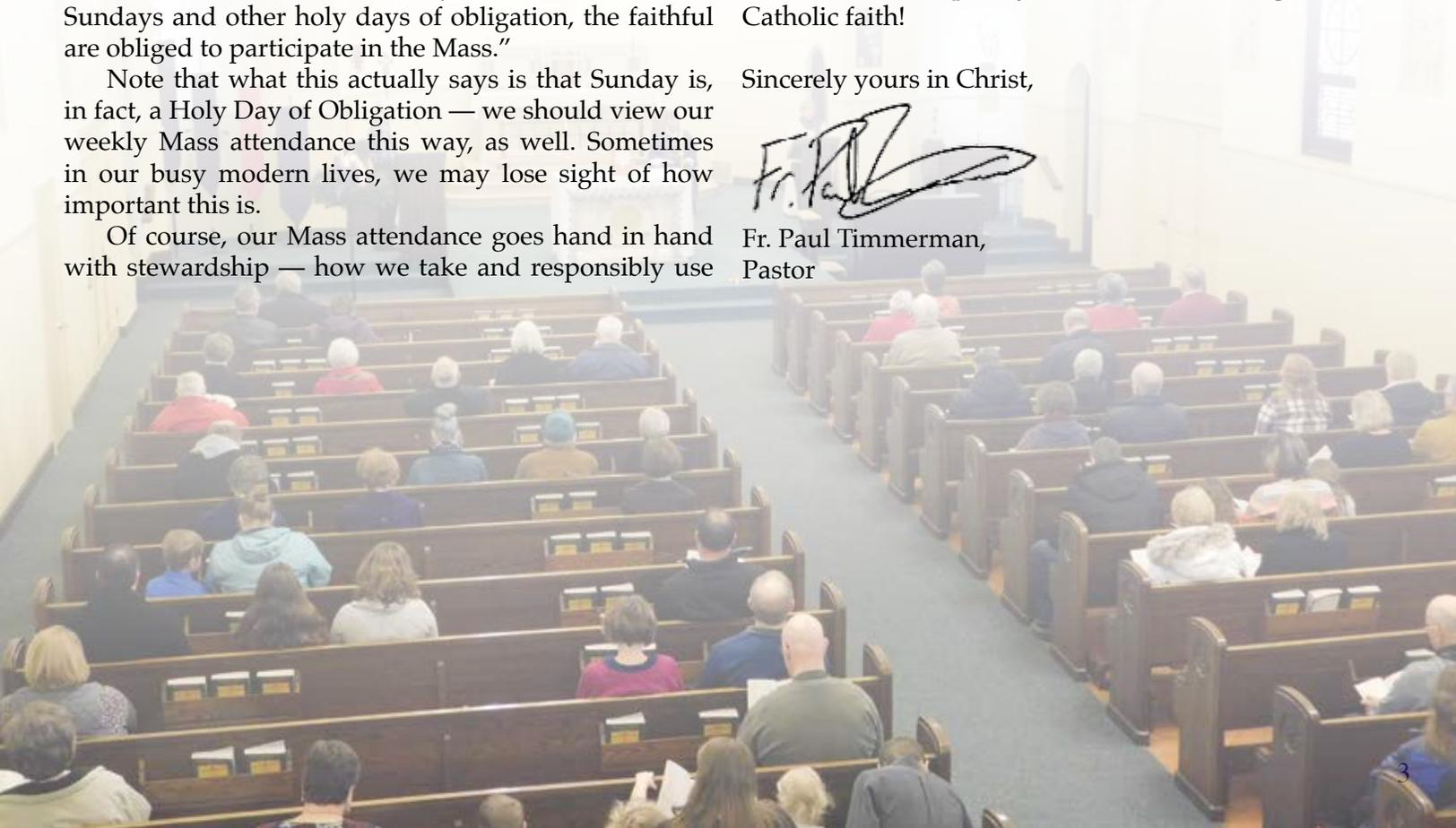
the gifts God has given us, then return and share those gifts with the Lord and those around us. Although going to Mass is a gift to the Lord, it is also a gift to our community and to ourselves. We need that time to step back from our daily worries and concerns, and to look deeper into the meaning of living and of the importance of our relationship with God.

This month, and always, let us each consider how important it is to attend Mass. If we are really going to be committed to stewardship, we need to realize the significance of setting aside time each week and on designated holy days — Aug. 15, for example — to be with the Lord and with our parish community at Mass. We must be completely committed to living out our Catholic faith!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Paul Timmerman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Fr. Paul Timmerman,  
Pastor



# FOCUS Brings the Example of a Vibrant

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*Isaac Rillo, lifelong parishioner of St. Andrew in Granite Falls, is currently a FOCUS minister at Wayne State College*

“With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

This Scripture passage is one very dear to the hearts of a large group of missionaries serving college students around the country — the ministers working with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, or FOCUS. With a presence on over 150 college campuses, FOCUS ministers are dedicated to bringing the Good News to young people right where they live and study. Isaac Rillo, a lifelong parishioner of St. Andrew in Granite Falls, is now in his second year as a FOCUS minister at Wayne State College in Nebraska.

Isaac was halfway through his junior year of college at St. John’s when an invitation from a friend to attend SEEK 2017 in San Antonio, Texas, changed the course of his life.

“I was reluctant to go [to SEEK], but something pulled me there,” he says. “It was a very powerful experience. Growing up, I hadn’t seen a lot of young priests or religious, or even young people who were excited to go to Mass. But everyone at SEEK wanted to be there and to pursue God. There were talks about having a relationship with God that I hadn’t thought was attainable to me, and it blew my mind.”

# From Catholic Faith to University Students

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Transformed by his experience, Isaac began attending daily Mass and developing a rich prayer life. Another trip his senior year — this time to the Student Leadership Summit, or SLS — led to the conviction that he was meant to veer from the pre-med path he was on at the time and look for something he would find more fulfilling.

Following his college graduation, Isaac began training with FOCUS and was placed as a minister with the organization at Wayne State College.

“FOCUS is an apostolate that works full time on a college campus,” Isaac says. “The idea is to build disciples and encourage them to live out their Catholic life and identity — not just at college, but also when they leave. We want them to be able to share their faith well, take the relationship they have with Jesus Christ to others, and make disciples of all people.”

With the many social pressures that today’s university students face, providing them with a strong example of living out the Catholic faith and virtues is more important now than ever.

“It’s about modeling the art of living to college students and teaching them to do the same for others,” Isaac says. “People are led astray by mainstream media and culture, but we’re ultimately made to be in union with God. Instead of them deriving their worth from things they can do — jobs or relationships — we want to really ground the students in their identity as sons and daughters of God.”

For the average FOCUS minister, each day brings new opportunities to model this countercultural lifestyle. Recognizing that the Holy Spirit is the

primary evangelizer, ministers make daily Mass and Holy Hours an integral part of their schedule. There are times for formal discipleship — leading Bible studies and retreats, providing talks — and also time for grabbing a coffee together or hosting a social gathering.

Each FOCUS minister nurtures a relationship with anywhere from one to several college students, hoping to pass on to them the necessary tools for enriching their personal faith life and then taking their zeal for the Gospel out to the world. Students who participate in FOCUS often go on to discern a vocation in the Church or become active lay leaders in their future parishes.

“Evangelization is the deepest identity of the Church,” Isaac says. “FOCUS is intentional about making sure it’s not just a ‘club’ these students are a part of on campus. These are tools they can bring to their future families and future parishes — to not be afraid of talking about being Catholic outside that one hour a week. We’re passionate about really trying to equip them with this lifestyle for the rest of their life.”

Of course, not only do the college students benefit from FOCUS, but as Isaac points out, those who serve as ministers find that their own rewards are great indeed.

“It’s been the greatest gift this year to grow in my own sanctity,” he says. “As St. John Paul II said, ‘We can only find ourselves in a sincere gift of ourselves.’ The greatest thing we can do is help people to know love itself, to let them know who created them. It’s incredibly life-giving.”

*Are you interested in learning more about the FOCUS Ministry? Please visit [www.focus.org](http://www.focus.org) or contact Isaac Rillo at 320-333-9773. Additionally, students preparing for college or currently living on a college campus can find out whether FOCUS has a presence at their school by visiting [www.focus.org](http://www.focus.org) and clicking on “Find a Campus.”*

# A Significant Moment in Our Prayer

## *The Presentation of the Gifts*

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been

gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!



# Making Faith a Priority Through *Faith Formation*

Faith is more than a one-time choice to believe. Ultimately, it's about cultivating an ongoing relationship with the Lord. And just like any other relationship, says parishioner Pat Craigmile, this requires time — time spent getting to know and growing in our love for Him.

"I think our goal as a Christian should be to develop the best relationship we can with God," Pat says. "And in order to develop that relationship, you have to first get to know Him — to spend time praying, using the Scriptures and learning from the people who lived before us, the Church leaders and saints."

Thankfully, there are many ways to accomplish this in our Holy Family Area Catholic Community, such as the annual stewardship retreat, our Lenten Enrichment series, and inspirational books provided by the Knights of Columbus. There are also local resources and events, Pat notes, like the Real Presence Radio and the second Tuesday Day of Recollection offered each month at Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center in Marvin, S.D.

Yet, standing out amidst all of these formation opportunities for Pat is St. Joseph's Thursday Morning Bible Study. Taking place from October through May at 10:30 a.m., these weekly gatherings allow adult parishioners to come together for fellowship and formation. Exploring topics of interest to its members, the study has encompassed a wide variety of subject matter over the years, from women of the Bible, Theology of the Body, a study on the Mass, and the spiritual life.

"It's really led by the interests of the group," Pat says. "Somebody will express an interest in a topic and then we'll find a book or resource that meets that need. This next year, for example, one of our members read a really good book on the early Church Fathers and so we're going to study that together. This will encompass the first 200 years or so of the Church, focusing on a few key figures."



And because the gatherings occur on Thursday mornings, members may also participate in the first Thursday Eucharistic Adoration beforehand and to take advantage of the weekly noon Mass afterwards. Thus, it becomes an entire day of spiritual enrichment, truly deepening the members' relationship with the Lord and each other.

Though educated in Catholic schools, Pat feels that the Thursday Bible Study has helped her appreciate and understand the faith in an entirely new manner. Almost every week, she experiences a new "aha!" moment, truly understanding aspects of the faith for the first time.

"There is just no end to learning and understanding your faith," Pat says. "For me, a lot of times it's like a light bulb goes off. You think to yourself, 'Oh, yeah! That's what the nuns meant.' You just have an entirely new way of looking at things as an adult and it makes the faith truly come alive."

"There are just endless possibilities to grow and learn about your faith," she adds. "So many opportunities are available if a person just chooses to make it their priority or choice."

*The Thursday Bible Study will resume in early October and is open to all parishioners. Please refer to the parish bulletin for further details or contact Pat Craigmile directly at 320-855-2428. And, even if a formal Bible study doesn't work for your schedule, please consider taking advantage of our other faith formation opportunities!*

# HOLY FAMILY AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

512 Black Oak Ave.  
Montevideo, MN 56265

[www.holyfamilyarea.org](http://www.holyfamilyarea.org)

## MASS TIMES:

### Sunday

8:30 a.m. — St. Clara, Clara City

10:30 a.m. — St. Andrew, Granite Falls

### Tuesday

10:30 a.m. — Luther Haven, Montevideo

### Wednesday

9:30 a.m. — Clara City Care Center, Clara City

### Thursday

Noon — St. Joseph, Montevideo

### Friday

10 a.m. — Granite Falls Manor, Granite Falls

### Saturday

5:30 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

7 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo in Spanish

## CONFESSION TIMES:

### Sunday

8 a.m. — St. Clara, Clara City

### Thursday

11:30 a.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

### Saturday

4:45 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

## Catholic HEART Workcamp

*continued from front cover*

to “feed the hungry, lift the spirits of children, and bring joy to the elderly and disabled.” Andrew enjoys the outdoor tasks.

However, it’s not all work. Daily Mass is an important part of the week, along with a night of adoration and Reconciliation. The group also takes time to enjoy one of their Masses in a new place.

“Last year, they had Mass at Notre Dame and this year they had Mass in the mountains,” says Andrew’s mom, Angie.

The group also takes part in something fun during part of the week. Last year, they visited an amusement park, and this year they made a visit to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Andrew has enjoyed both the work and fun that goes on through Catholic HEART Workcamp.

“You get to learn a lot and meet so many people,” he says. “We don’t use our cell phones a whole lot.”

Angie is glad he chooses to spend some of his summer in service to others.

“This enriches him in faith,” Angie says. “It’s nice to see him do service work.”

“People in poverty are always the most thankful and they care about their workers,” Andrew says.

*To participate in next year’s trip through Catholic HEART Workcamp, please contact Christina Wangen at 507-920-0122 or [sacoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org](mailto:sacoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org), or Ann Voller at 320-226-5205 or [sjocoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org](mailto:sjocoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org).*