

Holy Family Area

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

MEET DANIELLE ALMICH

Growing Alongside our Children as a Faith Formation Catechist

Though we frequently become involved in stewardship out of a desire to serve God and others, we often end up receiving just as much as we give. St. Andrew parishioner Danielle Almich says this has certainly been the case for her as a parish catechist.

“By becoming a catechist, I feel like I’m renewing my own faith,” Danielle says. “I wanted to grow closer and strengthen my relationship with God so that I could be able to teach my kids more about the faith and help guide them in their journey.”

Danielle began volunteering for the parish’s Faith Formation program seven years ago, when her eldest entered the program. Over the years, she has helped teach a variety of grade levels and age groups working to model and help break down the Church’s teachings to our community’s youngest members. This is accomplished through weekly Wednesday night classes throughout the school year. While the goal of the class is to help form the children in the faith, catechists can’t help but grow as well through the openness and childlike simplicity they observe regularly in their students.

“It’s always refreshing to hear children’s point of view about how we can be more like Jesus,” Danielle says. “They remind us that kindness goes a long way and God wants us



Some of Danielle Almich’s students gather for one of their weekly sessions.

to love one another and every living thing as He loves us. I enjoy the honesty and simplicity of the kids’ responses and I feel like I can learn from them as well.”

Though people are often intimidated by the role of catechist, Danielle says that the workload is very doable.

continued on page 5

The Traits of **THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD**

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship list” that could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a life-long journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

INSIGHT — Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS — Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

GENEROSITY — Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

JOY — Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the responsibilities of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward.

WELCOME BACK, *Welcome Home!*

My Dear Friends in Christ,

To those of you who have been actively participating in the life of our parish but have been forced to stay away due to the COVID-19 pandemic, welcome home!

To those of you who haven't been to church in years and decided to renew your faith, welcome back, and welcome home!

During these past few months, we have experienced some of the most challenging and unnerving times in the history of our nation and Church. As we start to emerge from the darkness of this crisis and return to Mass and parish activities and ministries, I feel blessed and excited.

Excited to see familiar faces.

Excited to see new faces.

Excited to see faces of those we haven't seen in a while but decided to come back!

In times like these, when nothing seems to make sense, I am so very glad you are here. The timing of your return is perfect, because the truth is we need Christ now more than ever.

Whether you have simply been forced to stay away while public Masses were canceled, or if you have been away from the Church for many years, this crisis has changed us.

All of us.

We have had some extra time lately for introspection. For personal reflection. And for prayer. And perhaps during this era of isolation and social distancing, you have found yourself yearning for Christ more than ever before in the hopes of finding some meaning to all of this.

You have come to the right place.

As you walk through our doors for the first time in months — or perhaps even years — I hope you see the face of Christ in myself and in all those around you. I hope you find a welcoming parish family there to greet you, overjoyed by your return.

As Christ tells us, from Matthew's Gospel, "For I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35).

The truth is, there really are no strangers at our parish. So as you come back home to our parish, I hope and pray you experience that same spirit of kindness and hospitality from all your fellow parishioners.

Whether you're a longtime parishioner, or someone who fell away from the Catholic Church and are now ready to become renewed in the faith, let us all remember to welcome all who enter our parish doors with open arms, smiling faces and a servant's heart.

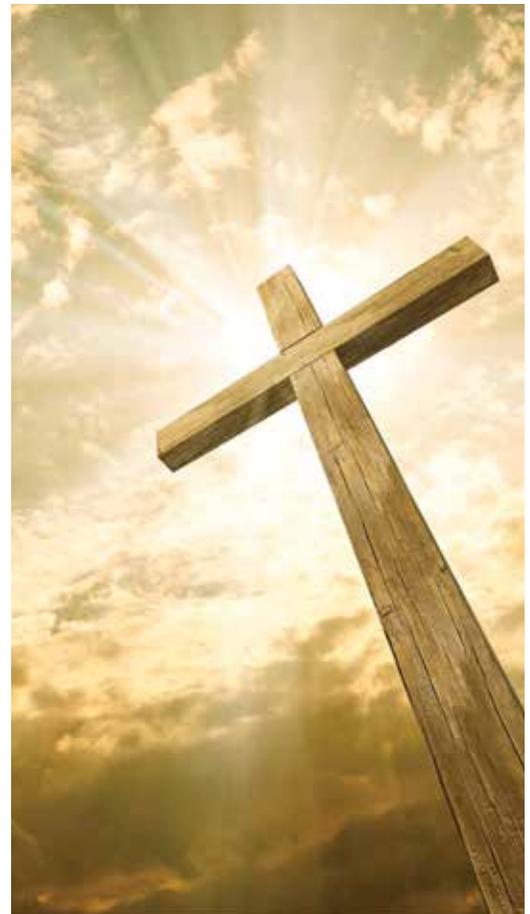
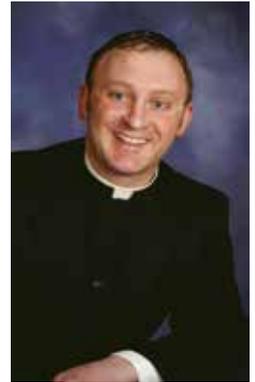
By living out our calling as Christian stewards, we will all emerge from this dark time as a community of faith that is stronger than ever — together.

Welcome back. And welcome home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Paul Timmerman,
Pastor



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Bringing Christ's Love

The COVID-19 pandemic this spring may have prevented our St. Joseph Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound from taking Communion to nursing homes and private homes, but once the restrictions are lifted, they will once again take the Body of Christ to homebound parishioners.

Julene DeZeeuw has been an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for about 12 years. She is grateful she was able to make her weekly rounds one week before the restrictions went into place. Despite the hiatus, the act of taking Communion to fellow parishioners has served to build on her own faith.

"When you see how happy they are to have someone bring

Communion to them, and how grateful they are, it helps build your faith," she says. "And it's not only Communion, but the fact that someone comes in and visits for a while. But when you hold up the host and say, 'Behold the Lamb of God,' it's powerful. The people are happy, and I'm happy. It builds on their spiritual life, too, to have someone bring Communion when they can't get to church. They know they are being thought about, too."

There are five Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who serve in rotation. Julene serves four persons in assisted living facilities and three in private homes. She visits once a week.

The ministers are notified

about parishioners needing care when the Area Office receives word from families or the person themselves. Sometimes the need is only temporary, or in the case of one couple who cannot attend Mass when the weather is icy.

"A couple are on a week-by-week basis," Julene says. "We call them beforehand and make an appointment with them at home. Those in assisted living can go to a central location to receive Communion."

Some of the nursing facilities in the area have Masses for the residents, so the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are not needed there.

Julene is dedicated to her ministry, but it took some thought on her part before she said "yes" to taking

"It's been a good ministry, and we encourage others to get involved. There is always a need. But it always is that someone has to ask you first, and then you think about it for a while. And then you make the commitment. But it's been good. It's a good ministry. You'd hope that someone will do it for you if you're in that situation."

— Julene DeZeeuw



S TO THE HOMEBOUND

Through Communion

on the role.

"It's the same old story," she says. "A former priest asked me and I thought, 'no.' But a parishioner who did it, asked me if I'd help. She took me around and trained me. But I had to think it over for a while."

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion bring the love of Christ not only in the Host, but also in their caring.

"I usually start with having a talk and asking about how they are doing," Julene says. "I tell them what I've been doing, and they seem interested to hear about it. We have a little prayer service we do. We do the penitential rite and say the Confiteor, and read the Gospel from Sunday and say the Lord's Prayer, then give them Communion."

Julene encourages others to join the ministry. Most of the members are retired and are able to answer the need.

"It's been a good ministry, and we encourage others to get involved," she says. "There is always a need. But it always is that someone has to ask you first, and then you think about it for a while. And then you make the commitment. But it's been good. It's a good ministry. You'd hope that someone will do it for you if you're in that situation."



Anyone who is interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion may call the Area Office at 320-269-5954.

DANIELLE ALMICH *continued from front cover*

Lessons are designed to be relatable and age appropriate for the targeted age level. This makes teaching easy for the adult, as well. All that's really needed is a sincere love for God and the children.

"[Materials] are designed to be easy for kids to grasp and for the adult teaching to explain," Danielle says. "I enjoy going to church and seeing the look of recognition on my own kids' faces when they understand the readings because they had learned about them in class that week."

Danielle says that she feels blessed to be part of this ministry because it enables her to grow in the faith alongside her own children.

"If you enjoy kids, are interested in sharing your faith and learning more as well, this is a fun way to grow together in your spiritual journey," Danielle says. "Maybe you start by helping out in VBS, or sub a class — any

participation is great! We need more parent involvement because if you're interested in growing in your faith, your children will be more open to learning about it too."

If you are interested in joining Danielle in this important ministry at St. Andrew's, please contact Faith Formation Coordinator Christina Wangen at 507-920-0122 or sacoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org; at St. Joseph's or St. Jame's contact Ann Voller at 320-226-5205 or sjocoordinator@holyfamily.org.

CHOSEN TO DO HIS WILL

The Feast of St. Anne — July 26

Did you know that St. Anne is the patron saint of miners? In medieval times, the Virgin Mary and Jesus were often compared to precious metals of silver and gold. Hence, the lives that came from the womb of St. Anne made her the source of precious riches.

Unlike Mary, St. Anne was not conceived without sin — but nevertheless, she would one day raise the Mother of God. That’s a pretty big deal! What was it about St. Anne that prompted God to give her such a significant role in the history of salvation? There’s no way to know for sure, but there is one thing we can definitely say about St. Anne — God uses those who put themselves at His service, and that is precisely what St. Anne did.

Not much is mentioned about St. Anne in the Bible, but her name derives from the longer name “Hannah,” or the Hebrew word for “grace.” We understand that, having believed herself to be barren for 20 years, an angel appeared to Anne and told her that she would soon have a daughter that she should name Mary.

When Mary was finally born, after many years of frustration and infertility on her parents’ part, Anne did just as she promised — she dedicated Mary to the Lord, and raised a holy woman who would mother Christ Himself!

Early Christians are said to have been very intrigued by the story of Jesus’ grandmother and, around the year 550, erected a church in Jerusalem where St. Anne, her husband, Joachim, and Mary are said to have lived.

Although we do not know much more about St. Anne, we can assume that she was a very holy woman based upon the woman her daughter, Mary, grew to be. Anne was the one from whom Mary learned to be a mother. She was the one from whom Mary learned to serve God. She was the one who instilled in Mary the confidence and faith to say “yes” to God — “May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

There is no doubt that St. Anne was a humble, holy woman. She was given a great gift — a child — who she readily gave back to God. And, thanks to her faith-filled gratitude to God for His gift, Mary opened her heart to the will of God, and became the mother of Christ.

Talk about stewardship in action!



*The Feast of St. Anne
is celebrated
on July 26.*

St. Clara ST. CLARA PRAYER NETWORK MINISTRY

A Blessing to All

Some of us have busy schedules that don't allow much time for church ministry. Others can't leave our homes, so volunteering at church is tough. But the Prayer Network Ministry is a ministry that is accessible to all — after all, we all have time and space to pray.

Ann Jaenisch says this ministry has been around as long as she can remember. She's been a member at St. Clara for 43 years and has been leading the ministry for more than 10 years.

"There are a lot of people who don't make it to church," Ann says. "They still like to be involved, even if they can't get out."

What's beautiful about the Prayer Network Ministry is the community building aspect. There's not only community built across the parish, but also across Clara City, as members of other denominations are on the list.

The Prayer Network Ministry is simple but powerful. People call Ann with a prayer request. It can be as vague or as detailed as they desire. People and Fr. Paul typically ask for prayer requests on behalf of someone else.

"We get all kinds of different prayer requests from all ages," Ann says.

Ann utilizes a calling tree in order to spread the request. She calls the next person on the list, until she speaks with someone. A message is left for those who don't answer. There are currently four prayer groups with about eight to nine people per group.

As a member of this ministry for many years, Ann believes in the power of prayer. She asked for prayers a few years ago when she was diagnosed with cancer. She had surgery and the cancer was removed. Ann has been cancer free for two years.



"You realize the one Person that can help them is God. It makes you feel good that you can at least say a prayer for them." — Ann Jaenisch

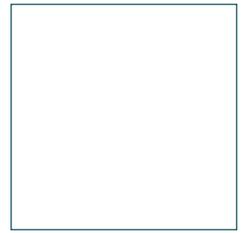
"This is a miracle," she says. "Prayers do work and are heard by God."

As one can imagine, Ann has prayed for many people over the years. Her heart always aches for the people who are suffering when she receives a request, but she knows God is there for them.

"You realize the one Person that can help them is God," Ann says. "It makes you feel good that you can at least say a prayer for them."

Ann tries to write down each request that comes in, and has filled a notebook of requests. She says she lays her hand on the book each night with a prayer, praying for the requests long after the first call.

To submit a prayer request or to get added to the Prayer Network Ministry for St. Andrew's, please contact Patrice Schulte at 507-430-8303 or jet07@mvtvwireless.com; for St. Joseph's, contact Karen Kling at 320-269-7878 or slkekling@gmail.com. We hope to start this ministry at St. Jame's. If you are interested, please contact Melinda Hedman at 320-269-5952 or businessmanager@holymfamilyarea.org.



512 Black Oak Ave.
Montevideo, MN 56265

www.holyfamilyarea.org

MASS TIMES:

Sunday

8:30 a.m. — St. James, Dawson
10:30 a.m. — St. Andrew, Granite Falls

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. - St Andrew, Granite Falls

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. — St. James, Dawson

Thursday

5:30 p.m. — St. Andrew, Montevideo

Friday

10 a.m. — St. Andrew, Granite Falls

Saturday

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

CONFESSION TIMES:

30 minutes before daily Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. — St. James, Dawson

Saturday

4:15 p.m. — St. Joseph, Montevideo

**WE WELCOME ST. JAMES
TO THE HOLY FAMILY AREA
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY!**



*Check out our August newsletter for
history and information on the parish.*