



ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC PARISH

Christ the King and Holy Spirit Churches

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Illuminating Our Young Parishioners in the Faith

Though mentors and religious education programs can help us along the way, a person's stewardship journey remains a deeply personal one. It's about our relationship with God – a relationship that begins with the gift of sanctifying grace at the baptismal font, and blooms as we come to know and encounter our loving Father. This, says coordinator Katie Field, is why Catechesis of the Good Shepherd takes such a unique view when it comes to catechetics – that of “co-wonderment” as the child and adult grow together in the faith.

“One of the things that I think really makes this program stand out is the firm belief that the only true educator is Jesus Christ,” Katie says. “The catechist co-wonders with the child. Everything that the child discovers remains entirely their own.”

Adopting the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd creates a nurturing environment known as the atrium, where children and adults can live out together the religious experience. It's designed to facilitate a “listening stance” in both children and adults, entering more deeply into the mysteries of Christ's Word, the liturgy and, ultimately, our Catholic faith. This is done in an organic, child-led manner, as children are able to manipulate objects and interact with the faith, drawing meaning from it in a deeply personal way.

“We can't be told that we are blessed,” Katie says. “We need to *know* it, and it's something that we need to hear from God directly. Nobody else can really tell us. Through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, we allow the child to discover and grow in their relationship with God themselves. We adults are



continued on page 2



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd continued from front cover

just there to provide them with that space – to create an opportunity for real contemplation, something that is being lost in our society today. We help them encounter and come to love Jesus. And then from there, they naturally begin to wonder about who this person is.”

The program is available for children between ages 3-12, with instruction divided into three distinct levels. Previously offered on Annunciation’s campus, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd now gathers at 2820 Lincoln Avenue in classrooms donated by Little Ants Children’s Boutique. Classes are offered on Monday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon.

As the children grow in their understanding of both God and themselves, Katie says, stewardship becomes a prevalent theme of their discussions. Phrased in terms of gift offering, the adults and children spend significant amounts of time reflecting upon God’s blessings and how the children are called to give back in return.

“We look back, for example, on how long it took God to create the world so that it was good enough for man to inhabit,” Katie says. “Then we discuss how we are called to care for the earth – how are we going to return, in gratitude, the gifts that God has given us in our life. We spend a significant amount of time in levels II and III talking about this idea of offering gifts back.”

Katie says that her own understanding of stewardship has changed radically since becoming involved in this program. One of the main reason for this, she explains, is the founder Sofia Cavalletti’s



stipulation that everything in the atrium should be a gift from the community. Because of this, every supply and item within a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classroom has been lovingly donated and oftentimes handmade by someone within the Catholic community.

“That has really made my own as well as the children’s concept of gift giving come alive,” Katie says. “And when the children hear that someone in their community loved them and Jesus so much that they actually made it for them, the level of respect for that object just radically increases.”

Past gifts have included miniature tabernacles, beautifully illustrated or illuminated Scripture verses, and hand-painted peg people representing biblical figures.

Though Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes began directly after Labor Day, new students remain welcome throughout the school year. There is a \$40 registration fee. For more information or to find out how to get involved in the program, please contact Katie Field at averdantpasture@gmail.com.

A Letter From Our Pastor

THIS MONTH AND BEYOND, LET US SHARE THE FAITH IN WORD AND ACTION

Dear Parishioners,

When reading through our newsletter, it is clear that we often discuss and reflect upon the topic of ministries – within our community and beyond – and how Christ shares His ministry with us.

As a faith community that is committed to living out stewardship, we all share in Christ's ministry. And while we share our many gifts with God and His Church, we take the truths set forth in the readings from Scripture and apply them to present-day life. Of course, that's what we are supposed to do when we share our faith with our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

But what does it mean to "share our faith"? Well, it is exactly what parents – as the "domestic church" – are supposed to do with their children. Furthermore, lay people act as catechists when they teach in Catholic schools or help with religious education programs in their parishes.

"Sharing the faith" also encompasses serving and providing assistance to those in need, both within and beyond the parish community, or bringing the Eucharist to the ill or homebound who cannot regularly attend Mass. In these ways and more, lay people have many opportunities to participate directly in the ministry of the Church.

But as the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "An apostolate of this kind does not consist only in the witness of one's way of life; a true apostle looks for opportunities to announce Christ by words addressed either to non-believers with a view to lead-



ing them to faith, or to the faithful with a view to instructing, strengthening, and encouraging them to a more fervent life" (*Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 6).

In other words, we must proclaim our Christian faith through our actions and how we live our lives – and *also* be prepared to share it in words if we are given the opportunity. With this in mind, we may each want to make a commitment of time to study the Scriptures and the Church's teachings so that we may be better prepared to share the faith!

Of course, the month of October draws us a little closer to the end of the year – thus, we are soon approaching the celebration of Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons. In the next few months, we will each have so many opportunities to share our faith through words and actions. I ask you to prayerfully consider how you will take advantage of these opportunities, living as stewards carrying out His ministry every day, for the rest of this year and beyond.

May God grant you the grace to share richly as a disciple of Christ!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Alex Zenthoefer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Fr. Alex Zenthoefer
Pastor



THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE MINISTRY

October is Respect Life Month, and numerous Catholic parishes are working to raise awareness about the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death. Around the country, various activities – such as living rosaries, baby bottle drives, novenas and more – will serve as a reminder to faithful Catholics to continue to work for the protection of the most vulnerable among us. But what about the other 11 months of the year? Here at Annunciation, a team of three women are pulling together to continue the important work of fellow parishioner, Lynn Deputy, who led our Dignity of Human Life ministry for many years.

Julie Rosario, Anna Creek and Kathy Loveridge share a passion for spreading the pro-life message. Working as a team, they are excited to have the opportunity to explore different ways for our parishioners to get involved with events and projects aimed at preserving the dignity of all human life.

As our parish's Evangelization coordinator, Julie is especially excited about the countless possibilities for promoting a culture of life.

"We're in a position where we can reach out to parishioners and ask where there is a need or an interest," she says. "We can ask if they're interested in a project like the Angel Tree at Christmastime,



(From left) Julie Rosario, Anna Creek, and Kathy Loveridge are spearheading a revival of the Dignity of Human Life ministry at Annunciation

or if they want to support mothers' homes like Life Choices. Everyone's interests and passions are different. For example, Anna is interested in pro-life activities for the unborn, and Kathy is interested in providing a support system for young moms."

Julie herself is no stranger to the pro-life cause. When she was young, her mother was very active in the Evansville pro-life movement. Julie still remembers helping her mom put large wooden crosses in her uncle's fields. Repainting and replacing the crosses regularly was no small task, but Julie understood the significance of their

actions. The crosses – which could be seen from the nearby road – carried a powerful message of life.

In addition to their public support for the pro-life movement, Julie's parents emphasized a strong pro-life culture in the home.

"I also have 10 siblings, so we were always living this struggle, and beauty, and joy," she says. "My dad is one of 14 and my mom is one of eight, and they always impressed on us that we belonged to so much more than our immediate family. So taking care of the elderly and those who needed help was always part of the culture."

One of the most important

SEEKS TO PUT CHURCH TEACHING INTO ACTION

aspects of the dignity of human life is its universality – respecting life is a Church teaching that touches each and every one of us in some way.

“With dignity of life, there are so many avenues and ways of being intentional about treating life with dignity, whether it’s the self, other or God,” Julie says. “That is the same for everyone, at every point in life, and I really believe it can inform every other ministry and outreach.”

One of the many ministries that Julie perceives as having a direct correlation with the mission of the Dignity of Human Life Ministry is the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She has witnessed the great amount of good done by this organization through her husband Roland’s participation in the ministry. One of the things that both Julie and Roland have realized is that the people helped by the St. Vincent de Paul Society receive so much more than an economic hand up when the ministry team takes the time to reach out and make a personal connection with them.

By actively acknowledging the inherent dignity in every person, ministries are able to have a much greater effect on the people they serve.

“I think we can be more attentive to who is in need and who struggles with asking for help,” Julie says. “With dignity of life, collecting items for a food drive is good, but whenever that is accompanied by an invitation to a more fulfilling life and friendship, that strikes people more. They might say, ‘Oh, I see something different here.’ I think the witness of how the people are living who make that gesture is important.”

Ultimately, the respect for all life is much more than a slogan – it is the intentional actions that follow our belief in the dignity of human life that truly

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matter. Promoting a respect for the dignity of life is an important part of living as active disciples of Christ. The Dignity of Human Life team looks forward to continuing to explore new and meaningful ways for our parishioners to put this important tenet of our Catholic faith into action each and every day.

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**Interested in getting involved or learning more about the Dignity of Human Life Ministry?
We would love to hear your ideas or have you help out with this important ministry!
Please contact Julie Rosario for more information at jrosario@evdio.org.**

Time: The Foundation of Stewardship

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has told us that stewardship is part of discipleship and is a way of responding to God's call in every aspect of our lives. We refer to the three facets of stewardship as "Time, Talent and Treasure," and when we consider the importance of these three Ts of stewardship, the "time" component comes first by design.

When we talk about stewardship of time, we are referring to prayer time. Prayer is of the utmost importance in a disciple's life, and it serves as the fertile ground from which the gifts of talent and treasure blossom. Only by spending time in prayer each day and receiving the sacraments are we able to consistently and generously donate our talent and treasure to the Church.

When looking for examples of how to live our lives as disciples of Christ and as stewards of God's gifts, we can always turn to the great saints of our Church to guide us. And when it comes to the Stewardship of Time, the life of St. Damien is just one example of how prayer, or "Time," is the foundation for our lives of stewardship.

Shortly after being ordained a priest, St. Damien volunteered to serve a colony of lepers isolated on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. From May 1873 until his death in 1889 (at the age of 49) St. Damien worked to restore within the lepers a sense of personal worth and dignity.

Although for some time St. Damien took the necessary precautions to ensure that he did not contract leprosy, he knew that physical touch was necessary to communicate his love and concern to those afflicted with the disease. He embraced the lepers, dined with them, cared for them, and anointed them in the sacraments. With great humility and sacrifice, St. Damien offered his own life in order to save the lives of others.

From where did St. Damien draw his strength? What was the source of his inspiration? "Were it not for the constant presence of our divine Master in our humble chapel, I would not have found it possible to persevere in sharing the lot of the lepers in Molokai," St. Damien wrote. "The Eucharist is the bread that gives strength... It is at once the most eloquent proof of His love and the most powerful means of fostering His love in us. He gives Himself every day so that our hearts as burning coals may set afire the hearts of the faithful."

St. Damien found his strength in the Mass, the greatest prayer of the Church. Prayer was the impetus behind the generosity of this faithful servant of God, and is the fuel that ignites every heart to flame in love.

Without prayer, without the grace that flows from the sacraments, we are incapable of leading lives of service and responding to God's call!

How much time do you dedicate to prayer each day? One hour? Fifteen minutes? None at all? Before you consider joining a parish ministry or volunteering your talents in service, and before you discern your gifts of treasure to the Church, be sure that prayer is your foundation. Identify a prayer schedule that is manageable. This may entail arising 20 minutes early each day to offer your work to the Lord, or attending daily Mass once a week.

Every prayer commitment is unique and personal. Yet, no matter what, this time offering, this dedication to prayer, is the key to serving the Lord with faithfulness, generosity and joy.



THAT MAN IS YOU!

Developing the Vision of a Man Fully Alive

In the midst of a successful business career, a man named Steve Bollman put it all aside to try to have an impact on the Catholic Church and on the lives of people. In 2002 he founded an organization called *Paradisus Dei* – Latin for “the Paradise of God” – dedicated to the renewal of marriage and family life. In 2004, as part of that organization he developed the *That Man is You!* men’s program, or TMIY, which has since established itself as one of the premier men’s programs throughout the country, transforming men, marriages and families.

Last year, TMIY began here at Annunciation Catholic Parish. The program is overseen and coordinated by a Core Team.

“For me, it is so good to see all these men filled with the Holy Spirit,” says Core Team member Tom Loveridge. “We all come together and we talk about Christ and taking what we learn to the parish and to the world.

“I am impressed by a number of things about this

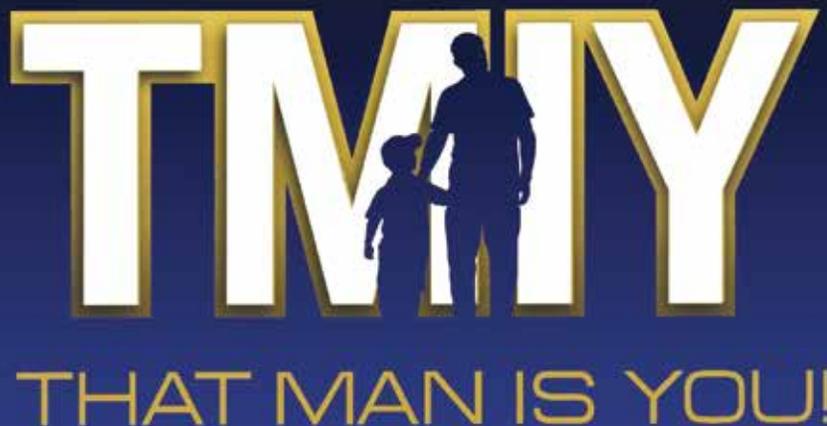
program,” he adds. “Many men have participated, and I am amazed at the enthusiasm and commitment of the men. *That Man is You!* is so well-constructed, organized and effective. We average between 55-60 men each week.”

As we consider the impact of a program like *That Man is You!*, we can look toward a particular passage from the Book of Proverbs – “Iron is sharpened by iron, one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17). For as two iron blades, when rubbed together, become sharper and more efficient, men can reap the important benefits through sharing in prayer, fellowship and interaction. It is important to come together in God’s name as brothers in Christ.

That Man is You! is designed as a three-year program, and in our parish, this program is beginning its second year.

“We meet at 6 a.m. in the Parish Center on Fridays and begin with prayer and breakfast,” Tom says.

continued on back cover



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That Man is You! continued from front cover

“At 6:30, we watch and share a video, and then we gather in small groups to discuss what we have heard until we adjourn right at 7:30 a.m.”

From humble beginnings, *That Man is You!* is now in more than 600 parishes in 46 states, and 25,000 men have participated so far.

“Over the course of three years, *That Man is You!* successively considers the three most important relationships in a man’s life – his relationship with God, his relationship with his spouse and his relationship with his children,” Tom says. “*That Man is You!* honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern



culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive. It is particularly indebted to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and Pope John Paul II.”

**All practicing Catholic men are welcome and encouraged to join.
For more information, please contact the parish office at 812-476-3061.**

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Holy Spirit: Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 9:00 a.m. | Tuesday: 6:00 p.m., Wednesday: 8:30 a.m.

Christ the King: Saturday: 5:30 p.m. | Sunday: 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (No weekday Mass when a funeral is scheduled at CTK)
Monday: 7:45 a.m., Tuesday: 7:45 a.m., Thursday: 8:30 a.m., Friday: 7:45 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. at Holy Spirit | Saturday: 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. at Christ the King