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# VOICE



SPRING 2019 | VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 2

## Easter Gift from St. Anthony's

By Dave McDermott

### Enjoy a parish-wide subscription to Formed.org!

It's been called Catholic Netflix and you now have access to all of its content. Formed provides powerful, expertly-produced material around many topics of the Catholic faith. The website offers movies, podcasts, books, documentaries and much more. Topics range from faith/unbelief, understanding the Eucharist, daily scripture study and so on. It also features a large selection of children's cartoons with Christian themes and information about the sacraments.

St. Anthony's parishioner Mike Moes first brought the idea to the parish staff saying, "A friend of mine mentioned that I should take a look at this site and I've used it almost daily since to grow in faith. The content is excellent" After reviewing the site, parish staff decided it would be a great resource and to offer it to everyone as an Easter gift. Feel free to share this with anyone who may have questions about Catholicism, have drifted away from the Church, grandchildren or anyone else who benefit from the enriching content.

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## Support St. Anthony's: Scrip

By Mary Jo Ayers and Kendra Sullivan

Scrip is a non-selling fundraising program that benefits both our parish and families. It has been in existence at St. Anthony's parish for many years. It is a way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards instead of cash, check or credit cards. Families purchase gift cards at face value and our scrip program orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for our scrip program.

The second option is to direct the credit toward your own child's Holy Family or Religious Education tuition.

We would love to add more scrip users who choose parish support as their rebate option. Just by using scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily earn a significant rebate to help our parish. For example, one of our families earned a total rebate of almost \$1,600 in 2018.

Families may choose where 75% of the rebate is used. One option is giving the rebate back to our parish. The remaining 25% goes to our scrip program and almost all of that is also donated back to the parish. Through these rebates, the St. Anthony Scrip Program has been able to donate \$16,500 to our parish for various needs of the church since December of 2017.

When you use scrip gift cards at your favorite retailers, you're fundraising while you shop. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement and more.

**SIGN UP FOR SCRIP TODAY!**

For additional info or to sign up contact  
Mary Jo Ayers at [mjayers@mchsi.com](mailto:mjayers@mchsi.com),  
or Kendra Sullivan at [briansullivan@mchsi.com](mailto:briansullivan@mchsi.com)

# Youth Group: In Service to Others

By Marcy McElroy

This summer, the our youth group is offering one high school and one middle school service trip.

## HIGH SCHOOL | July 21-27, 2019

The high school trip will be in David, Kentucky to work on home repair projects. We will work with the St. Vincent Mission which has served the people of eastern Kentucky for over 50 years.

Often, the homeowners we work with are stuck in generational poverty. The poverty rate for the United States is 12.3%—the state of Kentucky rate is 17.2%, while Floyd County's rate is 32.2%.

Last summer, some of the projects completed included building a ramp for a wheelchair-bound elderly resident in her nineties; replacing drywall in the home of a widow named Ruby; and working with children at a Vacation Bible School. There is a great need in this region and we enjoyed sharing our God given gifts, connecting with the community and learning more about the Appalachia region.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL | July 15-19, 2019

The second trip is for current middle school students. It will be held in the Quad Cities and is called "Just 5 Days." It is an opportunity to learn more about service to others through the theme of Beatitude Attitude—Be Happy! Just 5 Days focuses on faith, service, prayer and community.

Our students will also meet youth from other participating Midwest groups. The service could be working with children; persons with diverse abilities or elderly; doing yard work; or working in a soup kitchen, thrift store or community organization.

Last summer, we worked with the Silvis Food Pantry and the Christ United Methodist Church by picking vegetables in the Silvis Community Garden and



delivering them to food pantries. Each morning, we picked over 70 pounds of food, pulled weeds and planted seeds. In the afternoon, we did yard work for elderly in the Quad Cities. The yard work we provided helped to keep these residents in their homes. One person we served was in tears after seeing how nice the yard looked. Her husband was in hospice and could no longer take care of it. We were invited inside to visit with him so he could thank us.

You never know exactly how the work you do will touch someone's life. Fixing up a room, pulling weeds or mowing a lawn might seem like a simple gesture to some, but the impact can have a lasting effect.



**SIGN UP FOR A SERVICE TRIP**

Contact Marcy McElroy today at:  
[dbq060ym@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbq060ym@dbqarch.org)

# Emmaus 2019

By Nicole Soer

With the wrap up of the 2019 Emmaus weekends, I reflect on the many descriptions I heard from the participants: joy, healing, hope, connections, acknowledgment, call to serve, and intimacy. I am amazed at how every participant experiences something different, yet somehow their experience is exactly what they need at that moment of

their life. The power in Emmaus weekends happens as we share stories, realize we are all on a journey in our lives and witness that others have walked similar paths. Emmaus weekends have been around for 40 years. Keep your eye out as we announce dates for the 2020 Emmaus. It's a really good thing!

# Christian History Series: Will Hein

By Dave McDermott

Parishioner Will Hein has initiated a lecture series at St. Anthony's that is walking through major episodes of Christian history. His first two-night event in June of 2018 focused on Martin Luther and Catholicism on its 500th anniversary.

More recently, he spoke on how the New Testament canon was formed and eventually became the accepted Christian scriptures.

The Voice took a moment to interview Will about the series and why it is important.

## Why are you willing to put in the time and energy to prepare these lectures for St. Anthony's?

Will: I love history and theology. Often times though studying history is a very solitary endeavor. When you are chatting with a group of friends and the topic of "What are you reading right now?" comes up, it tends to veer towards the latest fiction books and there is a lot of similarity in other people's reading lists. When it is my turn to share and I respond, "Pagan Rome and the Early Church", I am often met with blank stares and then the conversation quickly swings back to "Have you read Crazy Rich Asians yet?" So when given the chance to share what I am reading with others, who are likewise interested, I jump at the chance! For example, I just learned of a tomb discovered in Egypt that belonged to someone of Canaanite origin named Benyah. Scholars cannot come to a definitive conclusion, but it is possible that his name means "Ben of Yah" which could be a derivative of "Ben of Yahweh." If—and it is a big if—this is true then this is the first historical document of the Hebrew religion! How cool is that? That is a long way of

saying that it is extremely exciting and rewarding for me to be able share some of my knowledge and passion in these subjects with others.

## What is the value in Christians knowing this history well?

Will: I would humbly suggest the following. First, our God is the God of Truth. Therefore, the more we know about His Church and its history the deeper our understanding of Him and our faith can grow. For example, learning about Apocalyptic Jewish thought in the time of Jesus gives incredible insight into how Jesus was both a continuation of this theological world view and also widely divergent at the same time. Knowing these things gives us a lot of insight when trying to answer why did people react to Jesus and his message the way they did.

Secondly, there are so many misconceptions of the Catholic Church out there. A lot of them often do not come from any type of malice but simple ignorance. As someone who grew up in a Presbyterian denomination I certainly heard some whoppers! I firmly believe having a decent grasp of Church History can give one a foundation of how to navigate the world today. For example, the recent talks I gave on the formation of the New Testament not only sheds different light on how we can interact with the texts themselves but also girds one when running across some article or posting or movie that claims "The Early Church tried to suppress Jesus' true teaching." Once you know how the actual process went and what actual scholars say about books like The Secret Gospel of John you can give those claims the time and merit they deserve—which is not a lot!

# The Road to Emmaus

By Fr. Steven J. Rosonke

Two disciples are wandering down a path and they were filled with questions and doubts. Two of them expressed sadness. They mourn the death of Jesus, their friend. In the back of their minds they entertained the possibility that Jesus may live again.

The two disciples begin speaking to an unknown individual who joins them on the way. They began to converse about the events surrounding the life, death and mysterious disappearance of the body of Jesus. They press him to join them for a meal that evening. Although they didn't recognize him right away, it becomes clear to them that they have encountered the risen Jesus in the blessing and breaking of the bread.

They returned to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what happened.

In a similar way, with the normal ups and downs of life, we also can feel like Jesus is absent or gone altogether. But as we continue each day, Jesus makes his presence known. Just like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we discover the presence of Jesus in ordinary and unexpected ways. The Lord's faithful presence keeps us pushing forward knowing that the unexpected traveler is Jesus himself.



# Saving Our Sister Church

By Ronnie Larkin, Chuck Kutsch and Mel Harvey

St. Anthony's sister parish, St. Montfort in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, experienced an earthquake on October 6, 2018. The epicenter, 12 miles from the church, caused severe damage to the church building, rectory and a guesthouse. It was recommended by city engineers that all the buildings be demolished.

Further review by two seismic engineering firms, determined that the church could be repaired. The rectory and guesthouse would require demolition. Initial estimates were for 4-5 years to complete the repair of the church. This was unacceptable to the people of the parish who wanted their church back. St. Montfort is not only the center of spiritual and community life for the parishioners; it is a beacon and sentinel for the surrounding neighborhood. It is said in the area, "When the bells at St. Montfort don't ring, the church is dead!"

The parishioners did something almost unheard of in Haiti. They volunteered free materials and half of their labor to save the church. Volunteering is very difficult when you are poor and need to feed yourself and your family. This is a testament of their desire/need to regain their church. They employed a Haitian engineer who designed the repair and strengthening of the church. The volunteers began work in early November. They have rebuilt and reinforced all eight corners of the church and are working to connect the roof to the columns. The last two phases will be to plaster, paint and make cosmetic repairs.

The estimated cost of the church project is over \$100,000. St. Anthony's has provided \$20,000 to this effort and the goal is to raise at least \$20,000 more. Other sources of funds are St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Grand Rapids, MI and the Haitian Office of Occupational Accident Insurance. St. Anthony Haiti Committee has

also applied for a grant. Fr. Rebert and the parishioners are in need of our help and any amount that can be donated will be most appreciated. Donations can be dropped into the collection basket at Mass on Sunday or at the St. Anthony parish office. Please put your offering in an envelope marked: Haiti Church Repair.

**Special News:** Fr. Rebert was invited to visit the Michigan parish who also twins with St. Montfort. He accepted, and so we at St. Anthony invited him to add Dubuque to his itinerary. Perhaps you had a chance to meet Fr. Rebert during his visit from April 2-8th.



# Rose (not pink) for Laetare Sunday

By Jim Henkels

A special thank you goes to our St. Anthony Knights of Columbus 8384 for purchasing a rose vestment for the parish, as modelled by Father Steve at the right. St. Anthony's did not have a rose vestment. Rose is used

on two occasions during the year. The third Sunday in advent and the fourth Sunday of lent.



## JOIN THE KC TEAM:

To get learn more about how you can get involved, contact Mike Lombardi at (563) 582-1929 or visit [stanthonykofc.org](http://stanthonykofc.org)

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### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We always welcome additional assistance. If you are interested in contributing to our quarterly newsletter, from writing articles to donating photos, please contact John and Jenny Stork at [jcstork@ibisci.com](mailto:jcstork@ibisci.com)