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VOICE



SPRING 2021 | VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 2

Confirmation: Connecting Generations

By Marcy McElroy

For the past 3 years, our Confirmation students have been working with the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) as the service component of their sacramental preparation. The pandemic did not stop the interaction this year. Using technology, we were able to gather via Zoom. On February 21st, nineteen BVM sisters from California to New York zoomed with 21 Confirmation students from St. Anthony and Nativity parishes and their sponsors.

This service opportunity was beneficial for all involved. It helped the young people learn about what it is like to be a religious sister, to share one's faith with someone of a different generation and to further develop one's interpersonal skills. In small groups, the sisters, candidates and sponsors responded to questions such as "What does Confirmation mean to you?", "Why did you choose your sponsor?", "How do you live your faith every day?" and "Why did you choose the religious life?"

Sponsor Brian Carroll, remarked that the opportunity "provided a nice platform to meet the BVM sisters and observe the interactions between them and the confirmation candidates. As the candidates confirm their role in the Catholic Church, the BVM sisters helped exemplify what a heartfelt commitment can

mean to individual lives and the community at-large." Confirmation candidate Liam Grant said, "I really enjoyed talking with the sisters and hearing about how they chose their vocation. It was very enlightening to listen to them talk about how close they are to God and how they express their love and devotion to Him."

Another reaction to the time together with these young people is from BVM Fran Donnelly of West St. Paul MN, "I was privileged to partner with Anne Buckley in our conversation with two young men and their sponsors. It was enjoyable for me since I spent several years coordinating Confirmation programs in a number of parishes. They made me feel young again! I was impressed with their sharing "why" each of them chose a grandparent as their sponsor. It was touching to hear of their love and respect for the wisdom figures in their lives." It was an inspiring afternoon.

We also received a little history lesson. Did you know that the BVMs were invited to St. Anthony School in 1917 by Archbishop Keane? Over the years there were 125 BVM sisters who taught at St. Anthony's, and they served St. Anthony's until 1992. A special thank you to Lori Ritz, Director of BVM Life and Mission, for helping to coordinate this relationship with the BVM sisters.

School News

By Carolyn Wiezorek, Principal, St. Anthony & Our Lady of Guadalupe

It has been another crazy year with lots of challenges, and silver linings. Teachers, staff, and students appreciate being together face-to-face every day when so many others have not had that opportunity. We have benefitted from the consistency that the imposed Covid-19 restrictions forced, as evidenced by great academic progress. Luckily, we have been able to (or will soon) complete some of our favorite projects,

like the salsa garden, poetry & persuasive speeches, the Our Lady of Guadalupe play and mass, and the 5th grade movies. We are looking forward to warmer weather and the possibility of taking field trips. As you may know, we will be moving to the Mazzuchelli campus next year. We will miss the St. Anthony campus and parishioners. We are appreciative of your prayers and support over the years. Thank you!

KC Sponsors Auction for Mary's Inn

By Jim Henkels



MARY'S INN
MATERNITY HOME

This October 24th, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor an auction for Mary's Inn. The auction will be held at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent and live auction. All proceeds will benefit the continued operation of Mary's Inn.

If you prefer to make a cash donation for the purchase of items by the Knights, we can accommodate your request. Make checks payable to the Knights of Columbus Council 8384. Please send checks to Jim Henkels at 897 Spires Dr. Dubuque Iowa 52001 and note on the check, "for auction".

Watch for posters which will be posted at St. Anthony's. The posters will suggest ideas for auction items to donate and where and when to deliver items. We will also update you in the next issue of the Voice in July.

Cash donations for Mary's Inn will also be accepted at the auction. The silent auction begins at 10:00 a.m. and the live auction begins at 12:00 p.m. (noon). There will also be food and beverages available for purchase. Spread the word to your families and friends. Our goal is to raise at least \$50,000. Help us make this possible and thank you in advance for your support!

Mary's Inn is a maternity home dedicated to the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of single pregnant mothers and their developing babies. It is a safe haven where they can stay while learning the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their babies.

DONATION REQUEST

We need your support. Above all, we need items that can be auctioned and items for the silent auction. We need new items only, unless they are truly an antique. Smaller new items are also welcome and will be combined with others for auction or made into gift baskets for the silent auction.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

KC AUCTION BENEFITTING MARY'S INN

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds
Silent Auction at 10:00 a.m. | Live Auction at Noon

Year of St. Joseph

By Fr. Steve Rosonke

Everyone has heard it said that God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes we get a deeper appreciation for God's presence by reflecting on what has already happened in our lives, how God acts through events, circumstances, and people.

The Gospel shows us what counts, and we can see that in Joseph, the spouse of Mary, God always finds a way to heal us and show great mercy. Joseph was able to believe that God was leading him, and he always trusted in Divine Providence. Through Joseph's great faith and courage, he protected the Holy Family. Jesus came into the world as a child, and he needed to be defended, protected and cared for by Joseph and Mary. It makes sense that Joseph has been declared to

be the Patron Saint and Guardian of the Church, the continuation of the Body of Christ in history.

Joseph is also invoked as protector of the poor, the suffering or dying, and anyone in most need of God's mercy. From Joseph, we must learn the great joy of loving Jesus and His Mother, loving the Church and the Eucharist, and loving the works of charity and mercy.

St. Joseph, Pray for us.



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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