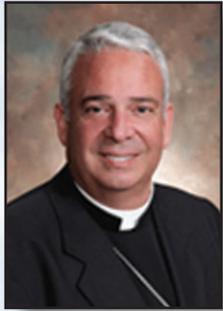


“HAVE YOU HEARD?!”

ST THERESE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017



Bishop Nelson J. Perez, described as a joyous and hard-working person, has been named by Pope Francis to be the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland. We send our prayers and good wishes as you begin your joyful ministry to the people of the Diocese.



Parishioner John Hlavaty (*above center*) was honored as Past Grand Knight at the Knights of Columbus Testimonial Mass at St. Therese in April. Grand Knight is the highest ranking within a Knights of Columbus Council.

In the photo, John is joined by fellow Grand Knights, current and past, and the State Deputy. They are (*left to right*) Larry Arthur, Nate Sabo, John Hlavaty, Ed Kuilder and the State Office Deputy, Bob Collins.



KNIGHTLY HONORS

On July 21st, with grandeur and pageantry, St. Therese played host for the Knights of Columbus Installation Mass. Parishioner Kevin Ineman was being installed as the Navigator for the Moses Cleaveland Assembly to which the Garfield Heights 4130 Council belongs. “Faithful Navigator” is the highest ranking office within the Assembly.

The Mass began with the honor guard, in full dress uniform complete with colorful cape and chapeau, leading the way. Fr. Tom O’Donnell, Assembly chaplain and former associate at St. Therese, concelebrated the Mass with Fr. David Short, chaplain of Veterans Affairs. Each of the priests received “Faithful Friar” medals during the service.

Along with Kevin, fellow Knights from other parishes and councils within the Moses Cleaveland and Bishop Hallinan Assemblies were bestowed with medals. Each Knight’s name was called and, as they were escorted to the altar by a member of the honor guard, their rank and corresponding job description was explained.

A solemn procession concluded the ceremony as the newly installed officers proudly displayed their jeweled medals. A reception for the Knights and their guests followed at the K of C Hall.



Kevin Ineman



Parishioner John Carig (*second from right*) assembles with Knights from other parishes for the Honor Guard



The Knights of Columbus Garfield Heights 4130 Council was founded in 1955 and has been an integral part of St. Therese for over 60 years. They are dedicated to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. All men of the parish are welcome to join.



The Lord be with you!

When we pray, we often seek direction from the Lord. How do we figure out what God wants us to do? How do we listen in prayer? The short answer is listening to God is not much different from listening to another person: we have to be quiet ourselves and pay attention. The long answer follows.

In order to become truly receptive to God, we first must quiet and separate ourselves from those things that would disturb us. Turning off the television, the computer, and the cell phone are necessary when we are praying indoors. Conversely, we can walk away from such distractions by going to a quiet place outside. Once we have become still, then we need to place our focus on the Almighty One. Reading Sacred Scripture and meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary are the two most common ways to pay close attention to the Lord. Of course, we can also pray less formally by talking to God as we would talk to a friend.

In my first newsletter article, I mentioned the Ignatian process of discernment and the Examen Prayer. St. Ignatius gave us the Examen so that we would become more attentive to God's actions in our lives and how we need to change. Although we rarely know God's will perfectly, we can improve how well we notice it every day.

Here we need to make a distinction between discerning right from wrong and deciding on what good act to do. The Church gives us everything we need to know to distinguish good from evil through her laws and the commandments of God. Most of the time our consciences are formed well enough for us to know with moral certainty whether we are allowed to do something or not. What is much more difficult is choosing between two apparently equal goods.

When we have a difficult decision to make and few days to make it, do the following. On the first day imagine that you chose "Option A" and go about your day as normal; at the end of the day reflect on how you felt and acted that day. On the next day imagine that you chose "Option B"; again, go about your day as usual and at the end of the day reflect on how you felt and acted that day. When you have given yourself a day for each option, compare how you felt and acted. The day that you had the most peace and acted the most charitably is the day that you chose the option most in line with God's will.

What applies to our personal prayer is even more true when we pray as a community. When we gather to celebrate Mass, we need to quiet ourselves and place our attention on the action of the Divine Liturgy. We need to be as still and as quiet as we can before, during, and even after Mass. A few moments of silence can have a profound impact on how well we enter into the Mysteries of Our Faith. The more we so conform ourselves to the Lord, the happier we shall be. As we learn to follow Christ more closely, we will find ourselves enjoying the peace and joy that are our birthrights as Christians.

In Christ,
Fr. John



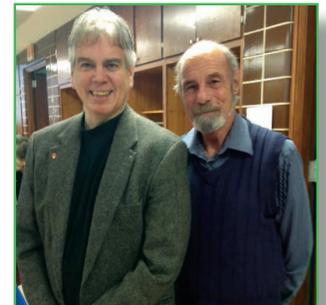
Thinking of joining the choir? Remember, singing is the best form of prayer. We will be starting up again on Sundays after Labor Day. The choir practices are in the evening every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Besides those that sing, there are other members who play instruments other than the organ or keyboard.

This past year the St. Therese choir joined with the choir from Sts. Peter and Paul and the combined choir sang at the Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil services and for Fr. John's installation.

We aren't "all work and no play"! We do have some fun. In December we have a Christmas party and a summer party during our recess.

So, stop thinking about joining the choir and take the leap. Don't worry about your voice. Ask any of us. By ourselves we may not be strong enough, but together, so we're told, we sound great! And just remember one thing - God gave you that voice. Now you have the right to give it back to Him in song.

By Kathy Ciurlik, Choir Member



Frank Kozuch and assistant organist, Phil Herout



Summer choir members minus a few vacationers

THE SOUND OF MUSIC



The church comes alive with the sound of music generated by Music Director Frank Kozuch. He loves playing the key board and singing. Frank took private piano, organ and violin lessons while in grade school. Guitar playing had not worked out well as he ended up breaking more than the strings! At 8 years old, he was playing for the congregation at St. Peter the Apostle Church located in Brook Park where he was born and lived after his parents had moved from Pennsylvania. This second generation Polish instrumentalist attended Cleveland State and John Carroll Universities.

In 1998 Frank was the organist at St. Julie Billiart and filled in at weddings at St. Therese. When then Music Director Ralph Bednarz left, Frank was talked into applying for the position. In Father Norman Gajdzinski's office was a picture of Father's golfing buddies, including St. Julie Billiart Pastor, Fr. Richard Gonser. "Oh no, we are going to have a problem," said Frank. One parish pastor taking another church's organist is not good. Father Norm laughed and said not to worry. He took care of it and hired Frank. This was much closer to his home than traveling to North Ridgeville.

Frank lives in Broadview Heights in a home built to his specifications, and includes a waterfall, pond and pool (*available for baptism by immersion anytime*) in the back yard. Frank built his second "vacation" house near Marblehead and stopped traveling to other places on vacation. Still, a dream vacation of his would be visiting Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro. Frank helps with fundraisers for the Island Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary of Port Clinton. Toby, his dog, plus two cats are rescue pets that get lots of attention from this animal lover. Frank enjoys power boating and cruising the islands of Lake Erie, but do not ask him to go fishing! Frank loves entertaining and planning dinner parties. Going to a parishioner's home to prepare a dinner is not uncommon. He is involved in the liturgy commission and church council along with the parish Oktoberfest committee. Council members recount Frank's famous line at meetings, "Wait! I got one more thing to say."

The Music Ministry Director is responsible for keeping current with the Catholic Church music guidelines, planning the music and scheduling the choir. In October, Father John asked Frank to also take care of Sts. Peter and Paul music ministry. With one Music Director for both parishes, weekend music is consistent.

Sweet sounding music of bells at St. Therese is possible because of the "Bell Tower Fund" started by Frank. Collections to purchase the Angelus Bells exceeded their goal thanks to your generosity. The surplus is used for upkeep and repairs.

Frank is no Jay Leno, but does share a hobby of cars. When Frank inherited money after his mom passed, he purchased a 2005 Sebring Convertible. The serial number was his birthday - day, month and year! It was a sign the car was meant for him. As a car buff enthusiast, Frank has an old Mercedes, a vintage Buick, a Honda and a jeep -- BUT he still uses a flip phone!

Frank works at Associated Steel Corporation managing their fabrication department. His Dad passed away early, lacking the opportunity to enjoy life. Frank looks forward to retiring early, living each day to the fullest. He enjoys watching basketball and baseball and looks forward to playing golf. Although an avid watcher of the sport, he has not played in 30 years.

He has a passion for the church and a stronger compassion for people. Christmas is Frank's favorite holiday. He puts up seven Christmas trees each year of various sizes and themes, even a vintage aluminum tree with a color light wheel. This Santa's helper enjoys buying Christmas gifts for as many people as he can and begins shopping in June.

Our hearts are blessed with the sound of music, thanks to our Music Director Frank. His patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi, saw God everywhere and in everyone. Lord, thank you for making Frank an instrument of your love. The tremendous beauty of God's love is the blessings that go both ways.

By Debra Sarnowski



As part of the year-long celebration of our 90 years as a parish community, there will be a 90th Anniversary dinner on Sunday, October 1st after the 10:30 Mass.



We look forward to celebrating with all parishioners, current and former, as we join together for this joyous occasion. Please watch the bulletins throughout September for more details or contact the parish office at 216-581-2852.

"I AM THE WAY"



Corpus Christi

On June 18th parishioners of St. Therese were joined at the 10:30 Mass by members of Sts. Peter and Paul for the joint celebration of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Following Mass, Fr. John placed the Host, the physical presence of the Body of Christ, in the Monstrance and prepared for the Corpus Christi procession. Led by the altar servers, the Knights of Columbus honor guard and Deacon Bob, Fr. John carried the Monstrance in procession around the Church as the faithful reflected on the meaning of Christ's presence in our lives.

The original plans to march in procession from St. Therese to Sts. Peter and Paul and have refreshments there had to be changed at the last hour. In a wonderful spirit of friendship and cooperation, the Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners packed up the goodies and brought them to St. Therese for everyone from both parishes to enjoy after the procession. This was a beautiful, every-day example of Christ showing us "the way" to respond in our lives, especially when we are faced with unexpected changes.





A Neighborly Good Time



In June, Applebee's on Vista Way partnered with St. Therese for our annual Dining to Donate event. Parishioners, along with their family and friends, enjoyed great food served by a friendly and attentive staff.



It is wonderful to support our local business and help the parish as well. This year Dining to Donate drew the most participants yet and earned over \$400 for St. Therese.

Applebee's is truly our friendly, neighborhood grille!

Treasure in our midst..... In his letter to parishioners at our 75th anniversary, Fr. Norm said "our memories serve as windows through which we see countless names and historical facts". Now that we have reached our 90th year we want to acknowledge eight of those names – the pastors entrusted with leading our faith community.

- **Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard P. Gibbons** (1927-1941) Our founding pastor and mentor for over 13 years
- **Rev. Thaddeus T. Marchant** (1941-1951) Entrusted with enlarging capacity of the church and school to accommodate the growth of the parish. No easy task while World War II was raging.
- **Rt. Rev. Msgr. James H. Smith** (1951-1972) Oversaw building of the new church and hall dedicated in 1960. The new, enlarged church was a testament to the dedication and faith of the parish community.
- **Rev. Mark R. Blinn** (1972-1987) Guided our parish through its Golden Anniversary year filled with year-long activities to commemorate this historic event.
- **Rev. Francis O'Linn** (1988-1992) Due to health constraints, Fr. O'Linn had the shortest tenure as pastor. His ministry to the needs of the parish helped it maintain its status as a leader in the community.
- **Rev. Norman Gajdzinski** (1992-2008 and current pastor emeritus) Oversaw the remodeling of the church including upgrades to the beautiful stained glass windows; guided us through our 75th Diamond Anniversary year in 2002.
- **Rev. Daniel J. Fickes** (2008-2016) Had the difficult task of being the first pastor at St. Therese working without the assistance of an associate priest, not only administering to the spiritual needs of the faithful but also the day-to-day running of the parish
- **Rev. John J. Schneider** (2016-present) Entrusted by the Bishop to attend to the pastoral and business needs of both St. Therese and Sts. Peter and Paul parishes – no easy task.

Each of these holy men were selected for their unique qualities necessary to meet the challenges before them. All of them helped to shape the vibrant community we are. Father John has the present task of guiding us through the challenges we face today.

I'm sure many of our nonagenarians prayed and worked with several of these pastors.

Our parish community joins family and friends in wishing all our members who celebrate a 90th or greater birthday this period (Sept thru Dec) a very Happy Birthday. May you continue to receive God's blessings in your lives.

Clementine Suchy, Mary Zdravec, Helen Gallo, William Holdash, Helen Bond, Irene Dugar, Jean Duritsky, John Konkowski, Rita Gryskewich, Andre Zeffer, Margaret Hlavaty, Frances Marunowski, Stephanie Roberts, Katherine Mastrodonato, Florence Maslar, Ann Duhanich, Martha Otero, William McHale, Dorothy Gruzca, Marjorie Odeal, Florence Olszewski

Special Birthday wishes to Al Brooks who turns 100 this month!



By Pamela Skernivitz

St. Therese Parish presents:

Poor Man's Reverse Raffle

A Winning Combination

The perfect combination of food, fellowship and fun, as mentioned by Fr. John in his opening prayer, is what the Poor Man's Raffle on July 26th was all about.

A delicious brunch was provided by Lori's Catering; the intermingling of families and friends provided the camaraderie at the well-attended event; and the anticipation of winning one of the drawings or main

raffle was the ultimate fun of the afternoon.

When the raffle came down to the last five tickets, holders of those tickets decided to split the prize. They were #35-Pat Kipfstuhl, #58-Don Zamiska, #75-Eloise Banaszak, #101-Ann Hach and #136-Dave & Peggy Moeller. Congratulations to all!

Special thanks go to Golubski-DeLiberato Funeral Home for providing the tickets; to the Isabella Guild, Social Concerns Committee and Knights of Columbus for their monetary donations; and to Mary Ann Snodgrass for the Chinese Raffle wreath.

Bob Cermak, Chairperson, deserves credit for the raffle's success along with his crew -- Kathy Cermak, Ralph D'Amico, Bernie Cermak, Steve Fedorko, Tom Gadus, John and Shirley Hlavaty, Kevin Ineman, John Kipfstuhl, Ed Kuilder, Bob Piechowski, Bill Rawlins and Nate Sabo.



Spreading Love, one to another



Makena and the Cookie Baker

Recently a service opportunity was presented to our cluster youth group. Makena, a beautifully spirited high school senior, answered the call. We decided we would figure out the funding as she filled out the paperwork. Lo and behold, that same week, I received a generous donation from the Isabella Guild for the exact amount of the service trip! They did not know about the trip or the cost, but I am certain the Holy Spirit was at work prompting those good women! With everything set, Makena traveled in July with other teens from around the country to Oil City PA, to live at Catholic Heart Work Camp, attend daily Mass and provide services to the community. Makena relates her eye-opening experience:

"On the first night of service camp, when our group leader opened the envelope with our assignments, he told us we would be repairing houses. We looked around at each other and told him he had the wrong group. Painting? Fixing holes in the ceiling? Power washing? We are high school girls! Our leader said "God sent you here for a reason. You girls can do it!" The next day, things did not go as planned. Most of the tasks on the list either did not need to be done, or did not work out due to equipment. We were discouraged. We arrived at a house that needed power washing (per instructions on our list) but as the front door opened everything changed. The resident (an older woman) gave us big hugs and asked each of us our names. We settled into a different task (power washing was not needed but painting her basement was). Soon into our painting job, she (the older resident) came downstairs to tell us the "cookies were done". We could smell them baking but we had no idea they were for us! She insisted we stop working and come up for cookies and rest. We ended up eating cookies and talking for hours. She told us about her life and about the man in pictures around her house. She had lots of stories and she asked us lots of questions. She didn't seem to care about the basement painting project at all! She insisted we all just visit. That's when I finally got it. God sent us to her - to talk and keep company with her!!!! I am now a firm believer that everything happens for a reason."

Like water into wine, Isabella Guild's recent gift to Youth412 turned into a blessing for Oil City, PA!

By Youth412's Nancy Heineke & Makena Wilson

Youth412 is grateful to St Therese parish for seven years of unwavering support. We are truly grateful for all the prayers, encouraging words and donations that have changed many lives along the way!



Participation in "silly" games for laughs and group building



Teens relax during a picnic held on the grounds of St. Therese



Sometimes cheese balls and shaving cream just go together!



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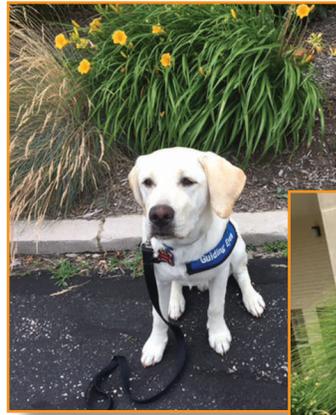
You may have noticed a well-behaved puppy at Sunday Mass this year.

Meet **Chance** – a 10-month old Labrador retriever bred for guide work, and his volunteer puppy raiser, Gayle Papesh, a retired teacher.

Since last December it has been Gayle's mission to patiently train Chance to be at ease in many and varied social situations with the ultimate goal of service with Guiding Eyes for the Blind. This entails visits to banks, restaurants, church; rides on buses and trains; and walks through parking lots and gathering places of all kinds. They go to classes with other puppy trainees and as a group have gone on a ferry ride and been to the airport to go through TSA screening complete with "pat down" before boarding a plane.

Gayle has to "read" Chance's reaction to all these social situations to be sure he is ready when he reaches 16 months to graduate to "college" in New York for final training. When asked how she can part with the puppies upon graduation, Gayle says it is hard but she knows they are destined to change lives for the better.

Chance is her 4th trainee and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer puppy raiser can contact Theresa Camlok at therecam@aol.com



PUP WITH A PURPOSE



Gayle & Chance Ready to Go!



Chinese Raffle and 50/50 Raffle



Dancing

Tickets will be sold Sept. 2/3 in the Gathering Room after all the Masses.

After Sept. 3, tickets will be available at the Rectory and All Saints Credit Union.



**Bier, Brats, Kraut
Potato Pancakes, Hot
Dogs & more
For Sale**



German Chocolate Cake

Willkommen

St. Therese Parish Presents:

Oktoberfest



Polka Music



Foam Crafts for Kids

Sunday September 10, 2017
KLIMA GARDENS
4646 East 71st St.
Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125
12:30 Outdoor Mass Under the Pavilion

Advance Sale
Tickets

Adults:
\$5.00

\$6.00
at the
Gate

Children 12 and
under
Free

St. Therese Parish, 5276 East 105th St, Garfield Heights, OH 44125
sttheresegarfield.org • 216-581-2852

Printed Courtesy of Diocesan Publications