

# ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

CLEVELAND, OHIO

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## *Keeping Memories Alive Through Service* **Profile: Bob and Dolly Vigneulle**

Most of us have a special person that we look to as an inspiration in the faith. Maybe it's a grandparent, a friend, a Confirmation sponsor, or even a patron saint. We often hear their advice echo in our minds and their example strengthens us to be faithful to the Lord.

For Bob and Dolly Vigneulle, those people are Bob's mother, Kay, and Dolly's oldest biological sister, Sr. Mary Gertrude.

"My mother was a woman of strong faith," recalls Bob of Kay Vigneulle, who graduated from St. Ignatius of Antioch School in 1937. "She was a very determined person - sometimes even in bad weather, she'd be there



*Bob and Dolly love to travel, especially to Alaska.*

in the front row at Mass. Sometimes, the church would be empty, but she'd be there in the front row!

"Before her stroke, she went to church every day," he adds. "She was a pillar of strength."

Dolly's sister was a cloistered religious sister

with the Poor Clare Colettine Nuns. She joined when Dolly was only 8.

"She was almost like another mom to me," Dolly says. "It was good growing up with a big family. We've always been close.

"Being a religious sister was something she always

## *Bob and Dolly Vigneulle* continued from front cover

wanted to do,” Dolly adds. “In high school, she took a bus on Saturdays to downtown Cleveland, and she worked with the blind. She entered the monastery right after she graduated from high school.”

Both Kay and Sr. Mary Gertrude passed away last year.

“It was so sudden and difficult,” Dolly says. “The morning that we were all called to the hospital, one of the nuns said, ‘She’s meeting her bridegroom today.’ It was so difficult for us, but she would be where we all strive to be – we’re all striving for heaven.”

The past year has been a difficult one for Bob and Dolly, but one in which they’ve found strength from the support of the parish community,

“We lift each other up when we might be down,” Dolly says. “One of my role models was St. Teresa of Calcutta. After she was canonized, people shared her journey of the darkness she felt, but she didn’t abandon her faith or her work, and she had her community around her. Whether we aren’t feeling as close to the Lord at times, we still have the example of the people around us who can bolster us.”

They have also discovered joy in honoring the memories of their loved ones, by carrying on the faith and serving others.

“You can look at loss as an opportunity to grow in faith, getting more involved, doing something you might not have been able to do before,” Dolly says. “Maybe looking at a loss as an opportunity to find another outlet for your time.”

Both Bob and Dolly now serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Dolly also serves with the Garden Club, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the newly formed Legion of Mary. She helps to care for her elderly aunt, and Bob made a priority of weekly visits to assist an elderly couple in the community for nearly 40 years, until their recent passings.

“Before, we would say ‘hello’ to people, but we were so preoccupied with helping my mother, so we never really bonded with the community of St.



*Bob and Dolly Vigneulle will celebrate 20 years of marriage this coming May.*

Ignatius,” Bob says. “With stewardship, it’s evolved as more of a community.”

Bob and Dolly encourage other parishioners to find ways to get involved in the community, especially if they’re struggling with grieving the loss of a loved one.

“What we gives flows back to us, a hundredfold and truly, there is a whole lot more joy in my life,” Dolly says. “You only have the pain of losing someone if you’ve loved them. Thank goodness that we’ve had the love, so we know the loss. That helps me, knowing that I was loved by those people and I gave them love. And there’s still work to be done!”

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## Lent is More than Preparation for Easter

Dear Parishioners,

In 2013, Pope Francis issued his first significant work. It was what is called an “apostolic exhortation” titled *The Joy of the Gospel* (*Evangelii Gaudium* in Latin). While Rome may use fancy words for some of these things, an “exhortation” of this sort does not change any official Church rules or traditions. However, it does offer advice and encouragement about how we should live our lives.

Pope Francis offers this kind of guidance on a regular basis, but this one in particular seems to present us with suggestions that are worthy of our consideration, especially during Lent. The pope called us to become missionary disciples: “The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 24).

Speaking about his exhortation, Pope Francis said, “One of the riches of the Second Vatican Council was to remind the Church of the two ‘lenses’ of the season of Lent: baptismal and penitential.” In fact, Vatican II noted specifically, “The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent – the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance – should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepared the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God’s word more frequently and devote more time to prayer” (*Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1348).

It might be well for us to keep these in mind during Lent. There were vows made during our



baptism, and this is the time of year to try to fulfill those vows, in addition to reaffirming them. We are given various opportunities to renew these vows, and we may tend to do it automatically without a thought. Now, however, is the time to think. Perhaps during Lent, we can renew these vows as families – and we must not necessarily do it in church or at a Mass. Then, we need to do something during Lent to help each of us understand what that renewal means.

The other important part of Lent pointed out by Pope Francis has to do with penance. Most of us have heard the traditional practices of Lent – fasting, prayer, reception of the Sacraments, and almsgiving. These are things that may bring us closer to Christ. By fasting, we may gain a greater understanding of the hunger the Lord feels for our souls; by increased prayer, we join in union with God; through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, we become a greater part of that union with God; through giving alms, we empty ourselves in part, just as Jesus emptied Himself for us on the cross.

This is a time to do more than prepare for Easter. This is a time to change how we may approach living and our faith. God bless you now and throughout this holiest of seasons.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Troha".

Fr. Michael Troha

## Support our Parish and *Founders' Day*



*Baskets on display at a previous gala.*



*Attendees enjoy fellowship at the gala.*



*Attendees enjoy fellowship at the gala.*

On March 11, we'll be celebrating our Eighth Annual Founders' Day Gala! Through this event, St. Ignatius parishioners have raised over \$1 million to help the parish further its mission of serving others. This year's gala theme, "For we live by FAITH, not by sight," reflects the spirit of the parish and its role as a beacon of light for the community.

"Our parish has lived in faith for decades," explains Coordinator Marcia Ciryak. "The church was built in the 1920s, and ran out of money to complete the steeple. The parishioners had faith and pursued their intention of completing the project. Our church was slated to close in 2009. Again, our church persevered by living by faith, and through that faith, here we still are.

"Every day, we face struggles in our church, community and our lives," she adds. "We have the strength of faith that it will all work out. Our faith in God is our power to go on and fulfill the mission He has set before us."

The elegant evening will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Fun games and fundraising activities will take place throughout the night, including a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and a live auction.

"Some of the items we have in our live auction this year include a Key West vacation, Cleveland Cavaliers Playoff tickets, Notre Dame football tickets, and more!" Marcia says.

In the past, funds raised during the gala have helped to improve the parish's physical infrastructure, in order to best serve parishioners and school families. Because of the gala, the parish has been able to add an elevator to the church building, replace the windows in the school, and replace the gymnasium floor. Proceeds from the gala also benefit St. Ignatius' many outreach programs, including the Food Pantry and twice-monthly Meal Program for those in need.

"In any given month throughout the year, the outreach programs at St. Ignatius serve over 1,000 individuals

# Community through the Founders' Day Gala 2017

within this community,” Marcia says. “[Parishioners’] support will allow our ‘church in the city’ to continue its mission to minister to all those who come to us in need.”

This year, proceeds from the gala will go toward the completion of the lower church renovation project.

“We open our doors three times a month to the homeless and underserved,” Marcia says. “The problem is that when these doors are open, we are exposing our elementary school children to people outside the school. Because of this, we are very limited as to how often and when we can extend this service. The lower church is perfect for these programs, and will help with the safety of our school children. Once the project is accomplished, we will be able to devote more time to community outreach, feed and help the poor of our neighborhood, host various meetings like Alcoholics Anonymous, and create a safe haven for those who are troubled.”



*The gala is an opportunity to grow our parish and community for generations to come.*

All parishioners are invited to attend the gala as an individual guest, sponsor or patron.

“Please join us and help celebrate the victories of our parish as we pay tribute to our founders, and continue to work to strengthen and grow our parish and community for generations to come,” Marcia says.

*Tickets to the Eighth Annual Founders' Day Gala begin at \$125 per person, to attend as an individual. The gala begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at LaCentre in Westlake. To purchase tickets, call the parish office at 216-251-0300 – anyone who answers the phone can take your reservation. Payment can be made over the phone with a credit card, or in a check made payable to:*

*St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish  
10205 Lorain Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio, 44111*

## A History of Lent and Lenten Practices

**W**hen we approach the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we look toward a season of preparation, sacrifice and penance, culminating in Holy Week and the joyous celebrations of Easter. And while the liturgical season of Lent offers us a time for solemn reflection, it is also widely welcomed each year as an opportunity to be drawn closer to our faith.

But just how did this penitential season come to be? And how did the reverent hallmarks of Lent – such as fasting and prayer – become so deeply ingrained in our observance of this season?

To understand the Lenten season, it is important to understand the word “Lent” itself, which is derived from two Anglo-Saxon terms: *lencten*, meaning “spring,” and *lenctentid*, which is the term for both “springtide” and “March” – of course, Lent often falls throughout most of the month of March, and during the transition into (and renewal of) the spring season. In Latin, the corresponding term for “Lent,” *quadragesima*, refers to its dating from the 40th day before Easter.

This brings us to another hallmark of the Lenten season – its length of 40 days. However, Lent was not originally observed for this length of time. During the first three centuries of the Christian era, Easter preparations consisted of three days of fasting and prayer. In some places, this preparation was extended into the entire week prior to Easter – which we now observe as Holy Week. There is also some evidence that, in Rome, Easter preparation was as long as three weeks.

In its early form, Lent was an intense period of spiritual and liturgical preparation for catechumens who were to be baptized at Easter. At the time, many members of the community observed this period of preparation alongside the catechumens. But, as time passed and more people were baptized as infants, the connection between catechumens and Lenten

preparation gave way to a focus on the themes of repentance and fasting during Lent for *all* Christians.

It was not until the fourth century – upon the legalization of Christianity – that Lent developed into its current length of 40 days, which mirrored the length of Jesus’ fast and temptation in the desert, as chronicled in Luke 4:1-13.

Yet, interestingly, the Lenten observations of fasting and prayer did not always take place for 40 *consecutive* days. For instance, in Jerusalem, fasting was observed for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday – thus, Lent lasted for a total of *eight* weeks. In Rome and the West, fasting took place for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, with Lent being observed over six weeks. The practice of fasting for six days over the course of six weeks eventually prevailed, with Ash Wednesday being instituted to account for 40 fasting days prior to Easter.

And as the length of Lenten observance developed over time, so did the observance of fasting itself. At first, some areas of the Church abstained from all meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for certain foods, like fish. And while a person was to only have one meal a day, a smaller repast would be allowed so that manual laborers could maintain their strength throughout the day. Eventually, eating meat was allowed throughout the week, save for Ash Wednesday and on Fridays.

In fact, two of our most common and beloved Lenten and Easter traditions – the Shrove Tuesday meal and Easter eggs – developed from these early Lenten observations. Initially, abstinence from dairy products was observed during Lent, with dispensations given if pious works had taken place. Eventually, this particular rule of abstinence was relaxed entirely. Today, pre-Lenten pancake breakfasts, Easter egg decoration and egg hunts remain as enjoyable seasonal opportunities for fellowship and fun within our parish families!

*“Trying to Improve Communications  
is a Key Part of What we are Trying to Do”*

## St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish Pastoral Council

If you have ever wondered about what our Pastoral Council does, Council President Mary Hanigosky offers a clear explanation of the work carried out by the Council members.

“The purpose of our parish Pastoral Council is to assist our pastor in discerning and dealing with various issues which may arise,” she says. “We are purely advisory in nature, but we are a conduit for communications between the members of the parish and Father, as well as among and between the various organizations and ministries of the parish. Trying to improve communications is a key part of what we are trying to do.”

Although not mandated by the Code of Canon Law, that code does state that “If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune, a pastoral council is established in each parish, over which the pastor presides and in which the Christian faithful, together

with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity” (536). In turn, the Bishop of Cleveland has mandated a Pastoral Council in each parish.

The current President of our Parish Pastoral Council is Mary Hanigosky. Mary says, “Actually this is my second stint as President of the Council. I served in this position a few years ago, and now I am privileged to do so again.”

“We have seven lay members, in addition to our Pastoral Associate Sr. Dianne Pionno and of course, our Pastor Fr. Michael Troha,” Mary says. “We meet once a month – we are trying to regulate the meetings so that they occur on the last Wednesday each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. There is no question that the purpose and approach of the Council has changed through the years, certainly

since the time I last served. Members commit to a three-year term.”

The Diocese of Cleveland has provided parishes with guidelines for the operation and purposes of Parish Pastoral Councils.

“We follow those guidelines carefully, but there is always room for flexibility,” Mary says. “In many ways, we are in the process of transitioning from what was once agenda-driven into a group which is more pastoral and more discussion and conversation-oriented. Since we exist to assist Father in spiritual and pastoral matters of the parish, it is important that we are prepared to do exactly that. Last November, we all attended a workshop on communications and learned that, as a group, we need to be more reflective.

“As a result of that, our agenda is looser,” Mary continues. “We spend more time in prayer and reflection,

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*“We have instituted a number of changes to accomplish better communication, up and down in the parish, as well as across parish groups. One of the things we have established is a way for our members to be more visible and available to the people of the parish. One Sunday a month, all of our members attend all three Masses on Sunday, and we make an effort to meet, greet and talk with the people who are there.” – Mary Hanigosky, Pastoral Council President*

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## Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## *St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Parish Pastoral Council* continued from page 7

and as I mentioned, our real focus is on communication. We have instituted a number of changes to accomplish better communication, up and down in the parish, as well as across parish groups. One of the things we have established is a way for our members to be more visible and available to the people of the parish. One Sunday a month, all of our members attend all three Masses on Sunday, and we make an effort to meet, greet and talk with the people who are there.”

As Mary notes, Father appoints all members to the Council, so an expression of interest does not guarantee members.

“However, as we have embraced and pursued stewardship, our annual renewal is an important part of what we do,” she says. “Our new members have

tended to come from among people who indicate on a commitment card their interest. Stewardship has brought great benefits to our parish, especially in the number of people actively involved.”

*If you have any questions about our Pastoral Council, or if you might like to be involved in it, please contact President Mary Hanigosky at 216-253-6156 or [mdhanigosky@hotmail.com](mailto:mdhanigosky@hotmail.com).*