

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



A Letter From Our Pastor

Welcome to Our New Parish Newsletter!

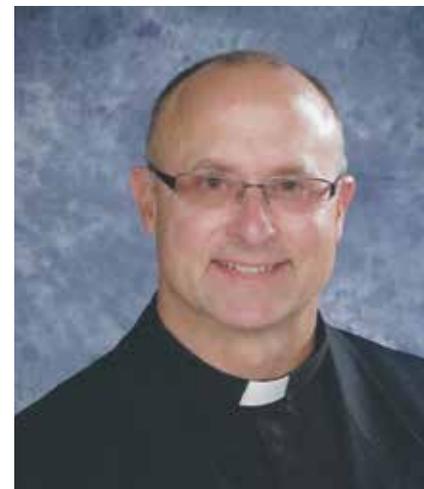
Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the first issue of our new monthly parish newsletter! On behalf of myself and our parish leadership, I am happy that I will have the chance to “bring you up to speed” regarding our plans for this year — such as our newsletter, survey, Stewardship Renewal, and this August’s retreat — as we work to increase communication, education and evangelization as a fruit of our Visioning Plan.

As our parish community continues to grow and develop stewardship as a way of life, we recognize the need for increased communication. Through this newsletter, we hope to share stories that will help us all to better understand who we are as Catholics and what we are doing as individual members of Christ’s family. In upcoming issues, we will focus on what’s going on in the Queen of the Holy Rosary community, and how those activities and events are changing hearts and minds and helping parishioners grow closer to Christ and each other. Each article will ultimately focus on Christ at work within our community through the stewardship way of life.

Our hope is that this newsletter will be a successful means for ongoing education and formation in our faith, and I pray it will be a vehicle through which you are informed and inspired to become more actively involved in the life of Christ and the parish.

Another way I hope to improve our parish’s communication efforts is through a comprehensive parish survey that will be conducted this spring. Through the survey, I want to hear from you regarding our parish and its future. A survey will be mailed to each home, and then I will ask you to take the time to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Your input will be very important, and it will give



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What Does Stewardship Mean?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

Do you think of it as just another way to talk about money? Do you quickly dismiss it as a notion that has nothing to do with being Catholic?

Stewardship is actually a concept that is Scripturally based, and is absolutely vital to our life as Catholics. God tells us, in the very first book of the Old Testament, “Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth” (Gen 1:28).

What does that mean to us today? It simply means that God is telling us, “This is yours, so take care of it.” One of the first things God tells us to do is to be good stewards of the gifts He has entrusted to us!

The Old Testament is not the only place where we can find references to stewardship. Indeed, of the 36 parables in the New Testament, more than half of them deal with time, talent, possessions, or money. Therefore, if Jesus spoke of stewardship that much, it should be a very important part of our lives!

As Catholics, we refer to the three facets of stewardship as “time, talent, and treasure.” Although these are three concrete ways to express and measure stewardship, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us that stewardship is part of discipleship. Stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call in every aspect of our lives.

The Scriptures and Church traditions teach us one important point that cannot be overstated — that stewardship is primarily based on our need to

give in gratitude, not on the Church’s need to receive. Of course, both the Catholic Church and our particular parish will always need money. However, we are not asked to give simply to defray costs and fund charitable programs. We are instead asked to remember our *need* to gratefully return a portion of our time, talent, and treasure to God, recognizing all that He has given to us.

It is important to remember that stewardship is a way of life, and not a program. True Catholic stewardship involves an ongoing call to live as followers of Christ. It takes time to find and define personal goals. You can begin by examining your personal commitments to the parish. How do you live your faith in your daily life with your family and friends? How much time do you spend in daily prayer, going to Mass or being involved in parish ministries and activities? What percentage of your income should you give back to God every week? What talents do you have that could be used to strengthen our parish family?

The coming months will see us increasing and intensifying our education and communication on stewardship. We will be developing a better understanding of how stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call to discipleship. And with God’s help, changes will occur in each of our hearts as we devote ourselves to a stewardship renewal within our parish. Examine how you are currently responding to God’s call to stewardship. If God called you home tomorrow, would He proclaim, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?

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Emphasizing Our Values and Accomplishing Our Objectives Through the Parish Visioning Plan

The late Msgr. Thomas McGread was a pacesetter in the field of stewardship. Over a number of years, he and the people of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wichita embraced and adopted stewardship as a way of life. He was so effective that the Diocese of Wichita itself became an example of what a diocese can do when its parishes and people pursue the path of stewardship.

Msgr. McGread once wrote, “To be successful in developing the human and financial resources needed to carry out its mission, a parish needs to have a plan. Vibrant parishes have a shared vision and plan. The purpose of the plan is to set direction by answering some fundamental questions, such as:

1. What is our primary mission?
2. What are our values?
3. Where do we want to go?
4. What are our major long-term goals?
5. What action steps do we need to take to accomplish our objectives?
6. How do we measure our success or failure?”

With that as a guide, Queen of the Holy Rosary set out to seek answers to those questions and more, and to develop a Visioning Plan to put into place. Working with Fr. Bill and parish leadership, our Parish Council began the process about a year ago.

“Although our goals have yet to be clearly set and established, we have drafted a Visioning Plan for the parish which we will be announcing and instituting in the coming weeks and months, beginning with the Easter Bulletin” says Bill Maloney, Chair of our Parish Council. “Initially, we invited a large group of parish leaders to attend a meeting. More than 60 showed up. Because it was a large group, we developed 10 teams to take a look at what we wanted to accomplish. On occasion, the whole group came back together to evaluate and



Ralph Prunte and Austin Massoth at the Dec. 7, 2017, Facilities Team progress report meeting

to hear what was happening throughout the process. Most of the work was done by these subcommittees.

“A few months ago, we managed to draft a Strategic Pastoral Plan,” he adds. “It is almost finalized, and we want the people of the parish to know what is included.”

In this final plan, 10 areas are addressed, based upon the 10 sub-committees that were established. Those areas are, in alphabetical order: Adult and Senior Engagement; Catholic Education; Communications; Conversion; Evangelization; Facilities; Outreach to Those in Need; Stewardship; Sunday Mass Experience; and Youth Ministry.

“Of course, there is a lot of detailed work which has been done in each of those areas, but we are still prioritizing specific goals and how we intend to achieve them.” Bill says. “However, we are getting close to the time to formally announce what the plans are, what the questions are, and what the short and long-term goals are. We wanted people to be aware of what has happened to date, and we ask for their continued prayers and their support when this is officially launched in the coming weeks.”

Bill offers his perspective on the work of the Council and all the people who have become involved in this way.

“We are aware of what a great parish this is already, but we also believe there is more to be done and there is more that we can do,” he says. “This is a huge step in that direction.”

If you would like more information, or if you have questions at this time, please contact Bill Maloney at 913-226-3191.



iCare Masses Sharing Jesus' Co



Jesus never hesitated to welcome those among us the world sees as different into His arms. Likewise, the iCare Ministry holds Masses, such as the one seen here, that are specifically adapted to serve those with developmental disabilities.

In the Gospels, many of the miracles Jesus performed involved people experiencing a disability. In a time when many who were different from the norm were regarded as untouchable, Jesus was bold enough to see them as unique individuals worthy of God's love and compassion.

In our parish, we are blessed to have the opportunity to extend Jesus' example of loving compassion to those in our community with special needs through iCare of Northeast Kansas. iCare is an acronym for "Inclusive Catholic Activities and Religious Experiences." This nonprofit organization hosts special adaptive liturgy Masses every other Saturday here at Queen of the Holy Rosary. These Masses allow adults and children with developmental disabilities to experience the Mass in an environment that's tailor-made to their needs and fosters a sense of community.

Kevin Hill, who serves as iCare Program Coordinator, first became acquainted with adapted liturgy Masses — referred to at that time as REACH — when his sisters, Kristi and Andrea, attended them in the 1970s. Developmentally appropriate music, homilies and readings combine to create an environment that helps families of disabled individuals feel at ease.

"I grew up with those Masses being a regular part of our family, and those were very meaningful Masses for my sisters," Kevin says. "When that program ended around the year 2000, there was quite a void in my sisters' church life."

When the opportunity came about to revive the idea of adaptive liturgy Masses, Kevin and a few of his former classmates from Savior of the World Seminary contacted Fr. Bill, who had experience with such Masses. Kevin says Fr. Bill jumped at the chance to bring the idea back.

"We're not prone to being emotional guys, but we all got choked up with Fr. Bill's excitement to get involved," Kevin recalls. "He was in, 150 percent ready to go, and [the] Parish Council was very supportive, and iCare was born. It's been more than we've ever imagined it would be. I think it's something that's been missing in a lot of people's lives for 15 or 20 years."



Compassion Through Community

iCare Masses now take place every other Saturday at Queen of the Holy Rosary, and a social is offered after one Mass each month. The liturgy is simplified to help those in attendance understand the message and participants are invited to give of their talents as part of the Mass.

“In the iCare Mass, the participants play a big role,” Kevin says. “We use the participants as servers, lectors, readers, and choir members. They do everything possible other than Eucharistic Ministry. The servers take a lot of pride in helping on the altar, and when we exchange the sign of peace, they go down the middle aisle and bless everyone.”

Religious education classes are offered just before each Mass. In March, some of the Mass participants were joined by Archbishop Naumann in receiving the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

Kevin says that though some may wonder why an adaptive liturgy Mass like iCare is necessary, the opportunity for families of those with special needs to connect with each other can make all the difference.

“My daughter, Lauren, has a disability,” he says. “We always had to go to Mass in shifts until she got older. We’ve had so many families come up afterward and say they’d never been together to an entire Mass before. If someone needs to walk around or blurts out something, you’re not going to be made to feel uncomfortable because they’re already there as one big community. Most of our participants will have their entire families there and they’ll come to Mass as a family.”

For parishioners who may be interested in lending their time or talent with iCare, Kevin says they are always looking for volunteers both for the Masses and for religious education.

To sign up, visit the iCare website, icarenek.org, click on the “Take Action” tab, and look for the Overland Park links. Volunteers are required to complete VIRTUS training. In addition, parishioners can also donate to help the nonprofit continue its mission by visiting icarenek.org/donate-1.



Fr. Bill and a friend share in fellowship after a recent iCare Mass.



Lifting candles together in worship, iCare Mass participants and their caregivers celebrate Mass together in an environment welcoming to those of all abilities.



Each iCare Mass offers the opportunity for fellowship and religious education.



Eucharistic Ministers Bring the

It's easy to take things for granted when you have your health. From accomplishing what you want during the day, to going to wherever you'd like, most of us likely don't give a second thought to the ease and freedom that exists in making our daily choices. But when someone is hospitalized, whether for a short time, or on a long-term basis, they lose much of their independence. And when they are unable to travel to Mass, they often lose their ability to be united with Christ in the Eucharist.

At Queen of the Holy Rosary, however, a dedicated group of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion — EMHCs — work alongside EMHCs from other local parishes, ensuring that in the midst of their suffering and loneliness, those who are hospitalized know that they are not forgotten by the Lord or their Church family.

There are five weekdays each month that EMHCs from Queen of the Holy Rosary are assigned to bring Holy Communion to Shawnee Mission Hospital, as well as serving the hospital every other Sunday. EMHCs first go to the church to transport the Eucharist, and then gather at the hospital, where they receive a list of Catholic patients. EMHCs are given a guide for the brief prayers that accompany the reception of the Eucharist, and they typically visit 25-40 patients each day.



Parishioners Sharon and Gene Schreiner serve those who are hospitalized by bringing them Holy Communion.

Sharon Schreiner, and her husband, Gene, are parishioners who serve in this ministry, coordinating those who visit the hospital on the weekends.

“Bringing Jesus to people, what’s more important than that?” Sharon says. “The look I see on people’s faces when I bring Communion to them — they’re just so thankful.”

The EMHCs encounter a variety of different patients, from those who attend daily Mass when they are well, to those who rarely if ever attend Mass, and

even mothers who are in labor or have recently given birth.

“I hope they know that even if they’re there by themselves, a complete stranger loves Jesus enough to take the time out of their day to do this for them,” Sharon says.

For some who receive visits, it’s an opportunity to be reminded that, even if they have fallen away from their faith, God still loves and cares about them, as do other Catholics who come to serve.

“If someone is indicating that they’re Catholic [when they reg-



Gift of Jesus to the Hospitalized

ister at the hospital], something still resonates with them,” says Evelyn VanGoethem, who brings Holy Communion and coordinates the EMHCs who visit the hospital during the week. “Sometimes someone says, ‘No, I don’t practice anymore, but can we pray together?’

“Most of them are very grateful,” she adds. “I just hope that they’re aware that people are out there who care about them.”

“I go to the mothers a lot,” Sharon says. “They’re really appreciative of the prayer, and when I finish I think, ‘Maybe this is going to bring them back to the Church.’ That’s my hope for some of them. All I can hope for is that maybe somewhere along the line, it will sink in. Hopefully, someday it will make a difference in their life.”

Many who serve in this way also find that it strengthens their own faith.

“I do find it very fulfilling personally,” Evelyn says. “It’s won-

derful in the hospital, you see the faith that they have and that faith strengthens my faith. We usually pray together [with the other EMHCs] before we disperse our separate ways. And when I finish, I spend a few minutes in the chapel area, taking a few minutes to pray for the people I’ve just visited.”

Evelyn encourages parishioners who may feel called to this ministry to consider serving. Some are drawn to serve in this way based on a personal experience, having received such a visit themselves.

“[A woman came to training], her husband had died not too long before this and she remembered being in the hospital with him,” Evelyn says. “A minister came in to bring Communion and all she said was, ‘It felt like an angel had walked in the door.’ She said, ‘I want to be involved.’

“I am very appreciative of the fact that I’m able to do it,” she adds. “It’s a way for me to share my faith. For me, I feel like it’s a calling — it’s a



Evelyn VanGoethem and Joe Strobl serve bringing Communion to those who are hospitalized.

small way that I can give back. I do feel strongly about that.”

Sharon confirms that, even on the difficult days, when you’d perhaps rather not be at a hospital, it’s always worth it.

“Sometimes you can go in, tired or, you don’t feel good or you don’t really want to do it,” she says. “But by the time you get finished, you’re on top of the world.”

If you would like more information on this ministry, or if you would like to be trained or shadow someone who serves in this way to see if God is calling you, please contact Evelyn VanGoethem at evelyn@vangoethem.me or 913-631-1094. If a patient indicates that they are Catholic when they are checking into the hospital, they will receive visits from an EMHC, bringing them the Blessed Sacrament. There is no need to call to request this service.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Welcome to Our New Parish Newsletter!

continued from front cover

the Parish Council and me a better understanding of your thoughts about our parish.

This October, we will conduct our Annual Stewardship Renewal. The Renewal is the time each year when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will become more devoted to Christ over the next year with our commitments of **time** (using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones); **talent** (using God-given gifts to strengthen the Church through service to parish ministries and other activities), and **treasure** (the wise and just management of my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish).

As we strive to develop stewardship as a way of life at Queen of the Holy Rosary, the support and involvement of each individual parishioner is necessary to sustain the life of our parish. All of you have a place here, and all of you have a role to fill in the life of the parish as we live our lives as disciples of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit renew and refresh all of us as we work together to build our parish family through the use of our time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday: 8:15 a.m. | First Saturday: 8:15 a.m.