

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



A CELEBRATION OF STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION EPIPHANY APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE

Recognizing Our Parish Volunteers at Annual Event

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An Unforgettable Experience for Young Parishioners



The Feast of the Epiphany concludes the 12 days of Christmas and is also a celebration of the three wise men — Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar — and the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that they brought to Jesus at the manger. At Queen of the Holy Rosary, we also celebrate the variety of gifts that are brought to our parish by many volunteers at the annual Epiphany Appreciation Open House.

“We hold this party on the Feast of the Epiphany as a celebration of the uniqueness of the gifts brought to the parish by our volunteers,” says Cathy Mahr, who works in the parish office and coordinates the party with Denise Godinez, our director for the School of Religion. “Like the three kings, who came from all over the world, our volunteers come together with all varieties of time and talent to help Fr. Bill and this parish carry out our mission.”

This year’s party will take place Sunday, Jan. 5, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. The open house is hosted by Fr. Bill as a time to appreciate

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Teaching Children *to Live a Life of Stewardship*

How old do you have to be to practice stewardship? Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children — even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

Sharing Your Time

A young child can share of his time in a variety of ways appropriate to his ability. For example, during the day, a child can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with his parents or siblings. He can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from his day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous — such as being patient, generous and kind — is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.

Sharing Your Talent

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. An elementary school-age child can easily clean her room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry or taking care of pets. Making cards for people who are sick or

who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents — such as playing a musical instrument or football — to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

Sharing Your Treasure

Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.

If a child receives an allowance, he can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If he gets money for his birthday, he can give a small portion of it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

The Most Important Lesson

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is *why* we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.





A Letter From Our Pastor

Start a New Life, Not Just a New Year

Dear Parishioners,

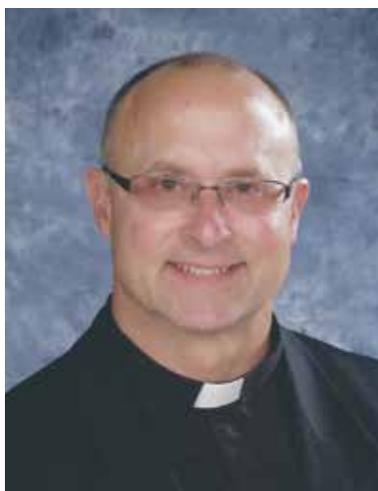
It's January and that means it's time for New Year's resolutions — at least that's the widespread perception in our culture. So, I want us to reflect on resolutions for a few minutes.

Often, New Year's resolutions are intended simply to undo the harm we did to ourselves by overindulging in food and drink between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. Some resolutions are changes we know we should make, but aren't really committed to making — thus, they don't last very long.

Reflecting on this in broader terms, when should we make a resolution to eliminate a sinful practice from our life? That question has a simple answer — the moment we realize we're engaging in a sinful practice. In other words, as soon as we realize we're doing something wrong, we should stop.

Now, I admit that making the changes we need in order to grow closer to Christ is easier said than done. All too often, we fool ourselves into thinking we can make all the changes we need under our own strength and on a convenient timetable. For real change, we need guidance and we need help — a new life, in fact. St. Paul addressed this when he wrote to the Romans (6:4), "We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

In other words, we need a new life, not a new year. We find this new life in union with Christ within His Body, the Church. The Church can provide you with guidance. She has 2,000 years of accumulated wisdom and experience, beginning with God's own revelation. The Ten Commandments provide a brief, incisive outline for ethical behavior. Help comes



from God's grace, available to us in the sacraments and through prayer.

A new life means we have new priorities and a new viewpoint when we look at every aspect of the way we live. It impacts the use of the time we have, the talents God has given us, and the treasure with which He has blessed us. With God's grace and guidance, lived in union with the Church, we find that "in newness of life" we can "cease doing evil" and "learn to do good." That's a resolution worth making.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





Parishioner *Tom Kolarik* Reflects

*“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast
— ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA*



Fr. Bill Bruning celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Benque Viejo del Carmen, Belize, during a recent mission trip.

The above quotation by St. Teresa of Calcutta — commonly known as Mother Teresa — is a reminder that one person, acting tirelessly with love and purpose, can change the lives of many. Here at Queen of the Holy Rosary, we continue to lend the generous support and prayers of our parish to one of our own who has been doing mission work far from home for decades — Deacon Cal Cathers.

This past November, parishioner Tom Kolarik organized a group that traveled to Belize for a week to help Deacon Cal with his missions. Making the trip with Tom were his wife, Debbie; his mother-in-law, Patty Wernel; his sister, Mary Jo Audley; Fr. Bill Bruning; and a parishioner from Fr. Bill’s former parish in Topeka, Cindy Hill. During their time in Belize, this group witnessed firsthand the great work Deacon Cal is doing in many communities there.

“Deacon Cal and his wife, Ginny, left for Belize as missionaries from Queen in 1976,” Tom says. “It was originally going to be for a year, but they liked it and decided to stay. He was a teacher. When he went down there, he discovered that the literacy rate was only 20 percent, so he decided he wanted to try to improve that.”

At first, Deacon Cal began teaching the children in Belize to read by using copies of school reading materials from the United States. Soon, Deacon Cal’s local bishop suggested that he write his own reading textbooks, which led him to start up his own publishing company, BRC Printing.

Eventually, the textbooks written and published by Deacon Cal were being used in schools across the entire country, and he was even given the responsibility of hiring teachers and administrators in many schools.

“Deacon Cal has had a lot of influence on the education system in Belize,” Tom says. “Now the literacy rate is around 80 percent.”



Parishioner Tom Kolarik organized a mission trip to Belize in November to help Deacon Cal Cathers and his wife, Ginny. In this group photo are (from left) Patty Wernel, Fr. Bill Bruning, Mary Jo Audley, Cindy Hill, Ginny Cathers, Debbie Kolarik, and Deacon Cal Cathers.



Reflections on the Impact of Missions in Belize

...a stone across the water to create many ripples.”
OF CALCUTTA

In addition, Deacon Cal has instituted a program in conjunction with the priests of SOLT — Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity — that brings college students to Belize to volunteer in the schools. He has been serving numerous primary schools and high schools across Belize — with a few across the border in Guatemala — for decades, and he has also founded a new junior college.

As a longtime parishioner of Queen of the Holy Rosary, Tom Kolarik had long heard about the great work of Deacon Cal in Belize. Twenty-two years ago, his mother-in-law, Patty Wernel, went with a group to help with some projects at the schools, and ever since, Tom has had an interest in doing the same. He was thrilled to finally make the trip a reality in November.

Tom, Patty, Debbie, Mary Jo, Cindy, and Fr. Bill had an unforgettable week in Belize. The group helped Deacon Cal with painting projects at two of his schools. Deacon Cal, however, was determined that their visit wouldn't be all work and no fun, and took the group to snorkel along the coral reef and even swim with the sharks!

Throughout their weeklong missions trip, the group was greatly impressed by the students and teachers at Deacon Cal's schools. Countless students in Belize have received a quality, Catholic education over the last few decades, thanks to Deacon Cal.

“What really impressed me the most is the impact he has had,” Tom says. “As we traveled around — even on an island off the coast — we would run into people who had been former students, or who knew of the work he has done. It's a really worthwhile cause.”

Currently, Deacon Cal has three big projects for which he is seeking support. One of his schools is in dire need of a perimeter fence, and he would like to hire someone to help with the ongoing maintenance of his buildings. He also hopes to build yet another facility — this one would be for developmentally disabled children, who currently do not have their own school.

Inspired by the great amount of change one individual has brought to the education system of an entire country, Tom hopes that the parishioners at Queen of the Holy Rosary will have a renewed sense of joy and gratitude knowing that our parish is supporting these valuable missions.



While painting one of the grade schools in Belize, the group got to witness the joy of the students as they played during recess.



Tom Kolarik with a “new friend” he made during the Belize mission trip.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH

Imagine a room filled with more than 20,000 high school students from all around the United States, traveling a long way all for a single purpose: to learn about and better praise God. Imagine 5,000 high school students quietly leaving their stadium seats in order to reverently kneel before our Eucharistic Lord. Imagine approximately 400 priests, bishops, archbishops and even cardinals present to distribute Holy Communion and hear Confession until 10:30 p.m., only to resume again the following morning.

This is what it's like to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference, or NCYC, an experience that our recent parish attendees say they'll never forget.

"NCYC was truly one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had in my life," says Payton Nies. "Of course, it's amazing to listen to the speakers

and hear their witness, but even just seeing and being in the presence of so many other young adults — 20,000-plus people — who are in love with Christ is a unique experience that can't be replaced by anything else."

Payton was part of a group of six parishioners — three teenagers and three adult chaperones — who attended the 2019 NCYC Conference from Nov. 21-23. The group left town early Wednesday, Nov. 20, traveling by bus to Indianapolis, along with youth from three other local parishes. The culmination of months of fundraising and preparation, the students departed with eagerness and anticipation. Yet even still, what they ended up receiving far exceeded all expectations.

"This was my first time attending NCYC and I thought I knew what to expect because my sister had gone to NCYC before," says Chloe Belgum. "But I



Young people gathered in the stadium during the 2019 National Catholic Youth Conference.



CONFERENCE

An Unforgettable Experience for Young Parishioners

wasn't expecting how deep it would push me into my faith. I walked away with a much deeper connection with our Lord."

For three solid days, the youth were able to listen to dynamic talks from keynote speakers, receive the sacraments, experience the power of Eucharistic Adoration, attend a King & Country concert, view the premiere of the movie *I Still Believe*, and even Skype with Pope Francis. In his address, the Holy Father encouraged the youth to not be afraid; to listen; to meet and greet one and all; and to learn how to feel comfortable with their unique call from Christ. He reminded the teens that they are a bridge between God and His people, and that the youth are the most important part of the Church.

Yet, out of all these amazing experiences, perhaps the most impactful of all was simply being surrounded by thousands of other likeminded youth. Such an opportunity provided a powerful reminder that the Church is truly alive and well. In the process, it helped remind the youth of their own personal importance to that Church.

"Being surrounded by all of my fellow Catholic youth like that really filled my heart," says Dolores Hernandez. "And now leaving NCYC, I have renewed hope in my faith, in prayer and in the Catholic Church."

"It helped me learn that through my journey of life, the Lord is with me every step of the way," Dolores adds.

Each of the girls is deeply grateful to the many parishioners who made this trip possible, whether through purchasing their home-cooked salsa, making a generous financial donation, or simply lifting them up in prayers. They would each encourage other youth to consider attending next year and are eager to put the principles they learned at the conference into action in their day-to-day lives.

"I'd tell other high schoolers that they need to go and experience this conference for themselves," Payton says. "It doesn't matter where you are on your path in faith. I think that you can get so much out of the conference no matter what."



Julia Hernandez (from left), Dolores Hernandez, Chloe Belgium and Payton Nies.



The girls enjoy time together during their last meal at the conference.



Youth enjoy some down time between sessions.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Epiphany Appreciation Open House

continued from front cover

all those who give their time to our parish in various ministries. Food and beverages are provided. With the small staff at Queen of the Holy Rosary, we recognize that volunteers are essential to complete all the necessary tasks that keep the parish running smoothly.

“Our volunteers do so much around here that Fr. Bill wants them to know how much he appreciates

all they do,” Cathy says. “We could not manage it without them.”

This is the third year of the gathering, and Cathy says it not only celebrates volunteers, but it also builds community among parishioners.

“It is great to meet people and to have the chance to thank them for doing the things we just can’t manage on our own,” she says.

If you have volunteered at our parish in 2019, please join us for the

Epiphany Appreciation Open House

from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5, in the Parish Hall.

We’d love to enjoy a BBQ meal with you and spend time together!

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.