

Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Grounds Beautification Ministry

*Parishioners Committed to Stewardship
Utilizing Talents to Serve Parish*

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The Grounds Beautification Ministry may not have meetings, but when they get together, we can all enjoy the results of their talents at work.

Jim Stanker coordinates the ministry that came together with about 21 members during the Stewardship Renewal.

“We’ve had two work days so far and probably had between 10 to 12 show up for each day,” Jim says. “There always will be conflicts in people’s schedules so when one person can’t show up, another can.”

Before the Stewardship Renewal was held, the work around the parish grounds was more or less “free style.” Those who saw that a flower bed needed to be weeded, flowers planted or other tasks at hand, took it upon themselves to take care of what had to be done. When the group was organized, several of those who had been taking care of the plantings joined the group.

During the past several weeks, the ministry members have been preparing to plant the flower beds and raking the grounds around the rectory and convent. The brickwork defining the beds has been tended to, and plans are under way to add top soil and mulch to the flower beds.

“We have some members who have great expertise in horticulture — I really don’t know anything about it!” Jim says.

Organized work on the grounds will be limited mostly to the spring.

“From that point on, people will take on themselves to do the weeding and so forth,” Jim says. “That’s what we’ve always done. I’ll keep an eye on things, and the Facilities Committee, which I’m on, will let me know if something has to be done, and I’ll reach out to the ministry members.”

There are no plans yet for work to be done in the fall.

“We might have a Saturday or two of work to prepare the grounds for winter,” Jim says.

Whether the ministry members are weeding, planting flowers, or spreading mulch, their work serves to make them feel closer to the parish.



THE BIBLE

The Textbook of Stewardship

Have you ever wished that life came with an instruction manual? What a valuable resource that would be! Whenever you find yourself running in circles, this instruction manual would give you step-by-step instructions on how to fix the problem and reroute your course.

Well, here's some good news. For those living a Christian life, there *is* such a manual — the Bible.

Sometimes referred to as the “textbook of stewardship,” the Bible is a bountiful resource for the present-day Christian. Written by anointed prophets and sages, this collection of divinely inspired parables, poems and letters is full of testimonials that express the blessings that come from true discipleship, expressed through lives of stewardship.

Stewardship is not a new concept. The Bible gives proof to this claim through passages such as the 26th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy. We read Moses' words, as he tells the Israelites to offer the choicest portions of their harvest to God: “When you have come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have taken possession and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land the LORD, your God, is giving you; put them in a basket and go to the place which the LORD, your God, will choose as the dwelling place for his name... ‘Now, therefore, I have brought the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, LORD, have given me.’ You shall set them before the LORD, your God, and you shall bow down before the LORD, your God” (Dt 26:1-2, 10).

St. Paul briefly touches on the essence of stewardship when he said, “In every way I have shown you that by

hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Again, in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we read about living a life of Christian stewardship: “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7).

While this is well and good, what does it mean for the present-day Christian? Why should it matter that the Bible alludes to stewardship in various passages? It shows us that Christians and Jews have struggled with and benefited from the concept of stewardship for thousands of years. It ties the message of stewardship to the role of a Christian disciple. It gives proof that stewardship and discipleship go hand-in-hand. It offers encouragement to us, that stewardship is in fact a foundational component of the Christian life, a way of life that one of the founding fathers of the Church — St. Paul — preached about and advocated.

The Bible is indeed the textbook of stewardship. It lays out the steps we must take to become true disciples of Christ. Reading and meditating upon God's Word is always a fruitful exercise. Those who regularly delve into Scripture often develop a deeper understanding of who God is, how and why He loves us, and how we can show Him our love in return.

As you strive to become a grateful steward and live the life of Christian discipleship, develop a love for Sacred Scripture. Allow God's Word to nourish your soul regularly, and watch as stewardship changes from a foreign concept to an integral component of your daily life.





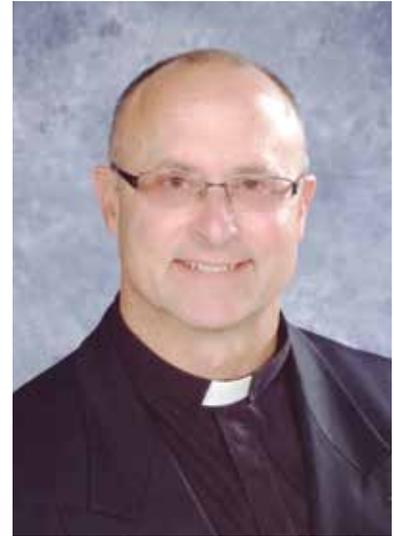
A Letter From Our Pastor

Honoring Our Lady in May

Dear Parishioners,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.



And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes that fill our Christian calendar this month.

As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

As we enter into the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. William Bruning
Pastor





THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

A New Beginning

As the final Sacrament of Christian Initiation, Confirmation is often viewed as a “graduation” of sorts — a conclusion to religious education as youth move into spiritual adulthood. Yet, rather than being any kind of “end,” Confirmation is meant to usher in a new beginning for the sacramental recipient. For by perfecting the graces of Baptism in

the young members of our Church, it allows parish youth to more fully receive the power of the Holy Spirit and commit their lives to Christ.

“Confirmation affirms our Baptism,” says Director of Religious Education Denise Godinez. “It is a time of learning for these young people to introduce, enrich, and deepen what it means to be a child of God. It is a time for each of them to strengthen the learning of the faith of our Church through the Mass and Eucharist, the Creed, the Bible, the Ten Commandments, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is a time to nurture their faith and prayer so that they learn to trust God and proclaim Christ through their words and actions, caring for God’s people and using their talents for the good of others. It is a learning time where they develop and reflect on their relationship with God on a personal level, allowing Christ to be their partner in their lifelong journey.”

Because this is such a serious step, Confirmation preparation here at Queen of the Holy Rosary is a two-year process. Beginning in seventh grade, candidates gather regularly for religion classes



This year, Queen of the Holy Rosary was blessed to have Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann preside over the sacramental Mass.



Though the sacramental Mass takes place during one day, the sacrament’s effects remain with each individual throughout the rest of their life.



A candidate and his sponsor with both the archbishop and Fr. William Bruning.



CONFIRMATION:

Two Beginning in a Life of Faith

and workshops where they delve more deeply into the teachings and doctrines of the Church while also learning about the sacrament itself. Youth also engage in small-group discussions, perform acts of service, and participate in the sacraments all in the hopes of taking their spiritual life to the next step.

“It is always fun to see the seventh-grade students come in and, over the two-year process, to watch them explore their faith with questions, discussions and service for others,” Denise says. “It is like watching a light bulb come on as they begin to understand that this sacrament will be with them in their adulthood of the faith. It’s such a gift to be able to help them understand the wonder and awe of who they are and how or where each of them are called to be. I get to see them mature into young disciples, knowing that God’s love surrounds them, guides them and helps them in all their decisions ahead. And then finally, when they walk up to be confirmed you see a reverence of self and God taking place.”

This year’s 2019 Confirmation class consisted of 39 eighth-grade youth from both John Paul II

School and the School of Religion classes from both parishes. We were blessed to have Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann officiate this year’s sacramental Mass, which was held on Tuesday, March 26.

While the Confirmation Mass has come and gone another year, its effects certainly remain alive in the sacrament’s recipients who, God willing, are utilizing their newfound gifts in their day-to-day lives. And for us older parishioners, it remains a tangible reminder that there is always room to grow in our spiritual journey — there are always new ways for us to embrace the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to go deeper in our faith formation.

“My hope is that these candidates will not only carry the sacredness of this sacrament celebration in their memories, but also that they will use it in their daily lives,” Denise says. “I hope that they carry their service life, prayer life and sacrament life with them in all that they do. I hope they continue to attend Mass knowing that the Eucharist is the spiritual nourishment one needs most.”



A table display from the reception following the 2019 Confirmation Mass on Tuesday, March 26.



The archbishop lays his hands on one of the candidates, permanently sealing him with the Holy Spirit.

If you would like more information on Queen of the Holy Rosary’s Confirmation program, please contact Denise Godinez at 913-722-2206.



Deacon Cal and Ginny Cathers Reflect on the

Deacon Cal and Ginny Cathers have lived and served in our mission parish Benque Viejo, Belize since 1976 — and it is something they truly love to do.

“There’s no one out there at our age having as much fun as we are,” Deacon Cal says. “We are a living example of Christian happiness.”

Queen of the Holy Rosary financially supports the people of Benque Viejo, along with the parish and school.

Fr. John McHugh, with the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT), helped establish the parish mission nearly 50 years ago under Belizean Bishop Robert Hodapp. He also established Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School in 1990.

Deacon Cal and Ginny met outside of Austin, Texas serving for the Catholic Lay Mission Corp. Deacon Cal also served in Brazil through the Papal Volunteer Program, where he first met Fr. John, who would become like family.

“That’s where I decided I wanted to dedicate my life to serving the poor,” Deacon Cal says.



Deacon Cal and Ginny stand in front of their home where they have lived for the last 40 years. One side of the building is the old convent.

The couple married in 1963 and spent many years as parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary, before answering God’s call and the request of Fr. John to serve as missionaries in Benque Viejo. In 1969, Deacon Cal left his job as an engineer and trained in special education and teaching. He was also ordained to the diaconate at 34 years old, in 1974. Men were only allowed to begin diaconate training at the age of 35 — Deacon Cal claims this is one of many rules he has broken, with a laugh.

“I think I may be one of the longest serving deacons in the Catholic Church,” he says.

The couple, along with their five children at the time, moved to Benque Viejo in 1976, and served alongside Fr. John. Fr. John also served Petén Department in the Republic of Guatemala. Deacon Cal would often travel there when Fr. John had a wedding or funeral.

Ginny and Deacon Cal, at nearly 79 and nearly 80 years old, respectively, have impacted the entire country of Belize and Catholic education in a host of ways.

One of Deacon Cal’s biggest contributions to Belize are the math and reading lesson plans that he started handwriting in 1981. These were eventually widely circulated thanks to the donation of a printing press by the Canadian Organization for Development through Education in 1991. Now the company they started, BRC Printing Limited, circulates the curriculum, all written by Deacon Cal, throughout Belize. The printing of the curriculum is funded with commercial printing revenue.

“Almost every person in Belize has learned how to read based on books we wrote,” Deacon Cal says.

The couple’s son, Paul, still lives in Belize with his wife and four boys. He is a manager at BRC Printing Limited.

Nowadays, Deacon Cal spends much of his time managing Mt. Carmel High School with more than



Beautiful Work at Our Parish Mission in Belize

550 students and the elementary school with 940 students. He also oversees Roman Catholic education throughout Belize, attends daily Mass, preaches often and assists at many Baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Deacon Cal says nearly everywhere he goes in Belize, a country about the size of Massachusetts, people know him and give him a hug.

“They know me,” he says. “And they love Ginny.”

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is widely established as one of the best Catholic schools in Belize. The teachers are all volunteers.

Belizean Bishop Martin once called Our Lady of Mount Carmel the “miracle school.”

The generous money given to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish by our parish is currently being used to build a preschool on the elementary school campus. The project has been going on for about two years, and the hold-up has been finances. Our Lady of Mount Carmel doesn't currently have a preschool program, but Deacon Cal is anxious to add one.

“I am writing a lesson to prepare preschoolers for first grade,” he says. “We don't have kindergarten here,” he added.

The money is also used to serve the poor of the area. Many people in need stop by Deacon Cal and Ginny's home each day. Ginny spends much of her time serving those that stop in and visiting people in need of a friend.

Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish Administrator Paul Coquillette and his wife, Donna, traveled to Belize in November 2018.

“I've been curious about Deacon Cal and Ginny Cathers since the day I first noticed the parish was sending money to support their mission,” Paul says.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Benque Viejo, Belize.

“I was really surprised at the scope of Deacon Cal's work — I honestly don't know how he could do what he does without God. And Ginny.”

Without Ginny, Deacon Cal and Fr. John, the country of Belize may not have progressed in education like it has. Fr. John passed away July 31, 2017, and, according to Deacon Cal, his legacy lives on through the school and the many refugees he brought to safety. Deacon Cal also cites his “heroic willingness to give almost every moment of his waking day to bringing the sacraments to his parishioners in two countries.”

Ginny says Belize has been a wonderful place to raise her family.

“It is great to live close to the church,” she says.

Deacon Cal knows the impact he and Ginny have had on Belize through their willingness to answer God's call over 42 years ago. As Deacon Cal says, “There's nothing more rewarding than that.”

For more information about our Catholic mission at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, feel free to reach out to Deacon Cal or Ginny Cathers at candgcathers@gmail.com.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Grounds Beautification Ministry *continued from front cover*

“That’s one of the things that stewardship is all about,” Jim says. “That’s where all this came from — get more involved with the church, and to meet people you haven’t met. This helps out in whatever we as stewards do. From Fr. Bill’s standpoint, the whole point is community and giving back to God, certainly.”

A factor that the Stewardship Renewal brought to light is that there is a wealth of talent in the parish that has never been called upon.

“We’ve never asked for it,” Jim says. “The Facilities Committee, which is involved in everything, dealt with something as simple as repairing a lawnmower, and

everything we have to pay for. We’ve never asked the people if they have expertise, if they can share it with the church.”

As the Grounds Beautification Ministry continues its work, Jim believes others will want to participate. And rest assured, there will be no meetings — a condition the new members requested when the group was organized.

“I’m hopeful people will join,” he says. “It’s great — two or three have showed up I knew, but I didn’t know their names, and there were others I never met before. We all go to ‘our’ Mass, and see others, but there are a lot you don’t ever see. Participating in a ministry gets you involved with other Mass time people. It helps to move you around a little bit.”

*New members are always welcome to join this wonderful stewardship ministry.
Anyone interested may call Jim Stanker at 913-522-5527.*

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.