

THE CARPE

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH 6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD EVANSVILLE. IN 47720 CELEBRATING OUR 181ST YEAR

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JANUARY 2022

EVERYONE HAS A STORY THAT IS WORTH LISTENING TO

Fr. Gene Schroeder **PASTOR**

Pope Francis has reminded us many times how important it is to get to know other people. He calls it becoming experts at the art of en-

counter. When we put our energy into listening to other people, they become real flesh and blood people to us and not just "they" or "them." I have found, over the years, that if you give people a chance to tell them about their lives, they are happy to do so. But what I have also noticed is that, by and large, we are people who are reluctant to get to know others. I don't think it is that we don't care about others, but somehow we think asking people to tell us about their lives is intruding into places we should not go. Maybe we are all like the Norwegian bachelor farmers Garrison Keillor used to talk about in his radio show A Prairie Home Companion. They needed to eat Powder Milk Biscuits because these biscuits gave shy people the strength to do the things they need to do.



Pope Francis has recently called the whole church to a special time of listening to one another. He calls this a time when we "are invited to move forward together, to Synod listen to one another and dis-2021 cern our times, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity." It all

begins with listening to one another's story about how we experience God in our lives and what our hopes and dreams are.

In a sense we need to share with each other the story of our faith journey. But that is more easily said than done. Probably the biggest hurdle to overcome is to determining just what a "faith journey" is. I remember a profound experience in my first year of theology. The teachers asked us to write the story of our spiritual life. I was with the vast majority of folks who started writing about what I believed to be the events of my "spiritual life." Things like when I was baptized, when I made my first communion, where I went to church, and all the spiri-INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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MOVING FORWARD ONE STEP AT A TIME

Mr. Nathan Winstead **PRINCIPAL**

Over the last few months many people have asked me, "So how's it going with the school year?" A good short answer to that question is "well we are making it and taking it day by day." It's been



a challenging year as we have continued to navigate our way through this covid pandemic. We started the school year with the hopes that things would be back to normal, but this was not the case. In some ways it created an impression that things were better. But new variants of the covid virus started showing up and we had to respond accordingly. That's

always a challenge because different people have different ideas about how best to deal with these changes. What has made this challenge easier is that we are blessed with so many community members who want the best for our school and our students and are willing to do what is necessary to help make things work well in our school.

Despite these challenges, a lot of good things have been occurring, especially our continued dedication to learning made possible by our dedicated faculty and the eagerness of our students to be successful. We have



4th Graders using their chrome books



Installing the "brains"

had numerous parent volunteers who have helped in the school office, helped supervise the playground, and provided special lunches for teachers and treats for the students. We could not make this possible without the help of these individuals.

With the help of some of the funds made available to us through EANS (Emergency Assistance to Non Public Schools), we have been able to increase the time our school social worker, Mrs. Mary Ruth Branstetter, is in the building from two days to three days a week. That's been extremely helpful because of our new phone system the level of stress and anxiety was higher this year than it was even

during last school year.

The EANS funds have also made it possible for us to make new technology available to our students. This includes new lpads for our kindergarten and first grade students and new

Up Close and Personal Introducing our High School Seniors

Jay Smith

Jay is a senior at Reitz and the son of Keith and Jackie Smith and the younger brother to Sydney. The guiet confidence and gentle compassion that one recognizes in Jay has made an impression on many. "He's just a really good kid," is how the athletic trainer at Reitz put it. When we talked, Jay had just completed his senior year playing football at Reitz. He's been

playing football since he was in third grade and for the last three years has been a member of the varsity team at Reitz. And he's been pretty good at it. This year he set the single game rushing record for a Reitz football player in a game against Boonville. He ran the ball 56 times for a total of 332 yards and 5 touchdowns. "I really didn't know I ran the ball that much," he recalled. They just kept giving me the ball and I kept running." And, yes, he was a wee bit sore the next day!

Jay's had some great coaches who have taught him a lot about playing football, but the bigger impression they have made is teaching players how to be good men. "I remember them talking about how to carry yourself with confidence, look people in the eye when you are talking to them and how to do simple gestures, like having a good handshake. I think they always wanted us to win, but they were even more concerned with us becoming good husbands and fathers. "

Jay played baseball for a couple of years in high school but decided to focus on football. This year, school has had a bit more of a sense of being normal even with all the covid restrictions. "Last year we didn't have much of an opportunity to just hang out with friends, but we've been able to do that more this year. Aside from putting lots of effort into all his academic classes, Jay has also found time to be a member of the student council.

It's no surprise that when asked about people who have influenced him, Jay points to many of his teachers. There was a Mrs. Collins and a Mrs. Wanninger at Cynthia Heights. "I didn't have some of these teachers in class, but I remember that they took the time to talk to you. Memories of Cynthia Heights also include Halloween and Christmas parties and the end of the year "Celebration of Reading Extravaganza."

Jay also remembers his 8th grade reading teacher at Helfrich Park. "I remember he talked about being adopted and how much he was grateful that his birth mother decided to give him a chance at life through adoption. Times at Helfrich Park were filled with memories of going to basketball games and football games on Friday nights, becoming one of the "big men" on campus during the 8th grade year and meeting new people that were to become friends through high school. "The time went by quickly."

Teachers at Reitz also had a big influence on Jay. "I remember my government teacher, Amber Hale. She has a great way of connecting with students. Same thing with my calculus teacher, Mr. Patton. He knows how to teach in a way that makes things easy to understand, but what's even better is that he has a great way of showing that he cares about what is happening in your life."

Next year, Jay hopes to attend Rose Hulman Institute of Technology where he plans on pursuing a degree in computer engineering. Of course, a lot of this depends upon what kind

of financial aid package he receives, but things look promising for that right now.

Jay's family has been a key part of his life. "I think we are a pretty close family and try to support each other in the things that we are involved in." This year has been a bit different for Jay, since his sister, Sydney, has gone off to college in St. Louis. "That's been a adjustment for sure. I miss having her around and getting her take on going through high school. She's still only a few hours away so we still get to connect.

"What I appreciate about my parents is that they give us space to have our own life. I enjoy spending time with my friends and I think my parents know how important this is. But, at the same time, I know they will be there for me when I need them. I think I get a lot of my competitiveness from my dad. He played sports in high school as well. I feel blessed that I have parents that I can talk to and enjoy being around. There's nothing better than getting some chicken wings and hamburgers to eat and then sitting down to watch a football game on TV. We're big Dallas Cowboy fans."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think you need to surround yourself with good friends, people who are willing to support you as well as challenge you. They can have a big effect on your decision making ability. I think you need to enjoy each period of life. Sometimes things go by so quickly you can miss out on a lot. Having good friends is important but it is also important not to hang on too tightly to friendships. Sometimes you just have to appreciate them for the time you have with them and be open to moving on and making room for new friends in your life.

Olivia Polk

It's been a busy four years for Olivia, a senior at Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center. She is the daughter of Barry and Tracy Polk and she has a twin brother, Austin. Aside from her full load of academic classes, Olivia has served as her class president for the last two years. Last year, they were not able to have a lot of extracurricular activities because of the covid pandemic. But things have eased up a bit this year, so she



had been involved with planning dances and assemblies for the student body. She has also served on the Link Crew, through which they "link" incoming freshmen with older students to help than transition into high school.

Olivia has also found time to serve as a staff photographer for the school yearbook. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. For her senior project this year, she is making special cards for children in the local hospital's pediatric units. And, Olivia has also found time to be a member of the robotics team. Last year she helped lead the team to a first place finish in their district. She's looking forward to competitions this year which are scheduled to begin in the spring.

And, if all this is not enough, Olivia has also played on the volleyball team at Central. She's played volleyball since her grade school days. This year she's helped her teammates build a volleyball tradition at Central. This year they had their best record overall for Central. She ranked second in serving aces in

St. Joseph Newsletter 6202 W. Saint Joseph Road, Evansville, IN 47720 January 1, 2022 Vol. 31, No. 1 Published monthly by St. Joseph Catholic Parish Deadline: 15th of each month. TO SUBMIT ARTICLES Contact the parish office (812-963-3273) or email gschroeder@evdio.org

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the SIAC with her total of 79. And her assist total of 573 put her in 3rd place overall. And she has skinned knees and floor burns to show for all her efforts!

Olivia has fit very well into the teaching/learning culture of the Career and Technical Center. The number of students doing their whole high school program at the Center is about 250. Olivia has enjoyed the chance to get to know most of the folks in the school and especially the chance to just hang out with friends. "We do group projects which involve a lot of "hands on" learning. I've really appreciated the teachers that I have had, because they are always willing to go the extra mile to help you."A lot of her classes have focused on learning about robots and the role they will play in manufacturing jobs.

Next year Olivia hopes to pursue a degree in robotics/ industrial engineering. She'll be doing an internship through Toyota in which she will go to school at Vincennes University for three days and then work at Toyota. The internship program through Toyota will pay for her tuition but now she needs to secure funding for room and board at one of the dorms on the university campus.

When Olivia is not focusing on school related activities, you may find her working at the Pet Food Center in North Park. She serves as one of the assistant managers and often works with her friend and former classmate. Olivia Codv.

When Olivia reflects on the folks who have had a lot of influence on her, it all begins with her family. She and her brother, Austin, may be twins but they tend to look at life a little differently. One example, according to Olivia, is in the choice of vehicles they drive. Austin likes trucks, but Olivia is happy to be driving her Toyota Camry. "I get a lot better gas mileage!" When talking about her parents, Olivia reflected: "I look a lot like my mother, but I think I am more like my dad when it comes down to doing things. I like to be doing things with my hands and my dad has taught me a lot of things in this regard." That "hands on" learning is one thing she also shares in common with

One of the things that Olivia looks forward to each year is the many different family gatherings. "It's great having folks stop by and, of course, there is always a lot of good food to enjoy. I've learned some things about cooking from my Grandma Betty. She gave me my own cookbook so I wouldn't starve!" Baking is what Olivia likes best and some of her favorites are making dirt pudding and bread pudding. Word has it, that it's pretty good!

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I've been through a number of schools and what I have learned is how important it is to learn how to adapt to new situations and new people. Change is always happening and you have to become comfortable with that. I've learned a lot working at my job. Things like showing up on time, being dependable and learning how to respect others. It's all about the old saying 'treat others the way you want to be

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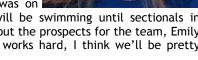
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treated.' Those are important things to practice especially if you are in a management role. I think it is also good to learn practical things like managing your time well and learning how to be a good manager of money.

Emíly Daza

When we sat down to talk with Emily she had just finished swimming practice for the day. She's been on the swim team at Mater Dei since her freshman year. Emily is the oldest child and only daughter of Doug and Jenny Daza and the older sister to Isaac, a freshman at Mater Dei, and Aiden, a sixth grader at St. Joe.

Emily's been swimming the 100 and 200 meter freestyle as well as the 200 and 400 medley relay. Their first meet was on



November 28 and they will be swimming until sectionals in February. When asked about the prospects for the team, Emily responded: "if everyone works hard, I think we'll be pretty good."

Swimming has taught Emily a lot of things. Important things like learning how to control your breathing and believing in yourself. It's also taught her how important it is to put the time and effort into things and learning how to focus on what your are doing. "It's all about getting a good start." Being involved in swimming has also introduced her to our local Olympic swimmers, Lilly King and Mikaela Jenkins, "They're pretty amazing, especially Mikaela who won medals in the paralympic games.

Emily has enjoyed her four years at Mater Dei. She's been a member of the Pep Club, the Pert Mediation Group, and the Fresh Beginnings Program which helps incoming freshmen get adjusted to high school life. She also been a member of Teen Power which puts on drug awareness programs for middle school students. "I'll remember going to all the football and basketball games. It's been a little better this year because we have been able to gather with friends during lunch. Not like last year with all the covid restrictions. I've enjoyed my years at Mater Dei. I think the teachers have prepared us well for the next venture. I'm looking forward to that!"

Throughout her years in school, Emily speaks highly of teachers who have had a big influence on her. Mrs. Gerard who teaches an Advanced Health Class and Mr. Vogel who teaches an Antimony Class are both teachers that have helped to prepare her for a future career in the medical field. Mrs. Strehl and Mrs. Wannemuhler are both teachers who had the ability to relate well with students and teach in a way that everyone could understand. Teachers from her grade school years have also had a big influence on Emily. "Mrs. Elpers was really good. She was pretty demanding but she prepared us well for high school. Mrs. Tindle who taught Art helped me tap into my creative side. And then teachers like Mrs. Hoefling and Mrs. Will and Mrs. Sweeney had a great way of relating to students and making you feel pretty important."

Next year, Emily hopes to pursue a degree in biology. "I'd like to have some kind of career in the medical field—maybe as an orthodontist or nutritionist. I might be going to IU which is where my mom and my grandparents went. But then I might be going to UK." Could this be the start of a family feud?

When she isn't busy with school and swimming, Emily has

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found time to work at various jobs. You might have seen her working at the Log Inn or Buffalo Wild Wings. Now you might find her working as a sales associate at American Eagle.

Throughout her life, Emily's immediate family as well as her extended family have played a big role in her life. Her dad, Doug, serves on the Vanderburgh County Sheriff Department. Of course, being in the law enforcement, it makes me feel pretty safe. I think one of the things I have admired about him is that he spends time each year taking some kids to Disney World who would otherwise not have the means to go there. There's a whole group from the police and sheriff departments that are a part of this. You may not think it, but he's pretty laid back in life. And he's a great cook. In fact, he does most of the cooking in our home. He makes a great shepherd's pie. Actually, if you give him a recipe, he can make it and it's pretty good eating!

I get a lot of my looks and my personality from my mom. She can be pretty passionate about things. We can both be pretty determined about things in life which can be a good thing and a not so good thing at times. My Dad's roots are from Bolivia in South America. His dad lives with his wife in California. She is from China. We try to get out to see them every year or so. They are very much into healthy eating and fitness. My grandparents on my mom's side (Butch and Linda Feulner) have been a big part of my life. Living close by, we get to see them a lot. We've been on several vacations together to the Gulf Coast during spring break. My grandparents are people who have such great advice about life and you really know that they are supporting you in everything you do. One of the things that I am looking forward to is going to Haiti with my grandpa. We've been wanting to do that for a while but, with covid and all the other things that are happening in Haiti, we haven't been able to do it. Hopefully we'll be able to go next spring."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think the biggest thing that I have learned is not to procrastinate in life. Get things done. I've haven't always done that well and I have paid the price for it. Swimming has taught me a lot about the value of mental discipline and learning how to focus in life. Those skills are important in everything you do. There have also been challenges in my life. Simple things like learning how to take tests and not get too anxious about it. I think I tend to second guess myself way too much. I've had to learn how to trust myself more. Probably one of the biggest things I've faced in my life is the death of one of my friends in a car wreck. These kinds of events lead people to asking a lot of things like "why did this happen.". The good thing for me is that this experience has brought me closer in my relationship with God.

Trevor Clem



If you want to learn something about welding or hunting, Trevor is your man. And he is quite knowledgeable about both. Trevor is the son of Laura Clem and the late Chris Clem and the younger brother of Josh. He is a senior at Reitz and spends half the school day attending classes at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center. There he has been taking classes in welding. "I do better with 'hands on' learning." This is his second year at the Career and Tech Center and during that time he has learned all the necessary skills

TUITION ASSISTANCE AT MATER DEI

Applications for tuition assistance are now available for parents wishing to apply for Mater Dei High School tuition assistance for the 2022-2023 school year. Hard copies of applications are available at Mater Dei and at our school and parish office. To download and complete the application online go to www.materdeiwildcats.com; select "Enrollment", then "Tuition and Financial Assistance". The



"Tuition and Financial Assistance". The priority deadline for applying this year is March 1, 2022. Questions? Please contact Jill Seiler at Mater Dei (812-426-2258, ext. 322) or email jseiler@evdio.org.

needed to become proficient at welding. "The more you weld things, the better you get at it." Welding is essentially melting different metals together, but there are several ways to go about that. Trevor can tell you the difference between MIG welding and TIG welding. And he can tell you the different things you need to know if you are welding steel, chrome, aluminum or stainless steel. And there are different techniques required to do vertical welding as opposed to horizontal welding. So how's his skills at welding? "Well they are getting better." Dealing with electric currents and hot metals can leave a person with many scars from metal burns and Trevor has had his share of them. At the same time, he's come to understand that there is a real art to becoming profi-It's no surprise that the teacher of this cient at welding. welding class, Mr. Rusty Sheldon, is one of the people that Trevor points to as having a lot of influence on him. "They only take a certain number of people every year for this class and it fills upp pretty quickly. Mr. Sheldon is a good teacher and the "hands on" approach to learning fits my way of learning."

For his final semester in school, Trevor will be doing an internship with a local company. He's got a couple of possible places at which he might be able to work, using some of the skills he's developed in the last year and a half. And, if things work out well, this internship might turn into a paramagnet job after he graduates.

During his high school years, Trevor also found time to play tennis. He and his good friend and classmate, Gabe Jung teamed up to play tennis doubles. "I wasn't the best player on the team, but it was great spending time with Gabe.

Trevor attended grade school here at St. Joe. "I remember that our class was pretty close. It was a small class and many of the friends Trevor had in grade school continued on through high school. "I liked all the teachers I had. What I

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR PARISH FISH FRYS



FRIDAYS MARCH 4 & 18

It's time to make plans for "the best fish fry in the Evansville area,"—March 4th and 18th. Because of the on going

covid pandemeic, we will be serving our fish dinners **DRIVE THRU ONLY from 5-7 PM.** We are also looking for a person, couple or couples to oversee this parish effort. Call the parish office (812-963-3273) or call/text (812-499-9074)if you can offer your time in this way!

VOTIVE CANDLES

Our Catholic tradition is rich in symbols. One of the most prominent symbols is the lighted candle. Lighted candles remind us of one of the earliest images of Jesus as "the light of the world." Throughout the history of the church people have lit candles as a way of remembering that Jesus, as the Light of the World, is the one who surrounds us with his love and protection.

In almost every Catholic Church, you will find a special place set aside for people to light blessed candles. These candles have become known as Votive Candles. Faith in things unseen can be bolstered by things seen—like a burning candle. People light votive candles as a way of helping them to remember that God will take care of a friend who is sick, a family facing a financial chal-



lenge. Perhaps a candle is a way of remembering a mother who is about to have a baby. Perhaps it has been lit by someone who wants to pray for their son or daughter who is facing some life choices.

Here in our church, these votive candles are located in a special alcove on the east side of the church in which there is also a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These candles are here for your use. The suggested donation for lighting one candle is \$3. The money for these candles can be put in the collection basket at Mass or placed in the mail box at the front door of the rectory. Special thanks to our Altar Society for taking care of these votive candles. Proceeds from the sale of the candles is used by the Altar Society to help buy the missalettes, altar bread, altar candles and other items we use at mass.

remember most about them was that they knew everyone in school, even the kids that weren't in their class. I remember all the great lunches we had and I remember field day at the end of the year."

One of the other great passions for Trevor is hunting and fishing. He's got his own fishing boat which he has used in his fishing trips to the Wabash River and Hovey Lake. Aside from fishing with a traditional rod and reel, Trevor has also gotten into bow fishing. He can tell you a lot about the best places to go fishing and what kind of fish you would likely catch at the different watering holes in our area. And he has learned how to filet fish as well. "That's another thing that the more you do it the better you get."

And then they are times for deer hunting and duck hunting. hunting is a passion he also shares with his good freind Gabe Jung. But it was his dad that originally got him interested in hunting. He was the one who taught him how to skin a deer, another skill that takes time to learn. You'll find Trevor hunting with guns as well as bow and arrow. And then there is duck hunting. To the non hunter, duck hunting may be a good excuse to fix some good food and take it to your duck blind and eat. And, in between bits to eat, you can do your best to shoot duck that happen to come by!

Trevor can also tell you the best cuts of deer meat and

CONFIRMATION NEV CONFIRMATION—SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2021

Bishop Joseph Siegel will be with us at our 5:00 p.m. Mass to confirm our young men and women.



duck meat to eat and how to prepare them. "You can make a lot of deer steaks, salami and deer jerky. He might even be talked into sharing some of it!

When Trevor thinks about influential people in his life, it's no surprise that he speaks of his mom and dad. "My dad taught me a lot about the value of hard work and being true to your word. He was an electrician so it's not really a surprise that I am thinking about a technical career. He was a pretty determined guy and I think I have inherited a lot of this determination. Sometimes that can get you in trouble when the determination becomes just being stubborn. My mom's been a really good teacher for me, especially when it comes to managing my money.

WORDS OF WISDOM: Some of the biggest lessons I've learned in life have to do with learning how to value and appreciate each day. It's also learning that things don't always go the way you want them to. I think the two biggest challenges I have faced in my life, are dealing with my mom and dad's divorce when I was in grade school and then the death of my father last year. I think these experiences have helped me to cherish the time I have with people and not take things for granted. What has helped me a lot is learning how to decompress from life. I really enjoy being outside in nature. It helps me to slow down and learn how to be patient in life. I like the old saying: 'I rather be thinking about God while sitting in my deed stand, than thinking about deer hunting while sitting in church.'"

---SALUTING OUR YOUTH---

- Olivia Polk was selected to the National Honor Society at the Career and Technical Center High School.
- Mitch Adler, Nathan VanBibber, Aiden Waller, Devon Feulner, and Conner Wiley helped lead the Mater Dei Football Team to the state championship game.
- Congratulations to these Mater Dei athletics who were named to the all city academic team for their respective sport. to Football: Nathan VanBibber Mitch Adler, Girls Volleyball: Kalya Gerth, Lauren Voelker, Boys Tennis: Kurt Denning, Girls Soccer: Katelyn Happe, Tess Freeman, Boys Soccer: Nathan VanBibber, Coed Cross Country: Sophia Fehrenbacher, Lillian Traylor, Ethan Kissel, Jacob Scheller, Patrick McDonald





NEXT PARISH
BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, JAN. 2
8 am—Noon
in the gym

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions that were given in memory of loved ones. Let us remember the gift they have been in our life. (Partial Listing)

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MEMORY OF Ron Kempf Sr.

Bob & Mary Kay Fehrenbacher

IN MEMORY OF John Reckelhoff

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IN MEMORY OF
John Reckelhoff
Greg & Susie Head

James Hicks

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Ken & Frances Jarboe

A Prayer For Our Daily Murder
Once again we read stories of mass shootings,
and senseless loss of life. What to do in the face
of such news? He's a refelction written by Brian
Doyle which was published in the U.S.
Catholic Magazine on October 5, 1972

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned, and I am totally wrestling with feeling bad about sinning, which I do a little and then don't at all - I'll explain. Yesterday a guy walked into a classroom in my state and shot nine people to death and shot up ten others so bad that they'll limp and be in pain in a dozen ways every hour the rest of their lives. A cop shot the shooter and now the shooter is dead. But this all happened too in Columbine and Aurora and Sandy Hook and Charleston and Norway and Dunblane and Tasmania and on and on and need I go on?

And what is my sin? I'll tell you, Father. Lean in a little here so no one hears. I wanted to shoot the shooters. In the head. I did. And then when I calmed down I wanted to punch the idiots who immediately started shouting that this doesn't have anything

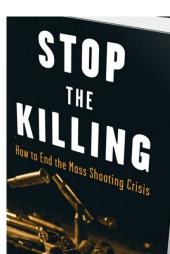
to do with gun control. And then I wanted to thump the people who excoriated the school for not having armed guards on duty every fifty feet around the perimeter. And then I wanted to afflict everyone issuing comment and opinion and advice and



soundbites with laryngitis that would last a month. And then all I could see were bodybags and people sobbing. The mother and the father of the shooter sobbing and speechless.

And I was ashamed of myself, Father, because I wriggle with violent impulses, and I have punched and thumped and shouted, and in me is the same squirm of lashing violence as in every other man and probably most women, if they were honest. So I come to you, Father, to see if you can help me.

I need you to tell me this will end someday. I need you to tell me Christ was right and turning the other cheek will not always mean getting a knife slash on the other cheek too. I need you to tell me that this has nothing to do with easy useless labels like Satan and Evil and Insanity and everything to do with the brooding shadow in every heart. I need you to tell me that shadow will be dispersed and disseminated someday and not by fiat from the One but by us working our asses off to make violence something that you visit in the war museum. I need you to confirm that



it's us who can solve our daily murder. I need you to confirm that Christ is in us and we can do this if we stop posturing and preening and labeling and actually do something about lonely idiots with brains full of worms.

And we are not just talking about addled lonely boys with squirming brains, are we? Aren't we also talking about arrogant pompous blowhards like bin Laden and Hitler who are sure they know what's best and right for everyone? Aren't we talking about slimy wannabe caliphs who want to own a desert where they pretend it's the seventh century? Aren't we talking about everyone who thinks they

knew best? Aren't we talking about that jagged splinter of bloody bile in every man's heart, and probably most women, if they were honest? Aren't we talking about your heart and mine, Father?

What's my sin, really? Deeper than the rage I feel with people who murder innocents, people who close up their brains as they open their mouths? My sin, down deep, is that I often despair of us, Father. I do. At night. I don't wake my wife. She has enough to deal with. But I lie awake and think maybe we are exactly the same savage primates we were a million years ago, and culture and civilization are mere veneer, and we will always be pulling triggers in so many ways - pistols, rifles, cannons, drones, bombers, warheads, whatever brilliant murder tool we come up with next. We're so creative, eh, Father? Always looking for a new way to blow the other guy to bits and then drape righteous excuse over the bloody dirt. So that's what I wanted to tell you, Father. I rage, I despair. I am ashamed of that. Both are small. I want to be big. I want us all to be big. I want Christ to be right. I want the word shooter to be forgotten. I want us to outwit violence. But I am so often so afraid that we will always be small and Christ was a visionary whose words will drown in a tsunami of blood.

I know you can't forgive me, Father. I know the drill. But I ask that you join me in intercession to the One for hope, for endurance, for a flash of His love like water when we are so desperately thirsty we think we will never find water again.

BECMING MAKERS OF PEACE

We pray constantly for an end to senseless violence in our world and we all hope that it will happen. But we can do more than hope, we can begin by being bearers of peace in our own lives. We can do that by....

- Respecting our self and others and avoiding uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-destructive behavior.
- Communicating better by sharing feelings honestly, and looking for safe ways to express anger, and working at solving problems peacefully.
- in Our Head
- Listening carefully to one another, especially to those who disagree with me, and considering other's feelings and needs rather than insisting on having our own way.
- Learning to forgive and to apologize and make amends when we have hurt others, learning to forgive others and keep from holding grudges.
- Respecting nature and treating the environment and all living things, including our pets, with care and respect.
- Playing creatively by selecting entertainment and toys that support our family's values and avoiding entertainment that makes violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.
- **Being courageous by** challenging violence in all of its forms when we encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the community, and standing with others who are treated unfairly.

MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in a sea of indifference.

Pope Francis

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS MONTH FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources to participate more fully in the life of the Church.

Several recent grants to the Collection were used to train

seminarians; provide pastoral care with those infected with HIV/AIDS; provide formation training to pastoral ministers in rural parishes; provide formation to high school students to serve as pastoral agents; and develop and execute diocesan pastoral plans.

Over the past five years, the Collection for the Church in Latin America has faithfully distributed 87 percent of its annual income as pastoral grants. Please contrib-



ute generously. For more information, visit their website at www.usccb.org/latinamerica.



Thank you so much for the many ways your support the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry ministry. Back in November we received your amazing donation of 300 lbs of free gerund pork. Then later on we received a very generous donation of \$390. On November 20, your confirmation class sent us another \$63. Plus several individuals in your parish are

very faithful and generous monetary donors. In addition to all this, we are grateful for the weekly donations of food with Terry Drone, Martha Baehl, Ruth Burk and Dolores Folz bring when the come to volunteerWithout a doubt, you are helping us give a 4-day supply of groceries (including fresh milk, eggs, meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, potatoes) along with cereal, cannot and dry goods, personal hygiene and cleaning items to those facing hard times.

Sr. Donna Marie OSB, Manager, SVDP Food Pantry

We are now accepting donations for the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry each weekend.



HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT YOUR PRO LIFE BELIEFS INTO PRACTICE

Birthright of Evansville is looking for volunteers to help operate

their drop in center on Reed Street. Their goal is to support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Birthright is interdenominational and is not involved in any political activities, or lobbying. Birthright's focus is on loving the mother, reminding her that there is hope and ensuring she is not alone. Men and Women are invited to offer their time. The drop in center is open three days a week for two hours. Contact them at 812-2555 to offer your help.

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR RESPECT FOR LIFE JANUARY 22, 2022

On Saturday, January 22, you are invited to join Catholics throughout the United States in a national day of prayer and fasting for a growing appreciation and respect for life.

We pray especially

--For those deprived of their human needs and their human rights, that they may be given the dignity that God confers on all his people.

-For those who have grown very old and especially those tempted to die, that God might grant them patient endurance to embrace the journey of their life.



—For young mothers everywhere, and especially those who are tempted to despair, that through the child they carry deep within, they might know hope and joy.

-For those who are forgotten especially for the poor, the sick and the aged, that God might move us to love them as the image of Christ and so change their hearts.

-That the Lord, who rescues the life of the poor from the power of the wicked, might send an angel to guard and protect all unborn children, all those who suffer from violence and all those who live on the margins of society.

-For all parents who struggle to raise their children, that God will give them the strength of the children of God and the support of the people of God.

—For all the people of our church, that our daily lives might give witness to our commitment to the innocent child, the forgotten and all those whose life is not valued.

-For those condemned to die, and especially for men and women on death row, that their plight might move the hearts of the people of this nation to move from an attitude of punitive justice to one of restorative justice.



SPECIAL COLLECTION JAN. 29-30 TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF SEMINARIANS FOR MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA



(Continued from page 1) STORIES WORTH LISTENING TO (cont.) that had all kinds of belief systems about the way things should be done in life. These belief systems colored the way I looked at people and events and I how I understood them. It was a story that involved significant people who shaped me in ways that were sometimes good and sometimes not so good.

Writing my story invited me to ask questions like "why do you do the things you do, what led you to go to the seminary, what did you hope to get out of being a priest?" And the interesting thing is that as I have come to understand more about my life through the years, the answers I have to these questions are different. It has often been said that our faith journey can only be lived moving forward one day at a time, but it can only be understood looking backward.

I am not unique. We all have stories to tell and stories that are worth listening to. I am more and more convinced that if we knew the stories of people's lives we would be a lot more compassionate and understanding. Think about what a difference it would make if people who have a particular view about politics would take the time to learn about the stories of the people they consider on the "other side." The same is true if we started to listen to the stories of the millions of people who are displaced throughout the world. They could then become real people, rather than "illegal aliens" trying to take something away from us.

But we do not need to start with these big issues. The best place for us to start is to begin listening to each other right here in our parish. But that is going to require a willingness on each of our part to be willing to share our story. We might need to eat lots of "Powder Milk Biscuits" to do this. But what a gift it will be for us to hear each other's story.

So here's my invitation to you. Think about the story of your life. What is it that gets you up each morning to do the



things you do? What keeps you going? Who do you look to for support? What are the things that keep you awake at night? What are the things that way heavy on your heart? What are your hopes for the future? What kind of things would help you in your life?

When we take the time to listen to each other's stories, it changes the whole dynamic of our relationships. We know

how that happens in small ways, when folks work together preparing the food for our chicken dinner, and they begin to learn something about other people that they did not know. Think about what could happen if we were more intentional about sharing our stories and listening to the stories of others! That's what Pope Francis is inviting us to do.

Now, here's the rest of my invitation to you. Would you be willing to write your story and let us share it in our newsletter? Take a breath and eat some more Powder Milk Biscuits before your answer! You can share it anonymously if that works better for you. If that is too scary, what about the next time you gather with some friends for dinner, why not make an effort to tell each other your story. Share the answers to questions I proposed to you above. Remember, these people are your friends, and they will love you even more after hearing your story!

And, oh by the way. About those "Powder Milk Biscuits." Well, it just so happens that they are real. In fact you already have lots of opportunities already to be nourished by them. We have a more fancy title for them—we call it "The Eucharist" or "going to communion." It's God's life whose power now working in our lives can do far more than we can ask or even imagine!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS January 22, 2022--February 20, 2022

As we continue to navigate through this coronavirus pandemic, the liturgical ministers we need for our weekend Masses are limited to our lectors and one Eucharistic minister.

and one Eucharistic minister.								
Saturday January 22, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe						
Sunday January 23, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Donna Blankenberger						
Sunday Janaury 23, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Jane Scheller						
Saturday, January 29, 2022 5 pm	Volunteer	Mike Reffett						
Sunday January 30, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Marcia Frey						
Sunday January 30, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Mandy Elpers						
Saturday February 5, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Toni Askins						
Sunday February 6, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Terry Drone						
Sunday February 6, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Shane Wessel						
Saturday February 12, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe						
Sunday February 13, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Chick Duncan						
Sunday February 13, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Aleliah Nisley						
Saturday February 19, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe						
Sunday February 20, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Donna Blankenberger						
Sunday February 20, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Jane Scheller						

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JANUARY 2022							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
\$ H	T'S LOTTE AVE YOU YOUR S' OTTERY	BOUGHT T. JOE TICKET?	\$	E DE	abby	1 5 pm Mass Food Drive Collection Haiti Collection	
28 & 10:30 Mass Food Drive Collection Haiti Collection Blood Drive 8 am -NOON	7 am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration SCHOOL RESUMES 6:30 PM MASS	4 7:30 AM Mass	7:30 AM MASS Parish Staff Meeting 12-2	6 NO MASS	7 7:30 am Mass	Confessions 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Drive Collection	
9 8 & 10:30 am Masses RCIA Family Class 9:00 Food Drive Collection	10 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 PM Mass 7 pm Knights of St. John Meeting		12 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 or Vocations am Wednesday	NO MASS 7 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting	14 7:30 am Mass	Altar Society Kuchen Sale Confessions 4-4:40 pm Food Drive Collection 5 pm Mass	
168 & 10:30 am Masses RCIA and Family Class 9:00 Food Drive Collection	17 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass 7 pm Men's Club Meeting	18 7:30 am Mass	19 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2	20 NO MASS	21 7:30 Mass	22Confessions 4-4:40 pm Food Drive Collection 5 pm Mass	
238 & 10:30 Masses RCIA 9 am Confirmation Retreat 12-2 pm Food Drive Collection	24 _{7 am-7 pm} Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass			27 NO MASS T. JOE SCHOO Y, FEBRUARY		29 Confessions 4-4:40 pm 5 PM Mass Food Drive Collection	
308 &10:30 am Masses RCIA & Family Re- ligion Class 9 am Message Renewal Sunday	31 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	7:30 am Mass Catholic Sc	27:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 hools Week Ja	3 NO MASS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 5-7 PM		Confessions 4-4:40 pm Confirmation Mass 5 pm Food Drive Collection	

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WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5pm Sunday 8 and 10 am

Coordinator of Religious Education

MOVING FORWARD (cont.)

(Continued from page 1) chrome books for students in the second grade classroom. We were also able to purchase new touch screens monitors for several of our classrooms to begin replacing smartboards and projectors that are at the end of their life span. The technology advancements are continually making the learning experience for our students more and more relatable with the content they can access to their daily lives.



Mrs. Will using her new touch screen

We have also been able to upgrade our internet access that students and teachers use throughout the school day in their classes. With this increased internet use, it is also important that the appropriate internet filters are in use and we have been

able to increase the effectiveness of these internet filters. Finally, through a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. we have been able to install a new phone system with one touch emergency access as well as increased capabilities for our public address system for the entire school as well as individual classrooms.

Even though we have had challenges to get this far in our semester, we have also been blessed in so many wavs. The upgrades in our technology are important, but the most important thing is the quality of our teachers, wonderful parent support and amazing students working together to become saints in the making for our community.

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