



# THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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JANUARY 2024



## REBUILD THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE TWO HALVES OF THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Fr. Gene Schroeder

PASTOR

We've been spending a lot of time rebuilding our church. I said at the beginning, it reminded me of the life of St. Francis. He had been praying before the crucifix in the abandoned chapel called San Damiano when he heard Jesus say, "Francis, rebuild my church." He thought that meant to literally rebuild the abandoned chapel he was in and so he set out to do just that. But as more people came to join Francis, he came to understand that what Jesus was asking him to do was not so much to rebuild a building, but to rebuild people in the image and likeness of Jesus.

Rebuilding a church building is a lot easier than rebuilding people. To begin with, rebuilding a building has precise beginnings and endings. You know what is broken and what needs to be fixed and it is easy to see when it is fixed. And you know how to fix things. You know what tools are needed, how they are supposed to be used and what to expect when you use them. And when the job is done, there is a great deal of satisfaction in looking back to see what has been accomplished.

Rebuilding people is a whole other matter. Just how does one go about this task? How would you know if a person is rebuilt? What would that look like? What kind of tools would you use to rebuild a person? And perhaps the biggest question of all—who needs to be "rebuilt" if you think the way you are is just fine?

To grow is to change. That is what many of the great spiritual masters tell us. To change often is to become holy. Perhaps that is why we hear Jesus tell us to "try to enter through the narrow gate" (Lk. 13:24) and "cast your net into the deep." (John 21:6). Many of the spiritual masters have attempted to describe this journey of faith. One way is by talking about the two halves of our spiritual journey. Today, I'd like to share with you some reflections on the first half of our spiritual journey.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM has this reflection. There is much

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## REBUILDING OUR CHURCH UPDATE

We're happy to report that by the time you read this, over 90% of the work we have been doing to replace the roof on our church and the additional upgrading work on the church will have been completed.

We have several outstanding items yet to be done. The first, and most obvious, is the installation of the special carpet for the center aisle and sanctuary. The carpet has been ordered for some time, but, as you know, we have experienced some delays in the getting the carpet to us. The latest information we have is that the carpet is due to get here in mid January. Once we get the carpet installed, we can then reinstall all the pews in the church.

The other two items that remain to be done are replacing the louvers in the middle of the church steeple. You may recall that the louver facing south was destroyed when the roof came off the church. We decided, after inspecting the other three wooden louvers, that the best thing would be to replace all of them. They have been ordered and delivered. Winter is not the best time to try to install them, so we are looking to have them installed in the spring, as weather and the availability of the crew from Empire permit.

The last item is to fully install the ground wires from the top of the steeple to the base of the church. This is the lightning protection for the church. We have contracted with Helming Brothers to do this work. You may recall that they had previously done work on the steeple in 1990. While they are taking care of the lightning



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# Up Close and Personal

## Introducing our High School Seniors



### Landon Smith

Landon is the son of Amy Mullis and Jason Smith. We caught up with him on a Saturday morning at the 3rd and 4th Grade Basketball League at St. Joe's gym. "I've been involved with this basketball league for the past eight years. It's hard to remember a time when I wasn't involved. I started out taking tickets at the door and then I worked in the concession stand and then I worked at the scorer's table and now I run the

league." How is being in charge of the league? "It's been pretty enjoyable, actually, except for those rare moments when parents get a little bent out of shape about things. Some of them think they are going to have a future NBA star on their hands, but I try to remind them that these are just third and fourth graders trying to have fun and play a little basketball."

Landon is a senior at Central High School. "I started high school at Mater Dei and that is a good school, but it just wasn't a good fit for me. I actually had been going to Central for the past couple of years at least for part of the school year. What got me interested in going here was the Academy of Science and Medicine. I got the opportunity to take a lot of classes related to the medical field. I also had the chance to partici-

pate in a four day/night on site visit to Deaconess where we had the chance to shadow several of the medical people as they went about their work. You got to see a lot of the "highs" and "lows" involved in working in the medical field.

I had a lot of friends who attended Central so the transition to school there was pretty smooth. My dad is one of the teachers there as well. In fact I had a class on Human Body Systems with him. Dr. Freeman, who is the principal at Central was a pretty influential person for me as well. He also serves as the Director of the Academy of Science and Medicine so I got the chance to interact with him there as well. I've had a lot of other good teachers as well, especially Mr. Johnson who teaches psychology. He could combine teaching with humor which made the class enjoyable and easy to understand."

Landon was selected into membership of the National Honor Society as well. He has joined them in some of their service projects they conduct throughout the year. Recently they sold cinnamon rolls to raise money to buy gifts for children who are in the hospital.

One of the things that Landon was able to continue when he started going to Central full time this year was to play soccer. He played soccer for the first three years of high school at Mater Dei where he played the goal keeper position. "I really enjoyed my time with the other members of the soccer team at Mater Dei. Playing goalie has really helped me develop my leadership skills. As the goalie you are the last line of defense so it is important that you know who is in front of you and where they are supposed to be for a good defense. It's a little like being a field general. I enjoyed all the other things that go with being part of a team, the closeness that develops because you spend so much time practicing, going to games, having team meals together. I thought we had a pretty good team at Central this year. We had to face a lot of teams like Castle and Harrison that are traditionally pretty good in soccer. The season ended before we wanted it to but it was still a pretty good year."

This year, Landon also plans on going out for the golf team. "I started playing golf a couple of years ago and I've enjoyed it. You have to have the same kind of mental toughness in golf that you do in soccer. You can't get down when things don't go the way you want them to go."

Landon graduated from St. Joseph Grade School. We had a great class and I was close to everyone. When I started school I was pretty shy. Being around my classmates helped me out of my shell. I think we had a lot of good teachers. And I enjoyed participating in all the PE activities and sports. What I learned most from my grade school experience was to celebrate what you had for what it was and then be able to move on.

Landon counts his family as some of the biggest influences in his life. "My grandma Marcia (Frey) is such a positive person it's hard not to feel good about life after being with her. She has been such a big supporter in all the things that I have done. My grandma Eva (Smith) is a really good listener. One of the things she challenges me with is to not settle for just what was in the past but to break the cycle in my life."

Landon has big plans for his future. "I'd like to become a pediatric oncologist. I know a lot of folks in my family have dealt with different cancers. That got me interested in the medical field and in helping others." Landon's big dream is to be able to attend Notre Dame University next year to start his

### 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 challenge. 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 \$5. 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.





medical training.

**WORD OF WISDOM:** “Don’t be afraid to follow your dreams and realize that the desire to change things is not a bad thing. It takes a lot of courage to strike out on a new path. For a lot of folks that is just too scary to do, so people settle for less. You never know what is going to change you life. I think it is really important to appreciate the people in your life, especially the people in your family.”



### Conner Frey

If you want to find Conner after school, the best place to look for him is at Bob’s Gym. You’ll find him there with a bunch of his friends working out. It’s been a great place to get in shape especially for the tennis season. Conner has been playing tennis since he was in fourth grade. I was too young really to be on the Mater Dei Cub team but they let me join because they didn’t have enough to form a fifth grade team. One of his coaches at the time was another son of our parish, Jacob Stratman. When he graduated from grade school he moved on to play tennis at Mater Dei and is coaches followed him there. They were part of the group that got to inaugurate the tennis courts at Mater Dei. This past year, Conner was chosen as the captain of the team. He’s played number one singles for the past few years. The highlight of his career was helping to lead Mater Dei to a sectional win in his junior year. You spend a lot of time together as a team practicing and then going to the different matches and sharing in a lot of pre game meals so it’s pretty natural that some of my best friends are the guys on the team.”

Conner is the son of Ryan and Stephanie Frey. His older brother Austin is a sophomore at Kentucky Wesleyan University. His twin sister, Kylie, is also a senior at Mater Dei. They all enjoy sports so they are a lot of good natured competitiveness among them.

Conner has spent a lot of his time and energy on his academic classes at Mater Dei. Among the classes he has taken are his German Classes with Mr. Rode and Mrs. Whicker. He’s enjoyed being part of the German Club, enjoying some good German food and learning a little more about his German heritage.

Conner’s high school years will leave him lots of good memories—attending sporting events, the Christmas dances and the Prom and just hanging out with friends. “I became good friends with about ten different guys early in high school and we’ve been friends since then. Of course, there are also memories of attending high school in the midst of the covid pandemic during his freshman and high school years. “That took a little getting used with all the social distancing and wearing masks.” High school has been some good years, but now he is looking forward



to graduation and moving on to the next chapter in his life.

Conner began his school years here at St. Joe. “We had a lot of good teachers and the school lunches were the best. The cooks were like everyone’s mom! I liked my classes especially PE. And since it was a small school, I got to play all the different sports. I liked our basketball coaches especially. They wanted us to do our best and of course wanted to win. But they were also big on helping us know that there are things more important in life than just winning or losing. Of all the teachers I had, I remember Mr. Wilson the most. Our families got to be good friends and we still get together with them.”

Next year, Connor plans on attending IU where he hopes to pursue a degree in business management. The plan is to take some business classes the first year and then apply to get into the Kelley School of Business. “I could see myself working in business management working as a team leader. Hopefully that will be with some company in the local area.”

Conner counts his family as his biggest supporters as well as the people who have had the biggest influence on him. “The biggest thing my dad has taught me is how important it is to be respectful of others and to not take things for granted. The thing I learned most from my mom is how to get along with people even those you may not agree with. I share a love for music which comes from my dad. I’ve learned to play the piano and he has helped me to learn how to play the guitar. For a while he was in a band with my uncle Brain. I share a love for a lot of the same music, especially 1980’s rock. I’ve learned a lot of those songs from watching utube videos.”

Connor also likes to cook, another thing he has in common with his mom. “I like to find news recipes on line and then try them out.” His latest is buffalo chicken mac and cheese. It’s been a hit with the family. Gatherings with extended family for the holidays is something Connor and everyone in his family looks forward to. It’s a chance to catch up with his cousins, Hannah and Landon Smith as well as grandparents. And, of course, good food, is always a part of these events.”

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** “I think the biggest thing I have

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learned is to take things one step at a time so you don't get overwhelmed with things that you are facing. I think it is important to just appreciate the moments before you. Going through the pandemic was a good opportunity to learn this. At first you think about all the things that you are missing but then, when you can just take things a step at a time, you start to see there are good things even in the midst of what looks like awful things. Playing tennis has also taught me how important it is to stay in the present moment. Not everything goes the way you want it to go, but you have to keep your focus. Each tennis match I have played has taught me something new."



### **Katelyn Bishop**

When you sit down to talk with Katelyn you are greeted with a warm and easy smile. She is the daughter of Matt and Jenny (Folz) Bishop and is a senior at Mater Dei. She is the oldest of four children. Her brother Zach is a sophomore at Mater Dei and her sister Ella is an eighth grader at St. Joe and younger brother Blake is in the sixth grade, also at St. Joe.

When we sat down to talk, Katelyn was getting ready for semester exams. Now half way through her senior year, this time is bitter sweet. "High School has been great and I've really enjoyed it but now I know it is time to start moving on."

Sports has been a big part of Katelyn's four years at Mater Dei. She's been on the soccer team all four years. The team has been pretty good, making it to the semi-state the past two years. Each time they have fallen to Park Tudor of Indianapolis by a single goal.

When soccer is through, she gets ready for softball. There is weight lifting in the off season and then practice starts in March. Katelyn has played varsity all four years. She's played outfield and also done some pitching. One of the highlights of her softball career was helping the team beat the arch rival, Tecumseh High School, for the sectional.

Katelyn is a two year member of the National Honor Society. As a member of this society, she has served as a tutor and also helped to sponsor the very popular coco and cram sessions before semester exams. She has also been a member of the Spanish Club. They sponsor a yearly "Taco Tuesday" and otherwise try to celebrate some of the Hispanic celebrations during the year. Last year, she helped put on the Junior-Senior Prom and this year she is helping with the Dance Marathon to help raise money for Riley Children's Hospital. She has also been trained as a Peer Mediator, a student based initiative designed to help resolve conflicts among students.

Katelyn has spent a great deal of her time and energy on her academic classes. "I've had a lot of good teachers at Mater Dei. One teacher that stands out is her theology teacher, Mr. Wathen. "He teaches church history and I've learned a lot of things I never knew."

One of the high lights of her high school years has been participating in the Health Science Institute this past summer. The institute is designed to give high school students a chance to see the health care world from the inside. To do this they are offered the opportunity to "shadow" health

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Please bring a bible with you. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151) or [jreckelhoff@evdio.org](mailto:jreckelhoff@evdio.org) to register for this free study.



care workers in their jobs. Among the experiences Katelyn had was scrubbing in for a triple bypass surgery and seeing some physical therapy sessions at Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital.

Next year Katelyn hopes to pursue a nursing degree either at Ball State or Purdue. She has applied for a Whittinger Scholarship at Ball State and if she is fortunate to receive it, she will go there. Otherwise, it might be Purdue. Her dream job is to work as a labor and delivery nurse.

Katelyn graduated from St. Joe grade school which she attended beginning in pre-school. Memories of grade school include participating in a lot of the different sports. "I think I was pretty shy as a young person, so participating in all the different sports was a way for me to make new friends. Of course, I remember all the great lunches we had—chicken nuggets and mashed potatoes was my favorite. I liked all my teachers, especially Mr. Wilson who was our fifth grade teacher. I liked Mrs. Daugherty too. She really helped me understand math. By the time eighth grade came around, I think I was ready to move on. And the fact that our year ended with the beginning of the covid pandemic, made moving on a little easier."

Katelyn names her family as the biggest influence in her life. "I think we are pretty close as a family. We like to do a lot of things together. What I really appreciate is that I have become a lot closer to my parents since I began high school. I think I matured and they could see that. I think I tried harder to see their point of view and I felt more understood by them as well."

"I think my mom and I have a similar sense of determination in life. If I have a caring nature, it comes from my mom. People often say that I sound a lot like her. My mom tells me I am more like my dad. We share a common love for sports and hunting. He guided me in hunting deer with a gun and a cross bow. He also made me help to gut and dress the deer. I've also got to help out with some of the butchering days we have had."

Holidays are special times to gather with the Folz Family and the Bishop Family and there is always a lot of good food to enjoy. One of the special events is Turkey Trophy Games. That's when the Folz extended family gathers to play different board games and the family that scores the most points is awarded the special "Turkey Trophy" which they get to keep for the year. This past summer, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, her Folz grandparents took their children and grandchildren to Branson, Missouri.

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** I think the biggest challenge in my life is learning how to deal with bad news. Living through the pandemic during our freshman year was a big learning experience. I think it is important to just practice kindness. Be nice to people and don't make enemies. You never really know all the hard things that other people are going through. I think it is important to not get hooked up in rumors. Sometimes you form opinions about people based upon things you hear, which are not accurate at all. Take the time to get to know people. I think it is important to be comfortable with who you are. When you surround yourself with good people they can help you believe in yourself and gain a lot of confidence.



(Continued from page 1)

## THE TWO HALVES OF THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY (cont)

evidence on several levels that there are at least two major tasks to human life. The first task is to build a strong “container” or identity; the second is to find the contents that the container was meant to hold. The first task we take for granted as the very purpose of life, which does not mean we do



it well. The second task, I am told, is more encountered than sought; few arrive at it with much preplanning, purpose, or passion.

We are a “first-half-of-life culture,” largely concerned about *surviving successfully*. Probably most cultures and individuals across history have been situated in the first half of their own development up to now, because it is all they had time for. We all try to do what seems like the task that life first hands us: establishing an identity, a home, relationships, friends, community, security, and building a proper platform for our only life.

The first task invests so much of our blood, sweat, tears, and years that we often cannot imagine there is a second task, or that anything more could be expected of us. “The old wineskins are good enough,” we say, even though according to Jesus they often cannot hold the new wine. According to him, if we do not get some new wineskins, “the wine and the wineskin will both be lost” (Luke 5:37-39). The second half of life can hold some new wine because by then there should be some strong wineskins, some tested ways of holding our lives together. But that normally means that the container itself has to stretch, die in its present form, or even replace itself with something better.



Various traditions have used many metaphors to make this differentiation clear: beginner and proficient, novices and initiated, milk and meat, letter and spirit, juniors and seniors, baptized and confirmed, apprentice and master, morning and evening, “Peter when you were young ... Peter when you are old” (John 21:18). Only when we have begun to live in the second half of life can we see the difference between the two. Yet the two halves are *cumulative and sequential, and both are very necessary*. We cannot do a nonstop flight to the second half of life by reading lots of books about it. Grace must and will edge us forward. “God has no grandchildren. God only has children,” as some have said. Each generation has to make its own discoveries of Spirit for itself. No pope, Bible quote, psychological technique, religious formula, book, or guru can do

## ENROLLMENT AT MATER DEI

Mater Dei is now accepting new student applications for the 2024-25 school year! Go to [materdeiwildcats.com](http://materdeiwildcats.com) and click the link to apply online. Want to schedule a visit to Mater Dei? Contact Jill Seiler at [jseiler@evdio.org](mailto:jseiler@evdio.org) or 812-426-2258 for info.

Applications for tuition assistance are now available for parents wishing to apply for Mater Dei High School tuition assistance for the 2023-24 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](http://www.materdeiwildcats.com). Select

“Enrollment”, then “Tuition and Financial Assistance”. The priority deadline for applying this year is March 1, 2023. Questions? Please contact Jill Seiler at Mater Dei (812-426-2258, ext. 322) or email [jseiler@evdio.org](mailto:jseiler@evdio.org).



the journey for us. If we try to skip the first journey, we will never receive its real fruits or understand its limitations.

I first read the phrase “first half of life” in the work of Swiss psychologist Carl Jung (1875–1961) years ago. It made sense to me then, but I probably was too young at that point to recognize how true it would eventually become. In short—and this is my layperson’s interpretation of Carl Jung—he would say that the first half of life is the task that we think is our primary task. The second half of life is really the task within the task that a lot of people never get to because they’re so pre-occupied with the first task, which is all about making money, getting an education, raising children, and paying a mortgage. It’s about tradition, law, structure, authority, and identity. It’s about why I’m significant, why I’m important, why I matter, why I’m good.

Most of us are so invested in these first-half-of-life tasks by the age of forty that we can’t imagine there’s anything more to life. But if we stay there, it remains all about me. How can I be important? How can I be safe? How can I be significant? How can I make money? How can I look good? And how can I die a happy death and go to heaven? Religion itself becomes an evacuation plan for the next life, as my friend and colleague Brian McLaren says, because we don’t see much happening of depth or significance in this world. It largely remains a matter of survival.

I’m sad to say, after forty-five years as a priest, I think a lot of Christians have never moved beyond survival questions, security questions, even securing their future in eternity. First-half-of-life religion is an insurance plan to ensure that future. In this stage, any sense of being a part of a cosmos, of being part of a historical sweep, that God is doing something bigger and better and larger than simply saving individual souls (and my own soul in particular) is largely of no interest to us. I don’t think I’m exaggerating. That’s all the first half of life can do.

It’s clear that if someone wants to be elected to a political office in the United States or any country, all they need to do is assure people of safety. Bill Plotkin, who’s been such a wonderful influence on so many people in recent decades, speaks of the first half of life as our survival dance, and the second half of life as our sacred dance. Most people never get beyond their survival dance. It’s just identity questions, boundary questions, superiority questions, and security questions. We would call them ego questions, but they’re not questions of the soul.

Author and retreat leader Paula D’Arcy spoke of her child-

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR PARISH FISH FRYS

FRIDAYS FEB. 23 &amp; MAR. 8



It’s time to make plans for “the best fish fry in the Evansville area,”—February 23 and March 8. We will be serving our fish dinners **DRIVE THRU ONLY** from 5-7 PM. We’ll be scheduling some work days to help prepare all the food for the fish fry. Check the bulletin and future newsletters for details.

hood kitchen table as a symbol of the security of her first half of life. “I had a dream [at a retreat] ... and in that dream, I was back in the home in which I was raised, and my siblings and my parents and I were all sitting around the kitchen table, which was the hub of our home. And then in the dream, suddenly the



table was just gone. It had vanished.... When the table was removed, it made room for truth. Now there is space for something entirely new to happen....

*At that table, the first part of my journey happened. At that table, we sat, and my sisters and I were quizzed on the Baltimore Catechism, and we learned the laws, and we learned the rules. It's very interesting to think how at that table, I first heard the question, “Who is God?” and “Why were we created?” And we parroted back to my parents the lesson book, the things that we were learning. At that table, we passed back and forth to my parents our report cards and sat hoping that they were good enough. At that table, we learned the values that had given my parents' life shape.*

D'Arcy lost her husband and young daughter in a car accident when she was pregnant with their second child. She describes what it meant to sit at that same table with the reality of immense loss, and then to discover in her dream that the table is eventually taken away.

Because that table once held all the answers, it held all the security. It was the frame, and it was the root of my life.... That table was so many things in that life; and then it became a table where I went in my grief and asked a lot of the questions about the meaning of life, and the extent of the darkness, and how a person got through that amount of pain.

So the dream at that retreat was significant to me, when I

dreamt that the table was now removed. It had served its purpose. It had held me while I went through the first half of my journey. It had provided all of the things that were meant to be provided, and now the table was removed, because the journey was to go a different way. The journey was now within. Now, all the doors and all the answers and all the mystery were going to be found not at that table, but ... looking through eyes that were very different, and a life that was suddenly broken open in a different way. I learned the roots of love at that table, but when the table was removed .... My litany at that table would have been, “Do I have what it takes to really love, to do the second half of the journey?”

Author and Pastor Brian McLaren shares these reflections. Many of us have memories of when our spiritual lives first came alive—the season of our “first love.” For example, in those initial months after my [powerful spiritual] experience ... I felt the Bible speak to me as never before. The simplest word or phrase would stir my soul.... I started wearing a big wooden cross around my neck, and I carried a big, green Living Bible on top of my high-school books—in hopes that someone would ask me about either of them, so I could “bear witness” to my exuberant, contagious faith. I loved to insert “Praise the Lord!” into my speech as often as possible—which elicited “Amen!” from my Christian friends and surprise or annoyance from my other friends. Speaking of my Christian friends, we could often be found huddling in a stairwell ... praying for a miraculous intervention of some sort. And our prayers, it seemed to us, were answered way beyond the statistical norm. We seemed to “live and move and have our being” [Acts 17:28] in the holy glow of God's presence. It was spiritual springtime, and we assumed it would never end.

McLaren charts growth in the spiritual life as coming to greater fullness when we over beyond the simplicity of that first season. Just as all higher mathematics depends on learning basic arithmetic, and just as all more sophisticated music depends on mastering the basics of tempo, melody, and harmony, the spiritual life depends on learning well the essential lessons of this first season, Simplicity. If these lessons aren't learned well, practitioners will struggle in later seasons. But if in due time this season doesn't give way to the next, the spiritual life can grow stagnant and even toxic. Nearly all of us in this dynamic season of Simplicity tend to share a number of characteristics. We see the world in simple dualist terms: “we” are the good guys who follow the good authority figures and we have the right answers; “they” are the bad guys who consciously or unconsciously fight on the wrong side of the cosmic struggle between good and evil. We feel a deep sense of identity and belonging in our in-group.... This simple, dualist faith gives us great confidence.

This confidence, of course, has a danger, as the old Bob Dylan classic “With God on Our Side” makes clear: “You don't count the dead when God's on your side.” The same sense of identification with an in-group that generates a warm glow of belonging and motivates sacrificial action for us can sour into intolerance, hatred, and even violence toward them. And the same easy, black-and-white answers that comfort and reassure us now may later seem arrogant, naive, ignorant, and harmful, if we don't move beyond Simplicity in the fullness of time.

Fr. Richard Rohr considers how a balance of unconditional

## COME AND SEE WHAT ST. JOSEPH



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BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:30 - 6:45 PM BEGINNING JAN. 10**

That Man Is You! combines scripture, solid secular research, and a little fun to address the pressures and temptations facing men in our modern culture. It seeks to form authentic leaders who will be capable of transforming homes and society. For questions please contact Rodney (912-598-9066) or Jessica (812-598-1151)

and conditional love serves growth in the first half of life. The only happy people I've met are those who have found some way to serve. Such folks are not preoccupied with self-image, success, and power. Many of us began with traditional rules, discipline, and structure that created a kind of compression chamber, often based on exclusion. As we grow, the chamber becomes tight and oppressive, so we begin to practice what we call "the sacred no" against self-serving laws, traditions, and cultural practices that pose as the will of God. We're no longer willing to prop up the status quo and believe that is all there is to life.

It seems many people raised in our culture in the last few decades grew up backwards by beginning "liberal." This leaves the unconverted ego in the position of decider. I don't think we do our children any favors by raising them without boundaries or rules and largely letting them decide for themselves what is right for them. Basically, we're asking them to start from zero. In an overreaction to the generation before them, parents and the church have been trying hard to love unconditionally. I know this from doing it myself with the young people in the New Jerusalem Community in my early years as a priest. I endlessly preached about God's unconditional love. To be honest, although we drew thousands of young people, most did not take this very far in terms of deep and lasting transformation or service to the world.



To borrow an idea from Erich Fromm's classic book *The Art of Loving*, I believe

that the healthiest people are those who received from their two parents and early authority figures a combination of unconditional love and conditional love. This seems to be true of so many effective and influential people, like St. Francis, John Muir, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Mother Teresa. I know my siblings and I received conditional love from our mother and unconditional love from our father. We all admit now that Mom's demanding love served us very well later in life, although we sure fought her when we were young. And we were glad Daddy was there to balance her out.

It appears we need a goal, a wall to butt up against to create a proper ego structure and a strong identity. Such a goal is the way we internalize our own deeper values, educate our feeling function, and dethrone our own narcissism. We all need to internalize the sacred no to our natural egocentricity. It seems we need a certain level of frustration, a certain amount of not having our needs met. Then we realize there are other people who also have needs and desires and feelings. As my mother told me, "Dickie, your rights end at the end of your

nose; that's where somebody else's nose begins."

In her "Loving the Two Halves of Life" talk, author and poet Edwina Gateley tells of the secure attachment to God she experienced as a child, a result of her first-half-of-life container.

"I didn't even question that I was loved, it was like an entitlement. Well, of course, God loves us, and the church will teach us and guide us and protect us and help us to become holy. We were simply loved and secure and trusting.... God knows, God understands, God loves you with an enormous love and only wants to look upon you with that love. Quiet, still, be, let your God love you. And God was always there, even if I went out to play...."

Religion, in that first stage of spiritual life, [meant] we're safe. An eternal invitation to rest and play in love and knowing the security of God with us. We are, each of us, a bit of God, a scrap of divinity. If only we could know it, we would walk the earth in awe, eyes shining in splendor, heart suspended in delight, at the miracle of the living God gracing our days and nights.... The joy, the innocence, the energy, and the hope of childhood!

Gateley reminds us that while our experience of faith changes, God's love remains steadfast through our lives. We forget as we grow older; we leave behind the spontaneity and often the joy of our early years. And the words of Meister

(Continued on page 8)

## BECOMING 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.

- 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.



**Teens Encounter Christ****2024****February 17-19 \* July****St. Mary's Ireland, 2829 N 500 W, Jasper, IN****For Ages 17 (or High School Junior) to Adult**

TEC is a 3-day retreat based on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. Participants have an opportunity to meet youth and young adults from all over the diocese as they encounter Christ through a wide variety of activities with a marvelous blend of social and spiritual interactions. Led primarily by fellow youth and young adults, TEC offers participants an experience that is both relevant and engaging. For an inspiring opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ and build lasting Christian friendship, register today at [www.switec.org](http://www.switec.org). For more questions, contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151 or email her at [jreckelhoff@evdio.org](mailto:jreckelhoff@evdio.org)).

*(Continued from page 7)***THE TWO HALVES OF THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY (cont)**

Eckhart, of course, ring true for us, "God is at home. It is we who have gone out for a walk." Out we go into the world, often looking for God and we are told, God is out there somewhere and if we do certain things and behave in certain ways, well, we might connect with God, we might glimpse a little of God. And so we try and we try to attract God's attention and we try and we try to be good and to be faithful and to do the right thing. And often we fail and we hurt and we get disillusioned. We have forgotten: God is at home; it is indeed we who have gone out for a walk. The dance and the play are abandoned as we address the serious issues of adult life and discipleship. The faith of childhood, the innocence, is often forgotten....

But it is important for us to know that no matter how much life and circumstances may batter and bruise us on this journey of life, the God of our childhood is also the God of our adulthood and is also the God of our old age. God is faithful on this developing journey, ever seducing us along the way to remember who we are and from where we come. Who we are, the daughters and the sons of God, called to reflect the face of God in a suffering world.

*Next month we will reflect upon the second half of the journey of our faith.*

**WE WANT YOU IN THE PICTURE!**

Plans are in the work to have a new parish pictorial directory. It's been several years since our last parish directory was published. A big thanks to Amelia (Reckelhoff) Hartz for agreeing to coordinate this effort.

We will be taking pictures for our new church directory on June 20<sup>th</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date and keep an eye out for more information in the coming months!

If your contact information has changed since 2020, or if you are new to our parish, please send your updated contact information to the parish office

**Church Photo  
directory**

or Amelia Hartz. This is especially so, if you have dropped your land line or changed your email address. We don't want to miss you!

For any questions, contact Amelia Hartz, text/call 812-228-0282, or via e-mail, [ameliamhartz@gmail.com](mailto:ameliamhartz@gmail.com).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE****Eucharistic  
REVIVAL****A REVIVAL FOR YOUR HEART****LIFE FOR YOUR SOUL****SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024****OLD NATIONAL BANK EVENTS CENTER****CONGRESS BEGINS AT 8:30 AM****CONCLUDES WITH MASS AT 4:00 PM**

PURCHASE TICKETS (\$40/person) ON LINE AT TICKET-MASTERS <https://www.ticketmaster.com/diocese-of-evansville-eucharistic-congress-evansville-indiana-01-13-2024/event/05005F27E0125309>  
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS GO TO [eucharisticcongressesvdio.org](http://eucharisticcongressesvdio.org)

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS  
January 20, 2024--February 11, 2024**

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READERS
Saturday January 20, 2024 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Mike Reffett
Sunday January 21, 2024 8 AM	Kylie Frey Stephanie Frey Al Debes Dolores Folz	Marcia Frey
Sunday January 21, 2024 10:30 AM	Angie Will Jane Scheller Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge	Shane Wessel
Saturday January 27 2024 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch & Linda Feulner	Sis Jarboe
Sunday January 28, 2024 8 AM	Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers Rodney & Paula Baehl	Chick Duncan
Sunday January 28, 2024 10:30 AM	Paul Hillenbrand Amy Cody Jena & Shane Wessel	Terri Drone
Saturday February 3, 2024 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Eric and Karen McDonald	Toni Askins
Sunday February 4, 2024 8 AM	Joan Inkenbrandt Michael Elpers Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher	Tom Blythe
Sunday February 4, 2024 10:30 AM	Rachael Schnaus Becky Doshier Shane Wessel Steve Jung	Julie Forcum
Saturday February 10, 2024 5:00 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Toni Askins
Sunday February 11, 2024 9:00 AM	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SPECIAL MINISTERS



## 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 contribute generously. For more information, visit their website at [www.usccb.org/latinamerica](http://www.usccb.org/latinamerica).



## Saint Meinrad

For over 150 years, Saint Meinrad's monks have dedicated their lives to serving the needs of the Catholic Church through their prayer and work. Many of the priests in our diocese received all or part of their theological formation at St. Meinrad. That tradition continues today in their ongoing commitment to providing seminarians with excellent spiritual and academic preparation for the priesthood. Because so many priests, deacons and laypeople in our diocese have been impacted by the work of St. Meinrad, our diocese sets aside one Sunday in January to invite people to be a part of this important work. The monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey encourage you to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This month you will also be receiving a special invitation from them to help support their work with your financial contribution. They invite you to partner with them so that can continue their work of serving the needs of the church.

### CARING FOR THE EARTH MORE THAN JUST RECYCLING A CALL FOR AN ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

The ecological crisis is an appeal to a profound interior conversion. However, we must also recognize that some committed and prayerful Christians, under the pretext of realism and pragmatism, often scoff at environmental concerns. Others are passive, do not make up their minds to change their habits and become inconsistent.....Living the vocation of being custodians of God's work is an essential part of a virtuous existence, it is not something optional and not even a secondary aspect of the Christian experience.



Christian spirituality proposes a growth in sobriety and an ability to enjoy with little. It is a return to simplicity that allows us to stop and enjoy the little things, to be grateful for the possibilities that life offers without clinging to what we have or saddening ourselves for what we do not possess. This requires avoiding the dynamics of domination and the mere accumulation of pleasures.

In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change.

Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures. *Pope Francis Laudato Si*



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 200 lbs of free ground pork. We're always glad to get fresh meat that is donated. As you know, it is very expensive to purchases. In addition, thanks so much for the weekly donations of food

which you bring in so faithfully, In addition to all this, we are grateful for the faithful volunteers from your parish: Terry Drone, Martha Baehl, Ruth Burk and Dolores Folz. Without 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, canned and dry goods, personal hygiene and cleaning items to those facing hard times. Thank you for acting on the inspiration to help those in need.

*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.



Fifty-four area businesses support our parish each week by taking an ad in our bulletin and newsletter. Their generosity enables us to publish our bulletin each week and publish and mail our newsletter each month. It's a great time to say "thanks" to them and to support them by taking advantage of the services they offer!

# JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> New Year's Day Mass 8 am  No Eucharistic Adoration	<b>2</b> 7:30 AM Mass  <b>Prayer Day for Vocations</b> <b>6 am Tuesday--6 am Wednesday</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30 AM MASS  School Resumes  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2	<b>4</b> NO MASS  	<b>5</b> 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound	<b>6</b> Confessions 4-4:40 pm  5 pm Mass  Food Drive Collection Haiti Collection
<b>7</b> 8 & 10:30 am Masses Coffee & Donuts 9 am Family Religious Education  Children's Liturgy 10:30 am Food Drive Collection	<b>8</b> 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration School Board Meeting 6 pm 6:30 PM Mass  7 pm Knights of St. John Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:30 am Mass	<b>10</b> 7:30 am Mass  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2  That Man is You 5:30 pm  Bible Study 6:45 pm	<b>11</b> NO MASS  Altar Society Meeting 6:30 pm  <b>HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR LOTTERY TICKET?</b> 	<b>12</b> 7:30 am Mass  Communion to The Homebound	<b>13</b> Altar Society Kuchen Sale  Confessions 4-4:40 pm  Food Drive Collection  5 pm Mass
<b>14</b> 8 & 10:30 am Masses  Family Religious Education  Children's Liturgy 10:30 am Food Drive Collection	<b>15</b> 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass  NO SCHOOL  7 pm Men's Club Meeting	<b>16</b> 7:30 am Mass	<b>17</b> 7:30 am Mass  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2  That Man is You 5:30 pm  Bible Study 6:45 pm	<b>18</b> NO MASS  7 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting  	<b>19</b> 7:30 Mass  Communion to The Homebound	<b>20</b> Confessions 4-4:40 pm  Food Drive Collection  5 pm Mass
<b>21</b> 8 & 10:30 Masses  Family Religious Education  Children's Liturgy 10:30 am Food Drive Collection	<b>22</b> 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration  6:30 pm Mass	<b>23</b> 7:30 am Mass	<b>24</b> 7:30 am Mass  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 That Man is You 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:45 pm	<b>25</b> NO MASS  	<b>26</b> 7:30 am Mass Communion to The Homebound	<b>27</b> Confessions 4-4:40 pm  5 PM Mass  Food Drive Collection
<b>28</b> 8 & 10:30 am Masses Family Religious Education Children's Liturgy 10:30 am Food Drive Collection Confirmation Session 11-1	<b>29</b> 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration  6:30 pm Mass  <b>Catholic Schools Week January 29--February 2</b>	<b>30</b> 7:30 am Mass	<b>31</b> 8:00 am Mass with Prayer Partners Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 That Man is You 5:30 pm Bible Study 6:45 pm	<b>1</b> NO MASS <b>COME AND SEE WHAT ST. JOE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER TO YOU THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1 5-7 PM</b>	<b>2</b> 7:30 am Mass  Communion to The Homebound	<b>3</b> Confessions 4-4:40 pm  Mass 5 pm  Haiti and Food Drive Collection



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(Continued from page 1)

### REBUILDING OUR CHURCH UPDATE (cont)

protection, they will also regild the cross and secure it properly to the top of the steeple. That work will depend upon weather and will likely happen in the spring as well.

You may recall that we all wanted to do several other items as part of our Rebuilding our Church Campaign. The first of these was to install security gates for the parking

lot on the south side of the school. Those have already been installed.

Secondly, we wanted to install a culvert in the ditch along St. Joseph Road just west of our present cemetery. That project is in the works. You may have noticed the

loads of dirt that have been dumped there. Once the culvert is installed we'll use this dirt to fill in the ditch.

The third item was to build a columbarium for cremation burials in the cemetery. Originally we thought this might be located at the east end of the current cemetery. However, after more study, we don't think that place will work. There are several other areas in the cemetery that will work and we are putting together some drawings to review.

The last item was to repave needed areas in the parking

lots, then seal and restripe the entire parking lot. That work will happen next summer.

In the meantime, we are back in church even without the pews. And it has been wonderful. So, now it is time to celebrate. A group of folks have been making plans for this celebration. We thinking about having one mass on Sunday followed by a dinner. Look for more details in the coming weeks!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
**THANKSGIVING**  
**CELEBRATION**  
**MASS AND DINNER**

**JOIN US FOR OUR WOMEN'S RETREAT**

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*enough*  
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**March 2 and 3**

Looking for a great retreat this coming Lent? Join in the St. Joe Women's retreat March 2-3, 2024. There will be many dynamic speakers, beautiful live music, time for adoration and confession, a spa hour, Mass at 5:00 pm on Saturday, food, snacks, and lots of time with fellow women friends! The retreat will run Saturday, March 2 from 9:00am-10:00pm through Sunday, March 3 from 7:00am-10:15am. Overnight accommodations are available.

Contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151 or [jreckelhoff@evdio.org](mailto:jreckelhoff@evdio.org)) for information and/or to register.