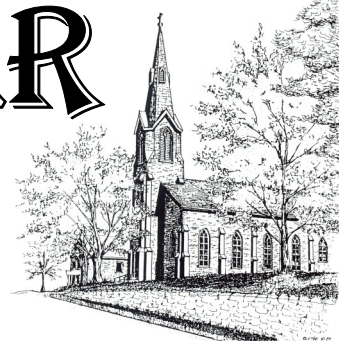


THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH
6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD
EVANSVILLE, IN 47720
CELEBRATING OUR 181ST YEAR
OCTOBER 2022

FALL FESTIVAL WEEK
Visit the PTO Booth (#28) and
Knights of St. John Booth (#44)

Visit us online at www.stjoeco.org
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BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

I've been wearing hearing aids for over two years now. In that time I have "heard" so many things that previously I didn't even notice. And of course it has made me much more aware of how important hearing is in our life. If you are able to hear well, you're a gift to the world. So many people are longing to be heard.

We live in such a noisy world. Every day it seems we are getting assaulted with more information than we can possible cope with. And so much of the information coming our way is scary. It's enough to make us want to shut it all off and not listen to anything. Hearing and listening. They are such an important part of our lives. We recall the words of Jesus who told the disciples: "Blessed are you who have ears to hear. I tell you many people longed to hear what you hear but did not hear it." (Matthew 3:16). How can we keep our ears open to hear what we are supposed to hear and not feel overwhelmed? How can we stay present in a world full of noise and not add more noise to it? Who can show us the way? We need look no farther than the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus as a model.

It's not easy to have ears that hear. In this age of social media and instant communication there is so much stuff coming at us every day. With cell phones we are given even more chances to stay up to date with "breaking news," or special weather alerts, or new alerts. Just recently I was driving with some friends and at one particular time, all their cell phones went off with the latest Amber Alert about a child in a city far away who had been missing. And all of my friends eagerly checked their phones to check out this latest news. I'm not sure what, if anything, my friends could do about this news, but they took it all in. The only obvious result is the anxiousness we all felt knowing that somewhere, a child was lost and we could do nothing about it. That is one of the sad consequences of living in a world so full of noise.

In many ways all the noise we hear is a reflection of

how so many things seem to be changing before our eyes. We keep hearing things that honestly we do not want to hear. Things that used to be covered up or not talked about are now part of the regular news cycle. And the worse the news is the most likely it is to be on the front cover of the newspaper. Media people are anxious for us to be "up to date" so they keep enticing us with different apps we can put on our phones. This way, they tell us, we'll always be "in

(Continued on page 9)



CELEBRATING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF FR. MYRON EFFING

For those who have been a member of our parish for a long time, Fr. Myron Effing may be a familiar name to you. Some of you may even remember going to school with him at St. Joe. Fr. Myron was born on Feb. 7, 1941. He was one of four children born to Henry and Leota Effing. Many of you will remember his older sister, Marlene who was married to Paul Hasslebrinck. They were long time members of our parish until their deaths. Myron has a brother, Merle, who lives in Arizona, and a sister Marilyn (Wassmer) who lives on the west side and attends Resurrection parish.

After graduating from St. Joe Grade School, Fr. Myron went on to Mater Dei High School where he graduated in 1959. He had a keen interest in science and enrolled in the University of Evansville to pursue a degree in mathematics and physics. As it happened he also took classes in Russian to fulfill his foreign language requirement.

Fr. Myron felt called to live in a religious community where he might be able to teach. He became a member of the Crosiers community. He was ordained a priest of that order on May 27, 1972. For twenty-nine years, Fr. Myron served the community as a teacher of math, physics, astronomy, and biology.

Throughout the years, a missionary spirit continued to live in Fr. Myron's heart. In time that missionary spirit would lead him to offer his life energy to working with the Catholic community in Russia. In 1992 he began this work by working with the people in Vladivostok on the far south east coast of Russia near Korea and Japan.

(Continued on page 3)

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
US IN CELEBRATING
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF FR. MYRON EFFING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
10:30 AM MASS**

Following the Mass, there will be a dinner for family and friends in the school cafeteria.
Call Marilyn Wassmer
(812) 985-3261
to make your reservation
for the dinner.

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HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CPC?

PARISH GOAL	\$125,270.00
PLEDGED TO DATE	\$ 11,435.00
NUMBER OF PLEDGES	12
AVERAGE PLEDGE	\$ 952.00

Now, more than ever, your help is needed
if we are to meet our parish obligation.



REMEMBERING

William Duncan

September 20, 1966 - August 12, 2022

William Duncan was born on September 20, 1966, one of ten children born to Ruth and Philip Duncan. "Bill", as he was known to the family, grew up with his mom and dad and family on Wright Drive. His brothers, John and Thomas preceded him in death. He is survived by his four sisters Betty, Cindy, Susan and Julie and his three brothers Philip, Pat and Jim.

As a young child he attended St. Joseph Grade School and graduated in 1980. He attended Reitz High School for several years. Going to school was not Bill's favorite thing to do. But while he did not graduate from Reitz, he did work to earn his GED.

Bill worked at a number of jobs through the years. What he enjoyed most was spending time with his friends and working on his cars. His nieces and nephews remember him as a fun loving guy who was always trying to play tricks on them.

For the last several years, Bill had been sharing an apartment with two of his sisters. In the last years of his life, Bill was confronted with several health challenges. With the help of his sisters and the other members of his family, he was able to cope with his cancer diagnosis. They were with him as he made his passing this past August 12.

We pray that God will grant him eternal rest. We take comfort in the fact that his mom and dad and brothers were there to welcome him home.

REMEMBERING

Cyndi Bonds-Conaway

December 5, 1961 - August 31, 2022



Cyndi was born on December 5, 1961, the daughter of James and Judi Bonds at the base hospital at Great lakes Navel Training Center in northern Illinois where her father served as drill sergeant.

As the daughter of a Marine Corp sergeant, Cyndi moved around quite a bit. When he retired, the family moved to Lakewood, Colorado. Cyndi graduated from Green Mountain High School in Lakewood and then went on to the University of Colorado in Denver. She graduated in 1983 with a degree in history and psychology.

Upon graduation, Cyndi joined the Marine Corps and commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1984. She attended the USMC Officer Basic School for infantry tactics where she was in the first women's platoon to complete the same course of instruction as the men. She served as an Adjutant and Legal Officer for the 3rd Marine Air Wing. It was there that Cyndi met her



CELEBRATING 3,883 YEARS OF MARRIAGE FAITHFULNESS

This month, throughout our diocese, we celebrate with and give thanks for these couples from our parish who have been married for 50+ years. Their names and the number of years they have been married are listed below.

Richard and Imogene Baehl—61**Bob and Martha Baehl—56****John and Diane Bassemeyr—54****John & Bonnie Bittner—61****Al and Janet Debes—52****Dave and Donna Dippel—54****Bob and Norma Duncan—68****Chick and Jean Duncan—55****Gene & Earlene Elpers—51****Judy & Richard Fehrenbacher—52****Butch & Linda Feulner—53****Tom and Dolores Folz—63****Pat & Jeanne Freeman—53****Dennis and Bobbie Gibbs—55****Judy & Fred Gries—52****Carol & Danny Gries—50****Roger and Kathy Hall—54****Ray and Eloise Hamner—58****Fran and Shirley Happe—62****Fred and Mary Happe—57****Larry and Henrietta Happe—59****Jim and Janet Herr—52****Frank and Sandy Hertel—56****Mike and Donna Hiestand—58****Don and Carolyn Hutchison—56****Alan and Joan Inkenbrandt—54****Keith and Beverley Jones—54****Linda & Danny Kares—53****Esther & Dan Kelley—52****Don and Lynn Kissel—54****Anne & Steve Lannert—51****Stan and Glenda Love—55****Harry and Donna Lincoln—58****Dan and Dosey Lehman—63****Jon and Bernette Locklar—58****John and Ruby Manger—59****Mary and Joe Mayer—71****Bob and Marilyn Mossberger—61****Norb and Madonna Niemeier—55****Charles and Joan Niemeier—66****Tom and Clara Raben—55****Barb and Allen Rexing—52****Gene and Marianne Ritter—68****Chuck and Thersa Roberts—50****Ray and Charlene Schapker—58****Tony and Alma Scheller—56****Dave and Charlotte Schlichting—56****Herman & Catherine Schmitt—68****Dennis & Joanie Schneider—63****Randy and Jeannine Shumate—53****Bob and Betty Singer—71****Russell and Dorothy Stratman—68****Don and Alice Weis—57****Sharon and Steve Willis—53****Dan & Sharon Voelker—50****Vince and Jody Werner—50****Gary and Diane Wunderlich—54**

husband David, a Marine Pilot who was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, in California. They were married in 1985 and welcomed two sons, Michael and John. Later, Cyndi would give birth to a third son, Ian, who is now a senior at Mater Dei.

After 6 years, Cyndi left the Marine Corps to concentrate on raising their growing family. Cyndi became a counseling psychologist graduating from the University of North Florida with a Masters Degree in 1992. She was also a teacher and a coach at St John's Country Day School from 1998-2003. She taught history and coached soccer and cross country and was well loved by her students.

In 2007 Dave and Cyndi became part of our parish community when they moved to Evansville to live in the house that belong to David's grandparents. As their son Ian went through school here at St. Joe, Cyndi offered her support especially helping with the dinners the PTO provided for the West Side Nut Club. She became friends especially with the folks in our school cafeteria and day care. She also enjoyed her time with her friends at the Tri State Fitness and Tennis Center.

Cyndi's untimely death in August has left a big hole in many lives. We pray that God's peace be with David and Ian, Michael and John and her many friends.



Fr. Myron with the members of Canons Regular of Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

The work of rebuilding the Catholic community would be filled with many challenges. While there had been a Catholic community in Vladivostok, it disappeared when the Communist Party replaced the Russian Tsarist government with the Soviet Union in 1917. At the time Fr. Myron arrived in Vladivostok, most of the people who were Catholic were either very old or had never been allowed to practice their religion or even learn about their Catholic faith tradition. It was into this world that Fr. Myron and another companion, Fr. Daniel Maurer, began their work.



Restored Cathedral of
Mary Mother of God

Fr. Myron's vision was to establish a religious community to serve the Catholic community. With Fr. Daniel, they began the community known as the Canons Regular of Jesus the Lord, modeled after the teaching of St. Augustine. That community flourishes today but perhaps not in the way that Fr. Myron first envisioned it. Originally, he believed that members of the community would come from Russia, but instead they have come from the Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam. Today there are 48 members serving in five different communities.

In the last thirty years, Fr. Myron, with the help of many associates and supporters, has been able to do much good work to restore the Catholic community in southeastern Russia. Here are just a few things:

- Total restoration of the historic former cathedral, Most Holy Mother of God, in Vladivostok
- reestablishing/founding thirteen catholic parishes
- construction of a three story monastery/parish center in Vladivostok
- initiating the beginning of Catholic Charities (Caritas) of Vladivostok and Primorsky Krai
- developing and overseeing humanitarian aid services which include

- visits to the elderly homebound by doctors, nurses and parishioners
- financial/volunteer support to a Vladivostok polyclinic for service to the poor
- founding of six women's support centers to give help to pregnant women and mothers with babies, including Adopt-a-Birth programs to help mothers choose life for their babies
- Guardian Angel programs to help financially distressed families keep their children at home without being deprived of their parental rights
- programs to teach adults and youth about the dangers of alcoholism. Support for many groups of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon
- dinners for elderly and poor parishioners
- volunteer programs to visit orphans and the dying elderly in hospice
- Adopt-A-Grandma program to make it possible for needy retired people to become charity volunteers in hospices and children's homes
- financial and material help for orphanages, hospitals and dental clinics
- food and rehabilitation for street children
- low interest loans for families to be able to buy their own apartments
- emergency assistance to large families in need and to the elderly who require life-sustaining medications
- weekend meal, religious, educational and enrichment programs for poor children in Lesozavodsk

All this is a remarkable achievement. Fr. Myron would be the first to tell you that that many, many people are responsible for the success of these efforts. Among the many people who assisted him where the members of his family, especially his two sisters, Marlene and Marilyn. During their life, Marlene and Paul were instrumental in getting the people of St. Joseph Parish to be part of this work.

Over the years we have collected needy items that were shipped to Vladivostok and raised money to support the many different ministries that Fr. Myron was involved in. For many years, Tom Folz, one of our parishioners, would travel around the country to give mission talks at different parishes to help raise money. Several years ago, Sharon Vogler, our former Director of Religious Education, helped to organize a mission trip to Vladivostok. Most recently we have been taking up a special collection four times a year to help fund the education of some of the young members of the community who are studying for the priesthood.



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IT'S LOTTERY TIME

2023 ST. JOE MONTHLY LOTTERY TICKETS are now available. \$1350 to be given away each month. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Our lottery sellers will be contacting those who have bought tickets in the past. Cost is \$75. If you haven't purchased a ticket in the past, contact the parish office. (812-963-3273).



48 CHANCES TO WIN BIG BUCKS!! GET YOUR TICKET TODAY-\$75

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE ON DEATH ROW?

as reported by Lyle C May



Let me begin with a typical day on North Carolina's death row. Unlike most other death rows in the US, our cell doors stay open from 7:00am until 10:45pm. There are about 20 people who live on each of the seven death row cell blocks, for a total population of 135, divided between two floors. Much of our day is spent on the block except for one hour of outside recreation, meals at the chow hall, visits, medical appointments, or religious services. In terms of size, I have spent the last twenty years in a 7'x 9' cell, walking the same 200 ft. length of hallway, playing and exercising in a dirt and grass lot roughly half a square acre. I suppose it could be worse: at least we don't have cell mates.

Through the day we are left to our own devices. Most of my time is spent writing and reading. A lot of guys watch TV or play table-top games like cards or chess. There is also a small library of mostly donated books on our unit. We even have a few psych programs like group therapy, counseling services, and a mindfulness-meditation group. However, the psych programs sound better than they actually are. After so many years most guys develop their own routine, doing what they can to occupy their time with meaningful activities. It's important we do so because of how readily the mind decays without something to stimulate and stretch it. Even then, some guys still lose touch with reality.

It is not an exaggeration to say we're lost in time and cut off from the real world. Without computers or internet access this is especially true in 2019. Our information comes from dated newspapers and magazines, or mainstream news affiliates like ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox. It wasn't until 2016 that we received regular access to a phone. Before then we were given one 10-minute collect call a year around Christmas. Coupled with the stigma of a death sentence, and the desert of information that is prison, this technological deficit dissolved a lot of relationships. What were already tenuous connections dissolved, because - who has time to write a letter in the fast-paced free world?

Fortunately, over the years we've been able to rely on one another. Our interaction has eased the sense of isolation and abandonment. What for an outsider would be a seemingly scary situation - living among people convicted of murder - is mundane for us. We share the same fate, for the same crime, have gone through the same legal process, and experience many of the same problems. It makes it easier to identify with one another and, while there is still a pecking order and various cliques,

we are more equal than not.

The main thing to remember is that we are all flawed human beings who experience the same needs,

hopes, fears, and persecution. When one of us has a bad day, for example, someone is usually there to hold him up. Like individual bricks, we don't amount to much on our own, but together we support and fortify each other. Death row may be the unlikelyst of communities, but for many of us it's the only family we have.

To answer the question of Jesus as a man on death row it will help to explain some of my religious background. My mom raised my siblings and me in a Catholic household. She taught Sunday School and we were all altar servers at some point. I left my faith behind in adolescence and rediscovered it upon coming to death row in 1999. I've been confirmed since 2000 and have attended Catholic Mass every week for the last 20 years.

It wasn't easy at first. Fr. Dan, one of the priests who delivered Mass on the row, tried to convince me to return using the parable of the prodigal son. He reminded me we all stray from God, and the important part is to repent in humility and reconcile that relationship. I was angry and defiant, questioning Fr. Dan incessantly as people I came to know were put to death. When his original approach didn't work, Fr. Dan used Pascal's Wager.

If you believe in God and it turns out to be a story, you've lost nothing; but, if you choose not to believe in God, in all that the Bible instructs, and it turns out to be true, then you, my friend, have lost everything in this life and the next.

Fr. Dan's belief in the eternal mercy of Jesus Christ and his infinite love and patience saved my life. For me, it was the first manifestation of Jesus as a man on death row and I paid attention. Endless patience. Unconditional love. Mercy. In Luke, Chapter 23, Verses 39-43, there is a scene not repeated in any of the other gospels. As Jesus hung on the cross between two criminals, one reviled him, saying "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us". The other rebuked him and said, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,



--COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES--

Again this year, we have an opportunity to stay in touch with and support our college young adults by filling out a college care package with all the kindS of snacks that will keep them going during their final exams. Packages will be available for pick up the weekend of October 22-23. Please fill up and return the care package by Sunday, November 20. That will give us a chance to get them to our college students before their exams. Thanks!



COMING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23rd**ST. JOE MEN'S CLUB'S FAMOUS
BURGOO****BURGOO AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP
BEGINNING AT 7 AM CONTAINERS
PROVIDED \$20/GALLON****COME JOIN IN THE FUN OF PREPARING BURGOO. WE NEED
HELP ON SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 22nd at 7 am**

but this man has done nothing criminal.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (The Catholic Study Bible, 2nd Ed. New American Revised Edition, Oxford University Press, 2011).

The first time a friend of mine was executed I had been on death row less than a year. Harvey and I exercised together and grew close. Like Fr. Dan, he urged me to pursue God. Ask my questions. Be angry, but confess my sins and be constant in my relationship with Him. Harvey was one of my early mentors who was vocal in the Sunday Protestant service and on the block. He admitted his crimes and repented and urged others to do the same. In him I witnessed the rebuke of the second criminal crucified with Jesus; the plea for mercy and redemption. Before they took him away, Harvey urged me not to let death row define me like the State intended it. He told me, “You. Are. Valuable.”

My friend’s death hurt me, as so many after him would. The second manifestation of Jesus as a man on death row was recognizing my faults and being unafraid to change and grow from them. But Harvey also taught me to live.

How do you reckon with being in the shadow of the valley of death? The enemy uses helplessness, despair, fatalism, hatred, and self-loathing to break us down. These things erode one’s ability to resist violence and animal urges governed by prison norms. A loss of identity, failure, betrayal, and constant disappointment drains the ability to resist. It makes prison a miserable experience and daily battle.

I often draw inspiration from Viktor Frankl, Holocaust survivor and author of Man’s Search for Meaning. Frankl’s experience in captivity provide a blueprint for finding purpose amidst unimaginable pain and suffering. He lived in a place where innocent people were stripped of their humanity, starved, beaten, tortured, and executed in the millions. He made it through multiple concentration camps, his mind intact, and discovered a radical resilience that made sense of the misery when it would have been so easy to succumb. What right do I have to do anything less?

Frankl provided a map to thrive in any environment, but there had to be more. What would thriving look like for me?



A third manifestation of Jesus as a man on death row came in the form of an offer to enroll in some college correspondence courses. I dropped out of high school and earned a GED in a reformatory because it was required of delinquent youth. College had never been a thought. But needing something to do, and genuinely curious what it would be like, I accepted.

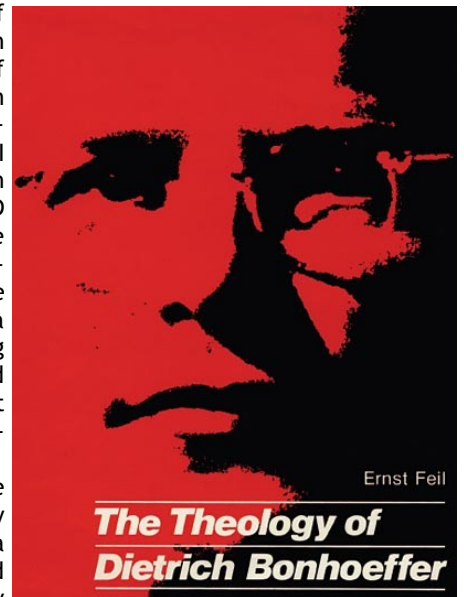
It turned out to be the best decision of my life. I discovered I’m a capable student and avid reader; that my ability

to write was an untapped talent. Within a few years I knew that for so long as my sponsor was willing fund the courses, I would complete them. By 2013 I earned an Associate in Arts degree, with a social science emphasis, through Ohio University. By 2017 they accepted me into their Bachelor of Specialized Studies program with the degree title of Criminal Justice Administration. Higher education transformed my life on death row in ways I never could have imagined. It became the key God handed me to unlock any door I chose. The more I learned, the greater my sense of responsibility grew to use this wonderful gift to help my brothers. 1 John, Chapter 3, Verse 14 says, “We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death.”

Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer posited that the ongoing incarnation of Christ happens in the community. The church is the Son of God working among us. “Not only does this contain the notion that social interaction is the point of departure for understanding Christian faithfulness, it means when I encounter another, I encounter Christ, and that [person] places an ethical demand on me.” (Hale, Lori Brandt; Williams, Reggie L. “Is This a Bonhoeffer Moment? Lessons for American Christians from the Confessing Church in Germany”, Sojourners Magazine, Feb. 2018, Vol.47 / No. 2). Bonhoeffer said that to be disciples of Christ, to follow after Him, we are called to act vicariously on behalf of others

This is how love for our brethren is carried out. My access to higher education on death row is unique, but it gives me a more objective and informed understanding of the criminal justice system. As such, I understand how critical the opportunity for higher learning is for the incarcerated. Access has been extremely limited since the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act ended federal funding for college in prison. The omnibus crime bill helped create mass incarceration through mandatory minimum sentences; rewards to states for building more prisons rather than addressing the need for them; increased use of consecutive sentencing and life without parole; and a reliance upon tough-on-crime rhetoric no matter the cost. As a result, America is not the land of the free, it has become a place where prisons proliferate and fill with the poor, the uneducated, and the marginalized; where human potential is sent to die.

I write not merely to advocate for those who lack a voice or an ability to articulate their needs, but out of a sense of Christian duty to use my gifts effectively and broadly. All of us are more than the crimes for which we’ve been convicted and sentenced: we are human beings. So, I take every opportunity that comes



(Continued from page 5)

along to pull back the curtain of judgement and reveal how prisoners - especially those sentenced to death - continue to live, think, feel, and learn.

I also write to create greater public awareness about the nuances of imprisonment. It's no coincidence that tough-on-crime drug laws, for example, target poor, urban, minority communities. You will find a thousand Black and Latino drug users in prison before you find a single Oxycontin or Fentanyl distributor being punished for the overdose deaths of hundreds. It's no mistake in the creation of criminal laws that a robbery of \$1000 is punished more harshly than an embezzlement of \$100,000. This is the twisted logic of a criminal justice system that grew from plantations, Black Codes, and Jim Crow Laws into a modern exception to the Thirteenth Amendment.

Mass incarceration is a colossal, seemingly insurmountable problem. When broken down by state and community it can become more manageable. As you sit here today consider that prisons are a testament to what society thinks about the least of its citizens. If there is no investment in the people you believe are problematic enough to confine, those problems don't disappear - 95 percent of them return to your communities.

The question becomes whether you want to educate and rehabilitate people caught within the criminal justice system; or, waste more resources prosecuting, policing, and imprisoning them. I can tell you research shows the former is more cost-effective and better for society than the latter.

As people of faith I shouldn't need to convince you of the value of human potential or dignity of life wherever it exists. The question I'll end with is fairly simple but one you can refer to each time you answer it with action: how can your faith community at St. Paul's impact North Carolina's carceral state?

Don't sit idly by and think the answer will occur on its own or that someone else will do it for you. Community involvement, spiritual accountability, and personal action are essential to building up the world we want to exist.

About the author: Lyle May is an inmate on North Carolina's death row. If you would like to write him a response to this article you can use the following address
Lyle May 0580028
4285 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4285



TURN OUT THE LIGHTS! BEING RESPONSIBLE WITH AND FOR OTHERS

As we get into the fall of the year, our parish facilities get used more and more...and that's a good thing. That is why we have them. But as we use our facilities we also want to use them in a responsible way.

Last year we spent \$60,484 for our utility bills for the rectory, church and school. Of this amount, \$49,977 was spent on keeping the lights on in school and the place heated and cooled. That's a lot of money, anyway you look at it.

So we need everyone's help to keep these costs as low as possible. That means that when we finish using the gym or cafeteria or meeting room, we need to make sure all the lights are turned off, especially those in the bathrooms, and the air conditioning is turned off, and all the doors are shut. Doing these simple things will go a long way in helping us keep our utility costs down.

As we get into the winter months, we know that our gym will get used more and more. And again, that is a good thing. Once again, we need everyone's help in keeping things in good order. We know that when people have practice or games, they want to mop the floor before hand. We have a mop, broom, dust pan, and trash barrel just for such purposes in the utility room off of the gym. When you finish mopping the floor you can use these to dispose of the collected dust.



A sheep lost and found



In this 1951 sermon, theologian and mystic Howard Thurman (1900-1981) reflects on Jesus' parable of the lost sheep, starting with the sheep's perspective. (Luke 15:4-7).

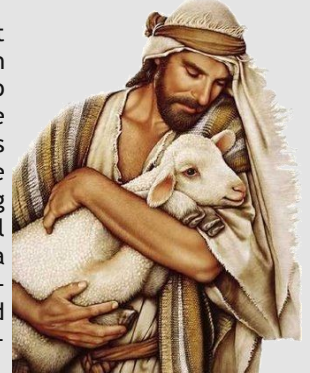
A sheep was enjoying his grass . . . and then when he started feeling chilly, he didn't recall, but the only thing that he remembers is that suddenly he became aware that he was cold, and there was a throwback in his mind, and he realized that he had been cold for some time. But, the grass was good. Then he looked around, and he discovered that he was alone. That everybody had gone. That is, that all the sheep had gone. And he began crying aloud. And then the shepherd, who had many sheep, missed him when he got back to the fold, and he left his ninety and nine . . . to try to find this sheep that was lost. And Jesus says, "God is like that." Nothing heavy and theological about that. Very little that is dogmatic, technically, about it. Just that here is a shepherd who loves his sheep, and one of the sheep in doing the most natural thing in the world—and that is to eat the grass—did it with such enthusiasm and over a time interval of such duration that he didn't know when the shepherd called, and he was lost.

And why was he lost? He was lost because he was out of touch . . . with the group that sustained him, the group that fed him, that gave him a sense that he counted. That's all. And as soon as he was out there alone, he said, "I'm just here by myself. Nothing but me in all of this? And I want to feel that I count with the others." There's a certain warmth in that. There's a certain something that is creative and redemptive about the sense of community, about the fellowship.

Insulation is something that is spiritual; . . . there's something inside of me that pulls up . . . the drawbridge. . . . Sometimes I do it because I'm afraid; sometimes I do it because I'm clumsy and awkward, and I don't quite know how to establish a relationship or relationships with my fellows that can float my spirit to them and bring their spirit to me. . . .

Now, Jesus says that God is like the shepherd, seeking always to find those who are out of community with their fellows, and when they have found it, when they have found their community with their fellows, then all the world seems to fit back into place, and life takes on a new meaning. . . .

The lost sheep. The searching shepherd. And the cry of anguish of the sheep was the voice of identification that the shepherd heard. That is how God is, if we let him.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND GET A TAX CREDIT ON YOUR STATE AND FEDERAL TAXES

Here is an exciting opportunity that can benefit you as well as needy families in our parish, and ultimately our parish school. The State of Indiana now enables you to reduce your state tax liability while at the same time helping low and middle income families send their children to our school.

Here's what can help you. Donors are eligible to take advantage of a 50% credit against their state tax liability for contributions made to Choice Scholarship. If you make a contribution of \$100 you can take \$50 off your state taxes. There is no minimum necessary contribution. In addition, your full contribution can also be deducted from your federal taxes. Contributions that are made to an SGO can be designated for a specific school (in our case St. Joseph School). That way the money you contribute will definitely go to providing a grant for a needy family here at St. Joseph. You can donate online by checking out the website <http://www.i4qed.org/sgo/donors>. The great thing about this opportunity is that it can be a win/win for everyone involved. If you would like more information call Fr. Gene Schroeder (812-963-3273).



IT'S TIME TO RESUME OUR FUNERAL DINNER MINISTRY. CAN YOU HELP?

One thing we do as a parish that has always been well received is providing a lunch for families after the funeral of their loved one. In many ways it is a simple gesture and yet it means so much to families. Because of all the concerns related to the covid pandemic we have not been providing these funeral dinners. Now we think it is time to get back to doing this.



Funeral Meals

Here is how it works. The parish provides the meat for the meal. Then we call upon different people in the parish to provide a vegetable or salad dish or a dessert. The number of people we call is based upon the number of people who are coming to the dinner. Usually we serve between 50-60 people.

The person calling tells the people what is needed for the meal (e.g. a hot dish, salad, or dessert). The people who make a covered dish bring their food to the school cafeteria on the day of the funeral. Lots of times people bring it by on the way to work or when they drop their kids off to school. If the dish they are bringing needs to be refrigerated it is put in the cooler and if it needs to be kept warm, it is placed in the oven.

Another group of people comes in before the dinner to make coffee, tea and lemonade, and get all the food ready to be served. As the families come for the dinner they serve the meal and then they clean everything up after the meal.

Many of you have been a part of making this happen. Pauline Elpers has been serving as a contact person for the dinners. Along with that we have several other people who serve as callers. We have enough people to form four different teams of people who make food for the dinner.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions made to St. Joseph Parish in memory of these loved ones. Let us continue to remember the gift they have been in our lives.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MEMORY OF

Darlene Baumgart

Kent & GERALYN RUMINER
Bill & Lois Martin
Rosemary Weber

Matt & Carol Weintraut
Sr. Bridget Arnold
William & Janet Samples

Dan & Liz Effinger
Gene & Teda Baumgart
Kent & Diane Mason

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Jim & Dorothy Happe
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Lorraine Blanford
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THE LEROY & ROSE WEISS CEMETERY ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF

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THE THERESA BAEHL YOUTH ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF

Darlene Baumgart
Richard & Imogene Baehl

THE HORAK-DOSSETT LITURGY ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF

Brian Schweitzer
Neal & Peggy Dossett

Thank you!

We're confident that the folks who have helped out with our Funeral Dinner Ministry in the past will be willing to help as we start offering this service again. But there is always a need to get more people involved especially since some of the people who have helped in the past are no longer able to do that.

So now we're extending an invitation to everyone in the parish to join us in the ministry of hospitality. Here's how you can help:

- working on the team to serve the meal
- calling people to prepare food
- providing a covered dish for the meal
 - HOT VEGETABLE DISH (green bean casseroles are great as our baked beans, potato dishes, broccoli and rice, macaroni and cheese, as well as regular vegetable dishes)
 - VEGETABLE SALAD, JELLO SALAD OR OTHER SALADS
 - DESSERT (cookies, brownies, and pies are really good choices)

Call us at the Parish Office (812-963-3273) or text us (812-499-9074) and let us know how you want to help. Or call Pauline Elpers (812-963-3864) for more information.

MATER DEI AND MEMORIAL'S

Grand Prize
Each Month \$10,000

Buy a Ticket for Tradition

Tickets: \$100

Contact the Parish Office

2nd Prize—\$1,500

3rd Prize—\$1,000

4th Prize—\$500

48 chances to win each year! 4 chances to win each month!

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. *St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

World Mission Sunday-2022



"The church...is not a relief organization, an enterprise or an NGO, but a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us. It is the Holy Spirit that guides the Church in this path."

Pope Francis, Message for World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday gives us the opportunity to pray for the Church's missionary work and to support it through

the special collection for the Missions. Your gift of \$25 can support a catechist for a month in the remote Latin America, \$75 provides support for a religious sister working with orphan children in Africa, \$100 assists poor children in boarding schools in Asia.



Please be as generous as possible in helping others to share in this greatest of gifts. There is an envelope for you to use for Mission Sunday in your monthly envelope package. Visit the Catholic Mission website at: www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org.

CAN YOU HELP US PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FOR THESE HAITIAN CHILDREN?

The St. Joe Haiti Student sponsorship program is in search of families to sponsor students at St. Jacques elementary school in Plain du Nord Haiti. Your sponsorship will allow these young, needy children an opportunity for an education and a



good lunch each day. Your \$360 sponsorship is used to fund tuition, uniforms, and school supplies for the children. If you are interested in being a sponsor for one of these children, contact the parish office (812-963-3273)

and we'll get the process started for you.

BLOOD DRIVE--SUNDAY OCTOBER 16 8 AM - NOON IN THE GYM



*Every unit of blood that is donated
can benefit up to three people!*

A CHANCE TO DO SOME GOOD

Have you noticed those barrels by our church doors? We've deliberately placed them at this spot so that they are in the way of getting into church. It's a simple invitation to share some food items for our local St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. What's so important about that? Consider this: In the state of Indiana, 14% of the population lives below the poverty line. 12% of families struggle to put food on the table. One out of every six children is at risk of being hungry.

Talk to folks who work at places like the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and you will hear about folks being underemployed and food insecure. Underemployment and food insecurities affect women and children the most, especially single moms who are left with caring for their children. Statistics tell us that those who do not complete a high school education, and there are many in our community who do not, are at a much higher risk for being underemployed and dealing with food insecurities. What is underemployment? That's when people work full time at a job, but the wages are such that there is not enough to pay for rent, utilities and food. Often times an emergency happens—a kid gets sick, the water pump in the car goes out and now people are left with trying to decide what bills to pay. Do I buy food for the family or buy the prescription drugs for my kid who got sick? Being food insecure means we may have enough to pay for food for the first part of the month, but then funds run out and now what do we do?

Why is this? Many reasons, but consider this example. Carin (not her real name) and her family seem to fit the category of the 'working poor'. Carin's first husband died. Remarried now, she cares for two young children. Her husband works full time but in a minimum wage job. She did not finish high school and when last she worked, she too was working for minimum wage. As a veteran, her husband receives VA medical benefits, which is a good thing since his job does not include any benefits. Even with the assistance of SNAP and school lunch for the kids, they are on the edge. They do not have a telephone or access to a working car. The kids always eat but she and her husband sometimes forgo food for as long as a whole day to assure there is food for their children. These are the people who find themselves going to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. Each month thousands of individuals are provided with a three day supply of food from the food pantry.

The St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry can continue to help people in need only to the extent that people give donations of food items or money. That's where we come in. Your donations of a box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a box of oatmeal, a jar of pasta sauce and a bag of pasta, are all important. So too are your financial contributions. They use this money, and, working with the Tri-State Food Bank, are able to purchase things like milk and meat at greatly reduced prices.

So the next time you come into church and see the barrels by the church doors, think about this as a simple invitation to do something tangible for the people in need right here in our community. When we make our simple contribution, we are joining all the people involved in the work of the St. Vincent DePaul Society who are responding to the simple words of Jesus: "When I was hungry you gave me something to eat."



LITURGICAL MINISTERS -OCTOBER 22, 2022 -- NOVEMBER 13, 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 eucharistic ministers.

Saturday October 22, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Mike Reffett
Sunday October 23, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Tom Blythe
Sunday October 23, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Shane Wessel
Saturday October 29, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Toni Askins
Sunday October 30, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Marcia Frey
Sunday October 30, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Mandy Elpers
Saturday November 5, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe
Sunday November 6, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Terry Drone
Sunday November 6, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Jane Scheller
Saturday November 12, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Mike Reffett
Sunday November 13, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Donna Blankenberger
Sunday November 13, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Shane Wessel

(Continued from page 1) **BLESSED ARE EARS THAT HEAR (cont)** the know.”

All these different stories remind me of the work of a radio newscaster of years ago, Paul Harvey. He made his mark by reminding people about an event they thought they knew and then telling them that there was more to the story than what they thought. He became famous for his tag line “and now you know the rest of the story.”

There seems to be a lot of “the rest of the stories” that compete for our attention each day. We hear stories about the historical inequities, racism, economic unfairness, and sexual identity, just to name a few. When these stories are about issues that we disagree with or we find hard to comprehend, it becomes harder to just hear and not become defensive.

It takes courage to really listen. And once we have had the courage to hear one story that speaks about the unfairness of life and the suffering people have endured because of it, all of a sudden it seems that there are more and more stories begging to be listened to. That’s when it can become easy to dismiss all these stories as way too much noise. We can find ourselves saying “I don’t want to listen to any of this. In fact, I’m happy if I don’t have to listen at all.”

What is the way forward? Mary shows us the way. It began early in her life. In her encounter with the Angel Gabriel, we hear her say “let it be done to me according to your word.” Here’s another way to say this. “Count me in. I’m ready to do what you ask. I’m ready to be where you want me to be.”

That’s a good starting point for us. Learning how to be present to what is in front of us. Right now it seems we are in a time of great transition. And we seem to be in a time of great reckoning.

With all the information coming at us each day, you would think we would rebel against all the latest technological advances in social media with a resounding “enough!” But that doesn’t seem likely. So instead of less information being thrown at us each day, we will likely face even more episodes of information overload. That is the world that we live in. And that is the world we are called to be present to.

When Mary said “yes,” she made the commitment to be present to the world that she lived in. She was able to make her pledge to “let it be done to me” because she knew that God would be with her. She told Elizabeth, “the almighty has done great things for me.” But Mary also knew that being present to the world did not mean agreeing with everything that is going on. There were so many events in her life that were hard for her to understand. First they couldn’t find Jesus after attending Passover in Jerusalem only to find him speaking in the temple to the elders. She complained to him: “Why have you done this, don’t you know your father and I have been worried about you?” Then there was the great agony of seeing Jesus carrying the cross to his crucifixion and then standing at the foot of the cross as he died. We would certainly have understood if she had lashed out at the soldiers and the religious leaders about the unfairness of this whole situation. But, she did none of that. Instead, we are told that she “held all these things in her heart and pondered what they meant.”

So that can become the model for us. So we show up each

**MARY'S PRAYER**

*My soul glorifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices
in God, my Savior.*

*He looks on His servant
in her lowliness.*

*From this day forward all
generations will call me blessed.*

*The Almighty has
done great things for me
and holy is His name.*

*His mercy is to all generations
on those who fear Him.*

*He has done mighty deeds
with His hands.*

He scatters the proud-hearted.

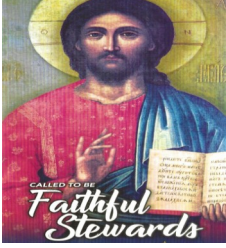







*He cast the mighty
from their thrones,
and lifts up the lowly.*

*He fills the hungry
with good things,
and sends the rich
away empty-handed.*

*He protects his servant Israel
remembering His mercy,
the mercy promised
to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his
descendants forever.*

(Continued on page 12)

October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Have You Made Your Pledge to our CPC Campaign? Parish Goal \$125,270 No Gift is too Large or too Small</p> 						1 Haiti and Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm
2 8 & 10:30 Mass Coffee & Donuts 9 FAMILY RELIGION CLASS & RCIA 9 – 10:15 am Haiti & Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Session 3 11:30	3 Eucharistic Adoration 7 am–6:30 pm Mass 6:30 pm	4 Mass 7:30 am	5 Mass 7:30 am	6 NO MASS	7 NO Mass NO SCHOOL Communion to the Homebound	8 Haiti and Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm
 <p>FALL FESTIVAL WEEK Visit the PTO Booth (#28) and Knights of St. John Booth (#44)</p>						
9 8 & 10:30 Mass Family Religion Class 9 am RCIA -9 am Fr. Myron Effing 50th Anniversary- Celebration	10 NO SCHOOL Eucharistic Adoration 7 am–6:30 pm Mass 6:30 pm Knights of St. John Meeting 7 pm	11 Mass 7:30 am	12 Mass 7:30 am Parish Staff–Noon	13 NO MASS Altar Society Meeting 6:30 pm	14 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm	15 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm
 <p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 8 AM – NOON</p>						
16 8 & 10:30 Mass Family Religion Class & RCIA 9am Food Pantry Collection BLOOD DRIVE 8 AM – NOON	17 Eucharistic Adoration 7 am–6:30 pm 6:30 pm Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	18 7:30 am Mass	19 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Noon	20 NO MASS Haiti Ministry Meeting 6 pm	21 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound	22 Haiti & Food Pantry Collection Burgoo Preparations 8 am Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm College Care Packages Available
 <p>WOMEN'S CURSILLO OCTOBER 20-23</p>						
23 8 & 10:30 Mass RCIA 9am BURGOO FOR SALE 7 AM-?	24 Eucharistic Adoration 7 am–6:30 pm Mass 6:30 pm	25 Mass 7:30 am	26 NO MASS Parish Staff Noon–2pm	27 No Mass	28 Mass 7:30 am Communion to the Homebound	29 Haiti and Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm
						
30 8 & 10:30 Mass RCIA 9am ALL SOULS DAY MASS AT ST. JOE (CITY) CEMETERY SUNDAY OCTOBER 30 2 PM	31 Eucharistic Adoration 7 am–6:30 pm Mass 6:30 pm LAST DAY TO ORDER SAUSAGE	 <p>GET YOUR MEN'S CLUB SAUSAGE AVAILABLE IN BULK OR LINK \$15/5 LBS. 5 LBS MINIMUM ORDER TO ORDER SIGN UP AT THE CHURCH DOORS OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE (812-963-3273) LAST DAY TO ORDER IS OCTOBER 31 PICK UP NOV. 5 7-10 AM</p> 				

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E-mail kgilles@evdio.org
Mr. Nathan Winstead—Principal
E-mail nwinstead@evdio.org
Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary
E-mail jkempf@evdio.org
Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff
E-mail jreckelhoff@evdio.org

Coordinator of Religious Education

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 8:00 am and 10:30 am



TRUNK OR TREAT
A Halloween Celebration
for the Whole Family
Saturday October 29
1-3 p.m. (setup starts at noon)
in the St. Joe parking lot



Kids are invited to wear costumes and trick or treat while viewing decorated cars in the school parking lot. For more information or to reserve a spot for your decorated vehicle, contact Amy Back at amy.back@ymail.com or 812-746-7900.



MEN'S CLUB SAUSAGE SALE
TAKING ORDERS THROUGH OCTOBER 31
AVAILABLE IN BULK OR LINK
MINIMUM ORDER IS 5 POUNDS
TO ORDER SIGN UP AT THE CHURCH DOORS
OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE (812-963-3273)
Last day to order is Monday, October 31. Pickup day
Saturday, Nov. 5th 7-10 am.
We'll be making the sausage on Friday, Nov. 4
beginning at noon. Come and join in helping.

(Continued from page 9) **BLESSED ARE EARS THAT HEAR (cont)**
day and we listen to everything around us. Pope John XXIII was fond of saying "Observe everything, overlook a lot, change a little." Other people have put it this way: "offer your piece of wisdom and then don't get involved in the results." I think that is what it means to "hold these things in our hearts and ponder what they mean." This calls for a different kind of energy. It is the kind of energy that allows things to be as they are. It means resisting the urge to make things different. It is trusting that God is in these moments. It means listening with the "ears of our heart." In doing so it will allow us to ask an even deeper question: Lord, what are you asking of me in this particular time and this particular moment?



If this challenge seems too daunting, we need only remember that the God who gave courage to Mary and believed in her, is the same God that believes in us and promises to walk with us each day. So we can face all the noise around us without fear. We do not have to wish for happier times or resign ourselves to a belief that "the world is going to hell in a hand basket."

The words Mary proclaimed in the beautiful prayer we have come to know as the Magnificat, (Luke 1 48-55) are as true now as they were when she first uttered them. "The almighty does great things for us. He lifts up the lowly and cast down the mighty from their thrones. He comes to the help of his servant Israel just as He promised to Abraham and his descendants forever."