

# WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

## The Hands of Christ

### Quarterly Thoughts From The Corner Office!

Dear friends,

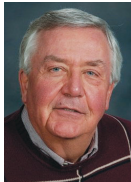
It is mid-July and I am writing for the September issue of We are the Hands of Christ. Do I write about Faithful Citizenship in preparation for elections? How about the Parish's experience of the pandemic? Then again, there are the challenges we face with racial inequality and Black Lives Matter.

I think I will write about what the Coronavirus can teach us about all these topics, especially the climate.

Earth Day 2020 came at a tumultuous time, COVID-19 upended our lives; the number of infections soared worldwide, sheltering in place and keeping physical distance became the norm. Compassion was and is called for, helping any way possible — staying connected by phone or internet with those who are lonely; sewing masks for desperate health care workers; making donations to groups that help migrants and the homeless; pushing for policies that protect the lowest-earning members of society. It is a time in which humanity needs to recognize that we are one connected family on Earth. We share a single planet, drink the same water, and breathe the same air.

As we attempt to live safely, we all need to do our part to face a common enemy together. When COVID-19 is finally behind us and we settle in to the "new normal" we will need to continue to fight against the climate crisis.

I believe there are six lessons we can learn from our response to the pandemic and its relationship to climate change and other societal issues.



**1. Science matters** – We can save lives by funding, accessing and understanding the best science available. The climate change science has been clear for decades, but we failed in communicating the danger, leading to slow action and widespread denial.

**2. Our treatment of the natural world** – The loss of habitat and diverse organisms can create new viruses such as COVID-19. If we continue to destroy our lands, we also damage resources and agricultural systems.

**3. When we mobilize for action, less suffering will take place** – Where quick and drastic action was taken, it helped flatten the curve for coronavirus. It freed up healthcare resources, lowering death rates. Similarly, action on climate change could reduce food and water shortages, natural disasters and sea level rises, protecting countless individuals and communities.

**4. We have the ability to make drastic changes quickly** – When motivated, we can suspend business as usual to help each other. All over the world, healthy people are changing their lifestyles to protect the more vulnerable people in their communities. Similar dedication for climate change could transform our energy consumption immediately. By standing together all is possible!

**5. All of us are vulnerable to crisis, though unequally** – Those with social, economic or physical vulnerabilities will suffer most. A society burdened with social and economic inequality is more likely to fall apart in a crisis. We must also recognize inequality can interrupt the transformation that a crisis requires.

**6. Holding on to a vision of a just, peaceful and sustainable Earth will give us strength for the future** – 2020 will be remembered as a time when humanity reeled from a pandemic. We need to pray this year will also be remembered as a time when we all were forced to stop what we were doing, pay attention to one another, and act.

The Climate Crisis, as it is referred to by Pope Francis, is calling us to stop business as usual, stop digging up fossil fuels, stop cutting down forests and sacrificing the planet's health for profit, convenience and consumption. If we don't, we are in for a catastrophe. We must find new ways to sustain our planet.

We will emerge from this pandemic with a new commitment to take care of each other. I pray that we absorb the lessons of this pandemic and to fight for a world in which everyone can thrive.

As we move ahead, let us listen for voices that speak of wisdom, generosity, courage, and hope. May we find solace in the natural world and in the music of the singing birds.

Let us continue to pray for peace and take action to end terrorism in our world!

In peace and courage,

Rev. Michael J. Bausch  
Pastor



# Upcoming Events at Transfiguration

Normally here is where we would share all the wonderful, carefully thought out plans for upcoming events. While we would love to do that, circumstances dictate that the best of plans are subject to change, so we have a very skimpy list to share right now!

Here are a few things that we will find a way to do in the upcoming months, whether in person, virtually, or in small groups so we can social distance:

- Joe Kelly Fall Series
- Women's Bible Study

- Thanksgiving Turkey Drive
- Christmas Basket Program

- Bridges of Faith
- Sacramental Preparation

Please keep checking our weekly e-mails, website and of course the bulletin (it is available online on our website home page) for the latest program information!



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## Youth Formation Activities This Winter

### Hand of Christ Award Ceremony & Search



## Bake Sale

Our annual Bake Sale was held in February, before the virus outbreak. Close to \$2,000 was raised to help the homeless and poor in our area via the House of Mercy. Thank you to everyone who participated.





# Day of Caring Pictures



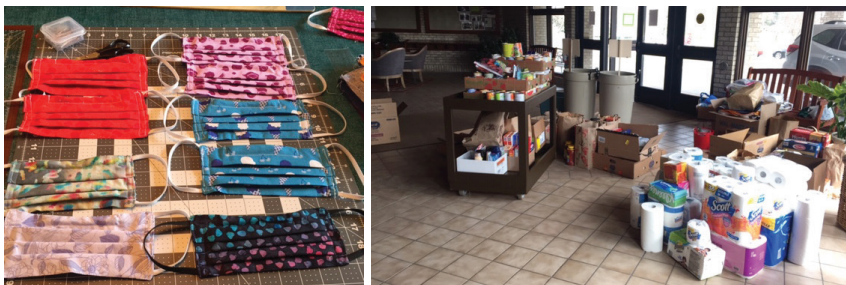
## Grateful for Your Ongoing Love and Care for Others

It has been an especially difficult time for the poor and the homeless. We received several calls for support from agencies and individuals for assistance. Your response has been tremendous for which we are grateful. The goodness of the Lord has been evident through your caring hearts over these last few months.

Through your kindness, weekly deliveries of food, paper goods, toiletries and masks continue to be made by our tireless and willing parishioners for several agencies in the city. Your generous contributions have gone to the House of Mercy, Catholic Family Center, Bethany House, Eastern Service Workers, and the Margaret Home. Specific and basic household items requested in the bulletin have been so appreciated by families that have been dealing with the effects of a fire, flooding from burst pipes and other unexpected circumstances made more difficult by the pandemic.

Thank you for responding to the call of Jesus who continually challenges us to love our neighbor and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Margie Benza**  
*Pastoral Associate*



Mask and Food Collections

## Day of Caring

**ROSE VOLKER – OFFICE MANAGER**

On June 4th, we had a “Day of Caring” I’d like to share with you. Eleven weeks into “Social Distancing” some of the things around here stopped. Our Masses went virtual. Our office was working with the doors locked, not allowing visitors. Several on staff were working from home and we had to cut back our Maintenance Department. No program set up preparations were needed as our programs had stopped. Life around here became very different. Some of us felt like life had just come to a stand-still.

As the snow and salt melted from the parking lot I noticed that nature had not stopped! The lawn grew, the weeds grew, and the spring cleanup had to be done. We had to get ready for the “flowers” in our lives; blossoms and new growth that reminds us of all that God makes possible.

I thought that it would be fun for some of us to get out of the house! I sent out emails to some parishioners that I knew had helped in the past and might consider lending a hand. The morning of June 4th, thirteen parishioners showed up with work gloves and yard tools. Most importantly they came bringing their smiles and love for our Parish Family. We all fit in together (6 ft. apart) and joyfully participated in some hard work. The Holy Spirit gave us a delightful sunny day to work outside in the loveliness of our campus.

I cannot speak for all of them, but I had a terrific day witnessing the face of Jesus in all of them! The reward that I had that day was overwhelming to me. It was far better than a trip to Marshalls :)

We are planning on another “Day of Caring” in October and it is my hope that some people will reach out to us and get on the invitation list. It is such a wonderful feeling to be part of something so fulfilling!

## "Lord, How Good It Is For Us To Be Here"

After a long-anticipated return to Mass, our doors joyfully re-opened the weekend of June 20th. Special and close attention was made to be sure all CDC, Monroe County Health Department and Diocesan guidelines were carried out to offer a safe environment for those we would be welcoming through our doors.

In that planning, the role of our many liturgical ministers has changed. Within those guidelines, we have temporarily suspended some of the ministries such as Mass Coordinators, Acolytes, Hospitality, Ministers of Communion, Children's Liturgy of the Word and Wee Ones Word.

Our Greeter's and Usher's roles have transitioned to assist in guiding our parishioners and guests through the new procedures of entering the church, receiving Communion, and dismissal. All of this was preceded by a training process to understand and adhere to the new

guidelines and protocols. A new quiet ministry has developed in the process of the many who have been willing to remain after Mass to sanitize our pews.

Throughout March, April, May and part of June, we enjoyed collaboration with Fr. Rob Bourcy and Camela Fishgold in sharing our Sunday streaming liturgy. From the beginning we knew it was not about perfection but connection. We worked our way through uncharted technological waters starting in the chapel and transitioning to the church during Holy Week. This would not have been possible, as our doors re-opened, without the tireless efforts of Vicky Wejko and Nancy Wahl who continue to present our streaming Mass with a new time at 9:00AM.

Amazing, as well, has been the ongoing, hard work and talents of Sue Wallace, Pam McInerney and the choirs of Transfiguration and St. Catherine's. Through so many talented voices and hands, the music you continue to hear is the culmination of hours of work every week in virtual rehearsals, recording, organizing and mixing to bring

the familiar and beautiful gift of music and prayer to you. A grace indeed.

The combination of talents, graces, fortitude, patience, and care has truly been God's presence in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty over these last months. Keeping us grounded, offering peace and connecting us virtually knowing our faith is at the core of trusting, this too shall pass and all will be well.

As we are reminded in scripture, "Do not fear, I am with you, do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Is 41:10). Peace be with all of you through these challenging days.

**Margie Benza**

*Pastoral Associate*



Our Church building reopened for Mass on June 20.

## Grief Share Experiences

Our Grief Share Support Group, a place to gather and share with one another as we grieve our loved ones, met weekly via Zoom through June. Our thanks to Ev and Jane Charette for their willingness to adapt to a social distanced way of connecting so we could continue to support and care for each other.

We are hopeful that we can gather again in person, with all safety precautions taken, with our upcoming Grief Share Program which begins 9/9/20. This twelve week program offers a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences of losing a loved one. The program includes caring and informative videos, a workbook and shared conversation with each session. Questions, please contact Margie Benza at 248-2427x244 or [Margie.Benza@dor.org](mailto:Margie.Benza@dor.org).

## We Never Gave Up Hope



The Harold Family reminded us that better days are coming.



## TECHNOLOGY AT TRANSFIGURATION: BEHIND THE SCENES

Like our schools, stores and businesses, churches had to figure out almost overnight how to continue serving their constituents without the use of a building or the ability to physically gather. Directly following Mass on March 15, when it became apparent that we were in for a new reality for the foreseeable future, we began a 'crash course' in pandemic protocol.

The Holy Spirit had guided us as we had just purchased a new laptop for our projection. Our old one was misbehaving at times. The timely new laptop with a camera was put into immediate use, along with our brand new YouTube channel, to broadcast Mass from the Chapel for the following Sunday. As our friends at St. Catherine did not have a good network connectivity in their worship space, we worked together to provide on-line services for both churches with concelebrating priests. Vicky Wejko and Nancy Wahl had a new Sunday morning responsibility – bring Mass to our parishes via livestream.

While Mass in the chapel was great for a start, with Holy Week rapidly approaching, we really wanted to be back in the church. Once again, the Holy Spirit was there, in the form of Lou Calabrese, parishioner and president of Applied Audio and Theatre Supply and one of his employees, Andy Yau. A few years ago, they installed a camera and streaming

device in the church to stream Mass to the TV in the Nursery. With their help, we were able to get that camera and our sound system to talk to YouTube. After a few anxious rehearsals and lots of prayers, we were able to broadcast Mass from Church. We now initiate and monitor the broadcast from the church library, which has plenty of space for the two to three PCs we use for this purpose.

supported by our eager choir members and musicians.

Sue and Pam began to work with three musicians/sound engineers (Jeff Beckett, Ron Jodoin and Mike Wahl). A pianist recorded a base track, and a lead vocalist's voice was added. This track was sent to our choir members and musicians who recorded their voices singing along or instrumental accompaniment. Our

sound engineers then blended all of the tracks to create the final version of the song. This can take hours for the seven new pieces each week and we are so grateful for their efforts. Remember that old laptop? It was pressed back into service to play the music at Mass. It now also projects the words to the readings, and other parts of the Mass since we cannot use missalettes right now.

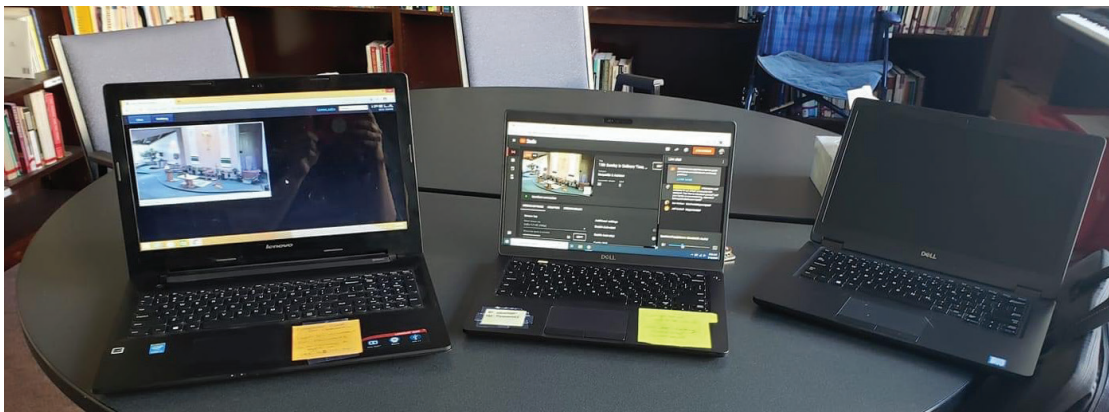
Not everything goes well every week. Our fervent prayers for the technology to work are usually answered and thanks to a donation, we are replacing one of the oldest laptops! We are grateful for your understanding when things are a bit rocky! As Margie Benza reminds us, it is all about

connection, not perfection.

We are still looking to add people to the Tech Ministry team. If you have a desire to help with the YouTube broadcasting or the projecting during Mass, please contact Vicky Wejko (YouTube) or Sue Wallace (projecting). Thank you!



Now that we had successfully accessed the sound system in the church, we were ready to try to bring music back to Mass. The choir could not meet in person, and certainly could not sing together in church because of the airborne nature of Covid 19. But Sue Wallace and Pam McNerny were determined to find a way,



# FAITH FORMATION

## Sacrament Celebration

### Rite of Christian Initiation

Congratulations to the following individuals who were welcomed to the Lord's table over the past few months after completing the RCIA program!

**RCIA -**  
*Ian Hurlburt*  
*Amanda Torchia*

*Antonio Torchia*  
*Olivia Trippi*

### 1st Communion

Congratulations to our young sisters and brothers who received Holy Communion for the first time this year!

*Finn Burke*  
*Liliana Chimento*  
*Ryan Garsin*  
*Layla Garver*  
*Mariseia Graff*  
*Trevor Haugh*  
*Riley Hutchins*  
*Vincenzo Iacchetta*  
*Madison Insero*

*Grady Kenny*  
*Nadia LeBlanc*  
*Viviana Marques*  
*Peyton Perrotta*  
*Aiden Scheider*  
*Emilie Schertzer*  
*Miles Tagliarino*  
*Clayton Wojcik*

### Confirmation

Congratulations to the young adults of our parish who received the sacrament of Confirmation this year!

*Valerie Adler*  
*Sophia Albano*  
*Lauren Andrews*  
*Marisa Andrews*  
*Rose Anselm*  
*Estelle Brognia*  
*Colin Burke*  
*Elizabeth Calamel*  
*Jackson Ciocca*  
*Jackson Cypher*  
*Luke Cypher*  
*Will Cypher*  
*Andrew Garringer*  
*Anna Guisto*  
*Lilly Hajec*  
*Sienna Laird*  
*Mackenzie Lammela*  
*Julianna Lyons*  
*Drew McDermott*

*Kevin Mortimer*  
*Margaret*  
*Mundscha*  
*Marion Naple*  
*Meagan O'Gara*  
*Andrew Orzell*  
*Benjamin Orzell*  
*Francesco Palumbo*  
*Maria Pietropaoli*  
*William Rubert*  
*Theo Schwartz*  
*Victoria Short*  
*Emerson Stamp*  
*Aiden Stewart*  
*Ryan Umiker*  
*Alexandra Vicks*  
*Elizabeth Vicks*

### LIFE-LONG FAITH FORMATION NEWS

This spring and summer have been an unprecedented time when our formation team has had to learn to adapt to doing ministry in new ways. In addition to pivoting from our normal gatherings to Zoom meetings and back again to physically distanced and masked smaller in person events recently, we've explored new platforms to help us connect, form community, and grow in faith. Even through the struggles, challenges, and grieving of the past months, there have also been many moments of grace. We've found creative ways to be present in person through a car parade for our seniors, youth gatherings in the parking lot, and mini-VBS Sundays. It's clear that the Holy Spirit is at work, calling us to reimagine how to effectively support faith formation for all in our community.

Moving ahead this year will need to look a little different than the way we've always done things. Here are some highlights of what we're planning for this year:

- We'll be using a HYBRID model of formation – there will be a combination of in-person and online aspects to our ministries. While we are hoping to gather in person as much as we can, we will also need to be agile enough to pivot to online if needed. All in-person gatherings will be in compliance with current health and safety guidelines. This might mean that the location of certain programs will change, or that we may offer the same event multiple

times for smaller groups.

We will be keeping RELATIONSHIP at the center of our ministry. We'll be intentionally helping families journey in faith together at home, and we'll be giving our teens the opportunity to form deeper friendships in faith through small groups with their peers and caring adults leaders. We'll also be using our social media to create community in online spaces, so make sure you follow us!

One important tool we will be using to support each one of our parishioners in your walk with God is a new section of our website dedicated to FAITH PLAYLISTS. Each month, we will curate resources, prayer experiences, and other meaningful content designed especially for Children/Families, Teens, and Adults. A playlist is a choose-your-own-adventure way for you to spend time with God at your own pace. We will be complementing these playlists with opportunities for faith-sharing together, in person or online.

There will be more specific information coming soon regarding opportunities for children, teens, and adults! In the meantime, take a moment today to connect to our social media platforms:

- Subscribe to our YouTube channel (so much more there than the livestream Mass!) at Transfiguration Pittsford.
- Like and follow us on Facebook at Church of the Transfiguration.
- For teens and their parents, follow us on Instagram at transfig.youth.



Social Distance High School Youth Group Meeting



Modified Vacation Bible School



# Thank You for Your Support!

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful and caring parish! In this time of turmoil, you have stepped up in so many ways: continued financial support of the parish, generous food and mask donations and wonderful demonstrations of kindness and support to each other.

As we start a new fiscal year, we are conscious of both the financial challenges you may be experiencing, and the realities of operating in a partially virtual capacity. We are cutting back on expenses as aggressively as possible. We are following all guidelines to keep everyone safe, but may need to invest in additional sanitizing equipment (for the church and the PLC for Mass and live Formation programs) and additional hardware to shore up the technology used at Mass.

Your continued financial support is critical, and very much appreciated. Remember you can give on-line via our Website, please contact the office if you have any questions. Thank you!



## Thank You to our Gardeners!

A big **THANK YOU** to the parishioners who have planted, weeded and fed the flowers surrounding our church buildings. Michele Jordan is tending to Mary's garden, and Terry Finegan and Armand Fenicchia once again are tending to the flowers around the church and offices. Have you seen the hummingbirds and butterflies visiting the flowers by the gym entrance?

## Finance Corner

Back to the Future - Transfiguration's Perpetual Charity Fund

(Diane Yacoby, Finance Long Term Planning Team Leader)

Some parishioners may remember a Diocesan-wide Capital Campaign called Partners in Faith, held in 2003, around the time of the parish's 20th anniversary. Transfiguration's goal for that campaign was \$1,110,000, which was exceeded by about \$15,000! The campaign funds were split and the parish received 50% of what was donated.

A significant portion (\$210,000) that Transfiguration kept was allocated for a Perpetual Charity Fund. This meant a separate fund was created, the \$210,000 invested, and the income from that fund awarded annually as one or more grants to deserving agencies and programs. The total annual amount granted is generally \$10,000. The annual disbursement of these grants was originally near the end of the calendar year, but this timing was updated a couple of years ago to coincide with the parish's fiscal year. Proposals are asked for in June, must be received by July 15 and awards are now granted in July. The year we received nine proposals and recipients are the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) (\$4,000), Bethany House (\$4,000) and the Margaret House (\$2,000). Details of these agencies can be easily found on the web.

The wonderful news is that the parish has awarded over \$116,847 to deserving charities and programs – in our own community – since 2006. It has supported educational programs, youth programs, homeless shelters, substance abuse treatment programs, mentoring trade skills programs, and even supported the purchase of mattresses one year for refugees.

This fund is alive and well! Each year, the Finance Council reviews the Fund's performance and decides on the amount of grant money for that year. The Perpetual Charity Fund Committee (Chris Wiedemer, Lisa Morris, John Boroski, Margie Benza and Fr. Mike Bausch) then communicates to our faith community the details of how to apply for a grant. The Committee also has the responsibility to review the applicants and make the final decision how the money is to be distributed.

Lord, How good it is for us to be here... while we may still be "virtually" here in many ways this year, we are truly PRESENT in our generosity within our own community.

## *The Don Cushing Memorial Garden*



The Don Cushing Memorial Gift Garden is enjoying many blessings this year. The weather has been stellar. Crops are thriving. The Coronavirus pandemic allows volunteers to spend more time in the garden.

This season we are growing tomatoes, zucchini, summer squash, radishes, lettuce, romaine, cucumbers, peppers, snow peas, green beans, Swiss chard, beets, pumpkins, gourds, acorn and butternut squash, various herbs, and flowers. The zucchini is especially plentiful.

The annual garlic harvest in mid-July was a great success with many helpers. We are hoping to carry on our traditional sale this fall.

Donations are delivered to the Pittsford Food Cupboard, Blessed Sacrament Supper Program, Carmelite Monastery and the Open Door Mission. Last year we were able to

deliver a little over 1800 pounds, and we hope to better that total this year.

Workers in this ministry include Tom, Maggie and Riley Brennan, Rosemarie Burke, Al and Terry Jahnke, Karl and Diana Hamann, Maria Herrera, Shannon Hughes, Jayme and Maria Ribeiro, Sireesha Vangala, and Debbie Winter. A neighbor of the church, Fred, has helped with mowing. Pita and Aldo Cistrone and Kim, Chloe and Ben Fluett joined in the garlic harvest.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your work in support of the poor. You are helping to reduce food insecurity at a time when so many are facing economic challenges and difficulty putting food on the table.

**By Diana Hamann**