

VOX POPULI

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Newsletter of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

Volunteer Profile - Lynne Duehr

by Pat Casucci

For the past 25 years, **Lynne Duehr** has dedicated her time and leadership to our Parish Respect Life Committee. She's thankful the group has accomplished numerous successful projects with exceptional support from our parish.

An outgoing and cheerful person, Lynne also willingly shares her time to volunteer for several additional parish projects and needs.

She's generously given hours and hours of faithful service to promote and educate about pro-life issues. She adamantly stresses the need for people to be involved in their parish.

I can do that. We all can do more, are her favorite ways to suggest volunteering.

I've tried to help people become aware of the pro-life message. There is such a great need to know and understand all the issues in the world of today, she explained.

Speaking caringly and in her own heartfelt manner, she stated, *It is so obvious that abortion is immoral.*

At OLA, our main focus has included prayer and education. We have a great pro-life ministry with very dedicated committee members. The parish is very supportive of our efforts. It's a gift within our parish, she said.

According to Lynne, *The Spiritual Adoption Program and Baby Bottle Campaign are both very successful.* For several years, hundreds of dollars have been collected from the Baby Bottle Campaign and the money is given to Willow Womens Center.

She pointed out that the Spiritual Adoption Program stresses the humanity of the unborn child and the mother. Prayer cards are offered to all

parishioners. *This project offers the opportunity for families to participate,* she said. The Pro-Life bulletin board in the OLA gathering space offers invaluable information.

Additional committee projects are the Mother's Day Rose Sale and the Cookie Sale on Father's Day.

Lynne said her husband, **Jim Duehr**, *is very involved in my respect life activities. Jim painted all the signs for our display area.* She added that the husbands of most committee members all assist with the pro-life work. *They support us 100 per cent,* she proudly said.



Lynne tries to promote all the programs offered at the Willow Womens Center. *It's an important place, a cause close to my heart. We're blessed to have this place in the Beloit community. It offers so much more than free pregnancy testing. There is counseling, prayer, education, and always respect for a woman, among many offerings there. We need to keep this project going,* she pointed out.

The Duehr family moved to Beloit about 27 years ago from Carmel, IN. Jim, now retired, was manager for the **J. C.**

Penney Co. in Machesney Park, IL. Lynne worked at **Kohl's** in Janesville.

The couple have four grown children: Tony, Las Vegas, NV; Betsy, Fort Collins, CO; Brian, Scottsdale, AZ; and Laura, Waukesha, WI. They have one granddaughter and two grandchildren due this spring.

Our parish in Carmel had a strong Pro-Life program. It was a natural fit for me to get involved here at OLA, said Lynne. In 1994, when help was needed with the Mother's Day Rose Sale, she volunteered. Thus began her 25 years of dedication and commitment to our parish pro-life ministry.

Lynne's volunteer contribution to our parish began when the couple's four children attended OLA Grade

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Pastor's Message

by Fr. Mike Resop

Welcome and Embrace God's Mercy.

As we begin the season of Lent, I invite you to think of this season as a pilgrimage, walking our way into a deeper understanding of our faith and

God's Mercy. Embracing God's Mercy is to experience forgiveness, compassion and kindness that we offer to another. Make time each day to walk away from the screens of computers, phones and television, to thirst for the presence of God in the silence of our prayer. As well, this pilgrimage of Lent is an opportunity to sit among the ashes of our brokenness that we feel during this pandemic, and to think creatively about how we can welcome & embrace God's Mercy as we walk toward the New Life of Easter.

Stay Well
Fr. Mike. ■

Evangelizing Every Day

I just wanted to send a quick note and thank the Sisters who I met at Cranston Road and Shopiere Road. While the Sisters (Rosemarie & Timothy) were turning the corner, they took the time to give me a quick Blessing while I was in my plow truck. That simple gesture on their part really made my day and has brightened the hours I spend in my truck. I told the other guys at my shop what had happened and I think they were a little jealous.

Thank you again and may God Bless you in return.

Dave Bomkamp, Town of Turtle Highway Department

Volunteer Lynne Duehr

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School. It started with the school. It was easy to get involved in volunteering. I think it's really good for our children to see Mom and Dad volunteering for school or parish, she said.

Lynne has shared her time participating in several parish projects such as **Meals on Wheels**, **Family Promise**, stocking shelves for **Caritas**, and serving as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. She also has led the Rosary and brought the Eucharist to residents at **Beloit Senior Living**.

Commenting on her volunteer activities, Lynne said, *I figured when I cook our own supper, I can prepare an extra dish for Family Promise. It's easy to do.* She added, *I think the Lord wanted me to go to the nursing home, to meet people there, to understand their lives. I find that people are so appreciative. And it's no big deal.*

With her husband, she's helped at Parish Fish Fries. *They're the best fish fry in town, she cheered.*

Jim signed us up to serve as hospitality hosts on Donut Sunday. It's a little thing we can do to welcome people to our parish.

It doesn't take much time, Lynne said.

When Jim met longtime parishioner **Stan Van Hoose**, a friendship developed. *Jim has given Stan rides to Mass and has enjoyed visits when they play cribbage,* said Lynne.

Note: (Many of these activities have been halted at this time due to the pandemic.)

Lynne continues to kindly encourage people to participate in parish activities. During a recent interview, she shared a few of her own unique tips and thoughts on choosing to volunteer. *They help guide me,* she said.

In her words: *Find out what needs to be done. Go where there's a need. I think most people want to feel they belong, and by getting involved in their parish, I think it helps.*

Whenever I see a need, I think it over. If I feel called (to the volunteer need,) I feel as if I get a little 'nudge' telling me I can do that. If it's something I enjoy or am interested in, I think about it and pray about it. Then If I continue to feel that 'nudge,' I discover it's something I can do. I reason it really doesn't take a lot of time.

It's not a big deal for me. Then I plan to do it.

She advised, *Don't wait to be asked.*

Lynne and Jim are experiencing another milestone in their lives.

They moved to Delafield in February to be near their daughter, Laura, who is a physician's assistant at **Froedert Hospital** in Milwaukee, and her family. They look forward to helping care for their young granddaughter.

Lynne shared her thoughts.

It's time for us to move. We feel comfortable doing this and to be able to help with child care.

Father Mike added his compliments and appreciation for Lynne's ambitious dedication to our parish.

Lynne's leadership in the Pro-Life movement at OLA has been impeccable. It is easy to see that the energy and prayerfulness that she brings to the cause comes from her deep faith commitment."

She will be missed, said Father Mike.

Pro-life is a cause always close to my heart. I want to continue to do anything I can to make abortion unthinkable, to stop it, she sincerely stated. ■

Catholic Schools Week

by Trevor Seivert,
OLA School Principal

Character Day



Character Day



All School Bingo on Zoom

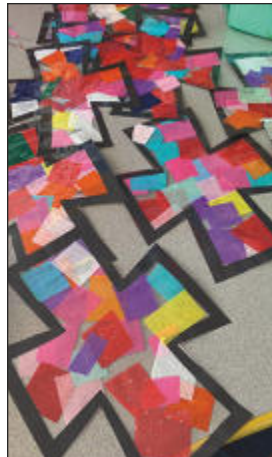


Movie Day



Pajama Day
PK4

Service Day



Stateline Scavenger Hunt

Class Color Day



Super Heroes Day



Class Color Day

100th Day of School



Sports Team Day

Will You Give God Permission to Love You?

by Marianne Giovingo,
Director of Faith Formation

Our 2nd graders and some older children celebrated God's Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Jan. 23rd and 29th. So many images come to my heart when I think about this Sacrament:

1. God's Mercy encountering our misery. It is always a gift to see the victory of God overcome sin and death – the Lord wants to walk with us and teaches us that He loves us right where we are!

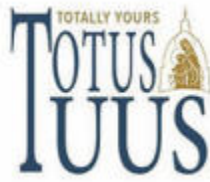
2. We sometimes allow the little things in life to clutter our heart. Reconciliation permits us to give God the big and the small things; and then with room for Him, we become centered in love and can grow in holiness

As we are in the midst of Lent, brothers and sisters, run to the



Father who longs to receive from you your mess! Do not be afraid. God Himself is waiting

for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, choose to be bold, choose to give God permission to heal even those parts that you are ashamed to offer. Father is available on Saturday mornings at 9:00AM. Additional times are listed in the Lenten Prayer/Opportunities on page 7. We are praying for you! ■



A summer program similar to Vacation Bible School, led by the Totus Tuus Team from the diocese, with an

emphasis on the Sacramental life of the Church.

The children will spend time each day/night praying, playing, and learning about God and their relationship with Him and others! Children will have opportunities to attend daily Mass, participate in Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, play games to build confidence and community (respecting the necessary COVID restrictions at that time), and to grow intellectually in their faith.

■ **Day Program:** children going into 1st grade – 5th grade

■ **Evening Program:** children going into 6th grade – 12th grade

■ June 12th -18th at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. Registration and further information will follow in the months ahead. Reserve the dates in your calendar!

■ To follow our necessary cleaning policies, adult volunteers will be needed to assist the program in being a success. IF INTERESTED, or for further information or questions, please contact Marianne Giovingo at mgiovingo@olabeloit.com or at 608.362.1231 x115.

■ **THE FIVE PILLARS OF TOTUS TUUS**

1. The Eucharist
2. Marian Devotion
3. Catechetical Instruction
4. Vocational Discernment
5. Fun



Let the SEARCH Be for Jesus This Lent!

■ Saturday mornings
February 20th | 27th
March 6th | 13th | 20th | 27th

■ 9:30-11:00AM in the Church
Gathering Space

■ No need to RSVP – for questions contact mgiovingo@olabeloit.com

■ Bring a journal to jot down thoughts and questions – we will watch the videos together **Formed.org** offers this great resource to delve into the great questions of life: What are we seeking, who is Jesus, etc. Join us any Saturday morning to break open these very pertinent questions that will lead us to truth – to The Truth, Jesus Christ Himself! ■

Easter Season Sharing

by Kathy Schmidt

From April 11 - April 25, the Social Justice Committee will be sponsoring a personal hygiene collection for the Domestic Violence Shelter. In Bishop Hying's January monthly formation letter addressing goodness, he states, *Practicing goodness is one of the best methods of evangelization.* As Easter approaches, look for more information in the bulletins on how the parish can share this act of goodness with the shelter.

OLA School and Child Care

by Trevor Seivert,
OLA School Principal

OLA School and Child Care is pleased to announce that we have hired a Marketer to help increase our school & child care awareness within the state line community! Over the course of the past several years, we have tried various forms to reach out to the community, and we have had some success. It became evident that having a person in charge of the marketing efforts was needed, and we are pleased to introduce **Leann Nelson** as our new School & Child Care marketer!

Leann is a graphic design and marketing professional with experience in candid and real estate photography and a passion for social media marketing. She is a talented graphic designer and has been designing ads for digital media including websites, email and social media and print including brochures, postcards, signs, and banners.

She has lived and worked in the Rockford, IL area all her life; most of her career spent in the real estate industry. She helped grow the business and sales team of Dickerson & Nieman Realtors in the early 2000's, working as a marketer, a real estate assistant and property manager. From 2010 to 2013, she was the assistant to the executive director of the BMO Harris Bank Center and became a huge fan of the Rockford IceHogs. Before her time in marketing and real estate, she worked for



Rockford Public Schools as a Special Education Paraprofessional at the middle and high school level.

She is a single mom to one son who she raised on her own. They live together in Machesney Park, IL and have two (rescued) dogs: Naomi and Layla.

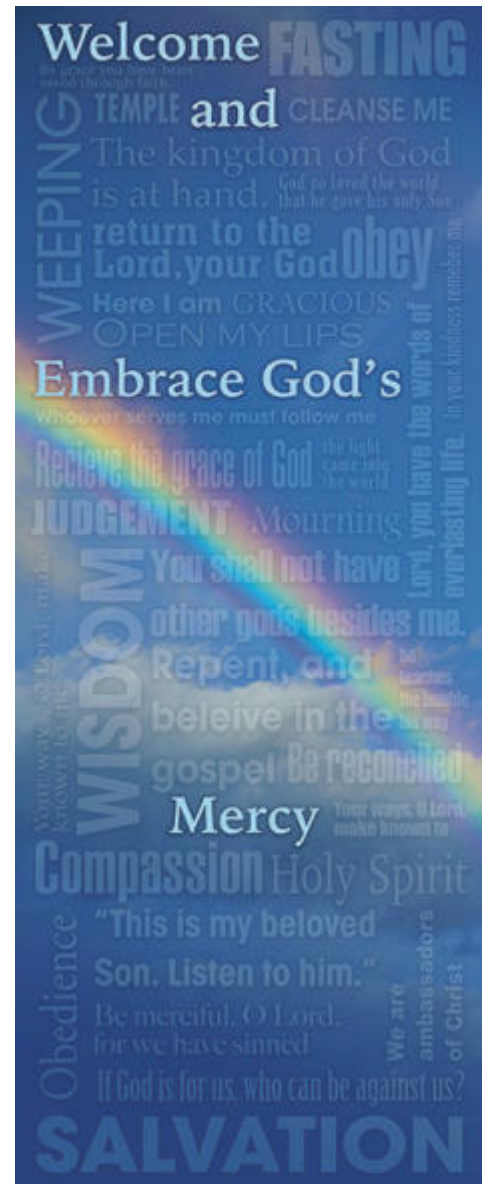
In her free time, Leann enjoys dining at one of her favorite restaurants and social media clients, GreenFire Restaurant. In times before COVID, you could find her out enjoying live music or a hockey game. She is a volunteer for the adolescent home at Rosecrance in Rockford, mentoring young women in recovery. She is a member of Central Christian Church, Machesney Park, where she sings in

their Worship Band and serves as a member of the technology and Kidzworks teams. She is a member of the Rockford Chapter of Sweet Adelines International (a women's barbershop singing organization).

You can experience some of Leann's work on the OLA website, olabeloit.com. Click on the school tab and watch the open house video.

Also connect via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter [@olacatholicschool](https://www.instagram.com/olacatholicschool).

For those who use LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/olacatholicschool>. ■



Registrations now being accepted for the 2021-22 school year.

Call the school office (608) 362-9066, stop in or visit the school tab on the parish website, olabeloit.com for more information. ■

OLA School and Child Care Annual Fund

by Aron Bussan

In the fall of 2016, the OLA School and Child Care Annual Fund was established to broaden the financial base of support for our school, building a long-term, renewable funding source, and serving as an investment in our school's future.

Catholic schools are typically funded through tuition, parish support, endowment income, and fundraising. In the future, fundraising efforts will need to substantially grow in order to keep tuition at an affordable level for young families, and to reduce pressure on the parish budget. For over sixty five years, thousands of alumni from our school have benefitted personally, academically, and professionally, thriving as



stewards of the school's mission.

Since fundraising currently represents just 6% of the school's budget, a compelling case can be made for supporting our catholic school. The Annual Fund committee has focused primarily on parishioners, however a greater initiative to reach out to the greater Beloit community and school alumni living around the country is underway. In the first four years (11/30/16 - 6/30/20) a total of \$125,011 was gifted. For the current fiscal year (7/1/20 - 6/30/21) a total of \$13,040 has been gifted to date.

Financial supporters of the fund can help build a robust and sustainable annual fund for OLA School and Child Care that will provide recurring revenue into the future. Gifts can be designated to any of three areas of support, and can also be made *in honor of* or *in memory of* someone special like a parent, grandparent, respected teacher, coach, or other loved ones:

Where the Need is Greatest

Gifts designated for this category allow the school and child care maximum flexibility in using your donation. Funds may be used for teacher training, religious instruction materials, or other critical needs.

Tuition Assistance (The McMorran Fund)

This fund helps make a catholic school education more readily available to interested families. The McMorran Fund is a spendable fund created to honor the career and dedication of long serving principal, **Arlene McMorran**, and provides tuition assistance to demonstrated needs.

Curriculum Enhancements

Through Annual Fund support, we have been able to strengthen the foreign language programming, provide technology upgrades to ensure students have a competitive advantage in an ever-changing technology landscape, as well as increase school counseling support.

Annual Fund gifts are made immediately available when needed, providing a level of flexibility for the school to maximize opportunities as they arise. Donations to the fund should be above and beyond annual stewardship support for the parish. Anyone wishing to make a donation can contact Marianne Stanton at the parish office (608-362-9066) or by visiting the School website at www.olabeloit.com. Click on the 'School', select 'Annual Fund' and click on 'Give Now'. Any questions can be directed to **Aron Bussan** at 608-290-7170 or abussan@fnbmail.com ■



Drive-Thru Fish Fry

Every Friday during Lent (including Good Friday) 4:30 –6:30 p.m.

2 pc. baked or fried cod, fries or baked potato, slaw, tartar sauce and bread.

Cost is only \$10 and you can pay from your car with cash or check or order ahead from your cell with **Bidpal** (credit card required - see instructions below).

Enter via Wirkus Drive to order and pick up.

Bidpal instructions:

■ Text the fish fry month&date followed by fish to 243725. Example: feb26fish - mar5fish - mar12fish etc.

■ Click on the link, register, then menu in the upper left corner.

■ Click on Purchase Tickets, select your meal(s) and follow the prompts.

Can you help? Volunteers are needed for the fish fries especially with Friday afternoon prep and cooks.

If you would be willing to help go to <http://www.olabeloit.com/parish/fishfrysignup.cfm> or visit the parish website, olabeloit.com Click on the **Parish** tab, then **Fish Fry Signup** or call Randy at the Admin. Center 608-362-9066. ■

Lent Prayer/Enrichment Opportunities

By the time this newsletter arrives, Lent will have begun but it is never too late to evaluate your time spent with God or perhaps look at some additional or different ways to pray. Here are some possibilities:

- Sunday Mass – If you are able and not presently attending, return to one of the weekend liturgies – Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:00 & 10:30AM
- Weekday Mass – Tuesday 5:00PM, Wednesday-Friday 8:15AM.
- *The Search* – video & discussion (see article on page 4) Saturdays 9:30-11:00AM in the gathering space.
- Confession – every Saturday 9:00AM – Tuesday, March 2 & 23 4:15PM.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Wednesday, March 10 2:00-5:30PM
- Stations of the Cross – Wednesday 6:30PM, most Fridays 2:00PM and 2:30PM with the school children.
- *Lenten Little Reflection Book* – available in the gathering space.
- *CRS Rice Bowls* – available in the gathering space to provide donations to Catholic Relief Services in support of their work with the poor around the world. www.crsricebowl.org
- *40 Days to Grace and Glory* – Short daily Lenten reflections from Dr. Tim Gray (from FORMED) commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining Scriptures and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your life. <https://formed.org/lent>
- *Creighton University Daily Reflections* – Prepared by faculty and staff of the university. <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
- *Living Lent Daily* – Reflections emailed each day from Loyola Press to encourage us in these turbulent times. <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily/>
- *Lent Gospel Reflections* – Daily meditations from Bishop Robert Barron (*Word on Fire Ministries*). <https://www.lentreflections.com/>
- *Best Lent Ever from Dynamic Catholic* – Receive a daily email with a short video to help you reconnect with yourself and your God. <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/best-lent-ever>



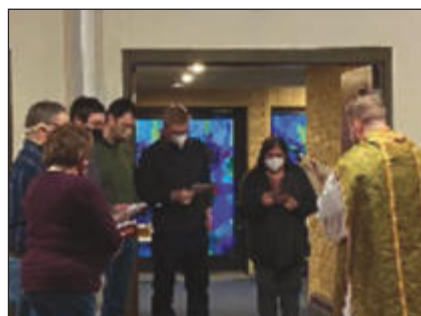
RCIA Journey

by Marianne Giovingo,
Director of Faith Formation

We have been walking with eight souls as they have spent these last 6 months letting God speak to them and lead their lives anew in a commitment and investment to full communion in the Roman Catholic Church.

What a gift to watch God bring healing and understanding to the lives of His beloved children as they prepare to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

I beg you to join me in praying for our Catechumens (those receiving Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion): **Ryan Hunt, Stephanie Hunt, and Julie**



Punzel, and for our Candidates (those receiving Holy Communion and/or Confirmation): **Alex Cervantes, Angelica Cervantes, Jacque Cervantes, Ricci Dominick, and Kevin Hildebrandt.**

We rejoice that God has invited them, and they have responded. We know the journey of faith is life-long and to be prayerfully supported means everything!

We look forward to their full reception at the Easter Vigil, April 3, when they will join us around the Altar of Sacrifice. The photos shown are from the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome at St. Stephens and Our Lady of the Assumption. Look forward, with me, to our June newsletter which will include the witness stories of these sons and daughters of God! ■

Healing

by Laura Warzecha
Director of Pastoral Ministries

The need for healing is great right now – our own and that of everyone around us. It's been said that everyone is carrying something. Some burden. Every single one of us can help lighten a burden and bridge a gap. For starters, how can we be more kind and compassionate to those closest to us with whom we disagree?

Bishop Hying's suggestions for all of us in these days leading up to

Easter are worth repeating.

■ *Get off social media and get in front of the Blessed Sacrament.*

■ *Stop watching so much news and start reading the Good News. Spend the time on volunteer service to help the poor.*

■ *Examine your conscience ... then go to Confession.*

The Bishop continues, *I am not implying that we should be silent in the face of evil, injustice, and wrongdoing, but we need to stick with the moral issues and refrain from personal attacks. If we do not even desire to heal the*

divisions among us, how can we ever rediscover our unity in Christ? ... We instinctively associate with the people who think, act, and live as we do. ... For us Christians, water is thicker than blood, for the communion we discover in the waters of Baptism is far deeper and significant than the ties of race, nation, political party and even family.

Use the extra graces available every day of this Lent and I'll see you healed at Easter! ■

A Piece of History

by Pat Hemenway

At the weekend Masses a few weeks ago the name of **Sr. Charles Marie** was included in the Prayer of the Faithful remembering those who had recently died. Sr. Charles Marie was laid to rest on January 20, 2021 in Philadelphia. Looking back to the early 1970's, our OLA Parish Family welcomed Sr. Charles Marie as director of Religious Education. Sister was a member

of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity and resided in the Fr. Judge Missionary Cenacle (brick building directly across the street from OLA) with four other members of the order who served parishes in Beloit and Janesville. The list is long of the early missions where Sr. Charles Marie served in parishes and schools in Eastern and Southern states eventually landing in the Midwest. That is when OLA became a recipient of

her knowledge, patience, kindness and spirituality. After departure from our parish in 1976, Sr. Charles Marie obtained a master's degree from Seattle University. Following that her work shifted more to adult programs, outreach and retreat ministry. Upon her death, a comment from one of her closest sisters reflected on *the happy memories of our years together in Beloit.*

May she rest in peace. ■

Baptisms "You Are God's Work of Art"

Dalton Nicholas Punzel (**Nicholas & Julie**)
Sadie Ann Punzel (**Nicholas & Julie**)
Lorenzo Torres (**Juan & Yesenia**)

Deaths "I Have Called You Each by Name"

Arlene E. McMorrان (11-17-2020)
Lucille M. Ciaramita (12-7-2020)
Sally J. Kelley Heineke (12-9-2020)
Donal J. Wolf (12-11-2020)
Mary E. Driscoll (12-28-2020)
Charles Wiederholt (12-30-2020)
Chad M. Raethz (1-3-2021)
Joseph J. Cikar, Jr. (1-3-2021)
James H. Francis (1-7-2021)
Mary Ann Cammilleri (1-10-2021)
Carole V. Love (1-17-2021)
Josephine A. Boyce (1-22-2021)
Edna Fischbach (2-17-2021)