

VOX POPULI

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Newsletter of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

We Made It! We Sure Built Something!

by Trevor Seivert
OLA School Principal

During the spring of my freshman year in high school my parents decided to build a large deck on the back of our home. Being one of five boys, I'm sure Mom & Dad thought we were cheap labor and, rather than pay an expert, tasked us 5 boys, my grandfather and Dad to build Mom's dream deck.

Plans called for it to be 30ft by 15ft, with two levels and an extension piece jutting out for additional space. Two sets of steps lead to the back yard, one measured 20 ft and the other 12 ft. The deck would butt up against the back patio and basketball court. This deck was enormous.

Even before we built the deck, we had to dig a hole near the house foundation to fix a crack in the foundation wall. My older brother who was a Senior, missed his prom filling in the hole so we could begin work on the deck the following weekend.

Together, my grandfather, my dad and all five of us boys spent the entire summer building that deck. We rented augers for post holes, and bought a lot of treated lumber. We wrapped the entire area in string to ensure everything was level and spent countless hours measuring, cutting and screwing in deck boards with screws, lag bolts and joist holders. It was hot, sweaty and not the type of work that a 15 year old boy wanted to do over the summer. I would have rather been golfing with friends, working a summer job or trying to find a girlfriend. But I didn't. I was stuck building that deck.

Slowly but surely, the deck began to take shape. First the foundation, then the 16 inch joists, and

eventually, 1-by-1, board-by-board, we screwed each deck board into place to create a beautiful deck.

The deck was finished by mid-August. I remember the exact moment that it was done. One humid August evening, as the sun was setting, Dad put the last board on the bottom step. All that was left was staining the deck, (but that would wait because Dad wanted to "weather" the deck first).

But there it was. A finished, beautiful, green treated deck. Together, my grandfather, Dad and brothers stood on the deck and marveled at what we had created.

We had done it.

Before us, stood a beautiful deck.

What had begun as holes in the ground, lumber, screws, bolts and joists, had been put together to create a marvelous deck. It was built with hard work, effort, determination, sweat and emotion. That humid August evening, we walked around it marveling at what we had accomplished. We cautiously jumped on it to make sure we wouldn't fall through. Mom smiled at her dream coming true.

Dad and Papa shared a beer, and a soda for us boys, after all the hard work.

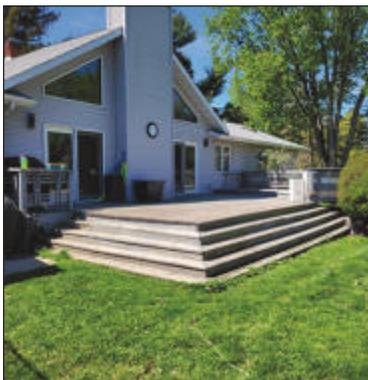
My dad stood back and commented, *We sure built something! Didn't we?*

That weekend, we had a family party to commemorate it and finish off the summer. We used the deck as the eating place.

I had never done anything like that before. Never built something from scratch like that. I had never had to! But I learned, adjusted and made it work.

To this day, the deck still stands. It's weathered, several coats of deck stain and a couple boards need replacing. But it's still there. Every time I walk on the deck, I think to myself, *We built this*. And Dad's comment still echoes in my ear, *We sure built something!*

- Continued on Page 2





Pastor's Message

by Fr. Mike Resop

Dealing with the Latest Pandemic Protocols.

It is wonderful to see people coming back to Church for Mass on the weekend. With the CDC, State and Rock County recommendations, we are currently at the point where there is no mandate to wear a mask or social distance, if you are fully

vaccinated. It is our recommendation, not mandate, that people who have not been fully vaccinated, continue to wear a mask and distance when you are in church. There are sections that are designated for open seating with no distancing, and sections where you can distance yourself.

We are doing what we can to try to accommodate everyone as our numbers increase, and slowly and safely bring back the liturgy to a pre-pandemic normal.

Thanks for your understanding and support.

Blessings to all as we enter into the summer months.
God Bless. Fr. Mike ■



Mark your calendar for the OLA Fall Festival, September 25-26, 2021.

As of now we are planning on having all activities:

- Silent Auction set up in the gym with online bidding Saturday night and Sunday
- Saturday night Entertainment Tent with dinner available following the 5:00 Mass.
- Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast
- Car Raffle

We Sure Built Something!

Continued from Page 1

This is the same feeling I get when I think back to this school year.

I'm immensely proud of the work that has gone into this year and the fact that we made it through an entire year, in a pandemic. We did it all while increasing enrollment, creating new policy and procedure, lunch schedules, hiring new staff, masks, sanitizer, cleaning solution, charting days and attendance, taking temperatures, counting back 10 and 14 days, contacting close contacts, relaying vaccine information, weighing public and political opinions, worrying about student's and staff's safety, etc. Like all things COVID, I could go on and on and on...But I don't want this to be another COVID Article.

Back in July, a handful of principal colleagues and I got together at St. Williams in Janesville to discuss all the intricacies and challenges that were before us. The diocese had made the call to be in-person and together we discussed everything from lunches, to cleaning, to arrival/dismissal, all the way down to *What are you going to do*

for your Lost & Found clothes?

When one principal remarked negatively, *This year is going to be horrific, why are we even doing this since we're going to be e-learning by October anyway?* Thinking of my parents deck, I responded, *I don't believe that, I think that this year is going to be our best year and our proudest moment. I'm planning on looking back on this with pride that we accomplished something no one thought would be possible.*

I thought of that summer building my parent's deck.

It was hard, it was difficult and not what I wanted to do. But when

it was finished, I was incredibly proud of it.

It was worth it.

For over 20 years, that deck has held up. We've hosted countless parties, family dinners, graduation parties and my own party after my wedding. Each one of them a special moment made better by the deck.

As I look back on this year and think of the difficulties AND amazing moments, I beam with pride. I know that in 20 years from now, I'm going to feel the same way that I felt about the deck.

It was worth it.

We made it!

We sure built something! ■

2021 OLA Graduates



From Left to Right:

Top Row: **Mr. Pat Ballou, Mrs. Juliet Larson, Fr. Mike Resop, Mr. Trevor Seivert, Mrs. Michele Twardowski**
Middle Row: **Mr. John Berner, Mary Katherine McKearn, Connie Dimassis, Vito Gabriel, Xaymara Lazcano, Ahn Ha, Mrs. Lynn Rafferty**

Bottom Row: **Mrs. Jackie Doyle, Emma Najdowski, Jackie Mullins, Armaan Sokhey, Marcos Manuel, Annie Guillen**

Not Pictured: **Abby Zavala-Prado**

Volunteer Profile: Art Purvis

by Sarah Gracyalny

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Art Purvis has lived his life by these ideals. He is not shy about sharing his knowledge and experiences with the world, volunteering in several different organizations within the church, and loves what he does.

Art is married with one daughter and one grandson. Art says that his grandson, Sam (not Samuel...Sam) is his buddy. *He spoils me rotten. I love it, he says. We love to watch Forged in Fire and Swamp People together. When we are in the basement watching our shows, my wife and daughter think there are two kids down there.*

Art is a veteran of the Navy, worked as a truck driver, then ended up working with the Winnebago Health Department as a Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner.

About 12 years ago, Art and his wife were not very happy with the church they were attending. A friend of theirs invited them to Mass at OLA, and during that weekend's homily, the sun shone down on Art's face. *It was like God was talking directly to me.* Art says the rest is history; Art converted to Catholicism through the RCIA program shortly after that.

Art loves his volunteer work through OLA. He is often found working the front lines of the fish fry, seating people as they come in. Art is also an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. During the past year or so, he was unable to distribute Communion on a regular basis. Art was afraid his skills would be a little rusty when he returned to Mass, so he practiced at his home with potato chips. *When I could get it down*

with the potato chips as the host, I figured I could go back to doing the real thing.

Having gone through RCIA himself, Art feels he can connect with the people currently going through the process. *I love working with the different individuals in the RCIA program. One of the things I love most is being lucky enough to give our new members their First Communion from the cup. It's a very moving situation, like you helped bring them to our Lord. I*



always hope they do as well with their journey as I have done.

Art is also an active member of the Parish Environmental Team. A few years ago, he was instrumental in the reusable bag production and distribution. Art helped design and produce those bags that many of us still use to this day. One thing Art says he is doing to help the environment is a goal he achieved after many years. *I saved for years to be able to buy an electric car.* Recently, he was finally able to buy his Mach-E Mustang and is very excited about it!

The Social Justice Committee is another of Art's passions. Art states that he has participated in marching downtown to raise awareness for the issues surrounding immigrants.

Les [Blumreich], another member of the committee, keeps me in line during these times. She is small but mighty.

Art's favorite volunteer opportunity, however, was when he was asked to participate in the Holy Thursday foot washing ritual. *I was fortunate enough to be the one to wash Fr. Mike's feet. It gave me goosebumps when I was able to wash his feet as part of that simple act, just like our Lord did [for his disciples.]*

Art stated that he doesn't participate in all the volunteer opportunities that arise. *I don't do everything that comes up, but I do some stuff, and let others do some other stuff. I just do my best.*

That is all anyone can do, Art, and we thank you for sharing your time and talents in so many ways in our church. Keep up the great work and God Bless! ■

Want to volunteer?

Buildings & Grounds: Les Blumreich
608-751-9387 lesblumreich@gmail.com

Respect Life: Allison McCawley
815-441-7893 amccawley@charter.net

Visit Parishioners in homes or care facilities: Laura Warzecha 608-362-9066 lauraw@olabeloit.com

Liturgical Minister (Distribute Communion, Proclaim the Word or Hospitality (usher) at Mass:

Randy Gracyalny 608-362-9066
randyg@olabeloit.com

Adult Faith Formation:
Marianne Giovingo 608-362-1231
mgiovingo@olabeloit.com

Social Justice issues/programs:
Laura Warzecha 608-362-9066
lauraw@olabeloit.com

Caritas: Ann Schroeder 815-624-0666
jcsaos@charter.net

First Communion

by Marianne Giovingo,
Director of Faith Formation

What a joy it was to accompany 32 children in encountering God personally in the Eucharist as they received Jesus for the first time. Let us never take for granted such a sacrifice – that God allowed His Beloved Son to die for us! He then humbles Himself to come in the form of simple bread and wine and invites us to consume Him, so as to be consumed by Him! Brothers and sisters, we invite you to come to the celebration of the Eucharist every weekend, and every day if your schedule allows. Thanks be to God for technology when sickness keeps us confined at home, we can still go to Mass and receive a Spiritual Communion. Let us pray this prayer daily, to invite God into our hearts; He dwells in us! Please pray for the purity and sanctity of these children and families, to the 4th generation! ■



Totus Tuus

We are excited to welcome a team of four young adults who are in love with the Lord and excited to serve your children and your family during our Summer Camp. The week of June 13th-18th, children entering Grades 1-12 will have the opportunity to gather at OLA and not only learn about God, but to come to know God personally. This will radically change their relationship with God for themselves and their families. I am convinced that the root of conversion is found in the family! May we celebrate the true gift of Faith, together. Summer is not a time for a break, but a time to be renewed in our perspective of priority. May I invite you to allow Jesus to be the center of your family, of your heart, of your day, of your life! ■



Faith Formation 2021-2022

Picture this year's Religious Education group – NO REALLY!!! What a JOY it was to encounter God in each of these children. I know I can speak from story after story of our catechists and parents, to the authenticity of these children. They speak their minds and are not afraid!!! Let us take our cue from these innocent babes; trust God. Let Him love you!

We are accepting registration for this fall at all grade levels. Please go to www.olabeloit.com/religious-ed and click on the Registration tab,

where you will find a fillable form. Print it out, send it in, and you're set! [HELPFUL HINT: Do NOT use the Chrome browser, as it will NOT save your work!]. We look forward to serving alongside you as parents, grandparents, and godparents! ■



RCIA

- Have you felt the tug on your heart to receive the Sacrament of Baptism?
- Did life throw some curve balls, and you were never able to complete the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation BUT NOW there is desire to receive them?
- Consider walking through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults – a program that meets weekly from late August to mid May [the journey is amazingly worth it].
- IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST IN HAVING A CONVERSATION, please email Marianne Giovingo at mgiovingo@olabeloit.com or call the office at 608.362.1231 x115.
- We're excited to meet you, and to meet God in you! ■

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

*I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You
into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually
into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You were
already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated
from You. Amen.*

Receiving the Holy Spirit with Joy

by Sela Mejia,
OLA Youth Minister

On Sunday, April 11, Bishop Hying confirmed 23 young people from our parish plus 33 from the other cluster parishes at OLA. We congratulate all those who were confirmed and pray for a continued strong, personal relationship with Jesus.

Following are reflections from two of those confirmed.

What Confirmation Meant to Me by Diana Lara

My favorite part about confirmation was being able to grow my faith with all my classmates and being able to watch them get confirmed. I loved looking back at my family and seeing them smiling at me when it was my turn to go talk to Bishop

Hying. Confirmation to me means a lot. It means growing up closer and closer to God. It is like climbing the stairs to God. I saw God that day many times. One time



I saw God was when I went up to Bishop Hying and he talked to me. Another time I saw God was when my sponsor looked me in the eyes and gave me my necklace after getting confirmed. It was an amazing experience and I enjoyed being able to grow my faith stronger all thanks to my catechist and my family for being by my side.

What Confirmation Meant to Me by Connor Jacobson

My favorite part of the whole experience of Confirmation was walking into the church and seeing all the people. Those people came to support the confirmandi. Getting confirmed was one of the greatest, holy days of my life. I am finally one with the church. When the sun was shining through

the church windows, it was a moment of true happiness, peace, grace, and Holy Spirit. ■



Sing and Paint and Glue, It's Just Some of What We Do!

by Cassandra Letcher,
Child Care Director

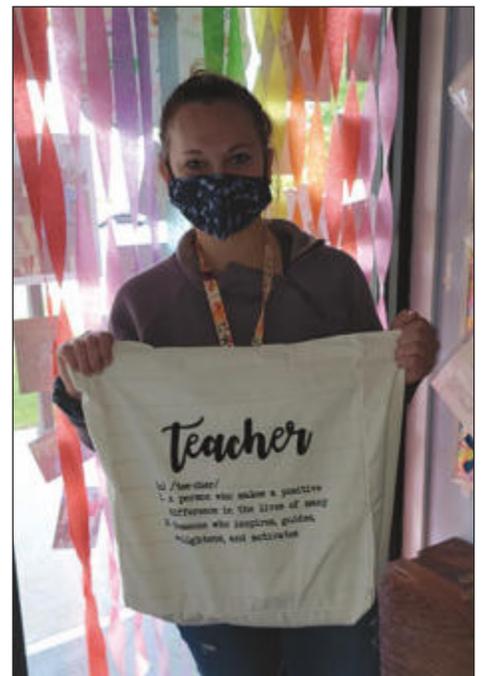
Early Childhood teachers read, play, pretend, clean, create, plan, provide care, share, dance, love, amongst so many other things. Teachers put in LONG hours with most staff currently working 7:00AM – 5:30PM Monday to Friday. This year has been an eye opener to all of what we do! Early Childhood educators are slowly starting to be recognized for all they do and are. The week of May 3rd we celebrated teachers with daily tokens of appreciation...

- Monday: Cup of Joe Monday (*Dunkin'* of choice)
- Tuesday: Sweet Tooth Tuesday (assortment of sweets)

- Wednesday: Wild Card Wednesday (envelope with staff appreciation coupons)
- Thursday: Thoughtful Thursday (children sent in cards / hand-drawn pictures)
- Friday: Fun Bag Friday (teacher bag and meal provided)

EC teachers often go unrecognized for their dedication and important work, but we gratefully and humbly welcomed the thanks given during Teacher Appreciation Week this year. Students and parents were very generous and blessed us with: Starbucks gift cards, personalized drawings, thoughtful gifts and messages of appreciation, and lunch delivered. Thank You to all of our parents and staff here at Our Lady of the Assumption for all that you do and all that you give to our

children. The children become our teachers too, if we just listen closely. ■



Springtime



at OLA



Coming Back to Mass

by Pat Casucci

Consider the experience of returning to Mass again, in person. Being connected with the beauty of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Once again receiving the Eucharist. Being with Our Lady of the Assumption Parishioners at church. The church itself with attractive flowers and altar decor. It's certainly a feeling of being *home* again.

Parishioners are returning to Mass!

Father Mike stressed the significance of in person celebration of the Mass. *Mass is so important because gathering with the community is essential to what Eucharist means. As well, to receive Holy Communion is the fullness of the Eucharist.*

Father Mike continued, *I hear it every weekend as people are coming back to church, how they missed gathering with community and receiving communion, not just spiritually receiving as they were during their isolation because of the pandemic.*

For more than a year, since March 2020, our parish has offered the Mass online each week with the pastors and proclaimers of the Word from the Beloit/Clinton Cluster participating.

Father Mike admitted that celebrating Mass when the church pews were empty was a *real change* for him. Yet, along with the priests in the Beloit/Clinton Cluster, Father Mike provided the opportunity for people to hear the Gospel message and nourish their spiritual life.

Parishioners and friends have been able to stay connected with the parish community through the weekly Mass coordinated by **Randy Gracyalny**. It's recorded each week by a dedicated

technical group - **Adam Gracyalny, John Berner** and **Teresa Gracyalny**. Music by the **Gracyalny** family and **Joseph Kriz** have been essential to the success of online Masses.

As they return to Mass in person, parishioners expressed their joy and appreciation. All mentioned being thankful for the opportunity to watch Mass each week online. But, in person, they felt an inner reverence. One man, who didn't want to be named, described it thus, *For me, there was a more spiritual meaning to the Mass. However, seeing the Mass online was also very important to me.*

Parishioners agreed they feel *safe* – that word that has taken on the meaning of: social distancing, hand sanitizer bottles throughout the church, masks, as well as vaccinations and fewer COVID cases. People look forward to again hearing the choir and being able to sing again.

There is great respect for Father Mike, the parish staff, and the many volunteers who worked to sanitize the church after every Mass. They kept us safe and as healthy as possible.



Deb and **Tom Casper** eagerly stated, *No words can fully express how we felt to be in God's house again, to be there in person. We felt*

comfortable. We feel it is safe for us to return. The couple had to wait until they received the vaccine before coming to Mass in person, noting *we realize how devastating COVID is.*

Our faith means a lot to us, so we were very much appreciative to see the recorded Mass every week. It was a nice way to stay connected to our parish, though disheartening to have to stay at home. We took advantage of seeing Father Mike, seeing our beautiful altar. We were in the right place for us at home, but still had the connection to our church. We are grateful for that, stated Deb Casper.



In her friendly, positive manner, **Elizabeth Wagner** delightfully said, *I feel safe and comfortable returning to our church, but I wasn't comfortable until I had my shots. On Easter Sunday, it was very different, I received Communion.* Alluding to present guidelines, she said, *It's so different not having singing nor to talk with parishioners.* Wagner does not have a computer. *I missed our parish Masses on the internet, but I did watch the Apostolate to the Handicapped Masses each Sunday,* she said.

- Continued on Page 9

Coming Back to Mass

Continued from Page 8



With everyone wearing masks, and being socially distanced, **Barney Flynn** said, *We felt safe when we returned to Mass in person. It had been one year since we'd last been in church. We appreciate being with our parish community. We can be with other people and feel more reverent.*



As they anticipate returning to Mass in person, **Penny and Leon Mindt** said they've missed receiving Communion and being with other parishioners. *We're*

grateful we can continue to attend Mass in our home. It's been very meaningful, said Penny.

Carolyn Dylak and Tony Potocnik observed that it's good to see parishioners again. *It's hard to describe how special the act of simply walking into the church is, of going to Mass, connecting with God. It's good to be back in the groove,* said Potocnik. *But we*



miss the singing, he added. The couple also expressed how they are thankful for Father Mike's homilies. *They helped us relate to everyday life.* Emphasizing the reality of the pandemic, Dylak shared, *This is an experience we'll never forget.*

In his patient, kindly manner, **Randy Gracyalny** said, *We're very happy to see people are returning to Mass each weekend. It's been important to us to offer everyone the best Mass experience possible.*

However, there will be a change. Plans are being completed to live

stream OLA Masses, either one Mass or all three weekend Masses. They will not be pre-recorded, according to Randy. Watch the weekly bulletin for that change and it will also be announced as part of the last recorded Mass or two.

He explained recording Masses each week takes a considerable amount of time, planning and editing. *The Masses recorded for the Beloit/Clinton Cluster have been valued and appreciated by all parishioners. The shared celebration of the Mass and homilies added a unity we may not otherwise have had,* said Randy.

Father Mike stated, *A live stream Mass will allow us to continue to connect with those dealing with COVID, with health concerns, as well as for those who are homebound or in nursing homes, etc.*

He shared other advantages and opportunities of live streaming. *It will allow us to stream not only Sunday Mass, but weddings or funerals, as well as school activities. We will be able to reach out to family members who cannot make an event or who live out of state. And for Adult ED/Formation, we would be able to live stream their presentations.*

If you are not yet attending Mass, we hope to see you soon, when you are comfortable returning. ■

Each year we ask that all parishioners consider a subscription to the *Catholic Herald* newspaper. If you would like a subscription, please return the enclosed envelope, through the collection or to the Administration Center, regardless of your ability to pay, and we will process. If you're able to pay extra and help defray subscription costs to the parish, that is also appreciated. ■

GO MAKE DISCIPLES Diocese of Madison Evangelization

by Kathy Schmidt

A year ago, our parish began Phase 1 of the *Go Make Disciples (GMD)* evangelization initiative, forming a team which has met monthly to reflect on the diocesan newsletters, to commit to personal growth in one's spiritual life, and to prepare to promote the four spiritual goals of this initiative. These four are daily prayer, monthly confession, keeping Sundays holy, and observing Fridays as days of penance. Additionally, the parish staff, parish council, and the school

staff have been actively engaged in Phase 1.

On May 11, the diocese held a workshop and retreat for team leaders. Bishop Hying addressed the group and shared his vision for Phase 2. For this phase, teams, with the guidance of their priests and diocesan mentors, will plan how to equip and engage active members of their parishes in their spiritual growths using the four aforementioned spiritual goals. Ultimately, these parishioners should grow confident and competent to share with others about Jesus Christ and invite others to encounter Christ, especially in the Eucharist and the Mass. This stage, *Seeking Holiness*, is to be

initiated in parishes beginning Advent 2021 and would engage all parishioners.

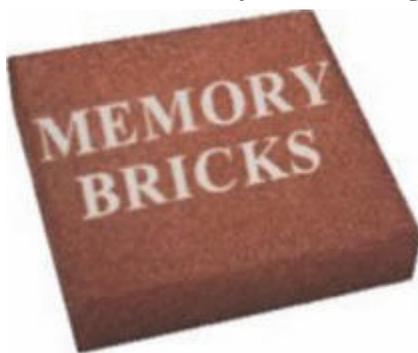
In the months to come, the parish evangelization team will continue to meet, plan, and continue their own faith formation. Monthly updates are published in the bulletin. Any suggestions or questions are always welcome. Team members are **Adam Gracyalny, John Heidt, Sonia Loera, Diana Montes, Andreina Patilliet, Laura Warzecha**, and team lead **Kathy Schmidt**. To receive contact information for group members, please call or text Kathy Schmidt (608-931-1209) and leave a message. ■

Memory Garden Bricks

Our Lady of the Assumption is again offering engraved bricks. Order an engraved brick to be placed in the Memory Garden area between the front entrance of the church and main entrance of the school.

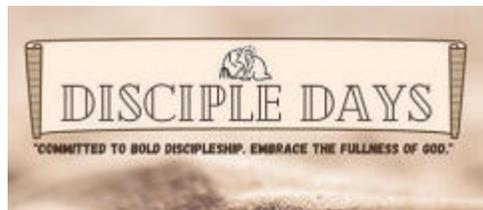
You can have your name, your family name, names of your children, *in memory* or *in honor*

of someone engraved on a Gift Brick, and all money raised will go



toward flowers and upkeep of the Memory Garden area.

To order, go to the parish tab on our website or call the Administration Center (608) 362-9066. Orders must be in by Friday, June 25. All bricks will be shipped to OLA and installed in time for the *Blessing of the New Bricks* on August 15, our Parish Feast Day. ■



Disciple Days

by Sela Mejia,
OLA Youth Minister

We are excited to introduce our new summer event, *Disciple Days*! It's a summer service retreat for our teens in middle and high school. Through *Disciple Days*, we will act as bold

disciples of the Lord by serving our neighbors, sharing the love of Christ, and joining together in community. Youth entering 9 – 12 grades for the 2021 – 2022 school year are eligible to participate in the high school event, and those entering 6 – 8 grades are able to participate in the middle school event.

High School Disciple Days: Sunday, June 27 - Wednesday, June 30
Middle School Disciple Days: Tuesday, July 6 - Thursday, July 8

Registration is closing soon, so please email Sela Mejia, Youth Minister, ASAP at selam.olabeloit@gmail.com for more information and with any questions.

We are also still searching for adult chaperons to be group leaders and for service opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested in helping by chaperoning or may be in need of some help with yard/house work, projects, etc., please reach out to Sela Mejia at the above email or by phone at (262) 427-8459. ■

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents

by Janna Seefeldt,
Pastoral Ministry

Blessed are you who weep and mourn for one day you will laugh.

Of all the pains that life can hand us, arguably the most searing is the loss of a child. A parent's world irrevocably and horrifically changes forever. As Jesus joined his distraught disciples on the road to Emmaus after his crucifixion, we ask him to join each of us in this ministry as we struggle through the horrendous journey of grief every day.

What rich symbolism there is in the Emmaus story for those of us who have lost a child and are on our own painful journeys to maintain the hope that we will see our children again and restore faith in the fact that life has changed, not ended.

When you come to one of our spiritual retreats you are giving yourself the gift of taking time out

of your busy schedule to focus on YOU and your very personal spiritual grief journey. Time to ask questions like...Why did this happen? How could a loving God take my child? Where is my child right now? Is it OK to be angry with God? How am I ever going to get through this? How can I use this tragedy to draw closer to God and to my child?



Join us in a warm and loving environment with others who know your pain. In the Franciscan tradition of *All are welcome* our doors are open to all grieving parents of all religions whose children of any age who have died by any cause no matter how long ago.

Emmaus Ministry retreats focus on the fact that our deceased children are eternal beings. They are still very much alive and well and at work in our lives. We will see them again. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process, these retreats are not workshops or seminars – or even support groups. We don't force people to share their spiritual journeys or tell their stories. Parents are invited to share as much or as little as they would like. The goal of each retreat is to offer peace and comfort, and hope in Our Risen Lord.

These retreats are offered by groups of Emmaus Parent Companions who believe that, *It is by consoling that we are consoled.*

OLA will be hosting a retreat on October 9, 2021 – A full day of spiritual growth and understanding from 9:00AM until 6:00PM.

Watch the bulletin and Flocknote for registration information as it becomes available. ■

Stateline Works of Mercy

by Karen Kavanaugh,
Social Justice

We are the newly-established Stateline Works of Mercy organization. We are calling the Catholic faithful in Beloit, Clinton, South Beloit & Roscoe to come together to accomplish the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for the homeless - those most in need in the Stateline.

We have been helped by individual members of the Knights of Columbus and Society of St. Vincent de Paul from all of our area parishes.

In the near future, we will obtain a building to provide a day

center with shower, laundry service, and an area for conversation and prayer. We seek to create a comfortable, warm and welcoming atmosphere where the love of God is ever present. It is our sincere hope that our example of love and service will lead to sharing the Good News of our Faith in God as we walk together on this journey. We desire to love in such a way that those we serve will come to know the worship that God has given for all of humanity.

Perhaps if you've been searching for an answer to Jesus' question, *What do you seek?*... the answer is serving the least of our brothers and sisters through this ministry.

Consider joining us yourself and asking others in the parish to help in any way you are able with your *Time, Talent and Treasure.*

We can be reached at Stateline-works ofmercy@gmail.com

Watch for bulletin announcements or call the parish office for contact info.

We meet every two weeks on Tuesday evening at 6:00PM at St. Thomas Parish in Beloit. Upcoming meetings are open to anyone interested. **Thank you for your prayers and consideration of our invitation to help the Stateline Works of Mercy.** ■

Dearly Loved, Fondly Remembered, Deeply Missed

by Randy Gracyalny

On Nov. 17, 2020, OLA lost a devoted and cherished member of her family.

Arlene McMorran was the school principal for 26 years but, more importantly, was a woman passionate about her faith, catholic education and helping those in need.

Arlene came to OLA in 1985 with her husband, Frank and children Jean Marie and Sean. It became apparent very quickly that she was going to be a special member of this community as she immersed herself into the well-being of the school, students and families as well as many parish ministries.

There would be many challenging situations and students that Arlene would deal with over her years in the school, but she always tried to find a positive response to those situations helping the student and/or family understand and learn from it as well



as learning from them herself. She cared deeply for every student and family that passed through our school doors as they became

part of her family.

In retirement, Arlene continued to stay busy and active in her faith, taking a part time secretary position with St. Stephens in Clinton and helping with their faith formation classes. She was also very involved with Dismas Ministry, visiting those incarcerated in our county jail and the State Correctional Facility in Portage, helping to bring dignity and faith-filled hope to those she encountered.

Arlene, enjoy your eternal rest with Christ in heaven. You are missed here at OLA, but never forgotten. ■

A Piece of History

by Pat Hemenway

In a previous article in *Vox Populi*, the Father Judge Missionary Cenacle (brick building directly across the street from our parish campus) was mentioned. Fr. Thomas A. Judge, C.M, ordained in 1899, was the founder of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity with headquarters located in Philadelphia. At the invitation of Bishop William P. O'Connor, the Community was introduced into the Madison Diocese in 1962. That summer, three Sisters of the Missionary Servants began their work in Beloit parishes of OLA, St.

Thomas and St. Jude. Of that group, Sr. Marie Therese was assigned to serve OLA as a full-time parish missionary to do home visitation and conduct a parish census. In the early 1970's, Sr. Charles Marie and Sr. Ann Miriam would serve our parish as Religious Education Consultants.

When they arrived, a rented house adjacent to St. Thomas provided a temporary residence for the Sisters but as their Community grew to serve local parishes and perform various diocesan duties, it was decided that the Missionary Cenacle should be built. Cost of the Cenacle was \$85,000 and was financed by the Diocese of Madison

and the participating parishes in Beloit and Janesville where the Sisters served. The building contained a chapel, bedrooms, kitchen, laundry, offices and a dining/meeting room. Construction was completed and the Cenacle was dedicated at a special ceremony in October 1967.

Because of a decreased number of Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Trinity working in the Diocese and the Beloit-Janesville area, the Cenacle was sold in 1979. How privileged and blessed OLA was to have the Sisters living within our community and working and sharing their faith with us at that time – now a *Piece of OLA History*. ■

Baptisms "You Are God's Work of Art"

Amelia Guadalupe Sanchez (**Adrian & Gloria**)
Alexa Fuentes Tello (**Jerry & Sandra**)
Saul Fuentes Tello (**Jerry & Sandra**)
Deklin Tate Williams (**Johnathan & Brittany**)

Deaths "I Have Called You Each by Name"

Tyler O. Johnson (1-29-2021)
Wayne W. Swanson (2-22-2021)
Josephine M. Giacalone (2-28-2021)
Kyle W. Douglas (3-8-2021)
Marcella "Sally" A. Ramsey (3-17-2021)
Juanita Lucy Robbins (3-25-2021)
Annette V. Strand (4-7-2021)
Joyce L. Howard (4-22-2021)
Marianne J. Kuecker (5-1-2021)
Patrick J. Connelly (5-4-2021)