

Summer 2021

GATHERINGS

▲ St. Maria Goretti's feast day is July 6. Each year, around the anniversary of her feast day, the lilies in front of her statue bloom.



◀ After Connor Wenger became interested in the story of how Saint Philomena became a saint, he decided to visit the National Shrine of Saint Philomena for his family pilgrimage. Connor (right) is pictured with his mom, dad, sister, and brother at the site in Briggsville, Wisconsin. Connor said, "I encountered God during the pilgrimage by saying a prayer I wrote while at the shrine. The pilgrimage was a great way for my family to take a road trip, pray together, and learn more about the saint and her commitment to God."

FAMILY PILGRIMAGES

By Melissa Coleman, Religious Education Coordinator

Every year, in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the students attend a retreat. As a substitute for our canceled retreats this year, the idea of a family pilgrimage came to light. We made this decision so the students would still have the opportunity to step away from their normal routine and into a place to encounter God in a meaningful way, like they would at a retreat. The trip was also flexible for families, as there are

many holy sites in the Madison area and around Wisconsin. After each student took their trip, they met with me, either in-person or via zoom, to discuss what they learned and to reflect on their experience. It was incredible to hear how meaningful the pilgrimage was to them and the ways they encountered God. In this issue we've included just some of the photos and reflections that the students shared with me.

Family Pilgrimages continued on page 9

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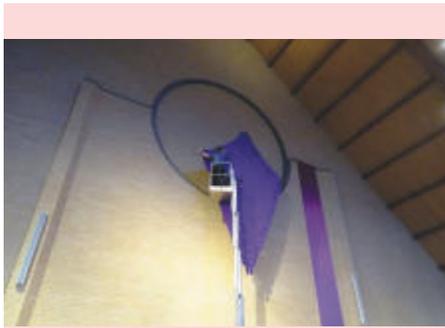
Read about our RCIA participants on page 4



See this year's Confirmation Mass on page 5



Learn about the Young Adults group on page 10



▲ A huge thank you to our parish staff and volunteers for all the work in preparing our church for Passiontide.



▲ Our students took part in a prayerful Adoration procession in honor of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.



▲ This spring, a few of our students worked with the facilities team and helped with parking lot clean-up, spreading mulch, and more.

PHOTO REEL

Do you have a great photo you took at St. Maria Goretti? We are always looking for more images to post on social media, in the bulletin, or in *Gatherings*. Please Email your photos to Kristin at kristin.vanevenhoven@stmariagoretti.org, for the chance for your photo to appear online or in our print materials.



DEAR FAMILY OF FAITH

By Fr. Scott Emerson, Pastor

We are coming to the conclusion of the Easter season. Yet, we remain an Easter people, as Pope Benedict said on an Easter Sunday, “God lives!” What does this mean for us? Our faith in Jesus Crucified and Risen is lived by imitating Him in our thoughts, words and actions. It was true then and is just as true today and will always be true. This issue of *Gatherings* shares many of the realities of our lived faith over these past years, celebrating our successes and excitement for the future.

Earlier this year, Liz Young announced her retirement as principal of St. Maria Goretti Catholic School after 17 years of leadership, service, and commitment to the education of our students and to the community. St. Maria Goretti Catholic School stands as a beacon of Catholic Education excellence in the Diocese of Madison due to her deep love and care of our students. Throughout those years, Principal Young was assisted by the very diligent and ever joyful Maria Dulli. Mrs. Dulli has greeted visitors and supported school staff, along with years of serving in the religious education office.

With the leadership of Mrs. Young and Mrs. Dulli, and the entire staff of SMG School, we successfully conclude one of the most difficult school years. To praise their efforts is an understatement to the accomplishments of this year. I am deeply grateful for all the parents, for their flexibility this year, and their incredible love and support of our parish and school. It speaks to the strength of our community. We congratulate the 8th graders. May they be led by the Truth of the Gospel as they continue their academic excellence.

On the Easter Vigil, we celebrated the sacraments of initiation with our RCIA participants. Every spring, we celebrate the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation with our students and their families. With safety protocols and regulations still in place, we all began to feel a sense of normalcy at the parish with full pews and joyful exuberance in the air. Thanks to Mrs. Coleman for her incredible dedication throughout this year, preparing our students to receive these important sacraments and coordinating a new family catechesis model in our Religious Education program.

We have a few exciting endeavors as we look towards the future. This summer, we will continue our Book Club series. We welcome back the diocesan summer youth program for middle school and high school students called, “Love Begins Here.” We also look forward to our new Youth Chorister Training Program and the reinstatement of all of our choirs. If you would like to join a choir or take advantage of our educational programming, please join our Music Ministry as we worship God through our sung voices.

May God, through the intercession of St. Joseph, diligent protector of Christ, guard the faith and health of your family as we enter into summer.

God bless,

Fr. Scott Emerson
Pastor

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

By Dianne Metz, Assistant Principal

It is with great thanks to God and all the people in our parish community that we were able to make in-person learning a reality this past 2020-2021 school year. We are so blessed to have a very dedicated staff that worked tirelessly to keep learning uninterrupted during the pandemic. It has definitely been a journey. We learned so much about our faith in God, the resiliency of children, and our ability to persevere. In true SMG community spirit we finished strong!

As we wrap up this school year, we say goodbye to two very important people at our school. This year, Mrs. Young, our principal, and Mrs. Dulli, our administrative assistant, are retiring. Mrs. Young has been leading our school for 17 incredible years and Mrs. Dulli has been with the school working tirelessly for 23 years. We have been beyond blessed by their hard work, leadership,

and advocacy for our school. We will miss them and the assets that they brought to our school. Please read their stories in this issue below and when you see them please thank them and keep them in your prayers for a wonderful retirement.

We also say goodbye to the following staff members that are moving on to other adventures next year: Mrs. Metz (Assistant Principal), Ms. Nelson (P.E.), Mrs. Kerman (Preschool), and Ms. Tranel (2nd grade). We wish them all the best and thank them for being a part of our SMG school community.



▲ Our students made “Hope” designs during art class. The K-4th graders created all the background pieces, while each of the other grades decorated the letters with their favorite zentangle design.



LIZ YOUNG

Liz Young has been involved in Catholic education for 42 years. During that time, she has served as a middle school teacher, teaching principal, catechist, director of religious education, and full-time

principal. She has been the principal at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School since 2004.

After 17 years of leadership and service to our students and parish community, Liz will be retiring as our school principal. She will be greatly missed at SMG.

Prior to her coming to SMG, she served as a teacher and then as a principal at a school in Illinois for almost 20 years. At that time, she was ready for a change. Her children were in college, so moving would not affect them. She was planning to move to eastern Illinois to take a job with a school about equal distance between her parents and husband's parents.

Somehow, her resume traveled north to Madison, and she interviewed at SMG. She liked the community, the school, and the parish administration.

Liz Young continued on page 6



▲ Maria Dulli (center) with the Youth Ministry leadership team. They took a mission trip with 33 high school teens to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in June 2013.

MARIA DULLI

After more than 23 years of dedicated service, Maria Dulli will be retiring this year. Over the years, she has provided critical work supporting the administration, staff, and students of our school as well as our Youth Ministry program. Maria's presence will certainly be missed at the SMG school, religious education, and parish office.

Maria Dulli continued on page 8



▲ Sponsor Grace Gilles (left) with catechumen Emily Solecki (right), prior to her baptism during the Easter Vigil.

THE PILLAR OF FIRE LEADS TO THE BAPTISMAL FONT

By Sr. Denise Herrmann, CSA, Pastoral Associate & Director of Liturgy and RCIA

*This is the night of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.*

O what a radiant night it was throughout the world and especially here at St. Maria Goretti Church as our parish heard the above text sung from the Easter Exultet on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil!

This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.... The pillar of fire that is the newly blessed Easter candle lead the way to the baptismal font where Fr. Scott Emerson baptized our RCIA catechumen Emily Solecki. Her sponsor Grace Gilles accompanied her.

This is the night that...sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones. That night our parish witnessed Emily's baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and rejoiced in her joining our Christian faith.

Also at the Easter Vigil, five adults made their Profession of Faith and were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, namely Joan Canto, Brianna Hoover, Cole Kotecki, Robin Radloff, and David Zacharias.

They and newly baptized Emily were confirmed by Fr. Scott with the Church's traditional words: *Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*

As the Easter Vigil Mass continued, these six adults completed their initiation into the Church with their first reception of Holy Communion. These RCIA participants were filled with joy, as were their sponsors, their loved ones, and all from our parish who prayed for and with them.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human. Yes, Holy Saturday night is truly the most radiant night of the year: Christ is risen from the grave victorious over sin and death. The Church rejoices in her new members and in the gift of salvation celebrated through the reception of the sacraments. *O truly blessed night!*

(Italicized quotes are from the Easter Exultet which is sung every year on Holy Saturday night at the Easter Vigil.)

Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Rest in Peace

+

Joan Dal Santo

April 3, 2021

Jacquelyn Werner

April 19, 2021

Darlene Weisberger

April 22, 2021

+

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord; and let perpetual light
shine upon them.*

*May these souls, and the souls
of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*



UPDATE ON OUR COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS

By Deacon Dick Martin, Outreach Coordinator

It has been a strange and trying year with the restrictions and lock downs due to the pandemic. While all of us have experienced mental and emotional stresses during this time, many of our neighbors are doing everything they can just to survive. With remote learning and closed child-care facilities, many families have had their incomes slashed because a parent needed to stay home with the children. Additionally, many who worked in the service industry were laid off or had their hours cut during this last year.

Given these economic hardships, it is not surprising that many families have had a hard time making ends meet. The demands at the food pantries at St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Multicultural Center are up by over 50 percent compared to pre-pandemic times. Similarly, the demands for meals at Luke House and the CMC are up, as are the demands for diapers and baby formula at the Pregnancy Helpline.

Even with this help, and help from other community partners, some families are still struggling. Nationwide it is reported that 1 in 5 renters are behind in their rent and for people of color it is 1 in 3. In Dane County alone it is estimated that past due rent comes to

\$50 million. Federal, state, and local governments have allocated some aid to address this problem but for Dane County this aid is estimated to be only \$35 million, which leaves a gap of \$15 million. This gap will lead to evictions if their rent is not covered in some other way. Additionally, many of these same individuals are behind in their utilities payments. Because the utility shut-off moratorium ended on April 15, these bills have to be addressed first.

To limit the spread of COVID, the CDC ordered an eviction moratorium. Since the beginning of the pandemic, it has been extended a number of times. The latest extension will end on June 30. After that, anyone who is behind in their rent can be evicted. Besides losing their home, an eviction has dire long-term consequences. With an eviction on your record, it is very difficult to rent another place, get a loan for a car, or obtain a credit card. If someone is willing to rent to you, it is often a rundown place and the landlord may charge an exorbitant amount, including four months of rent paid in advance. This leaves many of these families homeless.

St. Maria Goretti is working with Good Shepherd Lutheran, Orchard Ridge UCC,



Joining Forces for Families (JFF) and the social workers from the various schools in our neighborhood to help families with children stay in their homes. This group was formed almost two years before the pandemic. During those years, we were able to meet the needs of 12 to 15 families per year with a budget of about \$6,000. JFF was able to bundle this money with many other funds to support those families. As of now, this group has over \$80,000. We have not given out much help over the last year because JFF has been directing our neighbors-in-need to use available government aid first. When the eviction moratorium ends, the government aid will quickly be exhausted and the demands for our funds will be great. Also, JFF will have very few other sources for aid because many of those dollars are a part of the \$35 million in government aid for Dane County. You can imagine that \$80,000 will not go very far.

For more information or to make a donation to the Outreach Fund, visit the Outreach Ministries page on our website.



During the weekends of April 24-25 and May 1-2, we shared in the joy of the sacraments with our first communicants and confirmandi.

We had 60 children who received Holy Communion for the first time as they joined parishioners at a weekend Mass.

Bishop Hying celebrated Mass and confirmed 60 teens—38 were from SMG, 17 were from St. Christopher, and 5 were from other parishes.

WHAT IS NEW IN THE PARISH LIBRARY?

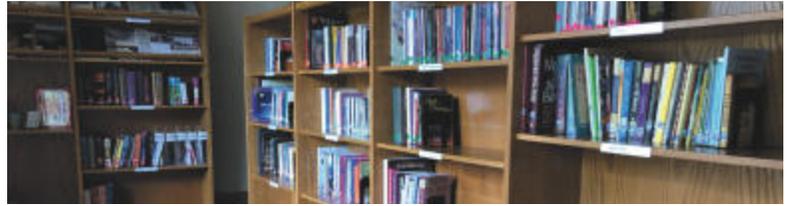
By Carol Anacker, Library Coordinator

One of the most important things to know about the SMG Parish Library is that it is a Catholic faith-based lending library for you!

The Parish Library offers you a quiet place to read and reflect. Spending time browsing in the library is spiritually renewing and can be the best way to find a book that you may like to check out.

For those with computer access, there is an online catalog, which is a great place to explore the many books, journals, DVD's, and CD's prior to visiting the library. To access the online catalog, visit the Parish Library page, under Faith Formation, on our website.

A book or audiovisual item can be found on a library shelf based on the item's subject listed in the online catalog.



In the case of a book with multiple subjects listed, the item will be shelved based on the first subject listed.

The mission of the Parish Library is to enable the parish family to grow in faith and love. In order to accomplish this, the library collects materials which will enhance the prayer and spiritual life of our parishioners, support education in the Catholic Faith, and promote evangelization.

Consider setting a goal this year to visit the Parish Library or to read one of the many faith-based books!

We hope you will find resources in the Parish Library that will increase your spiritual growth and knowledge.

Location

The library is located between the Church corridor and the Parish Hall.

Hours

Hours may vary. Generally, library access is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:45 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday before and after Masses.

Contact Us

If you would like assistance searching for a specific item, please email us at parish@stmariagoretti.org.

We value your input. If you have any suggestions to improve our library, please reach out to us.

[Liz Young continued from page 3](#)

“So here I am – an Illinois transplant. Coming to SMG from Illinois is proof that God works in mysterious ways,” added Liz.

The reason Liz began working in school administration supports the saying that God works in mysterious ways. When the principal at her former school was on medical leave, she ended up doing a lot of administrative work, mostly because of her classroom's close proximity to the school office.

After serving as temporary principal, her colleagues suggested that she consider working in administration. After thinking about it for a while, Liz enrolled in a program at UW-Milwaukee and graduated with a master's degree in Administrative Leadership.

As pincipal at SMG, she recalls the funny stories from the younger students that usually happen every year, “Usually a Kindergarten student or first grader

will ask me questions as if I lived at the school or own the building. ‘Where is your bed?’ ‘Is this place hard to clean?’ ‘Are you afraid at night in such a big place?’ ‘Where does the rest of your family live?’ This year, since I am leaving, one of the youngsters asked me, ‘Who are you going to sell the school to?’ One student asked, ‘Is the new principal going to buy the school from you?’”

Liz will treasure her time at SMG. Her favorite memory has been watching the school grow and thrive in the parish and local community over the years. “It has truly been a blessing to be a part of,” added Liz.



▲ Liz Young and Dianne Metz posing in their superhero themed costumes in October 2019.

She will miss the magnificent staff, the support of the parents, and, most of all, the children.

Liz doesn't have any major plans for retirement just yet. She is going to relax, take a breath, and see where it leads.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BILL BREMER

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I retired in 2012 from the Federal Highway Administration after a 40-year career. I continue to work part-time as a civil engineer in the University of Wisconsin Civil Engineering Department. My wife, Shirley, and I have four wonderful adult children, and all of them attended SMG School. We have eight fantastic grandchildren. Our granddaughter, Elizabeth, is in 2nd grade at SMG School and our granddaughter, Emma, will be starting kindergarten in the fall. Emma tells us she can't wait to go to school with her older sister.

How did you get involved with SMG?

Shirley and I joined SMG in 1978. We have been active at SMG ever since. We have been involved in just about every worship and school activity throughout the years, except the choir (I can't carry a tune).

What is your favorite part about the SMG community?

I enjoy working with so many other volunteers who make the SMG community such a vibrant group. I really like working at the SMG Fish Frys



and sitting down for my own fish fry dinner. I have also invited relatives to join us at SMG to enjoy this great tradition.

In what ways do you volunteer?

I started volunteering as an usher when we were still in the original church in the school. After we moved to the new church, Sister Denise asked me if I would be willing to serve as the Usher Coordinator. I filled that role for almost 20 years. Over the years, I have also served on the Parish Council, Fundraising Committees, and the Facilities and Grounds Committee. During the year the new church was built, I was the president of the Parish Council.

What is the most rewarding thing about volunteering?

The most rewarding thing is seeing the way we can help people. Our outreach activities do make a difference. For the past five years, I have served as the Blood Drive Coordinator for the drives that SMG hosts several times a year. We were able to continue to host our blood drives during the pandemic, because of the great care and work the Red Cross has done to keep everybody safe. The need for blood donations never goes away.

How has SMG impacted your life?

Our family life has evolved around SMG. From the 17 years our children attended SMG School, to our three daughters getting married at SMG, plus all of our volunteer activities, SMG is a very special place for the Bremer family.

What is your favorite memory from your volunteer experience?

My favorite (and proudest) memory as a volunteer was when I helped Father Schuster conduct the ground breaking ceremony for the new church on July 12, 1992. I still remember, standing near the rectory with Father, watching the contractor's heavy equipment start to move the earth for the church's foundation. I enjoyed all the meetings we had with the contractors over that next year and making decisions on the details that brought the building project to a successful completion.

What are your hopes for the future of SMG?

This past year has been hard on everybody, but I hope we can get back together and do the things that make SMG such a wonderful community of God. I really miss the Sunday morning coffee and SMG Fish Frys.



YOUTH CHORISTER TRAINING PROGRAM

SMG's new Youth Chorister Training Program is now enrolling!

The Youth Chorister Training Program is a unique and advanced level vocal music education program for students in grades 3-8. Students will receive a thorough training in the fundamentals of music theory, sight-reading, vocal production, repertoire analysis, and leadership skills.

Students seeking admission into the St. Cecilia Girlchoir and St. Dominic Savio Boychoir must complete at least one semester of instruction within the Youth Chorister Training Program. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning on September 9, 2021.

For more information regarding the program and membership, please visit the Music Ministry page on our website or contact Marco Melendez at 608-268-2976 or marco.melendez@stmariagoretti.org.



BEAUTY, GOODNESS, AND TRUTH

By Fr. Bill Van Wagner, Parochial Vicar

As part of the *Go Make Disciples* evangelization

initiative in the Diocese of Madison, Bishop Hying has emphasized the importance of beauty, goodness, and truth as related to our faith in Christ. Beauty, goodness, and truth are together called the “Transcendentals”, meaning they transcend all other categories or qualities of being. Beauty, truth, and goodness are transcendent insofar as they are ultimate desires of all human beings and the fundamental properties of God. God is beauty, truth, and goodness Himself.

Beauty, though it may seem hard to define, is actually quite simple and self-evident. A thing is said to be beautiful insofar as when it is perceived, it gives the experience of pleasure, wonder, and appreciation. Goodness is that which is universally desired. In other words, no one would

rather be bad than good. Truth is that which corresponds rightly to reality. That is, whether or not a statement is true can be tested by the evidence of reality. For example, if one says “it’s raining outside” the truth of this statement can be determined by a simple glance out the window.

Beauty, goodness, and truth are essential to our faith and crucial in the work of evangelization because they are the fundamental characteristics of God Himself. Because they are universally desirable, the transcendentals are a great starting point in helping others come to faith. When a person experiences beauty, goodness, and truth, it leads the mind and heart to desire the highest beauty, the greatest good, and the fullest truth—all of which are found ultimately in God alone.

In the work of evangelization, it is essential to present the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Catholic faith. It is for this reason that our churches are so carefully crafted and our liturgy so precisely celebrated—in order to reflect the ultimate beauty of God. It is the evident goodness in the lives of the saints that leads one to wonder what could be the source of such goodness of soul. Finally, the fullness of truth found in the Catholic faith gives consolation and peace to the mind. In the midst of the world that is often dark, wicked, and ugly, the beauty, goodness, and truth of our faith gives light and life to the human person.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...

- Matthew 28:19

Maria Dulli continued from page 3

Maria and her family moved to Madison from Maine in June 1994 for her husband to take a job at UW Hospital & Clinics as a Neurologist. Their decision to join St. Maria Goretti was mostly based on the opportunity for her three grade-school age sons to attend SMG School. Her oldest son started at Memorial that year, and her daughter joined her brothers at SMG in 1997.

Maria started helping at SMG School as a frequent and regular volunteer, but in 1998 was offered a part-time position in the school office. This position entailed making copies, supporting the teachers, and working on other projects from the office. The job became full-time in 2000.

In 2005, in addition to the position at the school, Maria began working as a part-time assistant for the

Youth Ministry programs. In this role, she helped with administrative responsibilities, as well as planning and implementation for classes, retreats, special prayer events, and high school mission trips.

Some of Maria’s most cherished memories are while working in the Youth Ministry programs. She said, “I especially loved working with the teens on retreats and mission trips. As the teens work together and serve others, they start to make connections between their knowledge of the faith and their love for God, and I’ve been able to see their faith really come together for them. It is a humbling moment to be able to share that gift with a teen.”

While working at the school, one of Maria’s proudest moments was during

the first phase of the five-year capital campaign, which resulted in the addition of the middle school wing and the construction of a new gym in 2003.

Some of her favorite things about SMG are the close-knit school community, the hard working and dedicated staff, and the excellent administration team. She added, “I will greatly miss all the students and their wonderful families. But especially, I will miss my job and my wonderful family of co-workers.”

During her retirement, she is most looking forward to having a flexible schedule—being able to walk early in the morning and enjoy her new screened-in porch are at the top of her list. She also plans to stay busy with volunteering, gardening, and traveling to see her children in Minnesota and Texas.

Family Pilgrimages continued from page 1



▲ Brady Livelli and his family visited the La Salette Missionaries and Shrine in Twin Lakes, Wisconsin.



▲ Charlie McGinnis visited the National Shrine of Saint Philomena in Briggsville, Wisconsin and also St. Cecilia Church in Wisconsin Dells. While at the church, he spend some time praying and reflecting. "After each prayer I tried to connect the words to me personally. I felt I was able to connect more and had a very good experience," he said.



▲ Andrew Fox went to the Grotto in Dickeyville, Wisconsin. He reflected on the pilgrimage and said, "Having my mom, my brother, and my sponsor Logan along made it really special for me. We walked the stations in silence and I thought about how short the path was for us, but how terrible and long it was for Jesus. We spent a lot of time in the shrine area and also went to the gift shop. We saw all the different saint metals and statues, and had fun discussing the different saints. Afterwards we went to lunch and just kept talking about how the day was."



▲ Frankie Bautista went with her family to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, Wisconsin.



▲ Lily Grillon visited the National Shrine of Saint Philomena in Briggsville, Wisconsin. Lily said, "I chose this holy place because St. Philomena is similar to the patron saint I chose for my confirmation, St. Maria Goretti. Also, because it is such an amazing story of how St. Philomena was blessed with faith and trust in God."



▲ During Holy Week, Brody Stutgen and his family visited St. Luke Catholic Church in Plain, Wisconsin. Together, they walked and prayed the stations of the cross.



▶ Molly Esch visited Holy Hill in Hubertus, Wisconsin with her parents and confirmation sponsor. While there, they prayed and walked past each station of the cross, observed all the intricate and beautiful details of the church, and attended Mass together. Molly reflected, "This retreat allowed me to connect with my faith during Lent and understand what Lent is about. I was able to spend time with my family and sponsor while growing in faith."



▲ Young adults enjoy the warmer weather and fellowship at the Spring Social.

YOUNG ADULTS - GROWING TOGETHER

By Ben Rouleau, Young Adult Coordinator

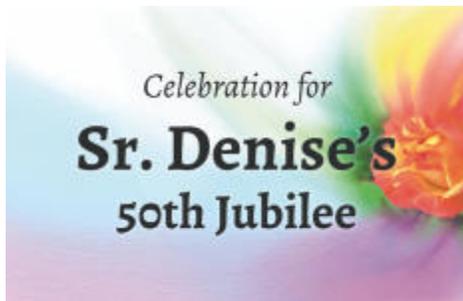
Each spring, as surely as the flowers pop up in an array of colors that puts even the big pack of Crayola crayons to shame, there is an infusion of new life into the St. Maria Goretti Young Adults group. The group, for parishioners in their 20s and 30s, annually welcomes a new crop of graduates, as well as those using spring as a time to hop to a new job or home in the area. This is wonderful! Meeting new members, whether over email or at an event, is always such a joyful occasion. The weather is lovely and we seem to be through the worst of the pandemic, so we will have a summer filled with opportunities to meet new young adults

at our spiritual, service, and social events. Over the past few months, we've prayed together outside the abortion clinic in Madison, helped clean up the parish grounds, and dodged raindrops to have a cookout at our Spring Social.

In the coming months, look forward to a game night, a pilgrimage, and more! The Summer Sports League, pulling together young Catholics across the Madison area, will be starting up in mid-June after a hiatus last year. We will continue hosting Cor ad Cor at the parish on the first Friday of each month—an hour of Adoration and Confession followed by a social for the young adults.

Whether you're new in town or have been around but are looking to get more involved, follow us on Facebook or subscribe to our weekly email via the Young Adults page on our website.

The Easter season readings from Acts tell us of the miracles and growth that are possible if we, individually and as a community, enthusiastically embrace the fullness of the good news, the Gospel. As we enter Ordinary Time, summer, and hopefully something resembling normalcy, join us in carrying the message of Christ victorious to the world while growing together in faith and friendship.



CELEBRATION FOR SR. DENISE'S 50TH JUBILEE

Sunday, June 20
Following the 9 a.m. Mass
Parish Hall

Sr. Denise Herrmann has been working behind the scenes at SMG coordinating our liturgies for the past 23 years and counting. She is present at our church nearly every day of the week. She is instrumental in planning funerals, weddings, and baptisms, as well as providing catechesis for adults preparing for their initiation sacraments. Sr. Denise has been an emotional and spiritual support to parishioners in their times of both joy and sorrow.

Join us for this special celebration honoring Sr. Denise and her 50 years of religious life with the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes in Fond du Lac. She will be recognized on Sunday, June 20, during the 9 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

MAINTENANCE MUSINGS

By Josh Bruecken, Director of Facilities and Maintenance

SUMMER CREW

Summertime for the maintenance team is always busy. It is a critical time that allows us to prepare for the upcoming school year, complete large projects, and keep up on regular maintenance issues. For example, we move all the furniture out of the classrooms so that the floors can be refinished each summer. We also take the time to paint, dust, and deep clean the classrooms. The grounds require quite a bit of attention in the summer. It is no small task to keep the mulch beds and parking area free of weeds. Fortunately, we hire a few high school students that help with these tasks—our summer crew.

The summer crew does more than help complete our summer tasks.

They have a major effect on the entire staff by bringing new energy and enthusiasm to the team. It is also fun for the staff to get to know the high schoolers with their varying interests. Staff members usually comment to me how much they appreciate having the summer crew around.

Along the same line, I try to make their work experience in the summer crew more than just an ordinary job for them. It is often one of their first jobs, so I try to focus on developing skills that they will need for the future. These include some basics like showing up on time, working hard, and safety awareness. In addition, I like to coach them in more advanced



skills like communication, teamwork, and confidence. My desire is that this job helps them become well-rounded individuals.

I cannot take credit for the idea of the summer crew. It was started many years ago by my predecessor, Pat Doherty. He started simply by inviting high schoolers to help over the summer, and it eventually evolved into the summer crew. Some of the students he worked with are now my age. I have run into a few who have told me of the positive impact this simple summer job had on them. My goal is to have a similar impact for the students helping us this year.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Dave Ross, Pastoral Assistant

WHERE DO OUR COMMUNION HOSTS COME FROM?

Tucked away in a valley of the Baraboo Bluffs, just north of Prairie du Sac on Highway 12 is the Valley of Our Lady Monastery.

In 1960, a small group of Cistercian nuns began an altar bread business in a one room building with a small number of customers. They currently have 23 nuns ranging in age from 24 to 90.

“Ora et labora” – pray and work – is the structure of their monastic day. When they come to the workplace from prayer, they do not leave prayer behind, but bring it into their work. They consider it an honor and a grace that they are able to make communion hosts and use them as their main source of income.

Using a simple recipe of wheat flour, wheat germ oil and water, they bake the unleavened bread sheets between hot plates resembling a waffle iron. These baking plates are engraved with various Eucharistic and cross designs. They are then cut into different round communion sizes from 1–6 inches. Once packaged, they are shipped to churches locally and as far away as Alaska and Australia. (We receive our low gluten hosts from another vendor.)

Over the past 60 years, their business has grown into the second largest non-commercial producer of communion hosts in the country, sending out 12–14 million hosts annually.

Typically, St. Maria Goretti receives 10,000 hosts per month.



The nuns of the Cistercian Order at the Valley of Our Lady Monastery live a simple but intense vocation of liturgy, manual labor, and the search for God through deep contemplative prayer.



St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church

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Gatherings is a quarterly publication for St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church. Read *Gatherings* online at www.stmariagoretti.org.

For more information or to submit an article, please contact Kristin Vanevenhoven at 608-268-2957 or kristin.vanevenhoven@stmariagoretti.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS	DATE	TIME
Last Day of School	Wed, June 2	
Cor ad Cor	Fri, June 4	6 p.m.
Celebration for Sr. Denise	Sun, June 20	9 a.m.
LBH - Middle School Week	July 18-21	
LBH - High School Week	July 25-30	
Youth Choristers	Thur, Sept 9	4:30 p.m.

Please visit our website at www.stmariagoretti.org for more event details and the most up-to-date information about future events, as well as our current liturgical schedule.



St. Maria Goretti
Catholic Church

LOVE BEGINS HERE - COMING BACK TO SMG IN JULY 2021

Service Project Request

Through the Love Begins Here (LBH) program, we have the teens to help you with an outdoor project in mid-July.

If you, or someone you know, are within a 20 minute drive of SMG and have yard work, fence painting, storage space clean out, or other projects you can't do alone—we want to know about it. Please contact the parish office or submit your service project requests on our website.

To this date, Love Begins Here has given over 113,000 hours of service to those in need—materially and spiritually—in the Madison Diocese.

How else can the SMG parish community get involved?

- Be a member of the LBH Planning Team
- Volunteer as a Lead Missionary
- Promote and encourage youth to attend

For more information, contact Melissa at 608-298-2098 or melissa.coleman@stmariagoretti.org.

