



MORE INFORMED

STM Newsletter

October 2021



Saplings Growing
Strong
hope in the future



Special Time
with the Lord
music, worship and praise

A Man For All Seasons
talent abounds in the cast
and crew

Lifting Your Mind
to Heaven
holy art in the home

A Beautiful Keepsake
christmas ornament
celebrates anniversary

Trust in God
life with a
mission 2021



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

Go and make disciples

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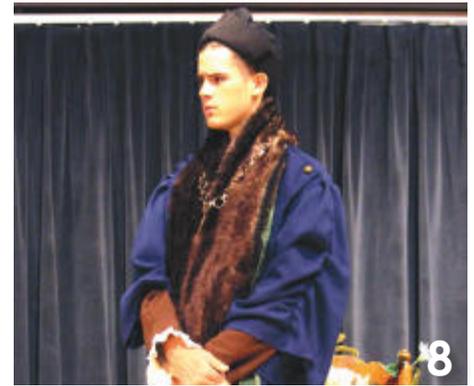
MORE INFORMED

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Saplings Growing Strong

hope in the future

our pastor's message

Have you ever considered those who plant saplings and what that says about their sense of hope and the promise of the future? Several decades back I was assigned to a small parish that had a wonderful black walnut tree in the rectory yard.

Over the course of a couple years, some of the walnuts had fallen to the ground and taken root. We had several volunteer saplings coming up. These were transplanted to strategic locations on the parish grounds and today there are several lush trees growing strong and providing wonderful shade for a variety of possible groups and purposes.

That is the beauty of believing that what we do today does not have to have instantaneous reward but can be an investment in delayed gratification and trust in the God of our future.

Over the years St. Thomas More parish has been blessed with pastors and parish staff and families that have taken the longer vision of what we are here for and it has developed and produced wonderful fruit.

It was seen in Fr. Fred McCallin believing that the barren hilltop at the southern end of Quebec Street, just before a roller-coaster of a road called County Line, would be a good place to gather the faithful for both the celebration of the sacraments and the joy of the lives in our faith family. And it grew!

Fr. Michael Walsh built upon that strong foundation with an awareness that the youth of the many parish families needed a setting at which to not only learn their



Ground breaking event for the Evangelization Center Expansion in 2000.

academic lessons, but especially to do it with a faith filled atmosphere that enabled them to grow as disciples of Christ, as well as future citizens of our city, state and world.

His visioning and building of the two phases of the education complex which is our school and religious education facility will bear fruit for many years to come. And so it grows!

Fr. Andrew Kemmerling came to St. Thomas More with a background that had instilled in him the awareness of and love for the scriptural mandate of tithing of time, talent and treasure, i.e. stewardship.

Over the years he shared that love both locally and in the wider Church. For some time now our parish has proclaimed that we are a stewardship parish. And the

tangible signs of that commitment and life surround us daily.

Over the course of years many new families and parishioners come to our area, register in our parish and are present to the sacramental and ministerial proclamation of our being a stewardship community.

But I know that not all have been brought up with a full awareness of that practice and what it means for the larger community as well as the individuals within it. Let me remind us of just a few of those blessings.

We see in the Old and New Testament continual references to God's call for us to tithe of the first fruits back to Him. The word tithe and the idea of ten percent are closely associated.

In the early life of the chosen people, that meant ten percent of their harvest, their flock, their financial resources, even their spices and herbs as Jesus indicates in Luke 11.

But over time that scriptural call has been somewhat lost, especially in a day and age when we see our resources and comfort as just the fruits of our own hard work.

This loses the underlying awareness that all that we have is itself a gift from God. And in returning a tithe, we are first and foremost thanking Him for His care and humbly acknowledging that we have been blessed. It is akin to the idea that we don't love God from our hearts as an initial act.

Rather, He is the source of and facilitates love present in our world and our lives. He first loves us. We are thus able to love because of His loving us.

The awareness of the call to being good stewards of the many resources and blessings He has given us is itself an expression of faith and belief. God will not be outdone in generosity. We need not fear if we lovingly respond to His call to be the proper stewards of those blessings.

“ God will not be outdone in generosity.”



Fr. Rohan accepts a gift from a young parishioner during the children's offertory at Mass.

Every year we have an annual stewardship commitment period where we ask people to renew their awareness of what God's blessings has made present in their lives and how they in turn are going to share their tithe.

This is with a commitment of their time (think involvement in various parish activities and ministries, even commitment to a hour a week in the Adoration Chapel), talent (we are always looking for catechists to help share our faith with the youth of the community, for singers, lectors and eucharistic ministers to help make our liturgies even more prayerful and beautiful) and the treasure of what the Lord brings into their coffers every year so that they can in turn make possible the work of the parish, the care and upkeep of the facilities, covering bills for such things as insurance, water and utilities, the cleaning and upkeep of the many spaces, salaries and benefits for the many staff and employees on both parish and school sides of our operations, and on and on.

Please note that we don't ask that families give the whole ten percent of their financial tithe to the parish. Rather we suggest they consider five to the parish and the other five split between both the Archdiocese (think ACA and Catholic Charities) and other worthwhile efforts that one feels an affinity towards.

And knowing that if one has not been in the practice of tithing when they are asked to consider moving toward it, we encourage they start with what they feel called to and try to increase it by a percent or so each subsequent year. You will be surprised how it becomes more easy and rewarding as time goes on.

I am always glad to say that we as a parish act in ways that shows our solidarity in what we ask of all our members. We have been a tithing parish for many years now, setting aside ten percent of every Sunday offertory collection to be given out by the parish Stewardship Committee to ministries, projects and needs that come to our attention and deserve our support.

You will also note that unlike many parishes, we have very few second collections. Just those the archdiocese says we need to intentionally take up for missions, seminary needs and retired and infirm priests of the archdiocese.

We also take up collections on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday with the whole collection going to needs beyond our parish and country. All the other many typical second collections you might find in other parishes are assigned a donation by the above mentioned parish Stewardship Committee on behalf of the whole parish.

Even the children and youth participate in the tithing. The annual fundraiser for the school gives ten percent of the monies raised to a fund that the school children then distribute over the year in charity.

Similarly, the monies that come in through the Children's Offertory envelopes collected every Sunday are distributed wholly by the Religious Education classes and Youth Ministry to various charities and programs.

Over a year ago when we had to shut down the church due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and even when it then opened and started slowly growing in attendance, I made it clear to the Finance Council, staff and others that although we would undoubtedly have reduced revenue

and resources to work with, I fully intended for us to continue to tithe whatever came in through the parish offertory in affirmation of our Stewardship commitment and model.

And although things were a bit tighter last year, we nonetheless were able to completely remove our parish debt by this past spring. We have paid off all the debt and expenses from the many and various building projects and activities and are debt free for the first time in years.

All the while tithing of our own offertory income for the sake of others. I will say it again, God will not be outdone in generosity!

As I said at the start of this piece, the hope and promise of our future is witnessed in what we do today. I again encourage you to look seriously at the nature of your personal stewardship.

What you return to the Lord for the ongoing work of the Gospel, both here at St. Thomas More and beyond. What wonders you become aware of as your sacrificial gifts show trust in a God who is asking you to test His love and care for you.

The words at the bottom of the Divine Mercy Image are appropriate for a variety of purposes and reflections. When it comes to the call in our homes, families and hearts to be the proper and good stewards of what the Lord's blessings have brought to us, can we honestly proclaim: JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU! ♦

– Msgr. Tom

Fall Festival at STM

All are invited to gather and celebrate fall! Join us for a caramel apple station, crafts, cake walk and more! Bring your own carved pumpkin for a chance to win a prize!

Saturday, October 16 from 12:00 to 3:00PM
at the STM Catholic School soccer field

Cost is \$30 per family, \$20 per couple or \$10 per individual. Includes food, drinks, a mini pumpkin for decorating, entry into our pumpkin carving contest, a cake walk and yard games.



Honoring Our Past

in thanksgiving for our legacy

By Irene Lindemer
Director of Stewardship and Communications

The past 50 years at St. Thomas More have been filled with an ebb and flow of parishioners, families and individuals that have been part of our legacy in many ways.

Beginning in 1971 our founding pastor, Fr. Fred McCallin with a handful of families working with him, helped lay the groundwork for what today is our vibrant parish with over 4,100 families participating in the life of our parish with sacraments, ministries and many events of all types and topics to accommodate our unique variety of needs and interests.

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we have created a special display of recognition in celebration and thanksgiving for all who have donated to the major building projects throughout the years. You will find the display in the hallway from the Narthex leading to the STM Gift Shop and The Padre.

Each of our four pastors brought an inspired vision to our parish in response to an existing need of the community. The parishioners of that time responded to their dream with generous financial support to bring it to fruition.

Fr. McCallin's first project was to purchase 40 acres of land and build a chapel, gym, The Padre restaurant and parish offices. As the parish grew, in 1982 the church sanctuary was built and in 1988 he added a youth center which is now the location of the high school youth center.

Fr. Michael Walsh was focused on evangelization and his dream was building a school and evangelization center. The STM Catholic School and Evangelization Center opened in 1994 with an expansion for the Office of Catechesis and Middle School classrooms in 2000.

Fr. Andrew Kemberling remodeled the church and built the Adoration Chapel in 2008 and a new rectory in 2011. He also created the Catacombs for our middle school youth by remodeling the basement of the Evangelization Center.

Mgsr. Thomas Fryar's renovation of the original building of the parish was completed in 2018. The original chapel and gym are now McCallin Hall, The Padre is still a popular gathering space, the original youth center was remodeled for our high school youth and the former parish offices are now St. Peregrine Hall in the lower level.

As you peruse through the donor display, you will see over 8,700 names. The display tells a story of our parish families. You will see some family names listed once, notice others listed for all building projects and even names of children of donors who have taken the rein as the new generation.

Each name listed represents a gift to our parish legacy, a sacrifice given with love, a support of a dream and vision with the expectation of the benefits to come for many generations long after they have departed.

Today we honor our past and continue to ensure our future as we strive to live our lives as we are called to do, sharing the love of God with others, inviting others to come join us as we carry on the St. Thomas More parish legacy. ♦



Rendering of the display of recognition and thanksgiving.

Special Time with the Lord

music, praise and worship

Beginning in August, St. Thomas More liturgy and music departments began hosting praise and worship evenings every first Friday of the month. Those attending have found the evenings to be powerful, inspiring and enriching as they shared uplifting music and spent time together with the Lord in adoration.

The evening starts at 6:30PM with music and a brief reflection from a guest speaker, followed by eucharistic adoration beginning at 7:00PM. Drinks and snacks are offered in The Padre Plaza following the event. ♦



A Man for All Seasons

talent abounds in the cast and crew

By Hannah Crites
Photos by Nicole Turner

To celebrate St. Thomas More Catholic Parish's 50th Anniversary, the Youth Ministry and Office of Catechesis presented *A Man for All Seasons*, the play about the life and martyrdom of St. Thomas More, patron of our parish.

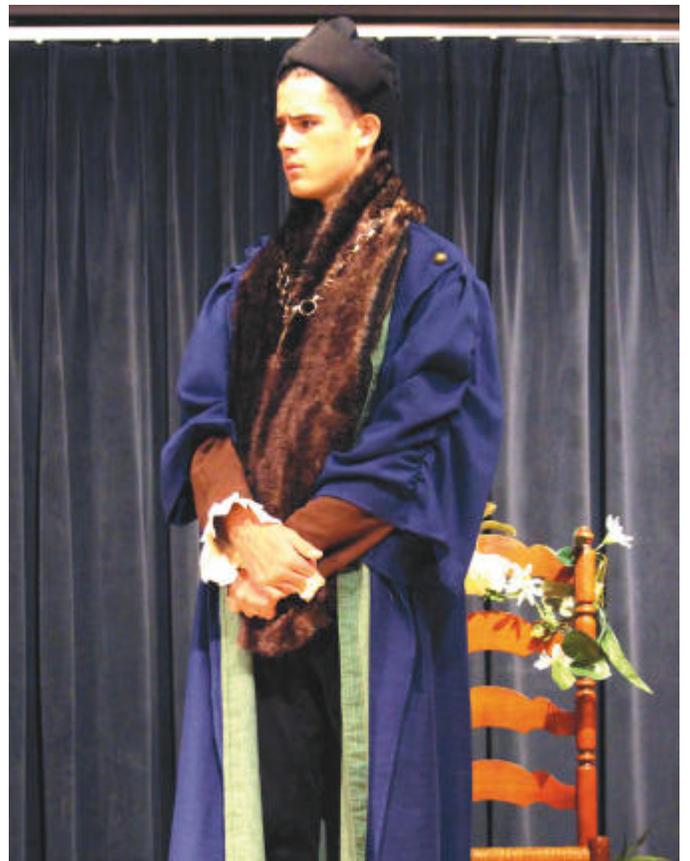
The sold-out production ran from Thursday, August 12 to Sunday, August 15 in the Catecombs at the school. It was directed by STM youth ministry alumni Mariel Goffredi.

"I am so honored to have been a part of this production," she said, "I learned so much about directing and about our awesome patron saint. The whole cast and crew made me excited to come to the performance every night. I'm so proud of all of them."

Mariel had previously been a Youth Ministry intern and was very active in theater at Littleton High School. She then pursued a degree in theater from Colorado



The cast and some of the crew of A Man for All Seasons.



Henry McMaken as St. Thomas More.



Don Dixon (as Thomas Cromwell), Josh Cox (as the Duke of Norfolk) and Michael Angel (as Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury).

Mesa University. She has been acting ever since and recently moved to California to further her career opportunities.

Sixteen year old, Henry McMaken made his stage debut as St. Thomas More and John Cox, Director of Catechesis at St. Thomas More, portrayed King Henry the Eighth.

“It was great experience, and an honor to work with such great people who helped put the play together,” said John. “To see everyone’s hard work pay off and to tell the story of St. Thomas More, was an experience I will not forget.”

John approached Director of Youth Ministry, David Tschumper in the spring of 2021 about putting on the play. St. Thomas More parishioners had put on plays in the past, but it had been a number of years since the last one.

“I am so proud of all of the students and adults that were involved in the play,” said David, “The play was fantastic. Thanks for everyone who helped and supported the play. It is an experience that I will remember for years to come.”



Justice Martinez (Lady Margaret), Henry McMaken (St. Thomas More) and Olivia Potter (Lady Alice).



Jordan Beaumont as Master Richard Rich.



Tessie Cicarelli as A Woman.



John Cox as King Henry the Eighth.



The Martyrdom of St. Thomas More (Henry McMaken).

The cast was comprised of teens and adults. Rehearsals were held three times a week from early June until show time in August.

The crew was made up entirely of volunteers who devoted many hours to making costumes and props, working behind the scenes during production, collecting tickets, building sets and more.

Many of the costumes and set pieces were borrowed from the Middle School Drama Club of STM Catholic School.

“This show was one of the best things that have happened in my life,” said Justice Martinez, who played Lady Margaret More, St. Thomas More’s daughter, “The people in cast are now a family to me, they are so loving, caring, goofy and super talented. It was such a fun experience and it made it worth the ride to do it with these people and for St. Thomas More!” ♦

Lifting Your Mind to Heaven

holy art in the home

By Fr. Matt Hartley

One of my favorite hobbies is to go to different Catholic parishes and look at the stained-glass windows, statues and holy art. To be reminded of the story of salvation and be moved by each artist's particular depiction can be a powerful opportunity for the Lord to grace the heart. Holy art can lift our minds to heaven and remind us of the presence of God and the saints in our lives.

In his 1999 *Letter to Artists*, Pope St. John Paul II said, "Humanity in every age, and even today, looks to works of art to shed light upon its path and its destiny."

Thankfully, with the invention of digital photography, you don't have to wait decades to afford a pilgrimage to see the great works of Catholic art. Nor do you have to be a millionaire to even have a masterpiece in your living room.

So why not add some holy art to your walls? Imagine children growing up with a beautiful image of the



The Annunciation by Fra Angelico (1445)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, a crucifix or an image of Mary in their rooms, regularly reminded of how much God loves them. Or an image of the saint they are named after on their bedroom walls. How much could that help foster a friendship with their heavenly patron and remind them to ask for their intercession? Maybe it could inspire them to live for Jesus like the saints. Art captures the imagination. So why not fill their imaginations with the things of heaven?

Want an easy way to evangelize? Put some Catholic art on your walls. When family or friends come over, you have an avenue to a holy conversation. "That's nice" a guest says. You respond with why that Scripture passage is so meaningful to you and your family.

Why not build a family prayer corner by setting up a table with a Bible, an image of a favorite saint all underneath a wall crucifix? Place a jar where family members



The Last Supper by Juan de Juanes (1562)

could write down prayer intentions and everyone could intercede for throughout the week. Pray a decade of the rosary, a Divine Mercy chaplet, some psalms or other prayers whether written or spontaneous. As Ven. Patrick Peyton said, “The family that prays together stays together.”

“Okay Father, where do I find some awesome Catholic art?” You can start at our parish gift shop, of course which supplies carefully curated statues and prints with our parishioners in mind. If you don’t find what you like there, you can try: catholictothemax.com or ewtnreligiouscatalogue.com and many other sites.



Lamentation over the Dead Christ by Fra Angelico

Or do an Internet search for a biblical event and add the word “art” or “painting” and see what comes up. Print it off and frame it yourself. There are so many photos of famous images in the public domain to choose from.

Some of my favorite works of art are: Blessed Fra Angelico’s *Annunciation* and *Lamentation Over the Dead Christ*, Fra Juan Maino *Adoration of the Shepherds*, *The Last Supper* by Juan de Juanes, and *The Crucifixion with the Madonna and Saints* by Cosimo Rosselli. ♦



Adoration of the Shepherds by Fra Juan Maino (1614)



Crucifixion with the Madonna and Saints (Cosimo Rosselli (1503)



memories from our parishioners



Stephen Ministry Commission Mass in 2009.

Throughout our 50 year history, we have been blessed to witness many milestones, celebrations and events in our parishioners lives. We are glad to share these photos from parishioners and our archives.

To celebrate this anniversary, we want to dedicate these pages of the *More Informed* to these special moments. If you have photos or stories you would like to submit, please email moreinformed@sthomasmore.org or visit the parish office with your photos. ♦



Fr. Fred McCallin holds an unnamed young parishioner in 1984.



The Exterior of St. Thomas More in 1988.



2005 First Reconciliation service for children attended with their parents.

STM Family's Memories

By Julie Fellay, past parishioner

My parents, Richard and Pauline Colwell and us four kids moved to Walnut Hills from California in August of 1971. Somehow we heard that there was a Catholic priest named Fr. Fred McCallin saying Mass in the elementary school gym in our neighborhood. So we went. We attended every week for a few years, then heard that Mass was being moved to the Hamilton building nearby, as our budding parish was growing. I was confirmed by Bishop Hanifen in the Hamilton building. Soon we were fundraising for an actual church to be constructed and a few years later we had the St. Thomas More gymnasium built and were attending Mass there.

Our mother, Pauline, was a faithful catechist for a decade. My sister Beth and I worked each Advent to set up the Nativity Scene and figures before Christmas Masses. My siblings and I were some of the founders of the church youth group in which we met every Friday night with seminarians Bob and Eric who frequently came to supper at our house. The youth group also went on campouts to Monument Lake, and had retreats at Camp St. Malo. It was at this time that the guitar Mass and choir began, so that guitar Mass became our family's favorite! My brother Tom, worked at The Padre restaurant throughout his high school years. My sister and brother in law, Beth and David Harris, who are still parishioners at STM and volunteered with to work the World Youth Day when Pope St. John Paul II came to Denver at the Cherry Creek State Park. They are currently members of the Helping Hands ministry and their children attended the catechism program and received all of their sacraments right here in the present day sanctuary.

We celebrated our father's funeral right here too, though "there was no room at the inn" unfortunately to hold our mother's funeral at St. Thomas More on the only day all members of the family from around the world could attend, so we all came to morning Mass together to honor her having been a faithful parishioner for 48 years and Dcn. Steve Stemper was present for her funeral celebration at the mortuary. St. Thomas More has been part of our family life from its inception!

I have lived away from the United States for the last 30 years, but with every visit to Colorado, my parish home is St. Thomas More where I attend daily Mass when we are in town. Thanks to such a firm faith foundation formed right in this parish, I have been a catechist for the last 24 years and have been studying our beautiful Catholic Faith at the Augustine Institute in order to continue to pass along the passion for our Lord and our faith that I learned from childhood at St. Thomas More.

Happy 50th Anniversary St. Thomas More Parish. Thanks be to God for Fr. McCallin and his vision of this wonderful parish for all seasons! ♦



Ted Gerhardy and Jim Paglione Present building plans in 1972.



Parishioners venerate relics during All Saints Day on 2012.



A young parishioner with her guinea pig and a relic of St. Francis of Assisi at the annual Animal Blessing on St. Francis' feast day in 2015.



Fr. Greg Leshner offers the final blessing as his farewell Mass in 2018.

Faith Times Four

parishioner's kids' books engage and entertain

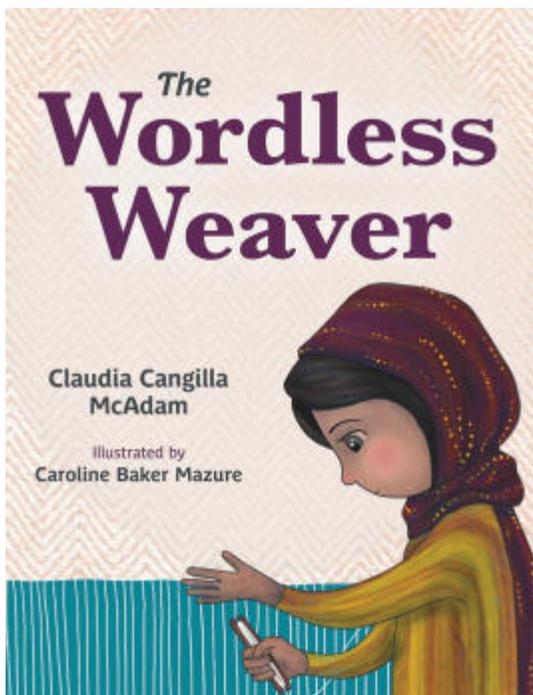
St. Thomas More parishioner Claudia Cangilla McAdam embraces the following verse from Scripture as her guiding principle: Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established (Proverbs 16:3).

An award-winning author of two dozen books, most of them for kids and teens, as her career progressed, Claudia felt an increasing call to pen works that invite young readers to learn, love and live their faith. Taking her cue from the Master Storyteller, she understood the power inherent in “story.”

“As a children’s writer, it’s my desire to engage in the New Evangelization by writing faith-based books for kids,” Claudia said. “But it’s not about what I want; rather, if I offer my writing to God, I know that if it is His desire that a particular book gets published, then He will establish that plan.”

She obtained a master’s degree in Catholic theology from the Augustine Institute, with an emphasis in Sacred Scripture that aids her in crafting stories in which readers

can step into the sandals of young people



who could have lived at the time of Jesus. Claudia is the first to admit that even her most ambitious desire has been far outstripped by the generosity of the Lord.

Four of her kids’ picture books are being published in 2021, each by a separate Catholic publisher.

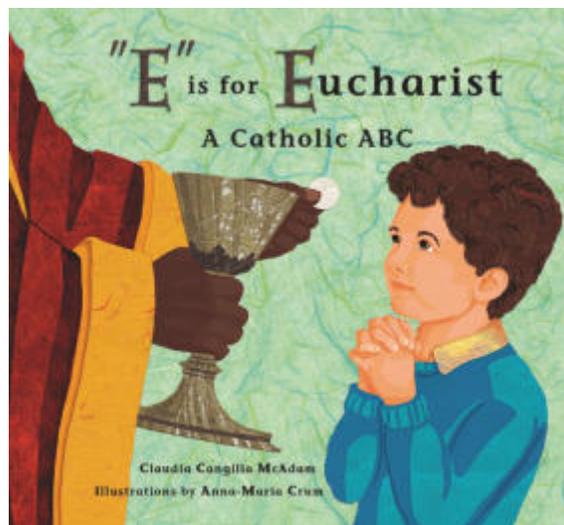
This spring saw the debut of *The Wordless Weaver* (Our Sunday Visitor), a story about a mute weaver who isn’t able to give voice to her love for Jesus. Instead, she offers the best work she has ever produced—a long length of beautiful linen—to be used as the Lord’s burial cloth. This book, with illustrations by Caroline Baker Mazure, is an introduction to

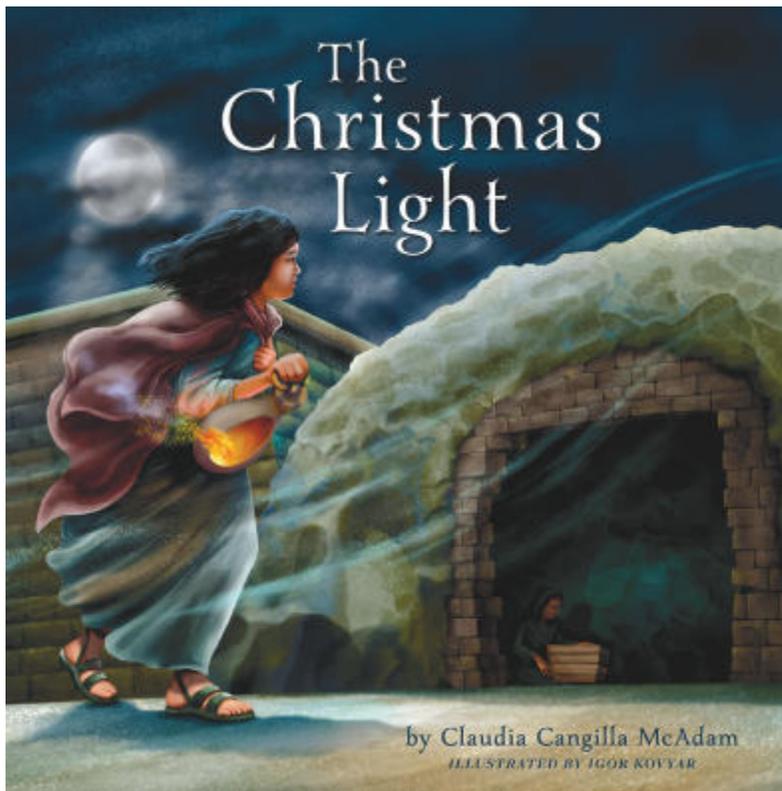
the Shroud of Turin.

“E” is for Eucharist: A Catholic ABC (TAN Books) hit the shelves a couple of months later. An engaging rhyming text and gorgeously rendered illustrations by Anna-Maria Crum introduce children to some of the unique aspects of Catholicism. There’s even something for X, Y, and Z!

Children’s author Kathleen Pelley calls *“E” is for Eucharist* “a ‘must-have’ for all teachers and parents who want to teach their little ones more about their Catholic Faith.”

Claudia’s newest book is *The Christmas Light* (Sophia Institute Press), illustrated by Igor Kovyar, who lives in Israel. In this tale, the daughter of the Bethlehem innkeeper is cold and cranky in her crowded home. When she brings fire for warmth to the Holy Family, she encounters the newborn Jesus and finds her mood suddenly altered and her life forever changed, thanks to the Christmas Light.





they disagree over that, too . . . until they find themselves at the Last Supper in Jerusalem. They make gifts of their harvests to Jesus and witness the institution of the Eucharist, where the work of their hands becomes his Body and Blood.

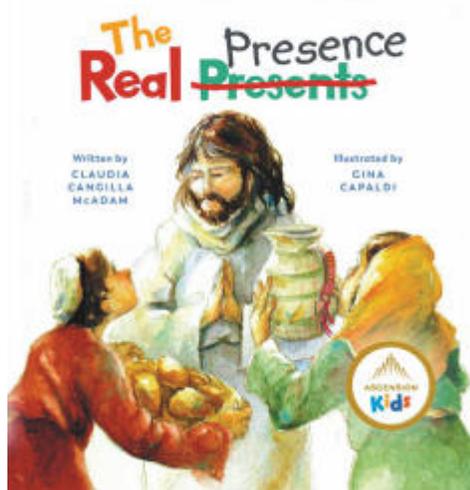
For each of these new books, Claudia has created free discussion and activities guides, which are available at her website, www.ClaudiaMcAdam.com. This resource material contains fun things to do as well as thought-provoking discussion topics.

For months the pandemic has limited book signing opportunities. But STM's Gift Shop will be holding a big Christmas Gift Fair in McCallin Hall all day on Sunday, November 28.

"I'm so excited to be able to participate in this event once again," Claudia said. "It's a great opportunity for me to share my books with young readers . . . and their parents. I look forward to reconnecting with many people there."

In the meantime, Claudia invites you to learn more about her books at www.ClaudiaMcAdam.com. ♦

Journalist and international speaker Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle says, "*The Christmas Light* is a charming and whimsical Christmas tale that reminds children about Jesus, the true LIGHT of the world and how His love transforms our hearts."



Coming in November is *The Real Presents Presence* (Ascension Press), illustrated by Gina Capaldi. In this day and age where far too few Catholics understand and recognize the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, this story takes readers to the synagogue where Jesus tells his followers, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." (John 6:54-55)

In *The Real Presents Presence*, two young cousins living in Capernaum argue about which is better: the grain grown by one of their families or the wine produced by the other. When they hear Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse,

Christmas Gift Fair

Sunday, November 28
St. Thomas More Parish
McCallin Hall

Shop for special gifts
by local Catholic
artisans & authors.

Sponsored by St. Thomas
More Gift Shop.

Questions? Contact
joaniez@stthomasmore.org.

A Beautiful Keepsake

christmas ornament celebrates stm's 50th anniversary

By Claudia Cangilla
McAdam
Parishioner

Whether St. Thomas More has been your home parish for half a century or you are a brand-new parishioner, a beautiful original keepsake will long remind you of this special house of worship.

2021 marks STM's 50th year, and leading up to this celebration, the parish staff discussed ways to commemorate the anniversary. It was decided that an ornament would be something parishioners, past and present, would enjoy.

Irene Lindemer, Director of Communications & Stewardship, worked with Beacon Design by ChemArt to craft the ornament.

"We decided on a round design," she said, "because there are many circles throughout our campus, including in our sanctuary."

The resulting two-inch ornament with a filigree border replicates the church's large 15-foot crucifix and Carrara marble corpus, one of the most memorable and attractive features of the sanctuary.

"The intricate detail of the image powerfully reminds us of that which we look upon every time we celebrate Mass in our church and see the crucifix, remembering the deep love poured out for us," said pastor Msgr. Tom Fryar.



The front of the ornament with a replica of STM's crucifix.



The back of the ornament with the special 50th anniversary logo designed by Nicole Turner.

The ornament even reproduces something exceptional included on the crucifix itself: a Relic of the True Cross, which is mounted on the wood above Jesus' head.

On the reverse of the image is the parish's 50th anniversary logo, designed by staff member Nicole Turner. Etched in brass and finished in 24kt gold, the logo combined with the image of the crucifix, "will be an ongoing reminder of the grace and blessings our parish community has helped manifest for half a century," said Msgr. Tom.

"A gold cord is attached for easy display on a Christmas tree or other special place," Irene said, "and it comes in a gold box, perfect to give as a gift or to tuck away for future Christmases."

The ornament costs \$10 plus tax and can be preordered now through the parish office (Monday–Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM) or at the STM Gift Shop (Monday– Saturday, 10:00AM– 3:00PM or call 303-221-9229). The ornaments will arrive in October.

Irene summed up the keepsake perfectly: "This ornament from St. Thomas More is a commemoration of the beauty of Christmas, the gift of the birth of our Lord and His gift of our salvation through His death and resurrection."

It's a lovely memento of the parish's first 50 years and a powerful reminder of Jesus' journey from crib to cross. ♦

*Igniting the Light
of Christ within You*

3 DAY PARISH MISSION

MONDAY–WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11–13

Morning Session: 10:00AM

McCallin Hall

Evening Session: 7:00PM

Church Sanctuary

For your convenience, the daily topic is offered
both in the morning and evening.



PAUL KOLESKE
Lay Catholic Speaker
and Singer/Composer

**GOD is STILL
with US!**



Dr. Mary Healy
AUTHOR, SPEAKER & CATHOLIC
BIBLICAL SCHOLAR

Saturday, October 23
10:00AM–2:00PM in the Church

Three Talks – Three Topics

Questions? Contact John Cox at johnc@stthomasmore.org or 303.221.9245.



respect life ministry

Friends of Maggie

local rescue of trafficking victim

By Dcn. Ed DeMattee

Whether it's for sex or labor, called human trafficking or slavery, human beings in our country still live and die toiling daily under force, fraud and coercion to enrich criminals' wealth and power. And it turns out our communities are turning into places where exploited little girls and boys are pawns in a multi-million dollar sex trafficking industry. We face large-scale sex trafficking rings involving our youth in even our most affluent communities.

No human, of legal age or under, should be exploited to meet the sexual gratification of others and financially benefit the criminal cartels in our society. No 12- or 14-year-old girl or boy, which is the average age of recruitment, dreams of becoming a prostitute and being raped multiple times a night.

Sex cases often involve multiple "pimps," enforcers, movers, marketers, etc. — who average four to six young victims each and easily rake in \$150,000 to \$200,000 per child for each of the seven years that child is expected to survive in the sex trafficking industry. These are our neighbors that are turning our innocent teenagers into a cash crop and violating the youth in our communities — often times without the knowledge of the parent(s). Everyone involved agrees that law-enforcement officials and non-profits alone don't have the comprehensive resources necessary to help these young victims of human sex trafficking — but our faith communities do! So how can



we as Catholics help address these threats to our children, communities, parishes and families?

In March of 2020, an 18-year old sex trafficking victim (code-named "Maggie") contacted Jenelle Goodrich, founder of a Colorado organization called "From Silenced To Saved" (FSTS), and expressed her desire to break free from the sex trafficking industry and make the transition to a "normal" life.

A couple of years earlier, Maggie had initially reached out to Goodrich but was coerced into returning to her pimp and sank back into the trafficking subculture. This time, however, Maggie was six months pregnant and expressed the desire to have and keep her baby. Under physical

threat by her pimp and his associates, she said she feared for her and her unborn baby's lives. Goodrich contacted St. Mark Parish in Highlands Ranch to determine if the church might be able to support Maggie in her quest to evade her captors and begin the long, hard journey to normalcy.

The social outreach ministers at St. Mark worked with Goodrich in determining Maggie's initial needs and then gained the support of Fr. Gregory Bierbaum, pastor of St. Mark, to assist Maggie. They then enlisted the enthusiastic support of the Respect Life Ministry, the Daughters of Mary, Mothers of St. Mark, and the Knights of Columbus of Council No.1498 in Highlands Ranch. All came quickly on board and organized a sponsor team called "Friends of Maggie." Additional support was provided by State Deputy Chris Foley, Colorado Knights of Columbus and Chaplain Fr. John Stearns of the Colorado State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

"When I first learned of 'Maggie' and her plight, my heart broke for her and the child she was carrying," Father Bierbaum said. "I was so moved by her desire to find a normal life and also to bring her child into the world and raise her, I could not do anything but wholeheartedly support her in every way we at St. Mark could. We pray for all of those who are trapped in this vile and insidious crime on their human dignity."

"The most formidable way to lead, is to serve," Goodrich said. "While the perplexing oxymoron of such a grinding statement absolutely cripples most of the world, this type of unrelenting service did birth a Savior. We may be able to give without loving, but we cannot love without giving. That is the calling of Christ, the calling we as believers are charged with bestowing whether we feel like it or not. In order to have fruit in our walk, we must first go out on a limb, we must first be willing to climb shaky and uncertain

branches even if that means it breaks and we fall. A broken branch doesn't necessarily mean the fruit is rotten, it just means it needs to be picked up quickly, washed and cared for to thrive."

Additionally, a statewide Knights of Columbus initiative has been developed using "Friends of Maggie" as a model for working in collaboration with local parishes to support similar young victims. Parishioners will be invited to join "Sponsor Teams" and take on roles such as life skills mentors (home finances, parenting and homemaking); establishing positive weekly human connections (i.e., shopping, lunching, holiday visits and church services); providing transportation to appointments and providing needed financial support where possible.

"It's only natural for the Colorado State Knights of Columbus Council, along with local councils such as Council No. 1498, to support Friends of Maggie and From Silenced to Saved," said Chris Foley, Colorado State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus. "For the past few years at our convention, we have passed a resolution titled 'Combatting Human Trafficking.' We are committed to supporting efforts that aid and assist the victims as well as enact laws and create measures that seek to curtail the human trafficking business."

Following is an extract of a recent state convention resolution on Combatting Human Trafficking:

"NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus stands in solidarity with Pope Francis to combat human trafficking; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to pray for the victims and families of this terrible crime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knights of Columbus advocates for solutions to prevent and end all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all Colorado officials to enact legislation that will find lasting solutions to prevent labor and sex trafficking, hold perpetrators accountable, ensure justice for victims and empower survivors with tools for recovery."

There are many victims of sex trafficking like Maggie who are also young, pregnant and afraid. In his address to the U.S. bishops in November 2019, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City noted that parishes can offer a variety of support services to women who may be thinking about whether to carry their unborn children to term.

"Women facing challenging pregnancies should see the Church as a place where they can find help, especially with our myriad of social services and organizations dedicated to meeting the needs of people in crisis," he said.

If you suspect human trafficking or know someone who needs help, contact:

Colorado's Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 866.455.5075

Text: 720.999.9724

combathumantrafficking.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 888.373.7888

Text: 233733 (BeFree)

humantraffickinghotline.org

Since our youth are sometimes recruited into the human trafficking industry from schools and churches without the knowledge of their parents, St. Mark Parish hosted an awareness presentation on this issue Oct. 30, 2020 for leadership and guests of the Diocese of Colorado Springs' Northern Deanery.

The attendees included parish clergy, lay leaders and ministers, parish staff, representatives of the Knights of Columbus, clergy from the Archdiocese of Denver and other church leaders from the faith-based community in Douglas County.

Starting in the late spring of 2021, sex trafficking awareness presentations will be shown to parents, youth ministers and teenagers of our local parishes. The goal of these presentations is not only to inform the parents and their children of this cancer in our society, but to also form Sponsor Teams in the local parish community to support FSTS and victims of the sex trafficking of minors.

The young, pregnant, homeless and frightened young woman described by Archbishop Naumann in 2019 is the Maggie of today that we are being called to serve and support. It is hoped that if our parishes are presented



with an opportunity to help one of these young innocent victims, they would welcome the opportunity to do so. What better way for these young abandoned children of God to experience the loving and compassionate saving grace that our Lord Jesus Christ offers. ♦

This article was originally published by The Colorado Catholic Herald. For more information, visit FromSilencedToSaved.org. Dcn. Ed DeMattee is currently assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Castle Rock.



St. Josephine Bakhita

Patron Saint of Human Trafficking Victims

Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

Oh St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.

Closer to Home

church's response to human trafficking

By STM Respect Life

Violations to the human person not only include abortion or assisted suicide, but human trafficking which unfortunately is an evil that can hide in plain sight.

Human trafficking is defined as modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. If under the age of 18, force, fraud or coercion does not need to be present.

In 2000, Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and in 2001 the Department of State created the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

Over the past 20 years, the TIP Report has continuously documented the growing movement against human trafficking and provided a roadmap for governments to address the crime, laying out realistic and actionable policy priorities and insisting on continuous improvement.

In 2014, Pope Francis joined 11 other religious leaders to commit to work together to help eradicate human trafficking worldwide. Faith-based organizations are not limited by jurisdiction, election cycles, or political will. They reach across international borders, spanning continents with a powerful network of followers with tremendous reach – from remote villages to capital cities and the seats of power.

Despite the efforts of government and religious organizations, trafficking continues to increase. There are now approximately 20-25 million modern-day slaves, of which approximately 70% are women and girls and 25% are children.

The U.S. is the most common destination for victims of human trafficking, with 80% for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The average age of entry is 12-14 for girls and 11-13 for boys, and approximately 60% of children exploited in prostitution are recruited by their peers. Human trafficking has become the third most profitable business for organized crime, behind drugs and firearms and the fastest growing form of international crime.⁴

In 2019 there were 11,500 human trafficking cases reported in the U.S to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, of those 176 were in Colorado. Sadly, this crime is growing rapidly in the southern metro-Denver area.

There are many groups and individuals helping to combat the effects of sex-trafficking. One local non-profit, From Silenced to Saved, works to bring awareness, education, and training to the community, and support to those who fall victim to trafficking.

Through schools, juvenile detentions, churches, safe homes, law enforcement and other sources, they assist 12-19 year-olds.

According to Deacon Ed DeMattee from St. Francis of Assisi Parish who works with the non-profit, "Our communities are turning into places where exploited little boys and girls are pawns in a multi-million dollar sex-trafficking industry. We face large-scale sex trafficking rings involving our youth in even our most affluent communities."

Through a state-wide Knights of Columbus initiative, the Knights work alongside parishes to assist and support victims. The first step in addressing this important issue is education. Let us pray for all victims of trafficking. ♦

SEX EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SEXUALIZATION AND INDOCTRINATION

GOSPEL OF LIFE CONFERENCE 2021

THE SAME PRESENTATION ON TWO DAYS — ATTEND EITHER ONE.

Friday, October 22, 2021 7:00 p.m.
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
8035 S. Quebec St. Centennial, CO 80112

Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:00 a.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Parish
11385 Grant Dr. Northglenn, CO 80233

Come learn how to protect the health and innocence of your children

PRESENTER

Cathy Ruse, JD
Governor, Ave Maria School of Law

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: life@ccdenver.org

RESPECT LIFE DENVER
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The Lion's ROAR

stm catholic school

Blessings of the New Year

back to school at stm catholic

By STM Catholic School Faculty & Staff

Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back!

The school has been buzzing with activity since August 16, when teachers arrived and REALLY buzzing with activity since August 18 when the students arrived to celebrate the new school year at our annual Back to School Picnic. Burgers, hot dogs, Kona Ice and smiles were aplenty thanks to our generous Home and School Association.

On Thursday, August 19, students dropped off supplies and met their new teachers. We officially started the school year with the first full day of school for the 2021-2022 school year on Friday, August 20.

This year we welcome two new staff members, Mrs. Lissa Randolph and Mrs. Kili Hady.

Mrs. Randolph is teaching fourth grade this year, she comes to us from previously teaching at Our Lady of Fatima. She took a few years to raise her beautiful children, now Mrs. Randolph is a reading specialist boasting her fourth year of teaching. She loves the outdoors, on the weekends you will find her enjoying the mountains with her family.

The students are already loving Mrs. Randolph, Sheamus Pearce explains, "She [Mrs. Randolph] is very helpful. She likes to do science projects and other fun stuff."

Mrs. Hady is the new assistant principal after serving at St. Francis de Sales for the 2020-2021 school year, Mrs. Hady joins us with a grateful heart. She has been in education for 17 years, most recently as the principal at St. Francis de Sales. She also enjoys the outdoors, and will often brag about being a fourth generation Coloradan.

This year is already proving to be a fabulous one as we return to a little more normalcy. The sixth and seventh graders went to Outdoor Lab in Estes Park at JP II Annunciation Heights in September. The eighth graders went on retreat in September as well at Ponderosa in Larkspur.

We are hoping to bond these classes together through worship, team building and experience. We feel so very blessed to offer this for our students and families.

Grades PreK-5 are working to start the school year off right in their classrooms. The halls are filled with joyous



Fr. Matt visiting fourth grade with samples of art.

sounds and colorful artwork. It is a true blessing to be at STM, the sound and energy of children is contagious and inspiring.

As a whole school we have already attended three Masses, as we have secured our Tuesday 9:00AM Mass spot again. It is a blessing to be able to worship together.



Lions for Life meet to pray the Rosary for an end to abortion

Thank you to Msgr. Fryar and Fr. Matt, the homilies have been powerful and uplifting. The students are enjoying the art infused in Mass.

Fr. Matt has been another paramount addition to our school. If you are looking for him, he is most likely teaching in a class, sharing his wisdom or just being with our students. The students and staff love having him as a strong presence in the school.

Eighth grader Tessa Martinez says, "I like him, he teaches me a lot and he's good at explaining things".

In short, things are off to a great start and we are feeling blessed to be here, blessed to be in person, and blessed to have the support of so many in our community.

Please pray for us as we navigate COVID-19 again this year, keep everyone healthy and return to normal as best we can. ♦



The SPARK

middle school & high school youth

Trust in in God

life with a mission 2021

By Greg Johnson
Youth Minister

Every year, STM Youth Ministry holds a weeklong retreat in the summer called Life With a Mission.

The retreat started on Sunday with the 5:30PM Mass, ending the night at 9:00PM, then Monday morning through Wednesday night, with a different themed night with activities, games, small groups, praise and worship, adoration and confession all included.

On our last day, STM youth went to Family Sports Center and enjoyed mini golfing, laser tag, bumper cars and games.

This year's overall theme was "Faith, Hope, Love and Joy." We had four different speakers come in and share their testimony related to



Life with a Mission game time on the lawn.



Brother Vinny Carrasco speaks in the Youth Center during Life with a Mission.

each topic. On Sunday we had Catholic Sports missionary, Johanna Burke speak on faith. Marc Dubois, a Catholic body builder with cerebral palsy, spoke on Monday about hope. On Tuesday, youth minister at St. Mark's Catholic Parish, Chloe Elder spoke on love. And lastly, Franciscan Friar and Catholic musician Brother Vinny Carrasco spoke about joy.

The retreat was a big hit from all who attended, and had a positive impact on our youth.

One of the eighth graders, CJ Hansen wanted to share his testimony. ♦

By CJ Hansen
Eighth Grader

I went to the Life with a Mission retreat and I learned so much about my faith and me as a person.

I learned, from the keynote speakers, that you always need to trust in God no matter the situation. This truly stuck out to me because sometimes I feel like God isn't there, but He is always there.

I learned that God has a plan for you. He wants you to succeed, so He puts you in positions that He knows you can succeed in.

I learned about the speaker's faith which helped me to relate to them and know that I have a bright future ahead.

I learned something about my faith from all four of the speakers that I listened to. They were fantastic.

I also really enjoyed the games, activities and small groups and being with my friends. I can't wait for next year! ♦



Mini Golfing at Family Sports Center on Day 5 of Life with a Mission.



Laser tag at Family Sports Center.



Playing team games on the lawn.



Eucharistic Adoration in the sanctuary.

Growing in Community

exploring at home and beyond

By Christina Hale
Youth Ministry Intern

STM Youth Ministry entered the new school year filled with a lot of laughs, joyful moments and spiritual growth! From mini Colorado road trips, camping out under the stars and many, many smores, it was a great summer!

Each summer, St. Thomas More Middle and High Youth Ministry holds a week long retreat called Life With a Mission. Starting with Mass on Sunday evening, we come together each night of the week with different guest speaker and activities.

This year was sixth Grader, Lily James first "Life With a Mission" retreat; and it ended up being her favorite part of summer! Lily enjoyed the inspiring guest speakers and their testimonies. She plans to attend the retreat again next summer!

There's a lot beauty in Colorado. There's also a lot of beauty in spending time in community while on a road



Beach Bash at Cherry Creek Reservoir

trip. There are chances to grow closer together as you take in the beauty God has placed around you. This summer, as a youth group, we went to Mother Cabrini Shrine, Castlewood Canyon, Cave of the Winds, Castle Rock Outlet and Boondocks.

Each trip was spent in community and fellowship and then followed by ice cream.

High school freshman Celia Ferrell joined two of the mini Colorado Road Trips; Mother Cabrini Shrine and Castle Rock Outlet Mall. She enjoyed both of them, especially Mother Cabrini Shrine. High school senior Sabrina Vizurraga attended (and loved!) the Castlewood Canyon Road Trip. She enjoyed the hike itself, the laughter and joy that was shared that day.

Breakaway is our high school youth group and runs every Wednesday night throughout the school year and summer!



Road Trip to the Cave of the Winds.



High Schoolers and volunteers at Castlewood Canyon

the night outdoors with his friends this summer. Growing in friendship and witnessing the beauty that God created, right in our own backyard.

Eighth grade student Anga Deodatus favorite part of summer was every activity she could come to; from the BYOT Campouts, road trips to Castle Rock Outlet Mall and Boondocks to growing in her faith and her friendships at Echofire!

Youth Ministry at has so many beautiful and joyful moments! Retreats, road trips, exciting games, growing in faith and fellowship, there's something for everyone! We hope you'll join us soon! ♦



Games on the lawn during Breakaway.

High School junior Veronica Herbert's favorite thing about this summer was Breakaway. Veronica enjoyed the topics, talks, outdoor games and all the growth in friendship and in faith. Specifically, she liked the night on St. Thomas More! Learning about the patron saint of our parish and enjoying some competitive games!

During the summer of 2020, STM Youth Ministry decided to go camping with a twist! High school and middle schoolers would camp out near the baseball fields on the St. Thomas More campus.

Spending the night playing games, eating s'mores and stargazing. This new tradition carried over to this summer! Freshman Brandon Hawkins, enjoyed spending

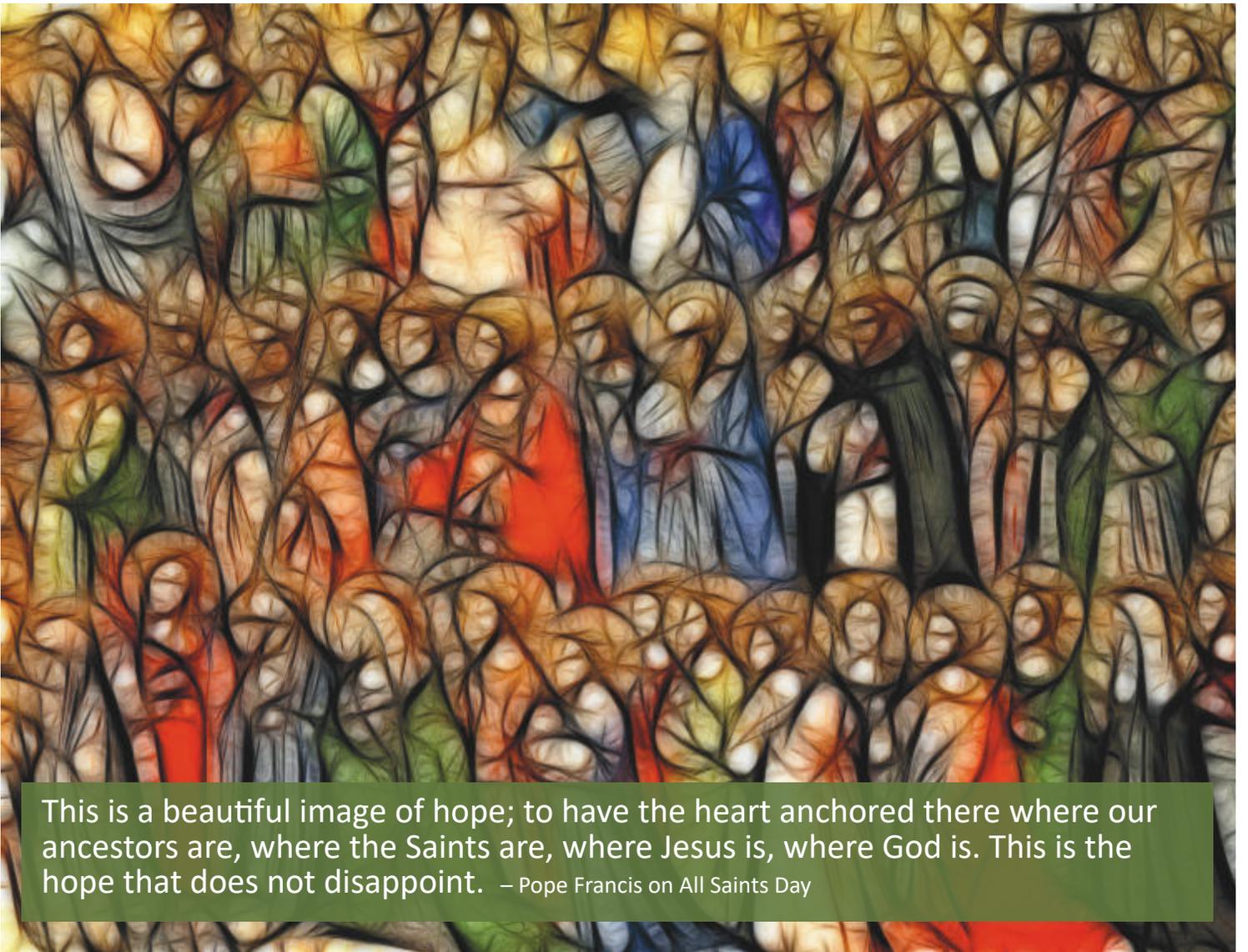


At Mother Cabrini Shrine



ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC PARISH IN CENTENNIAL
8035 S Quebec St | Centennial, CO 80112

Time Sensitive Material



This is a beautiful image of hope; to have the heart anchored there where our ancestors are, where the Saints are, where Jesus is, where God is. This is the hope that does not disappoint. – Pope Francis on All Saints Day