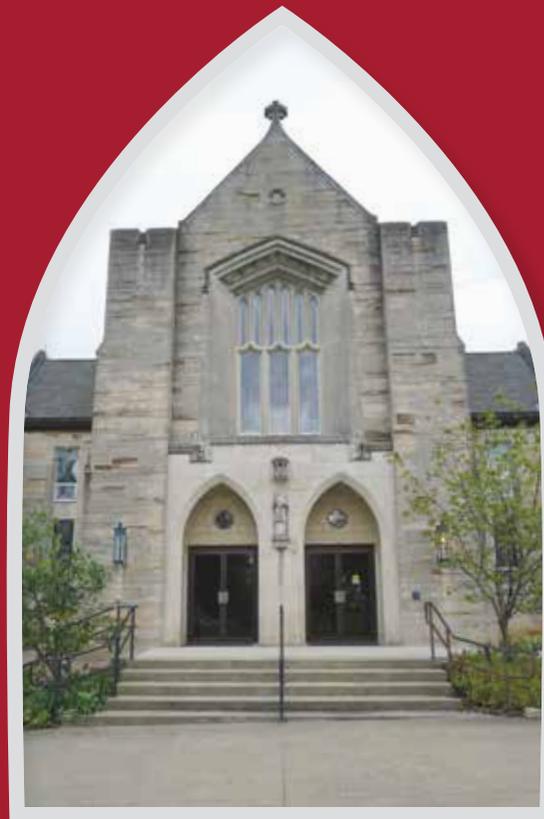


ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
CATHOLIC CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2019

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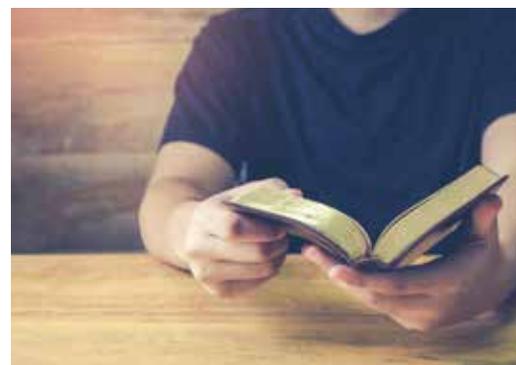
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..... *BUILDING FAITH AND SHARING IN FELLOWSHIP*

It started as an ad hoc men’s group during Lent 2018. One year later, the group has grown to become our vibrant parish Men’s Club. The group meets each Saturday morning in the church basement under the guidance of Geoff Glanders, our parish business manager.

“It’s a group I organized, based on an experience I had at a previous parish,” Geoff says. “We meet at 7:15 a.m. Saturday, which was a time chosen because the only other competing activity at that time was sleep. With men so busy with weekend activities, we gave it that time so they can attend if they are so inclined.”

The meetings are informal. There is no roll taken, nor is breakfast served — carryout coffee is the norm for refreshments. During the one-hour session, the men go through a recap and discussion of the Sunday readings, and enjoy time



for fellowship. There are about six core members and others who attend from time to time. Ages range from men in their 20s to those in their 70s.

“They develop friendships and see where others are with similar issues facing men in these times,” Geoff says.

Geoff started the group by extending personal invitations to men he knew in the parish. When the six weeks of Lent were

..... *continued on back cover*



HOSPITALITY: *THE CORNERSTONE OF STEWARDSHIP*

The dictionary defines “hospitality” as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.”

A Christian worldview can refer to hospitality as “Christian kindness.”

We see the effects of hospitality – or the lack thereof – time and time again throughout the Bible. Christ speaks of hospitality in Matthew’s Gospel when He says, “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Old Testament told of the Israelites, as they wandered the desert for 40 years in search of hospitable environs. Even the Holy Family spent ample time searching for shelter before the birth of Our Lord.

It is safe to say that hospitality is, and most likely has always been, of great importance to people everywhere. Modern hotels and hostels often use the image of a pineapple to advertise their special brand of hospitality. There is no doubt that in

ancient times, the distant lights of an inn or tavern struck a chord of hope within weary travelers’ hearts.

Indeed, hospitality’s meaning has not diminished at all over the years, decades and millennia.

Christians view the presence of hospitality as meaning the difference between calling others “guests” and “strangers.” Guests are welcomed with open arms and warm smiles, but strangers aren’t. Guests feel the genuine love present in a hearty welcome, but strangers don’t. Guests often return for second or third visits, while strangers don’t.

As a parish, do we find ourselves surrounded by guests, or burdened by strangers?

Hospitality is, in many respects, a mindset. The same person may be treated as guest at the church just down the road, but as a stranger here.

Matthew’s Gospel tells of Christ as He reveals a profound truth about hospitality: “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” That is, “I used to be a stranger, but you fixed that when you welcomed me.” It’s a classic example of before-and-after. All it took was a change of heart.

Stewardship holds hospitality as an immensely important concept. Remember the “three Ts” of stewardship – Time, Talent, and Treasure? Well, there are also “four Ps,” the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Hospitality is mentioned first. Why? If not for hospitality, none of the other pillars will ever take hold. Hospitality is the cornerstone of stewardship, because it opens the door to a person’s heart and allows them to receive joy, grace, and love.

Hospitality must become second nature, if stewardship is to truly take hold within a parish. So, when a stranger visits our parish, welcome them as a guest. Perhaps one day, they’ll pay us a second visit.

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A Letter from Our Pastor

TAKE VACATIONS FROM WORK OR SCHOOL, NOT FROM GOD

Dear Parishioners,

By now, many schools across America have let out for the summer. In almost no time, camp programs for younger students will be underway. Meanwhile, many older students are ready to trade their homework and notebooks for seasonal jobs until it's time to return to class in a few months.

Whether or not we're directly involved with schools — as students, teachers or parents — we find that the calendar for the school year also impacts our lives at work, at church and in our leisure time. And although some people are on vacation at any time of year, summer traditionally retains its place as *the* vacation season.

Vacations, no matter when or where we take them, provide us with a wonderful opportunity to refresh our lives by following a totally different daily pattern. Whether it's a day trip to the beach or hiking in the mountains, an excursion to the big city or a road trip out to the country, a visit to relatives or friends, or even a quiet and relaxing week spent at home, a vacation offers a break from our daily routines. We get to spend our time the way *we* choose.

A vacation also provides a good opportunity for us to make some permanent changes in our use of time. When we're free from the demands of everyday life, this is a perfect chance to try something that is not part of our regular routine, such as spending a few minutes a day in prayer or meditation. "Try it — you'll like it!" as the old commercial said. It may have some lasting, positive results in fostering a stronger spiritual life.

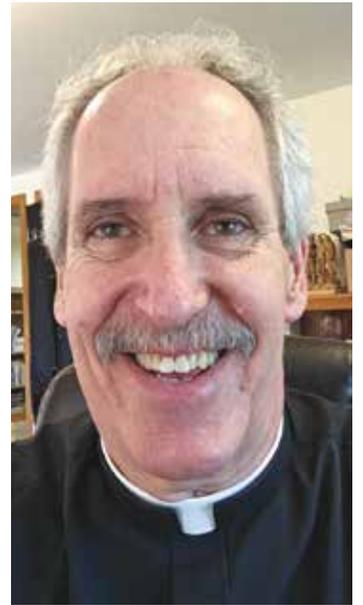
Importantly, we must also remember that this is a time of year when our parish will be welcoming visitors who are on vacation themselves — whether they are visiting family, spending time in the area, or just happen to be passing through on the way to their next destination. So, let us all uphold the Stewardship Pillar of Hospitality and provide a warm welcome to those visiting our parish.

Be sure to worship at Mass, wherever you happen to be each Sunday. You'll come back from vacation refreshed both emotionally and spiritually.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Thomas Kovatch
Pastor



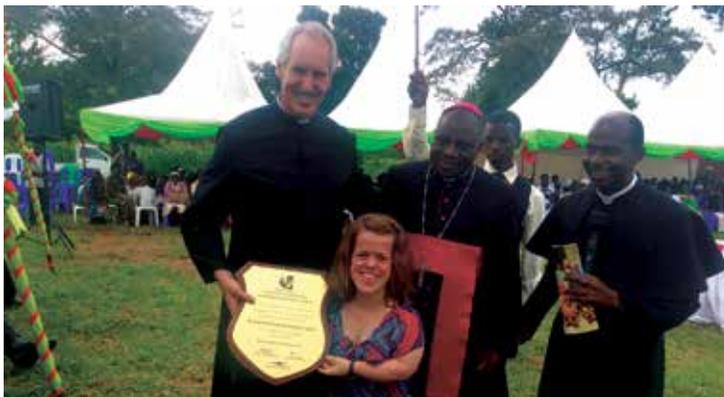


FORMING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH T

When we think of a foreign mission, what typically comes to mind are words like “labor,” “outreach” and “service.” Yet, according to Fr. Tom Kovatch, the best word to describe our parish’s annual mission trip to Uganda is “relational.”

“Though we certainly do work when we come — whether it’s medical, dental or doing something outside in the community — our mission is more relational than

“Most mission workers don’t have the opportunity to develop relationships with the people they serve, because they just do the work and then leave. Whereas, we truly are friends with them. Coming year after year, we’ve gotten to know one another. They write letters back and forth to their sponsors, and the kids and their parents know that there is someone in America who knows them, loves them and is praying for them. And then they pray for us in return.” — Fr. Tom Kovatch



Fr. Tom Kovatch receiving an award from Bishop Paul for his support of the St. Jerome Center and School

anything else,” Fr. Tom says. “Most mission workers don’t have the opportunity to develop relationships with the people they serve, because they just do the work and then leave. Whereas, we truly are friends with them. Coming year after year, we’ve gotten to know one another. They write letters back and forth to their sponsors, and the kids and their parents know that there is someone in America who knows them, loves them and is praying for them. And then they pray for us in return.”

This relationship actually began before Fr. Tom even came here to St. Charles Borromeo. It originated at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross as part of the youth group that Fr. Tom helped start. Trying to find a suitable mission trip for the parish’s teens, Fr. Tom remembered that one of his classmates in seminary, Fr. Hilary Muheezangango, had started a school for poor children in Africa through COVE Alliance, a ministry devoted to serving orphaned and vulnerable children in central Uganda. And so the mission trip was born, originally taking place every three years. But after bringing the mission trip to his new



Some of the students from St. Jerome School.

THE ANNUAL UGANDA MISSION TRIP

St. Charles Borromeo family in 2014, interest continued to grow causing it to become an annual experience.

Now five years later, this relationship with the St. Jerome Center and School continues to blossom and flourish. Through it, our parish community has been able to financially sponsor approximately 40 out of 170 students, purchase hundreds of school shoes each year for the children, and help raise funds for important building projects such as the Center's guesthouse, a new school building, a student dormitory, and a basketball court. Additionally, we've been able to send parish emissaries each summer to help bring the love of Christ to the children of Uganda, sharing from our abundance with those who are truly in need.

"Each year's group comes with a slightly different focus,"

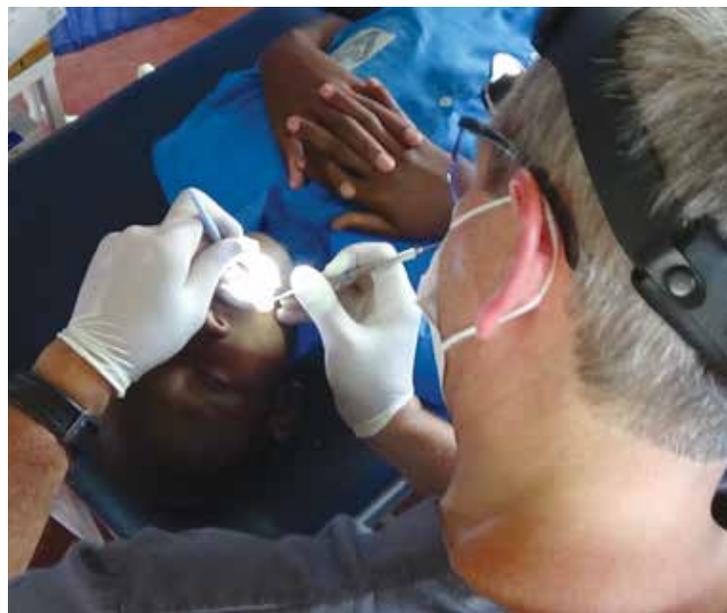
Fr. Tom says. "This year, it's primarily dental work that we'll be offering as we are traveling with two dentists. Then, we always take shoes to the kids so that they'll have them for the school year — although this year for the first time, I'm working to get a vendor there to fit the kids with their footwear."

While service and work are certainly part of the mission experience, it's the relationships formed along with the tremendous gratitude of the recipients that continues to touch hearts year after year.

"It definitely has changed the people that have gone," Fr. Tom says. "During our visit we spend a lot of time with the kids, playing soccer and basketball with them, and visiting their homes as well. And they are very poor — some of the poorest I've seen — yet, they are so grateful and joy-filled that you can't help but be touched."



A young boy waits to have his teeth examined.



This year's ministry is devoted to dentistry and is led by parishioner Dr. Jeff Allen.

This year's Uganda mission trip is taking place June 27-July 7, and 14 parishioners have already signed up for the 2020 trip, which promises to fill up fast. To sign up or to learn more about St. Charles Borromeo's Mission Trip, please contact Fr. Tom Kovatch at 812-336-6846.



“TRANSFORMED BY THE SACRED LITURGY”

THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

In a limited way, the liturgy can be compared to a story or a film – upon a first reading or viewing, we might understand the basic outline of the narrative, yet through every subsequent encounter, the story further unfolds before us, becoming richer and more complex.

Often, inquisitive children teach us about how to understand a story or the Mass. As a child inquires about the priest’s green vestments, the foregrounded wreath or the presence of palm branches, we might pause to recall the symbolism undergirding the rich rituals of the liturgy.

There is a sense of the sacred in the liturgy, but its rituals and ceremonies can appear as empty pantomimes when divorced from their meaning. Far from empty signs, the liturgy is the celebration of the Paschal mystery, of Christ’s passion, death, resurrection and glorification by which He “accomplished the work of our salvation” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1067).

From the Greek *leitourgia*, meaning public service or worship, liturgy in the Christian tradition refers to the communal participation of the people in the work of God, and God is always present and at work in the liturgy, acting in and with the Church through the sacraments.

Annually, the Church’s liturgical year is structured around the Paschal mystery, which we observe every Sunday. We begin each year with a season of anticipating Christ’s birth, and following a celebration of Christ’s Incarnation, we gradually enter a period of preparation for the Easter Triduum, for His passion, death and Resurrection. The year closes with a period of ordinary time – a time to grow in our faith and in living out the Gospel.

Daily, the Liturgy of the Hours unifies the Church Militant in prayers said by the clergy and increasingly by the laity. As the liturgical calendar structures our year, the Liturgy of the Hours structures our day, offering us an opportunity to consecrate each present moment to Christ.

Ultimately, the liturgical life of the Church “revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments” (*CCC* 1113), for we receive God’s grace to fortify us in our spiritual lives and as His disciples through the sacraments, particularly the Holy Mass.

The Mass nurtures us spiritually, inviting us to reflect on the Paschal mystery and to lift our hearts to God as individuals



and a community through spoken and sung prayer.

The Mass moves us corporeally, drawing us to sit as we listen to the Word, to stand as we unanimously profess our faith, and to kneel as the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Mass inspires us apostolically, sending us out to proclaim the Gospel and to share Christ with our brothers and sisters.

Though the “source and center” of all prayer, the liturgy and a sense of the sacred has, in some ways, become marginalized in the American Church. Once robust parishes are seeking to rebuild, but they frequently overlook the connection between the empty pews and the decentralization of the liturgy, which was underscored by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

“I am convinced that the crisis in the Church that we are experiencing today is, to a large extent, due to the disintegration of the liturgy,” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in his autobiography *Milestones*.

Something in the simplicity of the child’s experience of the liturgy teaches us to return to what we might call the basics of the faith – meaning a love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the sacraments and the rituals of the Church. Only through the liturgy are we nurtured on our stewardship journey and inspired to proclaim the Gospel.

As Archbishop Alexander Sample from the Diocese of Portland, Ore., writes, “If we are transformed by the sacred liturgy, then we, as believers, can help transform the culture.”

AWAKENINGS COMMITTEE LOOKS TO BRIDGE GAP

Is Mass the only reason you come to St. Charles Borromeo, but you feel you could be more connected to other parishioners?

The Awakenings Committee offers the opportunity to not only bolster your faith life, but to also connect with other parishioners and build social relationships.

“We are trying to bridge the gap in the idea of adult faith formation and working toward having people come to church for social things, as well,” says Sandra Moss, coordinator.

Sandra and Sandy Biggs organized the committee one year ago when they realized there was a need in the parish for a building of relationships, as well as faith formation. The group meets at noon on the first Wednesday of the month in the

AEC. Depending on activities, the group will meet twice a month. There currently are 12 core members.

A recent activity took place on Easter Sunday, when the group handed out a publication, *Why I Love Being Catholic*.

“Although it’s not in place yet, we’re hoping to get people to write their stories and post them to a blog or in an email,” Sandy says.

Another idea that is being developed is to choose a weekend to ask parishioners to invite someone to Mass who has not attended for some time.

“And we’ll have a hospitality event after Mass,” Sandy says.

Also in the early planning stages is use of the FORMED website to offer weekly adult Catholic education materials.

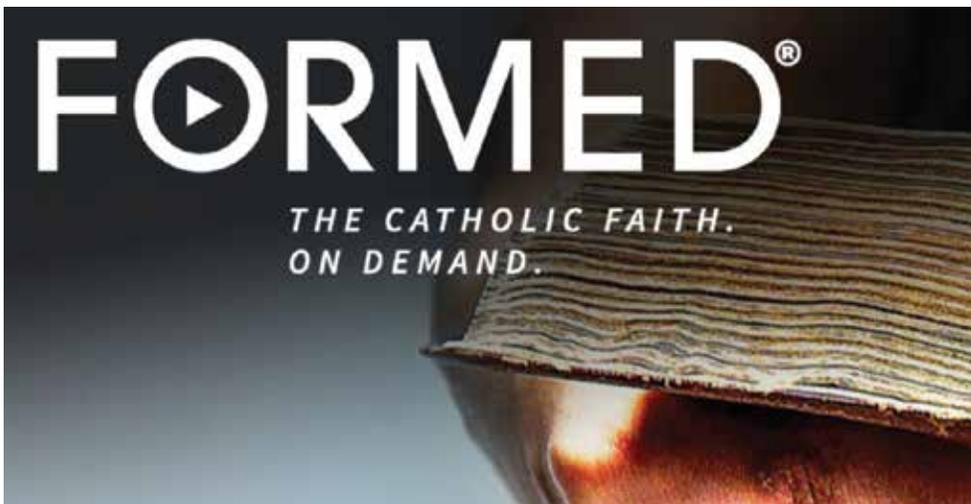
“Awakenings is important because

there has been a gap in what was being offered to adults—that is, the opportunity to embrace the catechetical experience,” Sandra says, “We have a lot for kids and there are a couple Bible studies, but we are lacking the opportunity for people to deepen their spiritual life and learn more about the faith. In talking to a recent RCIA graduate, she said that her sponsor, who was a ‘cradle Catholic,’ benefited from going to the RCIA program with her. There is a need for people to learn more specifics about their faith, to learn what the teachings of the Church are, and how important they are to their day-to-day life, while getting to know each other.”

“This is a college town,” Sandy says. “I think there are parishes who have more of a culture of people coming to church other than for Mass. I’d love to have events here to be built on so we can see the culture shift, in which church is where you want to be other than just for Mass.”

The group is welcoming additional members.

“If anyone is thinking of joining, I’d tell him or her that everyone has a gift,” Sandra says. “We want to provide the opportunity for people to explore that part of their lives. Anyone can do a lot of different things. To embrace the specific lives of parishioners, we have education, the social aspect, but a lot of casual activities we can do to appeal to different talents. The goal is to have a more vibrant and energetic parish.”



One resource currently under development is use of the FORMED website to offer weekly adult Catholic education materials.

For more info or to join Awakenings, email Sandra Moss at smoss@co.monroe.in.us.



ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m. Sunday Vigil

WEEKDAYS:

Monday: 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. (middle school attends)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. (elementary school attends)
Tuesday, Thursday: 5:30 p.m.
**Confessions are offered 30 minutes prior to every Mass*

MEN'S CLUB

continued from front cover

ending, he decided to continue the group beyond Lent and announced the group in the bulletin. Although the meeting is just an hour long, during that time, the men experience growth in their personal faith through the fellowship, bonds and connections they make with each other. "They say intercessory prayers," Geoff says. "They share what's on their hearts. The biggest benefit is the connecting and fellowship that comes from sharing what is going on with each man." As the men discuss the weekly readings, they talk about how those readings relate to their lives. "Different people get spiritual information from lots of sources," Geoff says. "They can share that information, and this is helpful, as well. It's largely the fellowship and faith

sharing that really stands out." A main focus for the group is working on becoming men of integrity, with discussions covering how the men have a responsibility to lead their lives in their faith. They examine and discuss these challenges. "The focus ends up on 'What can we do as men to be strong in faith and lead by example?'" Geoff says. "We try to promote strengthening our faith by acting as Jesus would in a faithful manner. That is the ultimate trait and we feel we can encourage people to act accordingly." An activity the men followed during Lent was to always close the meeting with the St. Michael prayer. "We've been sharing a text thread with the prayer," Geoff says. "Each day, each one of us said the St. Michael prayer during Lent. Almost all of us know it by heart."

Any man is welcome to join and attend meetings as he can. The meetings last no more than one hour so the members can attend 8:30 a.m. Mass. For more information, email Geoff Glanders at gglanders@stcharlesbloomington.org, or text him at 317-490-5668.