



# Gleanings from the Vineyard

## The vast world of ministries

Summary of “Ministries Survey” carried out in fall 2014

Lead Retreats  
Bereavement outreach  
Social media

In the fall 2013 ‘Gleanings from the Vineyard’, we listed 18 different ministries as representative of what pastoral associates and ministers are thought to do as part of their job. When we asked you to check off ministries and add others not listed that you *actually* do, the list grew to 85! (Under 10 main umbrellas of pastoral care, faith formation, outreach etc.). Some activities were a surprise: “manage IT issues”, “carry out background checks”, “coordinate community garden” ... What becomes apparent is that every parish has its unique needs. Each pastoral associate and minister comes with his or her own set of skills, gifts and aspirations. The combination of the two leads to new ministries tailored to the person, the parish and the location. This list only reinforces what parishes already know: pastoral associates and ministers are people of God on a mission. They are dedicated, creative and serve with tireless energy and practical love.

What do we do with this list? How can it be helpful? The Executive Committee decided to make a pamphlet out of these to

show the breadth of responsibility pastoral associates and ministers carry, as well as appreciation for the variety of ministries in the different parishes. The Committee also hopes this list can serve as a point of connection for the purpose of sharing our gifts with one another. For example, a parish who has experience with social media might be able to work with a parish that needs help in this area. Or if you are beginning an RCIA team and aren’t sure where to start, you can contact Cathy Kamp, Pastoral Associate at St. Joseph’s in Penfield, who would love to lead a workshop for your team. The way you would connect with the one seeking advice, or giving advice is to contact : Betsy McDermott at [bmcdermott@dor.org](mailto:bmcdermott@dor.org) with a request for help in a certain area, or an area of expertise you’d love to talk about in a workshop, and she will send it out to all PA/PMs. She will then connect the responder to the requester.

Oversee volunteers  
Home visitations  
Direct music 🎵

Read the pamphlet attached with this newsletter and see how you can connect with your fellow workers in the vineyard!

### Welcome new and recently moved pastoral associates and ministers!

**Rich Rasmussen** to Elmira Catholic Community in Elmira, NY.

**Marty Hughes** to St. Matthew in Livonia, NY.

If you know of any pastoral associate or pastoral minister who is a recent addition to a parish, please let us know at [bmcdermott@dor.org](mailto:bmcdermott@dor.org)

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## Ecumenical Good Friday Cross Walk

By Sue Howard, Pastoral Associate, Blessed Sacrament/St. Boniface Church

In 2008 Bishop Singh, who was the new Episcopal Bishop at the time, became concerned about the amount of violence in our city and brought up the idea of a walk to the Greater Rochester Community of Churches Board. He desired a show of unified Christian concern. Marv Mich who was then president of the GRCC board put out a general invitation for organizers. I was one of many who answered that call. That first initiative developed into a Stations of the Cross Walk with Churches from all over Monroe County standing in prayer at locations where violence had occurred that year. Other prayer stops were added to lift up the social agencies and neighborhood organizations that have worked tirelessly to bring healing and hope to the affected populations. The youth from many groups are invited to carry the Cross from one stop to the next and Christian leaders from the city and suburbs the city take turns leading the group in prayer.

Starting in 2013 under the leadership of Rev. Alan Dailey, new President of GRCC-Faith in Action Network, we have adopted the Seven Last Words of Jesus as the framework of the Walk as this tradition is more familiar to a wider array of Churches. With the assistance of Rev. Wilfredo Baez we added prayers in Spanish. Recently we have partnered with Rev. Lewis Stewart of the newly formed United Christian Leadership Ministry with the result of more participation from the Black Church pastors. It has been a well forged relationship that will bring even more diversity to our prayer.

This is the REAL thing, Christianity in action, prayer at its fullest. I have been an organizational member of this planning group for the past 7 years. We choose a different site each year, identify areas that need prayer, contact social agencies in the area and enlist writers and speakers. It has been a labor of love

as my eyes are opened anew to the challenges faced by those who live in urban poverty.

I know you are all very busy during Holy Week but I encourage you to invite your parishioners to try this walk as part of their Good Friday

Lenten experience. If you would like to be involved with the planning efforts and become a member of the organizational team I would be glad to speak with you further. It will change your heart and revitalize your prayer. Sue

### 2015 Ecumenical Good Friday Cross Walk - April 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00am

The purpose of the walk is to “make holy” through prayer and recognition, the place where there has been violence, and to lift up in thankfulness those community groups bringing hope and healing through their work. We will reflect on the Seven Last Words of Jesus as we walk the mile and a half route through the Lyell-Otis Street neighborhood. This area of the city has been the scene of several homicides and the challenges of poverty pervade its streets. Won’t you come and walk with us in solidarity with those who pray for the Kingdom of God to come to their neighborhood. We will gather at Holy Apostles Church at 530 Lyell Ave. 14606 at 9:00am to begin the walk.

If you plan to participate by bringing a group or if you would like to lead one of the prayer stops please contact: Rev. Denise Yarbrough 275-8422 or Rev. Alan Dailey 330-8744.

Co-sponsored by Greater Rochester Community of Church /Faith in Action and the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.



### Notes from the harvest

Located on the site of the first school house in Auburn, Holy Family Parish ministers to the heart of the City. In addition to the everyday ministries we believe everyone who cares about serving God’s people should be doing (or their version), two days a week we give out clothes, bedding etc. to people in need and on Tuesdays at noon people may get a free lunch, known as “Lunches with Love”. Members of the Parish Life Committee work at the soup kitchen (at Sts. Peter and John Episcopal). Our fund raiser committee works hard to raise funds for our Church roof and of course we share our hearts and prayers with our parishioners who are sick and with families who have lost a member.

*Helen Delaney, Pastoral Minister, Holy Family, Auburn*

## The privilege of ministry

By Drew Desmarais, Pastoral Associate, Peace of Christ, Rochester

As someone who has been in ministry for 33 years, I have been recently doing much reminiscing as I begin to contemplate retirement. As a boy growing up in West Warwick, R.I., I of course became a passionate Red Sox fan. It became obvious early on that my aptitude for the social sciences far exceeded my other abilities. I went to Providence College and then studied for the priesthood here in Rochester at St. Bernard's Seminary. I decided not to continue on for priesthood and met Donna, my wife of 30 years.

The focus of my ministry for the first 20 years was faith formation and the last thirteen years spent as a Pastoral Associate. I can only say that it has been a journey of many highs, lows and ordinary moments. The people I've met have allowed me to minister to them and more importantly, have also ministered to me. The relationships I've formed over the years are dear and lasting.

The moments and memories I cherish all start from the fact that without my faith, none of this would have been possible. When I watched the surgery of the 5 year old girl battling brain cancer, and forever remembering the

Raggedy Ann doll she was holding, my imperfect faith said "Why?"

When I sat with the young woman who was wailing her grief in the hospital because her father and two brothers were murdered in a house fire, I could only give her a hug. Then I took a long drive down Lake Rd as I did often when confronted with the mystery of my faith.

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The joyous moments were easy. The multiple times seeing parents and kids celebrate the joy of First Communion, Confirmation. The wonderful memories of the ecstasy in the eyes of new parents having their precious bundle baptized with their family, community surrounding them. When I sat with anxious parents in Golisano Children's Hospital and watched as they received the news

that their baby was going to be o.k. When I sat quietly with folks who came to accept that they weren't going to get better and that God loved them. The memories of all the good times had with the various staffs I've worked with and all the laughs shared.



Drew Desmarais

I am a very lucky man. I've had the privilege to be with remarkable, talented, faith-filled people who believe, in spite of what life has dished out to them. When I first started, I was concerned that since I'm very emotional, this would somehow get in the way of my ministry. I laugh now saying that because my tears allowed me to begin to understand God's love at a time when my mind couldn't comprehend. In order to be involved in ministry, one's family has to understand and forgive. I have been blessed beyond reason with a great wife, family, friends and colleagues.

It has indeed been a privilege to be a part of the Diocese of Rochester family.

### Elections- Join the planning team!

According to the Constitution of the Pastoral Associates'/Pastoral Ministers' Association, the purpose of the organization is to be a professional support group for those serving in pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Rochester, to be concerned with the spiritual enrichment and continuing education of its members, to be a vehicle of communication, an avenue for public relations and to provide individuals and parishes with an understanding of pastoral ministry.

Amy Voll and Augie Misiurewicz are each at the end of their three year term this spring. We will need to elect two new Committee members. Please pray about this role for yourself or nominate a PA/PM that you believe would be a great addition to the team. Here what the commitment entails:

- Writing a three sentence bio on your current ministry and hopes for pastoral ministry.
- Meeting with the Committee 4-6 times a year, helping to plan the fall and spring retreats, discuss ideas in how to promote communication among the pastoral associates and ministers, and review policies and resources of the organization. Please note that the members take turns meeting in each other's parishes so those who live outside of Rochester will not have to be the only ones traveling.
- Being actively involved in supporting members of the organization in their spirituality and ministry.

**Submit your name or another's name to Betsy McDermott at [bmcdermott@dor.org](mailto:bmcdermott@dor.org).**

## Dates of Interest

2015

Saturday, March 28	<b>Women's Conference.</b> "Body, Mind, & Soul". 7:00 am—5:30 pm. Mass at 8:00 am, presided over by Bishop Matano. Aquinas Institute. To register: <a href="http://www.RochesterCWC.org">www.RochesterCWC.org</a>
Wednesday, February 18	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
Tuesday, March 24	<b>Day of Penance and Mercy.</b> 12:30-7:30 pm. In parishes around the diocese.
Sunday, April 5	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
Saturday, May 16	<b>Men's Conference,</b> "Exult Rochester". 8:00 am—6:00 pm. St. John Fisher College. To register: <a href="http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-mens-conference-online-registration/">http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-mens-conference-online-registration/</a>
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	<b>Spring Retreat for pastoral associates and pastoral ministers!</b> Notre Dame Retreat Center. Save the date! More details to come.
Saturday, June 6	<b>Deacon Ordination.</b> 10:00 am. Sacred Heart Cathedral.
Saturday, June 20	<b>Priest Ordination.</b> 10:30 am. Sacred Heart Cathedral.
Tuesday, June 23	<b>Annual Gathering of the Ministerium.</b> Helen M. Alvaré, Professor of Law, George Mason University. <b>Topic:</b> 'Poverty and the New Evangelization: Ministry in America's Catholic Parishes'. NB: Professor Alvaré is one of four keynote speakers at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next September; Pope Francis will be in attendance.

### Gleanings Newsletter

We are delighted to print articles, meditations, parish stories, prayer requests, journey sharings or questions from pastoral associates/ministers of all parishes and ministries in the Rochester Diocese. The wealth of ministry experience is truly mind blowing and inspiring. Please submit ideas and contributions as often as possible to Betsy McDermott at [bmcdermott@dor.org](mailto:bmcdermott@dor.org) or call 585-328-3228, ext. 1287.

#### **Don't forget Continuing Education and Special Events through St. Bernard's!**

##### **Foundation in Catholic Bioethics**

This course will identify themes in Catholic Moral Theology relevant to bioethics and the major principles of Catholic medical ethics. We will find and utilize church documents that have shaped the development of Catholic bioethics. We will utilize resources pertinent to bioethical decisions made in accordance with Church teaching and identify and discuss bioethical issues pertinent to the beginning and ending of human life, as well as emerging bioethical issues.

*Co-Sponsored by the Life Issues Office, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester and the Finger Lakes Guild of the Catholic Medical Association*

**Dates:** Oct. 6, 20; Nov. 3, 17; Dec. 1

**Location:** St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, 120 French Rd., Rochester 14618

**Time:** 7:00 - 9:30 PM

**Fee:** \$50

[Register](http://www.stbernards.edu/) at <http://www.stbernards.edu/>

Also see many other class offerings and events on St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry website.

#### **Pastoral Associates'/Pastoral Ministers' Association Executive Committee**

##### **Amy Voll**

St. John of Rochester, Fairport

##### **August Misiurewicz**

Peace of Christ, Rochester

##### **Cathy Kamp**

St. Joseph's, Penfield

##### **Mary Jo DiNoto**

St. Rita, Webster

##### **Ex-Officio**

##### **Bernard Grizard**

Diocesan Director  
Parish & Clergy Services

##### **Betsy McDermott**

Project Manager  
Parish & Clergy Services

##### **Karen Rinefierd**

Coordinator of Leadership Formation for  
Parishes  
St. Bernard's School of Theology & Ministry