



FAITH IN ACTION



Gleanings from the Vineyard

Parishes reach out to pray, educate and take action

This past month has been a busy one for many parishes active in helping refugees and engaged with social justice concerns. In addition to the many rallies around Rochester, Auburn, Ithaca and other cities, supported by numerous Catholics, there were reports of other happenings:

Refugees

Parishioners from **Our Lady of Lourdes/ St. Anne, Assumption, St. Joseph's, St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton** in Hamlin and **St. Kateri** filled pews at Temple B'rith Kodesh for an Interfaith Prayer Service for the refugees. Bishop Matano read from the Book of Deuteronomy. See at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCourier/videos/10154321137631305/>

St. Catherine of Siena in Ithaca reports initiating a post card campaign, "Ithaca Wants Refugees", that resulted in 2,557 handmade cards, stamped and send directly to President Trump.



St. Joseph's in Penfield dedicated a webpage to support of refugees, (<https://www.sjcpenfield.com/refugees>) with links to ways to help and a link to learning more about current information and statistics.

Assumption parish not only works directly with refugee families, and refugee centers, but has a cut out of Pope Francis welcome refugee with scripture verses.

And of course **St. Louis**, in Pittsford, has ongoing collections of food, clothing and household goods in support of Saint's Place that welcomed and outfitted more than 300 refugee families since last July!

The Cathedral Community, St. Joseph's and several other parishes, have an ongoing ministry with Mary's Place, a mission to aid the refugees of the area. This includes, tutoring adults and school kids, helping with clothing and food and on-premises counselling offered by several health care professionals and agencies in the Rochester area.

Care for the World

St. Ann in Auburn is hosting "Hear both the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor", an ecumenical gathering for prayer followed by a walk from St. Ann to downtown Auburn in support of environmentalism and social justice.

Our Lady of Lourdes/St. Anne – Invited parishioners for 4 weeks of study and discussion in January on "Care for the World: Laudato Si", for better under-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Parishes reach out to pray, educate and take action...	1
The responsibility we have to be good to ourselves	2
Pat Meyer, Pastoral Associate Highlight	3
Notes from the Harvest	3
Executive Committee Election Details	4



The Responsibility We Have to Be Good to Ourselves

By Cathy Kamp, Pastoral Associate, St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield

Chair of Pastoral Associates/Pastoral Ministers Association Executive Committee

One aspect of being part of the leadership of the Pastoral Associates/Pastoral Ministers Association is the serious way the team reviews and takes to heart what is heard each time we gather. Every time we plan a professional development day or a retreat, like the one coming up on May 18, the first priority is to fully understand feedback from the last one and what our colleagues in ministry are seeking from the association.

When we met in October for our professional development day on the theme of "God Calls, We Respond," a number of people expressed concern with how difficult it is to take enough time to feel refreshed and renewed. Some seemed at a loss about how to take good care of themselves. Our parishes are blessed to have such dedicated, de-

voted, faithful pastoral associates and pastoral ministers.

Our ministry is different from secular jobs and it is important to know and understand how we have been called to not just a set of responsibilities but an all-encompassing Christian way of life. That said, we also have a responsibility to bring our very best selves to our ministry. We cannot minister well to the needs of another person if we are not at peace within ourselves. Each of us needs to remain committed to the discernment that leads us into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. That is the place where we have to start and return over and over again.

Only you can answer the question about what helps you remain close to God. What forms of daily prayer? Is it about the Holy Mass or Eucha-

ristic Adoration? What helps you to relax and clear your mind so that you can be open to God's voice? Is it being in nature or engaging in physical exercise?

Once when I was struggling with feeling overwhelmed, I was offered the advice to take a risk and try something new – to go somewhere I had never been, with a new group of people, maybe even to be vulnerable enough to ask for help. It was great advice and I look forward to sharing more about that ongoing experience when we gather.

Join your fellow pastoral associates and ministers on Thursday, May 18 at the Notre Dame Retreat House. Come with the stories of your joys and your struggles. Together, we can invite God in anew, to recharge and refresh our souls!

Interfaith Prayer for Peace

St. Catherine of Siena participated in a very unique event over Inauguration Weekend in Ithaca. A member of the local Episcopal Church didn't want to let the political contentions that were likely to be voiced over that weekend permeate our community. He sent out a request to all the other Churches in the area to host an hour of prayer, or a pot-luck supper, or some other event that could wrap the weekend in mutual prayer, love of the Divine, and a spirit of inclusion. Cornell Catholic and Ithaca College's Campus Ministry both participated, as well as other Christian Churches, our Jewish Synagogue, and our Muslim community. St. Catherine's hosted evening prayer on Thursday, January 19, and also offered our Church on Friday for private prayer throughout the day. It was a great idea to help the faith communities of our small city to come together, to share in each other's faith traditions, and to "be the change we want to see in the world" - to use Gandhi's words.

Ann Marie Eckert, St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca

(Continued from page 1)



standing the Pope's message & environment challenges - "

Care for the Homeless

St. Francis Cabrini's Peace and Justice committee serve dinner regularly to the homeless housed at St. Carmel's.

In addition to the daily meals served at **Blessed Sacrament** church, the parishioners from **St. Mary's**, also part of the Southeast Rochester Catholic Community, reach out monthly to offer assistance and shelter to the homeless.

Assumption parish invited LaShunda Leslie-Smith, executive

director of Connected Communities to share 10 positive changes that have resulted from the anti-poverty initiative in the targeted neighborhoods. **Holy Apostles** feeds the homeless and provides numerous outreach programs.

Many, many other caring initiatives going on all over the diocese.

With these challenges comes great joy!

By Patrick Meyer, Pastoral Associate at Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, NY



Pat Meyer

Catholic grade school student, Catholic high school student, Catholic seminarian, Catholic grade school teacher, Pastoral Associate of Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca – I suppose you can say that I have a passion for the Catholic Church! Being the youngest of seven in a Catholic family in Cincinnati, Ohio, there was never much question where I would attend school, and for that I am eternally grateful. The influence of Catholic education - the spirituality of so many good educators - has been invaluable. Time and again I have turned to the Church for refuge and perspective, and time and again the Lord has offered me peace of mind and strength of spirit.

I attended the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, as a college seminarian, and upon graduation entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati as a graduate student. After discerning that God was not calling me to priest-

hood, yet with a desire to share the joys of the faith with others, I began a 17-year stretch as a teacher of 8th grade students.

The influence of Catholic education - the spirituality of so many good educators - has been invaluable.

These years were filled with great joy, as I considered it a privilege to share the Catholic faith with people at such a tumultuous age. In 2003, I completed a degree in Pastoral Ministry while continuing to teach, but from that point on I always felt that there was more comprehensive work I could be doing with my new degree.

After being diagnosed with depression, I felt the need to move out of the daily demands and exhaustion of teaching. Longing, however, to remain within the confines of the Church, I discerned that God was calling me to enter parish life. Being

single and having an opportunity to take a leap of faith and join my sister's family in New York, I decided to take on the duties of Pastoral Associate at Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

There are many challenges in this "new" ministry of mine, but with these challenges come great joy! It is a challenge to meet with a grieving family, but also a joy to see the movement of faith within them at the Mass of Christian Burial. It is a challenge to visit an aging homebound parishioner who has lost the will to live, but a great joy to pray with them and help them see that they still have a purpose. It is a challenge, as I'm sure so many others in my position would agree, to constantly feel that I am inadequate in my ministry, but a joy and consolation to hear affirming remarks from parishioners and staff, thus being assured that the Spirit has truly been a work in my ministry despite the inadequacies. May God continue to bless us and the people to whom we minister!

Notes From the Harvest

St. Mary's on the Lake, Watkins Glen. I am going to be doing a monthly series on "The Spirituality of Grief" starting January 30th. This is a bit different from Grief groups in that we will be studying the spiritual implications of Grief and how it connects us back to God. "Grief can be the garden of compassion. If you keep your heart open through everything, your pain can become your greatest ally in your life's search for love and wisdom." - Rumi. We will also have time to discuss grief issues and sharing. **Tom Ruda**

Auburn Catholic Community. We are sponsoring a Pastoral Care Seminar on March 4 at St. Joseph school gymnasium to be the "springboard for the community to energize our outreach to the marginalized faithful." Dr. Roslyn Karaban will be the speaker. If you are interested, contact me at awilson@dor.org. **Aaron Wilson**

Immaculate Conception, Ithaca. For Lent this year, Father Chumo, our pastor, is pursuing ways to make spiritual opportunities and devotions more abundant in the parish - meaning an increase in opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc. **Pat Meyer**

St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca. Trivia Night. Our parish launched a new activity last year that turned into a huge success! We were looking to invigorate or replace some of the fun, community building events that we do at the parish and we decided to try a Trivia Night. It is a pretty fun event to plan, as our team spends a few weeks coming up with trivia questions and other games/activities that fill out the night. The amount of laughter that filled the room, and the very positive comments we received give us great confidence in hosting this event a second time. If you would like to know more about how the night works, I am happy to share our files, successes, and mistakes with you. Contact **Ann Marie Eckert** at ameckert@dor.org / 607-257-2493.

2017 Dates of Interest

Wednesday, March 1	Ash Wednesday
Saturday, March 4	'Pastoral Care Seminar: Visiting parishioners in home and care facilities.' 1:45-3:45 pm. St. Joseph School Gymnasium, Auburn. Call 315-252-7261.
Tuesday, March 14	"Wholeness in Spirituality" Retreat/Workshop. 9:00 am– 3:00 pm. St. Bernard's. Professional development day for ministers. For registration see: http://www.stbernards.edu/ .
Tuesday, March 28	Day of Penance , Noon-7:00 pm; all parishes.
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunday
Tuesday, April 18	The Gathering of the Ministerium. Speaker: Father Donald Senior, CP, President Emeritus, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.
Monday, April 24 to Wednesday, April 26	Convocation of Priests and Pastoral Administrators. 2 pm Monday –noon, Wednesday.
Thursday, May 18	Pastoral Associate/Minister Retreat. 9:00-3:00 pm. Notre Dame Retreat Ctr. 'You are the Ones, chosen by God' guided by Sr. Karen Dietz, SSJ. Invite other staff members to join you. Registration form available from bmcdermott@dor.org .

Pastoral Associates/Ministers Association Election Time!

The Executive Committee is made up of four Pastoral Associates/Ministers and two liaisons from the Diocese. Each term is for three years. At the end of a term, we hold elections to fill the spot.

Terms are up this year for two of our Committee members, Cathy Kamp and Mary Jo DiNoto, who have served creatively and faithfully these past three years. As the Chair, Cathy has introduced a quarterly reflection corner in Gleanings, wonderful guidance in planning our bi-annual gatherings and most of all a "can do" energy that is rooted in her own deep spirituality.

Start to think about two pastoral associates or ministers that you know who would be a good addition to the planning team. We will send out more details and ballots in the next two months.

**You are the Ones,
chosen by God**



**2017 SPRING RETREAT FOR
PASTORAL ASSOCIATES &
MINISTERS**

(Other staff members invited to
join us for the day)

**Thursday, May 18, 2017
9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Notre Dame Retreat Center,
Canandaigua, NY**

Contact bmcdermott@dor.org for
registration form.

Pastoral Associates'/Pastoral Ministers' Association

- Executive Committee**
- Cathy Kamp**
St. Joseph's, Penfield
 - Mary Jo DiNoto**
Holy Cross, Charlotte
 - Sheryl Zabel**
Assumption, Fairport
 - Tim Smith**
Transfiguration, Pittsford
- EX-OFFICIO**
- Bernard Grizard**
Diocesan Director
Pastoral Services
 - Betsy McDermott**
Project Manager

Welcome new Pastoral Associates!

Kathryn McAlarney St. Louis, Pittsford	Jim Briars St. Pius X, Gates
--	--

Know of a parishioner who would be a great
Interfaith Liaison?

This person will be the communication of interfaith events between your parish and the Diocese. Please contact Betsy.

We are delighted to print articles, meditations, parish stories, prayer requests, book reviews etc. from pastoral associates/ministers of all parishes and ministries in the Rochester Diocese. We also are looking to highlight one pastoral associate/minister per issue so that we can all get to our colleagues in the vineyard. Please submit ideas and contributions often to bmcdermott@dor.org; 328-3228, ext. 1287.