



Voices from our neighborhoods

Lorraine Gardner, Pastoral Associate

Christ the Redeemer and the Elmira parishes

On Sunday mornings many of us arise to go to church and celebrate the greatest gift we have, in the Eucharist at Mass. But as you look around those pews have you ever wondered, what happened to Helen? What happened to Ed? Where is Polly? And what is Robert doing now? Is he okay? These are the missing faces of those parishioners who once graced the sacred space of our churches. Where are they now? They are homebound. They are living in nursing facilities and assisted care facilities, and many of these people spend numerous days in and out of the hospital. Their days are often lonely and isolated, filled with physical pain and spiritual isolation. Some of them may have a pet to keep them company, while many others do not.

Several days ago, after what seemed like a long and difficult week, I finally went to see Polly. My visit with Polly was truly God's gift to me. She welcomed me with open arms, even while suffering with debilitating arthritic pain. For her, the joy of seeing someone new coming to spend some time with her was astonishing. She could not express to me enough, the gratitude she felt. As we talked Polly shared with me some great stories about her life, her family and her work. She told me that she was an 'Old Maid' and asked me if I was one too. I

simply chuckled at her question. These folks have some incredible stories to tell and wisdom to impart to all of us, yet they remain hidden in our neighborhoods, simply because they are too sick and unable to be mobile. I am often brought to laughter and tears as I sit with them in their homes, their most personal and sacred place with God. I would encourage others to reach out to those who cannot reach us.

Shortly after I arrived here last year, I met Marilyn. I was not sure when I met her that we would ever really hit it off. As time went on, we discovered together that we were really good for each other. When I lost my brother David to cancer last August, she was a source of strength for me as we prayed and talked about his death together. So many times, she has told me that she feels like she has no role to play in her life anymore. However, I continually remind her that her role in life now is to pray for those whom she loves. What she and so many other parishioners out there do not realize is that they play a significant role in shaping our ministry. It is because of their homebound station in life that my life and the lives of all those who visit them are touched in a deeply spiritual way. One

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Question of the Month

Question:

Who has ideas or best practices *that work* for reaching out to inactive Catholics and younger adults?

Answer:

One answer to your question about inactive Catholics and young adults: social media! At St. Joseph's we are using Facebook and Twitter and seeing interaction with younger adults in the parish, on Twitter in particular. Twitter is a

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of the greatest things I learned to do as a Chaplain at the Mayo Clinic was to tailor my prayers to their personal story and living situation. I would like to share with you a version I often pray with our parishioners here in Elmira:

**Heavenly Father,
Help Marilyn to remember
that her home is her church.
It is here that she walks with you.
It is here that she talks with you.
It is here that she eats with you.
It is here that she sleeps with you.
It is here that she prays with you.
Help her to remember that she is
never alone,
and that you are only one prayer
away from her.**

I have been gifted with one of the greatest ministry jobs I could ever have. Sometimes, it is not an easy job but it is well worth the time that I take, to see those entrusted to our care. As I look into the faces of our homebound parishioners out there, I see the love, the image and face of Christ looking back at me.

Pastoral Associates'/Pastoral Ministers' Association Executive Committee

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nice way for the pastor and other staff to take a leadership voice in different areas of ministry and liturgy. Facebook presents the opportunity to very inexpensively "advertise" to anyone on Facebook in your town or neighboring towns -- to encourage people to "like" your page and see your regular postings or to promote something special like a visit from the Bishop or Holy Week services. We have just been working to establish a social media presence over the past five or six months, are pleased with the results, and having fun with it! For parishioners who follow us there is the added bonus of creating a sense of online fellowship and informal communication that simply leads to good will and relationship building.

Cathy Kamp— St. Joseph's, Penfield

Question for next issue:



In the busyness of your ministry, what nurtures your hope?

Election Results

Our two new Executive Committee members, voted in on May 8, 2014, are:

Mary Jo DiNoto

Cathy Kamp

A HUGE thank you to
Sr. Marlene Vigna, RSM

and

Sue Howard

for their many years of creative and joyful service on this committee.

From Cathy's Journal

Thursday, May 8

Hope!

I had the unexpected pleasure today of introducing the speaker at the Pastoral Associates/Pastoral Ministers Association retreat for the Diocese of Rochester. The inspired speaker was my former professor of liturgical leadership and academic advisor, Dr. Ella Johnson, Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Bernard's. "Hope! Sustaining and Renewing Life-Giving Ministry" was the topic and the presentation lived up to its title.

A point of reflection for me is Ella's distinction between the virtue of hope and optimism. While optimism holds the expectation that something better will happen, the reality is that sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes optimism comes, then it goes. Hope, on the other hand, is the belief that whatever the situation, God is with us, leading us, sustaining us. Rather than looking forward with optimistic expectation of particular resolutions, hope allows us to live in the moment, confident that all of life is in God's hands. "Hope believes God will make every circumstance better," Ella shared.

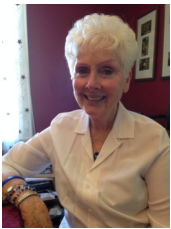
Ministry, she said, is "hope in action." To sustain ourselves for the challenging mission of God, a "Eucharistic spirituality is critical" for those working in the ministry of the Church. It "reveals who we are now and who we are called to be." Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, "Eucharistic communion includes the reality both of being loved and of loving others in return." The Eucharist brings us to a sacramental vision that grace is everywhere and all leads us to God. And above all, in ministry, we must recall the important words of Pope Francis, "no sourpusses!"

An expert in medieval women's theology, an important theme of the day was that of St. Julian of Norwich that we must believe—in faith and in hope and in love—that with God, "All will be well."

Blessings,
Cathy Kamp

My Faith Journey

By Deni Mack, Pastoral Associate at Church of the Assumption Parish, Fairport



The Spirit of Vatican II energized lay ministries in the 1960s. Religious ed., pastoral care, social outreach, prayer groups, family masses, connecting ecumenically with inner city ministries, adult faith enrichment built community. As a teacher I trained volunteer catechists but in 1974 I became Consultant to Religious Education Directors for the Diocese. Earlier, I took courses at St. Bernard's Seminary at the invitation of a priest who asked me to be his "moral support." Hunger for learning drove me to twenty years of study while raising our four children. No one had to talk them into going to grad school. They saw my joy. It felt like 20 years of field education as I worked full time for the church the entire time it took to earn a Master's in biblical theology, an M.Div. and, because people asked me to be their spiritual director, I studied spiritual theology and was awarded a Doctorate in Ministry in 1992.

I served as parish DRE until 1993 and for the last twenty-one years as Pastoral Associate; since 2001 at Church of the Assumption in Fairport. The most awesome challenge

has been preaching ever since Fr. Tom Reddington asked me 34 years ago.

Papal encyclicals and our nation's bishops' pastoral letters (Peace, Economic and Racial Justice and more) make my heart soar; I am on fire with Jesus' call to be peacemakers, and his love for the poor, oppressed and marginalized. Daily prayer with scripture can bring tears over injustice and tragedies near and far.

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In the '90s I was mentored as prayer guide for Ignation Spiritual Exercises and Thomas Merton has been my mentor since the 60s; I share his oceanic love of all people. So, I pray and work with those trying to create a better world for all humanity. Parishioners led me to experience Joining Hearts and Hands in Kenya & Working Boys Center: Family of Families in Quito, Ecuador.

Passion to share ways of applying biblical faith to life nurtures Mercy works with people in need, and RAIHN (interfaith ministry with homeless families).

*Just*FAITH forms disciples as we apply the church's social teaching today. We listen well to people we may not ordinarily encounter, i.e. migrants, prisoners, et al. Since the '60s I've seen faith thrive with small group support; we find companionship in our thirst for all that is Godly. Our parishioners are discovering their spiritual gifts as they co facilitate these groups. Researching, writing of and portraying gallant women from scripture, tradition and today with *Women of the Well* opens hearts to biblical characters that, sadly, are not all in our lectionary!

Our grandson's deadly ski accident and our son's sudden brain injury confirmed what I already knew -we are united with all; we need God all of the time. Pope Francis makes me smile with renewed hope as we journey with folks through their joys and sorrows. I love putting his quotes in our church bulletin every week.

Deni Mack, D. Min.

Jesus Christ is Risen!

Notes from the Harvest

- ◇ From St. Catherine of Siena in Ithaca: For the six weeks of Lent, we did a Simple Supper (usually soup and bread) each Friday night from 5:45-6:45, with the Stations of the Cross following at 7 p.m. We had different families host (and usually prepare the meal) each week. So, in honor of the Easter Season, we are having a "Not-So-Simple Supper" on May 9. We are inviting everyone to bring something to share (specifically something delicious!) and Fr. Joe Marcoux, our pastor, is making Lobster Bisque for all! We think it will be a fun way to bring the community together and celebrate the Easter Season.
- ◇ Our Parish Life Committee just held its annual Family Fun Day - this event raises money for our Committee and one of the things we do is to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors from our parish- generally the scholarships range between \$400 and \$500 - Holy Family, Auburn.

Dates of Interest for 2014

Wednesday, May 14th - Grief: Getting Through the Day- This presentation on useful strategies and ways to grieve the loss of a friend or loved one will be led by Dr. Roslyn Karaban, Professor of Pastoral Counseling at St. Bernard's, and Michelle Allman, Bereavement Coordinator at Visiting Nurse Service. Attend either the 2:00 pm or 6:30 pm session on May 14 at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, 120 French Rd. Rochester, 14618. This seminar is FREE, but we ask you to please register by calling (585) 271-3657 x 289.

Thursday, June 5- Gathering of the Ministerium, 9:30 a.m., Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford. Most Reverend Richard J. Malone, Bishop of the Buffalo Diocese, will be our speaker.

Friday, June 6 - The Art and Science of Change and Resilience- Sponsored by the Department of Pastoral Care, Rosewell Park Cancer Institute, Elm and Carlton Streets, Buffalo, NY 1263. Joan Borysenko, PhD presents a program about resilience as a "transformative process that reveals our inherent nobility, a rite of passage when life's difficulties invite a harmonious synthesis of mind, body, and spirit that opens a path to wisdom and meaning." Program runs from 8:00am until 4:00pm. Registration Fee \$45 due by May 28th. Contact: The Department of Pastoral Care 716-845-8051

Saturday, June 21, 2014- Priests' Ordination. 10:30 am, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sergio Chávez Rodríguez and Peter Van Lieshout

SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PASTORS, PASTORAL ADMINISTRATORS AND PARISH STAFFS

There will be three opportunities in August for individuals and entire parish staffs to build their leadership skills. A brochure with a complete schedule and a registration form will be out soon but, in the meantime, here is a taste of what is coming. You're free to come to a partial day, a complete day of workshops, or as many as all three.

Tuesday, August 19, St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, 9:45 am – 3:30 pm

Workshop topics include: Collaborative Leadership and Empowered Teams, Strategic Financial Planning for your Parish, Implementing *Rebuilt* Best Practices, *Rebuilt* and Culture Change, and HR Leadership and Management.

Monday, August 25, Elmira Faith Formation Center, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Workshop topics include: The Art of Pastoral Leadership: Practicing it and Improving it, *Rebuilt* and Culture Change, and Transformational Communication.

Wednesday, August 27, Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford, 10:30 am – 4:00 pm

Workshop topics include: Reverse Mentoring, Pastoral Leadership: Spirituality and Skills, and Addressing Conflict: Disagreeing with Dignity.

Sponsored by St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry and the diocesan Department of Parish and Clergy Services. For more information please contact Karen Rinefierd, Coordinator of Leadership Formation for Parishes at 585-271-3657 x295 or krinefierd@dor.org.

Prayer Circle

(These will not be shared on the "Gleanings" going directly to Pastoral



'Updates', but only in issues of Associates & Ministers)

- ⇒ For Thaddeus H. Antczak, the father of Marianne Antczak, who died April 29 at age 94.
- ⇒ For the upcoming transition of pastoral leadership in the diocese.
- ⇒ For a friend diagnosed with cancer— for peace and healing.
- ⇒ For all of us that we find daily grace to keep focused on mission and joy.