

When the Levee Breaks Jesus is the Dam that Holds Us

Have you ever been in a situation where your heart was so stirred up, so unsettled, so confused that you didn't know what you would do or where you would turn? Jesus' disciples felt this way. In a time of doubt and uncertainty, Jesus spoke words of comfort to them: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." The word for "troubled" means "stir up, unsettle, throw into confusion." To put it another way, Do not let your hearts be stirred up, unsettled, thrown into confusion. Trust in God. Trust also in me.

I live two and a half hours from San Antonio. Between 1845 and 1921, seven catastrophic floods hit that city. The floods caused major damage to downtown buildings and killed many people. In 1921 alone, 50 people were killed.

Something had to be done to remedy the problem, so over a 12-year period (1929–1941) city architects built a series of canals and dams to manage the flow of the San Antonio River to prevent it from rising so high and flooding the community. It was a major architectural marvel for its time.

Now, fast-forward about 50 years. In the 1990s, city planners realized that the dams and canals could no longer protect a city that had quickly grown. Something had to be done. Otherwise, the system would fail in the event of a historic flood—or even just an above-average flood. So they built two major tunnels with a price tag of \$111 million, a financial investment that city leaders did not support. Sure enough,

just ten months after completing the project, in October 1998, a 500-year flood hit San Antonio. Over 16 inches of rain fell in the span of a few days. Yet, when the city planners made their way to the riverwalk downtown, they saw tourists sitting in outdoor cafés, people walking their dogs, and couples meandering the streets holding hands. What happened? The tunnels worked. They paid for themselves ten times over. Again, in 2002, San Antonio had 16 inches of rain in just a few days, and again the tunnels held.

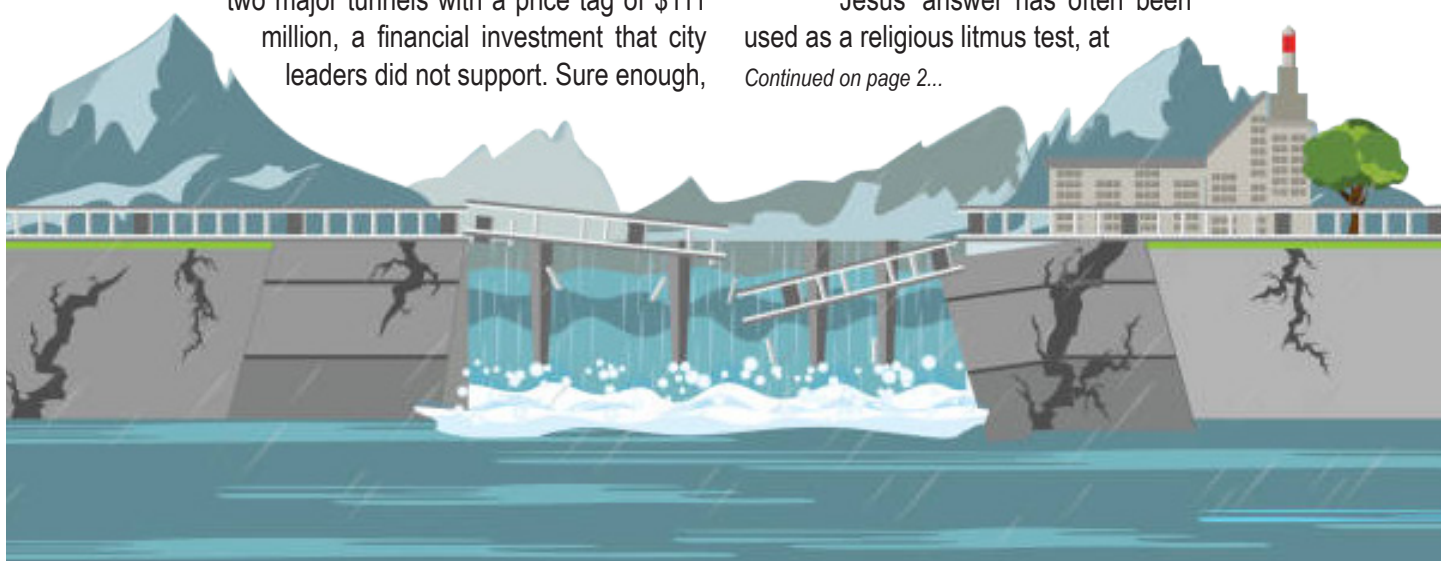
In times of quiet desperation, Jesus says to us what he says to his disciples: I will be the dam that holds you when the levee breaks, the tunnel that brings you through to the other side when you're stirred up, unsettled, thrown into confusion. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me.

The disciples need to hear this. Jesus has just told them he will be with them "only a little longer." Now he tells them he's leaving. He will come back to get them but has to leave them first. They don't need to worry, though. They already know the way.

Thomas asks the same question that is likely on the other disciples' minds. "If we don't know where you're going, how will we know the way?"

Jesus' answer has often been used as a religious litmus test, at

Continued on page 2...



When the Levee Breaks

Continued from page 1

least in North America. The way, truth, and life. To get to the Father, you've got to go through Jesus, like he's some kind of bouncer standing by to vet our access to the triune God. In or out, pass or fail.

This seems like a strange thing to say right after telling followers not to let their hearts be troubled. Don't get me wrong: Jesus makes exclusive claims, and he has hard teachings. Even these words have an edge to them. But the first task is to discern what Jesus is saying to those who believe him in his context — before making conclusions about what he is saying — to those who do not believe him in ours.

What if Jesus wants to reframe Thomas's questions from "where" and "how" questions to "who" questions? It would not be the first time that he answered a question someone wasn't asking. It would make more sense after telling his followers not to let their hearts be troubled. So, you want to know the way? You have a person. So, you want to know the how? You have a person.

Do you know anyone who has no desire whatsoever to find a path, to learn the truth, or to experience life? Now consider the possibility that all three — the path, the truth, the life — can be found in a *person*. That is what Jesus is saying here, and it is good news.

When the rains come, when the waters rise, our temptation is to look for answers to our "where" and "how" questions. In those moments — in all moments — there is one who stands before us, one in whom and through whom is the way, the truth, and the life. When we do not know the way, he will transform our questions into better ones. When our hearts are stirred up, he will hold us through the storm.

By Jared E. Alcántara for The Christian Century Magazine, May 2023 issue. Visit ChristianCentury.org.

'Like home' Ambrosians answer call to help older adults

St. Patrick Senior Center is Detroit's largest health, wellness and activities center for people over 55. We provide a variety of services including nutritious meals (currently carryout only), dozens of health & wellness programs, an on-site clinic, transportation to medical appointments, dance and exercise classes, benefits assistance, in-home services, respite care, many fun-filled activities, home delivery of groceries and other necessities — and a great deal more!

For decades, the parishioners of St. Ambrose have hosted a hearty home-cooked dinner for the seniors in the Cass Corridor serviced by St. Patrick's. Here are some photos of our most recent food and fellowship activity which took place this past Saturday, April 29th!



Volunteers from St. Ambrose at this past weekend's Food & Fellowship program including Anne & Tom O'Hara, Dawn & Mike Lesperance, Celeste Zogas and Adam Keagle



Asmile and wave from Tom O'Hara



Dinner is served from Dawn Lesperance and Anne O'Hara



Rolling silverware in preparation for the dinner service with volunteers Mike & Dawn Lesperance

All Things Considered

St. Ambrose, in our merger with St. Martin of Tours back in 1989, inherited arguably the oldest Catholic sponsored Vacation Bible School in our Archdiocese. Its roots stretch back to Fr. Ed Schuerman and Deacon (Bishop) Kevin Britt in the 1970s

When this VBS program moved to St. Ambrose, we added elaborate art projects and parties that were amazing. VBS was the signature event of our summers. Catherine Guinn, Miguel and Lupe Davila, and especially Stephenie and Grant Ruttinger took “community art” to a sophisticated level.

But this legacy of Vacation Bible Schools began to unravel when Merit Charter Academy (which leases our school building) began scheduling summer school programs. No matter what days we chose, the kids in Merit were blocked from participating in Vacation Bible School because their summer school ran the full summer. You can’t blame parents for taking that option, since it weighed a one-week program against a two-month program.

The few times we ran VBS in competition with Merit Academy found their students passing us in snack-filled hallways – staring out of remedial algebra or English classroom windows at activities on the Playscape in which they were unable to participate. That was evidence to me that we were on the wrong track.

Merit students’ minds were growing to be certain, but the opportunity to engage in the faith was not. Moreover, it set up a dichotomy between segments of the parish. So, reluctantly, VBS here at Ambrose got smaller and the pandemic put the lid on it. Reviving it didn’t seem wise.

The same thing happened to another outreach of the parish to the kids at Merit – the after-school Bible

Club held on an after-school weekday. There too, it was counter-programming from Merit that put so many other after school options out there for the kids that we could not compete.

When we closed our St. Ambrose Elementary Parochial School operations in 2002, after 82 years of operations, I felt an obligation to continue the mission of teaching the Catholic faith to the kids in our neighborhood. One of the disappointments of my pastorate here was that those outreach activities didn’t last.

Now that we have entered into a new reality called “family of parishes,” Vacation Bible School has gone to a different venue and taken on a different mission. It no longer is designed to reach-out in and beyond our own neighborhood. And that is OK. Our Catholic kids and their families deserve an exciting, faith-enriching program whenever and wherever we can provide it. But it is now a different audience than the one we programmed for three decades ago.

But I still have hopes that we can find a way to enrich and strengthen the Catholic/Christian faith for the kids of the parish and neighborhood. The best I can offer for now is to observe our long-standing, free-tuition offer to students who need it. Let’s find a way of getting the word out to them.

The academic year is winding down, but parochial school students and their families still financially focus on the next school year. To that end, the Catholic Foundation of Michigan is awarding their 2023-2024 scholarships to benefit K-8 students in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Archdiocesan school students will receive awards ranging from \$1,000 up to \$5,000, made possible through Archbishop Vigneron, the Archdiocese of Detroit and faithful, generous donors in the community.

In the last three years, the Catholic Foundation has granted over \$750K in scholarships to nearly 300 students from 41 schools through the St. Anne Scholars and the St. Martin De Porres Fund.

Each scholarship application is handled through priests *in solidum*, pastors, principals or Catholic school administrators. If you know of a student whose parents who genuinely cannot afford Catholic School tuition and who could benefit from this program, let me know as soon as possible – these requests technically closed this past Friday. Once deemed eligible, students will be sent a personal invite from the Foundation to apply

Last weekend’s Motor City Makeover got scrubbed because three out of the four venues we were to visit cancelled on us at the last minute. It seemed wiser to take a rain check on the trip. John Gallagher, our City Guide extraordinaire, is working to re-book this trip in June.

One problem we encounter is getting access to venues on a weekend – yet that is the best time to garner a wide age/interest demographic. These tours are a good way to reacquaint people with their home town as well as introducing newcomers to our city. Detroit’s “makeover” is not just cosmetic – it’s pervasive throughout the whole metro area. These tours help us see that.

Another event postponement came from Fr. Anthony Kote-Witah who called to let us know that the “Night of Hope” benefit dinner for a new orphanage in Ogoni, Nigeria, will be rescheduled for sometime in September.

Ambrosians have already made a handsome contribution to this cause through their use of our Lenten Coin and Bill Folders. That’s a vintage idea that has come around again – where kids and adults make a specific monetary sacrifice for each of the 40 days of Lent.

A total of \$2,330.00 came in for our specified project this Lent – the Nigerian orphans. We processed and forwarded a check in that amount in the name of the parish for the Ken Saro-Wita Memorial Foundation.

Spiritual Spring Cleaning

When spring rain lets up, and May brings long hours of brilliant sunshine, something stirs within: the desire to tackle that dust we suddenly notice in places we seldom look. And those windows smeared with winter's muck? And that disorganized closet? There's a reason our grandmothers called it "spring housecleaning." The season brings an almost physical desire to get out the mop.

Surprisingly, for the Christian steward, this can actually be a spiritual impulse. There's something intrinsically renewing and revitalizing about cleaning. Everything done with a prayerful heart can lead us closer to God, and cleaning, often a solitary and contemplative task, can definitely include prayer. You might plan to begin your cleaning with prayer, and play music that lifts your spirit as you work.

Start with a closet. Open your heart to what it tells you about how blessed you are materially. As you examine each item of apparel, remember and thank God for the graces of the occasion: a wedding, a graduation, a vacation. Enjoy "shopping" in your own closet for items you've forgotten about. Pare down what you no longer need and select a place where your items may find a good home. Many cities have refugee closets, and many nonprofits have thrift stores which support them. Pray for those with whom you are about to share.

And those windows? Does anything lift the spirit like a clean window after a long winter? As you polish those panes of glass, pray about where your own inner life could use a cleaning. Use your quiet window cleaning time to examine the graces and challenges of your life. Thank God for the many blessings and be honest about failings.

And that ubiquitous dust? It promises to return, afflicts the rich and the poor. It's a sign of our universal connection to the earth and the environment, a reminder of our own mortality. Even the dust we clean can be lifted up to God with a thank you from a grateful heart.

The original article appears at catholicstewardship.com, May 2023

The Buzz

The Easter season in a major way focuses on the early Church progressively becoming the living body of the risen Christ. It is the only season of the year when the first readings at Sunday mass are always from the New Testament – from Acts of the Apostles to be precise. I continually find it a fascinating point for reflection to see how much of this "Luke - Part 2" has the story of the early Christians parallel that of Jesus in the Gospel ("Part 1").

Over the next two weeks, the Gospels (from John) position us to revisit Jesus' farewell exhortation to his disciples at the Last Supper – hearing his final words of advice to his friends before his death (roughly from chapter 13:31 through chapter 16:33). He was obviously looking beyond His death, resurrection, ascension (celebrated two Sundays from now), and bestowal of the Holy Spirit (three Sundays). There is no doubt that we are on the move toward Pentecost – the birth of our own story as Church.

But again, today and next week, the Church revisits those last hours before the crucifixion to hear Jesus' hopes for us who are open to and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In a real way, because of this Pentecost gift, WE are "Part 3" of Jesus' Gospel/Good News, continuing his saving work in our own day and age. There are many parallels in our own lives to the stories of the early Church and to the life of Jesus. This is a season for us to make sure that the quality and effect of our story parallels them as well. If we do this, Eastertime 2023 will truly be a worthy cause for shouting Alleluia!



Pentecost truly is rapidly approaching – just three weeks away. Two things looking ahead to that last weekend in May: one is that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for adults (those older than 9th grade age) at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Requests for this must be made through the local parish. So contact Fr. Tim or myself for more information about this. We make the prep very painless!

Also . . . Pentecost weekend is that time of year when we proclaim the 1st reading at our masses in a variety of languages. If you've been with us some previous year on this occasion, you know how delightfully dramatic the impact can be of hearing part of the Acts of the Apostles in different "tongues." But this only happens with good people coming forward who are willing to read a few words and a couple of lines in another language. We'll provide the script and very brief rehearsal. Participants have said their involvement in this was easy, fun, and inspiring. Call me to explore your response to the Holy Spirit's invitation to bring this reading to life for God's People on Pentecost.



And don't forget that next Sunday is Mother's Day. In light of today's Gospel advice-giving by Jesus to the disciples, few of us have more immediate or worthy sources of words of wisdom than our mothers. Can you perceive any parallels in how Jesus spoke to his friends with how your mother may have spoken to you? Let's face it, who hasn't gotten a ton of advice from their mother? So, as we get ready for Mother's Day next Sunday, let's pray thanks and blessings for our moms.

And isn't it grand that Mother's Day falls in May, the traditional month of our Blessed Mother. It is only because of our full communion with Christ her son that we can legitimately call her OUR Blessed Mother. When and if you really believe that Jesus loves you, read again from John's Gospel chapter 19, verses 26-27, and insert your own name. This is a really good way to pray about Mary on Mother's Day. And don't hesitate to pray a rosary or two or four, this week or sometime this month. Use all four sets of mysteries. Meditate on parallels in your

Continued on following page

own life with those of Jesus and Mary. See if you remember what your own mom would or did say to you about life. And then again give thanks for her to God.



And speaking more about moms, Mary, and advice-giving: help me out here for a moment. I'm trying to remember off the top of my head how many times Mary spoke in the Gospels. I'm "hearing" her at the Annunciation, at the Visitation, and during the Finding in the Temple. But there is only once that I can remember her giving advice. After a brief statement of the situation to her son at the Cana wedding feast, she gives advice to the "servers". And since we too are "servants", let's listen again to her advice (John 2:5). As always, mother knows just the right thing to say.

Chuck Dropiewski



The 2023 CSA is now open. The Archdiocese of Detroit sent out a mailing with donor information and return envelopes just this past week. We encourage you to read through the materials and let us know if you have questions.

When you make a gift to the CSA, you support the work of more than 170 ministries, services, and programs in the Archdiocese of Detroit that respond each day to the material and spiritual needs of countless individuals and their families. If you would prefer to make your gift directly to St. Ambrose online using a credit card, debit card or an ACH withdrawal (we then make sure it is paid to the AoD), click on the QR code at the right in the "CSA Box Scores" box.

Our Casavant will find the right musician

The Casavant at St. Ambrose Church in Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan has 36 ranks of pipes on three manuals and pedal, with two expressive divisions. Designed in the English style and Installed in the 1940s, its warm and colorful tone palette serves the needs of the Sacred Liturgy admirably. The Parish has embarked on an organ restoration program and is looking for a part-time Minister of Music to help guide that restoration and to assume the duties of three weekend masses, with cantors at each. Additionally, one choir rehearsal is expected when in season. Holydays are integral to the contract.

St. Ambrose has for decades maintained an eclectic programming style which assimilates many different musical styles. A music minister should be willing to work in tandem with the pastoral staff to create a pleasing, varied and engaging musical program. This position would work for a musician who has other employment during weekdays, since funerals and weddings are extraneous to this contract. We believe that the Casavant will find the right musician. Pay commensurate with experience. Start date is July 1, 2023 or earlier.

Submit resumes to stambrose@comcast.net



2 0 CSA 2 3 Box Scores

Number of Families	800
Returns to date	5
Average Gift in '22	\$894.00
AoD Quota in '23	\$97,755
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$57,600
Adjusted parish target	\$155,355
Received as of 5/3/23	\$6,950

- Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.
- The insurance premium listed – roughly \$1,107 a week – is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the parish.
- Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.
- Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation.



The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the
St. Ambrose Catholic Community
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Priest in Solidum: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music:

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, May 8

Weekday 5th week of Easter

Tuesday, May 9

Weekday 5th week of Easter

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Jerry Doyle

Wednesday, May 10

St. John of Avila, priest & doctor and

St. Damien de Veuster, priest

Thursday, May 11

Weekday 5th week of Easter

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Ray & Genevieve Pelc

Friday, May 12

Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, martyrs &

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Charles Joseph

Saturday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima

1:30 p.m. – Solemn First Communion

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Scriptures for the 5th Week of Easter

May 8

Acts 14: 5-18

Ps 115: 1-4, 15-16

Jn 14: 21-26

May 9

Acts 14: 19-28

Ps 145: 10-13ab, 21

Jn 14: 27-31a

May 10

Acts 15:1-6

Ps 122: 1-5

Jn 15: 1-8

May 11

Acts 15: 7-21

Ps 98: 1-3, 10

Jn 15: 9-11

May 12

Acts 15: 22-31

Ps 57: 8-10, 12

Jn 15: 12-17

May 13

Acts 16: 1-10

Ps 100: 1-3, 5

Jn 15: 18-21

May 14

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

Ps 66: 1-7, 16, 20

1 Pt 3: 15-18

Jn 14: 15-21

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 6th & 7th

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iPhone using the QR code.

Entrance: We Remember #509

Psalm 33: Lord, Let Your Mercy #770

Preparatory: Three Days #180

Communion: Regina Coeli #176

Spirit and Grace #348

Recessional: Rejoice the Lord Is King #735



To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to You Tube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, April 30, 2023

in envelopes we received \$3,289.00

in the loose collection..... \$1,867.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,239.49

for a total of \$8,395.49

Under budget for the week.....\$1,704.51

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used42



Join us on YouTube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, James Blake, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Norma Chinchilla, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, Marilyn Potenga, Jerry Doyle, John Freund and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Our Dead

Claire Ann (Martin) Hentrich age 94, passed away after a short illness on January 2, 2023. Claire grew up in Detroit, Michigan, and graduated from St. Ambrose High School in 1946. On October 14, 1950 she married Lee Hentrich and moved to Dayton, Ohio. After the birth of their daughter Karen in 1952, they returned to St. Clair Shores where they would live for most of their 48 years of marriage.

While raising her six children, Claire also worked part-time for Kelly Services in secretarial or bookkeeping positions. In 1982 she took a full-time position with the EDS division of General Motors and retired in 1990.

During her lifetime, Claire enjoyed many hobbies including playing the piano, painting and needlepoint. She was very active with volunteer activities having served as a Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout leader, and various positions with the St. Isaac Jogues Tekakwitha women's group and her condo association. She also enjoyed many fun times with her neighborhood groups and the St. Clair Shores Red Hat Ladies. She was known for her caring nature and was always assisting neighbors, family and friends.

A funeral mass was held here at St. Ambrose on Friday, May 5, 2023.. Burial will be held at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Cooperation – and money – can solve water problem in Jefferson-Chalmers

As we pass the anniversary of last year's late June disastrous storm and flooding, we're weary from the absence of a clear, comprehensive approach to solving the Jefferson-Chalmers community's interconnected water resource challenges, even though incremental efforts are underway by various organizations.

At the same time, how is it that the community most impacted by last year's storm and flooding and recognized nationally for its challenges has not received any direct appropriations from Congress or the state Legislature?

For a model on how cooperation might work, you need look only a little to the west to the Rouge River watershed.

The Rouge River Wet Weather Demonstration Project and the Alliance of Rouge Communities show what an organization and resources can do to effect measurable, remarkable and regional change and improvement across municipal boundaries.

The Rouge Project covers a watershed of 466 square miles, 48 communities and 1.4 million residents in parts of Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties from Detroit to Novi to Salem. While Focus of the Rouge Project was pollution, the unprecedented cooperation across municipal lines turned a river most considered dead into a robust source for kayakers to fishermen as 75 organizations have secured nearly a half-billion dollars in investment from government and foundations for combined sewer overflow and stormwater control projects, stream restoration, removal of tons of PCBs and the restocking of more than 30,000 fish.

The Rouge Project was born on a Friday afternoon when John Dingell's chief of staff asked what resources would be needed, and on Monday a direct appropriation was headed to metro Detroit. While the public sector was the conduit for initial resources, the non-profit alliance continues to play the leadership role, and a decade after the Rouge Project began, the EPA in August 2002 said, "Rouge River Project is a Blueprint for Success."

Jefferson-Chalmers is bounded by Conner Avenue, the Detroit city limits, East Jefferson Avenue and the Detroit River. The Jefferson-Chalmers Water Access, Technology, Education, and Recreation Project that I proposed in a white paper published just two days before the storm, provides a framework for organizing while identifying three goals: 1) Keep sewage out of basements and canals; 2) Keep stormwater out of the system; and 3) Keep the Great Lakes out of the neighborhood.

Achieving these goals will require a dedicated organization with professional staff. Neighborhoods like St. Anne's, Grandmont-Rosedale, Corktown and Midtown have flourished due to their organizations focused on their progress.

Comprehensive solutions developed in Jefferson-Chalmers will require significant and dedicated long-term resources, including appropriations at the city, state and federal levels, along with early and sustained support from the philanthropic community. The work will not only have ripple effects through the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Great Lakes Water Authority, but can also serve as an international demonstration project for what a 21st century sustainable community should look like.

Jefferson-Chalmers residents are 88 percent African-American. A third live in poverty. Aged and failing infrastructure had an even greater impact as demonstrated last June confirmed by GLWA's independent report. "The event across the southern portions of the service area, particularly in the east, far exceeded designed capacity.

All three facilities that had failures the night of the storm, highlighted by the investigation, are on the east side; Freud sits within Jefferson-Chalmers and Conner is less than one block west. Great Lakes flooding along with greater-than-predicted, historically unprecedented and intense rainfall shows us the impact of climate change. Currently, lead service lines are being replaced.

Examining how water moves through the community will be critical in considering green alternatives to traditional gray infrastructure. Solutions will need to take into account and involve upstream neighbors, making it also multi-jurisdictional and beyond the purview of any one agency. DWSD; Detroit's Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department; GLWA; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; the Army Corps of Engineers, etc. will all have roles to play — making it multi-departmental at every level of government across municipal boundaries.

Breaking down bureaucratic, programmatic, and funding silos to address the intersectionality of these challenges must be the cornerstone. Gary Brown's comment about GLWA's report should be lauded, but it's also important to note that for the \$2.75 million spent on the report, you could buy a mile of seawall along Fox Creek. And, while residents are organizing, they should be supported in those efforts with funding sources asking how they can help.

A Jefferson-Chalmers water project, similar in scope and scale to the Rouge restoration, is large enough so that any and every interested stakeholder — residents, businesses, elected officials, public agencies, nonprofits — can have a seat at the table, working in an unprecedented collaboration seeking solutions that will unlock economic opportunity. The experience with the Rouge suggests a model for how that can happen.

Written by Jay Juergensen for Crains Detroit Business, July 2022. For more please visit crainsdetroit.com

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