

Volume 17 Issue 2

June 2023



SACRED HEART AND VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCHES

# St. Isidore Newsletter

## Father Ray Burkle

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It is so hard to believe that Pentecost is already upon us. This year just seems to be going way too fast. Before the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they were locked in the upper room, afraid to depart for fear that what happened to Jesus (i.e., his death on the cross) might happen to them.

However, after the Holy Spirit came upon them, as tongues of fire, they departed that upper room, no longer afraid to go forth, and no longer afraid to speak of the Good News that Jesus brought. When they were persecuted for preaching the Good News, they went forth rejoicing that they were found worthy of using the name of Jesus Christ.

We also are called to rely on the Holy Spirit to give us strength, guidance, courage, etc., as we also go forth to live the Good News. Sometimes our temptation is to just go with the flow of others, but sometimes we need to step out of that flow and let our faith and trust in God shine forth to follow His will.

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## Pictorial Directory

### Photos taken at Sacred Heart:

Tuesday, June 20—2:00-8:30pm-filled  
Wednesday, June 21—2:00-8:30pm  
Thursday, June 22—2:00-8:30pm  
Friday, June 23—2:00-8:30pm  
Saturday, June 24—10:00am-4:00pm  
Tuesday, June 27—2:00-8:30pm  
Wednesday, June 28—2:00-8:30pm

### Photos taken at Visitation:

Tuesday, July 18—2:00-8:30pm  
Wednesday, July 19—2:00-8:30pm  
Thursday, July 20—2:00-8:30pm  
Friday, July 21—2:00-8:30pm  
Saturday, July 22—10:00am-4:00pm

For online scheduling go to: [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com)

Church Code: ia228 Password: photos

You may call the office (732-4342) to schedule an appointment on the phone.

Only one short trip to the church will assure that you (or your family) will be a part of our pictorial directory. The whole process takes 45 minutes to one hour. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait to be sent postage free to your home. Plus, you will receive a complimentary directory.

The more people who get their photos taken, the more complete our directory will be.

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## Eucharistic Adoration

1st Friday of the month after the 8:30am Mass at Visitation.

2nd Thursday of the month after the 8:30am Mass at Sacred Heart.

1st Sunday of the month in February, June, and October from 4-5pm rotating between Visitation and Sacred Heart.

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## End of Summer Bash at Sacred Heart—August 27

## Fall Festival at Visitation—September 17

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| Newsletter staff: Barbara Ann Brumm, Tammy Lamb, Marilyn Coonradt, Annette Uker, Janice Schonrock, and Fr. Ray Burkle |
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## First Communion at Visitation-April 23, 2023...by Barbara Brumm



First Communion at Visitation church April 23, 2023. First Communion banners that each 2<sup>nd</sup> grade child crafted to remember their day. A photo of the painted goblets.

First Communion Retreat: The parents and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students enjoyed the rescheduled First Communion retreat at the Visitation Faith Formation Center.





## First Communion at Sacred Heart-April 23, 2023...by Tammy Lamb



First Communion was held on Sunday, April 23, 2023. Congratulations to our First Communicants; front row, left to right are Marco Malmin, Charlotte Elgin, Jamie Ramker, and Vedalyn Perry; back row, left to right are Callie Swenson, Father Raymond Burkle, Caleb Swenson, and Catechist – Deb Popp.



On Wednesday, March 22, Julie Voaklander and Bethany Meitner came in and drew the First Communicants face silhouette chalice posters and cut them out for the kids. The following Wednesday at FF class the kids decorated them.



The First Communicants are praying over the loaves of bread before baking. This activity took place after Wednesday evening Mass on April 12 during their First Communion mini retreat.



Vedalyn Perry was a second grader that came into our program in January. She received her First Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 1. Congratulations Vedalyn!



## Senior Graduates Sunday-May 14, 2023

### Congratulations, Graduates!



## Archdiocesan Women's Conference—Beauty in Christ-January 28, 2023



Beauty in Christ is an Archdiocese of Dubuque Women's conference which was celebrated this year virtually on January 28, 2023, from 8:30am until 1:30pm. The event was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dubuque Council of Catholic Women and affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women and the Catholic Foundation in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

The conference was offered virtually which enabled women to participate from the comfort of their own homes or to gather in parishes to experience our virtual conference together.

Over 850 women attended the virtual conference from 38 parish sites in the Archdiocese or individually in their homes and even some attended from out of State.

The day offered prayer, welcome from Archbishop Jackels, and two speakers offering four talks. Participants were given the opportunity for question and answers and also discussion within their Parish site gatherings.

St. Isidore hosted a site at Sacred Heart and at Visitation as part of an Adult Faith Formation opportunity. Visitation hosted 12 women and Sacred Heart hosted 10 women. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and refreshments were provided. Each site provided a beautiful environment for prayer, reflection, discussion, fun and opportunity to gather in the faith community, share each other's gifts, and deepen the bonds of holy friendship.

The participants from St. Isidore, Sacred Heart and Visitation, thoroughly enjoyed the event and are looking forward to attending next year. Thank you to those who attended and to Tammy Lamb and Barb Brumm for coordinating at the parish sites.



## Ecumenical Spring Sing-April 16, 2023, at Sacred Heart Church



Visitation Catholic Church  
Stacyville



Visitation, Holy Rosary from New Haven  
& Sacred Heart Catholic Churches



Tim Niess-St. Peters Catholic  
Church-New Haven



First United Methodist Church-Osage



Rev. Roy Ott-Rock Creek  
Lutheran Church-Meroa



Char's Polka Band



Paul & Karen Brown  
Midwest Gospel Ministries



Trinity/Our Saviors Double Quartet-Mona area



Community Choir—Mitchell County



United Church of Christ-Osage



## Ecumenical Spring Sing-April 16, 2023, at Sacred Heart Church



Sacred Heart Church Choir

Instrumentalists during the “All Choir” Amazing Grace



Thank you, Marilyn Coonradt, for organizing this fantastic afternoon of music!!



All choirs singing “Amazing Grace” - a tribute to the 250th anniversary of its composition.



## Eucharistic Adoration at Visitation Church (parishioner experiences)



"Being closer to Jesus. I think about what He did for me as I look at the Cross."

"Eucharistic adoration is quiet time with my Lord. Sometimes I read a few paragraphs from the book--*"The Practice of the Presence of God"* by Brother Lawrence. It seems to set the stage for me. When I first spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, the time seemed to go by slowly, now an hour goes by so very fast. I try to spend more time praising and thanking God than I spend asking for favors. I like to mention to the Lord those near and dear to me and those in need. The best is just sitting quietly and spending time with Him."

"I remember when I was in grade school and we would have Adoration perhaps once a month, I surely didn't know exactly what I was supposed to do with the time spent in the presence of our Lord in Adoration. As the years went by, I didn't take the opportunity to participate in Adoration when it was available, probably because I was working on those days. But, as I am older now and have more time for myself, I have begun to look forward to Adoration and spending time in the presence of our Lord.

I find that this is a good time to sit with Jesus and thank him for the many blessings he has given me. I have come to have conversations with Jesus and talk to him as a friend sitting right there next to me, asking him to watch over my family and friends and all of God's children. Perhaps I will have a book about the saints or other such book and will read in it.

But most times, I find comfort and peace sitting in silence, just being in Jesus' presence."

"I always look forward to Eucharist Adoration. I actually get quite excited for Adoration; I always have. Maybe I am selfish, but it is a time for Jesus and me only; no one else. Usually I am in need of some real Jesus time; to be present in the presence of the Jesus who knows me and loves me and who sacrificed His life for me. I begin with just sitting and letting my mind be open and contemplate in peace and quiet. I do read from a spirituality or Saints book for a time and let my reflection on the inspiring words speak to me, as I seek conversation with Jesus. There are times when I find it difficult to concentrate or wonder if I will be open to the voice of Jesus and accept, in my heart and soul, His plan for me; but then I know that Jesus is with me always; I smile in gratitude because His very presence lifts my Spirit, fills me with hope and promise. The Benediction is a joyful conclusion to the Holy Hour with the Blessing and the prayer of Divine Praises which bring me comfort and peace. Thank you for the opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Isidore."

"At the Last Supper Jesus said: "I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father, You did not choose me, no, I chose you" (John 15). As Jesus' friend, I want to spend time with Him. Isn't that what friends want to do – be with the one they love? I have quiet time with Him each day in my morning prayers. I receive Him in the Eucharist in the Liturgy. And then when there is Adoration, I see him in another wonderful way. To sit and be with Him is precious. My heart is full of joy as we enjoy each other's presence."

"Adoration offers me an opportunity to just sit in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and I find myself just present, just breathing, and then I begin to talk to Jesus. Sometimes I read about Saints or a reflection on increasing my spirituality and my relationship with Jesus or how others have formed a relationship with Jesus. Most of all I like the quiet and peace of being in the presence of Jesus; I feel safe and comfortable. I have had a real experience of knowing that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist."





**Fruits of Adoration**—“For me, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a personal invitation to spend one hour with our Lord in his Eucharistic presence. I have no earthly excuse that would justify turning down his request. After all, I frequently ask for his assistance with my many needs.

Each hour of Adoration is similar only in that I am in His presence, and He gifts me with grace, love, mercy, and peace. I speak to Him on a personal level, pray, sit and gaze in silence, read scripture or material focusing on spiritual growth. He is the one who converts my heart, so I continue to attend hoping and believing he will transform me little by little into a reflection of His divine image.”

“I have been experiencing Eucharistic Adoration for the past 10 years. As I sit and gaze at Jesus in the monstrance, I try to keep my thoughts on Jesus. But there are many times that a life situation will come to mind; one that the fix has eluded me for a long time. I usually say that I don’t hear Jesus, even though I am listening. But it is at these times that thoughts come to mind for that situation that I had not thought of. I finally began to realize that Jesus is talking to me. He is helping me with these life situations as I sit in silence...listening.”

“What do I do during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? I have to admit I don’t do the same things every time. I do different things and take different amounts of time. So here is a sample: I usually begin by greeting Jesus. “Here I am, Jesus.” I look at Him and He looks at me. I say something like, “I love you and believe you are present here before me. Thank you for dying on the cross for my salvation. Please forgive me for my failures and help me to love you more each day so I can come to live with you one day.” (Silent Time). Next, I might say the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet or both for someone in need. (Silent Time). Then, I read the gospel of the day or for the coming Sunday and read a commentary on it, choosing parts to meditate on. How does it apply to me in my life? (Meditate). If I have time, I will read from a religious book that I’ve been reading at home. After Benediction, I love to sing (in my mind)... “Holy God We Praise Thy Name, Lord of all we bow before thee....” It is a Beautiful ending to Adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!”

“Jesus asked the apostles to pray with him as he prayed in Gethsemane. Adoration is a time for me to break away from the noise, responsibility, people, and worries of my day. God is present and with meditation and prayer, I feel His presence. Rosary and scripture readings are part of my quiet hour.”



## May Crowning at Sacred Heart-May 7, 2023

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“The month of May is flower-bedecked, and to add to its loveliness it is dedicated to the most beautiful flower of all, Mary, the Mother of God; no month could be more fitting for her. She is Mary, Our Lady Queen of May.

May devotions have a splendor all their own; when *“On This Day O Beautiful Mother”* peals forth it brings a deep feeling of closeness to Mary, Garlands of flowers, petal-strewn processions culminating in the crowning her image, are all forms of homage to Our Queen.

Reading down through the Litany of Our Lady, we have a list of the most meaningful titles the church could bestow on any creature. As all good earthly queens look to the welfare of their subjects, so does Mary on a much grander scale care for us. She is the summit of kindness and consideration.

Though Queen of Heaven, we have no doubt that when this earth was privileged to have her as a dweller, Mary, Our Lady Queen of May, was the most humane of human beings, even though blessed far beyond our capacity to conceive of it.” *From Roman Catholic Saints*

The First Communicants from Sacred Heart and Visitation honored Mary prior to Mass on May 7 carrying flowers to Mary as she was crowned with flowers Queen of May while the choir and congregation sang hymns to Mary.

*O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today!  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.*

Does your family have a May Altar in your home? It was once a prominent May activity in Catholic homes when children brought flowers to Mary’s home altar and prayers were recited.

## May Crowning at Visitation May 7, 2023



“Going to Catholic school as a child in the month of May we always had a statue of Mary set up for our May Altar. At our morning recess some of us would pick dandelions for Mary. The teacher would find some little vase and put water in it, add the dandelions and put on the altar. They looked good for awhile but at the end of the day they were all closed up and drooping. Sure they were thrown away after school but the next day we started all over again. We all enjoyed it as I am sure Mary did too. I imagine we prayed too.

Then at home I remember having a small May altar. We would bring in dandelions, violets, and small cuttings of lilacs.

Oh the fun, simple things we did as children that meant so much and we remember it so well today.”

“As a youngster in May, I placed flowers at the statue of Mother Mary. Her statue was on my mother’s dresser. I gathered blue violets, maybe dandelions. Later came a sprig of lilac and bridal wreath. Each day as I checked the flowers, I would say a prayer to Mary.

When I was a senior in high school, May crowning was on a Sunday afternoon. Parishioners, family, friends, and classmates gathered for the ceremony. Voting by the seniors previously indicated who would crown Mary. Betty was selected. As runner-up, I was her attendant. I was disappointed that my mother could not be present as she had to work at the store.”

“My sister and I had a May altar in our bedroom when we were kids. We would pick the violets from the yard and even dandelions and put them in baby food jar vases for the altar. Sometimes we even got to bring home lilies of the valley from Grandma Adams' house!”





Thank you, Angie Clark, for leading us in song. Your love for music is an inspiration for our choir and parish.



Greetings!

It is my hope that you are finally enjoying the warmer temps that have come our way.

As you will see in the newsletter photos, Sacred Heart hosted our first ever 'Ecumenical Spring Sing' event, held on April 16. Many thanks to those who assisted in the coordination of this event, to all those that attended as our guests, and to the many folks that responded with a joyful 'Yes' by presenting music and song in this most uplifting program. Not only was it a successful and Spirit-filled afternoon of enjoyment, sharing and giving, but it also presented a wonderful opportunity for all of us to witness and encourage outreach within our communities. We do hope to do it again next year!

We continue to seek organists, pianists, cantors, and instrumentalists to join our Music Ministry team. I would be very willing to work with you this summer or anytime, in any of these roles, and I am all about easing you in with your comfortability in mind. Maybe it has always been something you wanted to try but didn't know how to go about it. If you are interested in any of these roles, let's get together and talk-talking does not commit you. If there is more than one person interested, perhaps we can meet as a group. Maybe you would like to play an instrument with our choirs-let's try it out! I am willing to work with anyone that wants to dip their toes in the water. We already have a phenomenal group of young folks at Sacred Heart that have used their talents to help us out when they can. Parents and kids, perhaps we could practice together this summer while school is out. YOU are our future, and we will do whatever we can to help you feel more comfortable in preparing music, and practicing in advance the music that will be coming up throughout the year. Again-we can practice as a group or individually. Parents, come and talk to me-I am happy to help. Please bear in mind that I would not be teaching lessons, but rather working in the music at the level your kids are currently at.

On a personal note, I would like to thank those in the Music Ministry of Sacred Heart Parish for the dedication and efforts in giving of their time to lead and enhance our weekend Masses throughout the year-all for the glory of God! To all choirs of youth and adult members, cantors, pianists/organists, instrumentalists, and to Fr Ray, for all his support in all that we do-THANK YOU!

God Bless you!



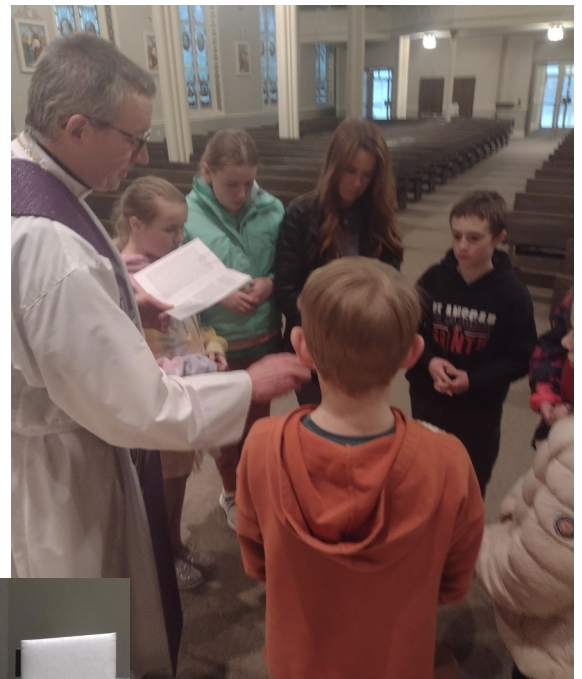


First grade children crafted a crucifix out of paper prior to Good Friday. Each week during Lent the first grade children prayed the Stations of the Cross.



4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students sent Easter greeting cards to residents of the local Nursing Homes, to the Seminarians in the Archdiocese and to some local Pastors.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students gather as Father Ray blessed the St. Benedict medals which they were each given as they completed a study and prayer of St. Benedict. St Benedict is a Patron of Students.





## St. Isidore Confirmation Retreat

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The Confirmandi and their sponsors took part in activities and question & answer session at their Confirmation retreat that was held on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at Visitation Hall. Here they are pictured together with the wooden cross/dove activity.







Confirmation Mass was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Sacred Heart Church. Congratulations to our Confirmandi; front row, left to right are Bishop Richard Pates, Lylah Knowlton, Paige Mehmen, Eline Merten, and Catechist – Robertta Huffman; back row, left to right are Michael Wagner, Kaegen O'Malley, Jack Hanke, and Pastor Raymond Burkle.



## Sacred Heart Faith Formation...by Tammy Lamb

Lenten Family night took place on Wednesday, March 8. We had a lesson on Lent and then the kids, with help from their parents, made a craft that resembled a stained glass cross which were displayed on the windows of the gathering area and church.

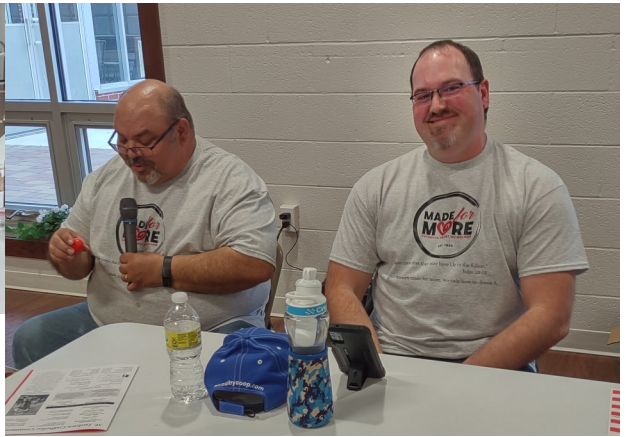








## Sacred Heart Faith Formation...by Tammy Lamb



THANK YOU to all who attended our CHWC Bingo fundraiser! It was held on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart Church Hall. We greatly appreciate the support and look forward to our mission trip to Nashville, TN, July 8–15, 2023. Please pray for us that we have a safe trip!

## Sacred Heart Faith Formation...by Deb Popp



I was privileged to teach 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation this year. The Holy Spirit would often prompt part of the lesson. One such moment was the thought to have them help decorate the church environment for Lent. The class placed the 3 crosses up front, placed the burlap around, added rocks, small crosses, purple fabric and spikes. They also sat other décor around the church and gathering area. Part of the next week's lesson was to write what they were going to do for Lent on a purple piece of paper. They each picked a bible verse and after our lesson, each wrote down a word or phrase that connected with them, on an ivory paper.

We then walked over to the church to say a few prayers, the kids tossed their purple papers in the jug that was on its side on the floor and they could place their bible sayings anywhere in that area. You may have noticed some of those ivory papers on the crosses or down in the burlap folds.

Our class also wrote prayer requests each class time and placed in our classroom prayer jar, eventually to be added with others in the prayer cross.

During one of our lessons, we learned about the intention candles, how to light the candles and each could share an intention aloud or silently in their heart. (The Holy Spirit had prompted me to have some money in my pocket that night!)

We spent an evening saying Stations of the Cross, using a “prop” for each station, each one had one or more station to pray. When we were to where Jesus was nailed to the cross, I handed them each a nail, encouraged them to silently place their sins on that nail, then each one took a turn hammering it into a board. The hammer echoes were profound.

Teaching this grade level was quite a change from when I taught them in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (#1 it's been a while since I have interacted with this age group and #2, I was able to see the seeds sown and grown from their earlier years.)



## The City of Refuge, Comayagua, Honduras...by Dr. Mike Uker

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Orphanages seem to be a thing of the past in the U.S.. I remember hearing about them while I was growing up, but I never saw one. I saw plenty of homeless shelters for adults while I was living in major cities around the U.S., and I even lived in one for a while a few years ago when I was sick, but I never saw orphanages. Since the 1960s, the U.S. government social system has taken over the job of solving child displacement, and orphanages simply do not exist anymore. But, in Central America, and in fact in many third world poor countries around the globe, orphanages can be a child's last hope for survival.

The main problem in third world countries, with respect to children, is the lack of financial ability of families to care for the children. In many cultures, once a child becomes a certain age, either they start working out of sheer necessity to contribute to the family finances or the child is ejected out of the family home to fend for themselves. Sadly, many of these children who are cast out fall into one a few terrible categories. They are forced to survive in huge garbage dumps, they are forced to do menial work or steal to survive, or the worst, they are forced into either prostitution or the sex slave trade. Sometimes, a child can survive in the home by going to work in the fields for about \$1.25 per day. This is very common for children when they reach about 12-14 years old in the mountain villages of Guatemala. They are forced to abandon school, but at least they are able to stay with their family. But for those children of the very poor people who live in the poor areas of the cities, those children are left to fend for themselves. It's the worst in the big cities, but it happens all over.

One of the missionaries at the school where I teach is a Korean woman from Texas and she has a ministry IN-SIDE one of the huge garbage dumps within Guatemala City. She teaches bible classes, helps families, and brings food and supplies. Actually, the ones in the garbage dumps have it "good." People throw away a lot of valuable stuff. Truly, one man's trash is another man's treasure. This brings me to my focus of this text.

I met a man in 2022 in Winona, MN, that for the last 13 years has traveled around the Midwest raising money for a City of Refuge in the forest of the mountains of Honduras. Thirteen years ago, while he was on a short term mission trip to Honduras, his group was taking a bunch of food to some poor residents in one of the villages. It turned out that much of the chicken that they had purchased was rotten and they took it to the dump. As they dropped the chicken at the dump, immediately as they threw it on the ground, the rotten chicken was swarmed, not by vultures or rodents, but by starving children. These kids ate all of that rotten chicken ravenously. It probably made them very sick, but when a person is desperate and starving, they will do things that seem to others unconscionable.

When my friend saw those kids eating that rotten chicken, his heart melted. Maybe even a part of his heart died. It made inside of him a deep compassion to try to help in some way. So he started looking for property in Honduras to build a small orphanage. He found some barren land with half of a destroyed building and started to build. And then he started finding kids. He found them in dumps. He found them on the streets. He rescued some from the sex trade. Some people dropped off their babies and kids at their location because they couldn't afford them. Other people who had connections in the city knew about what he was building and more kids came. He started out by building a few buildings to house and feed kids, and to teach them about Jesus. He builds in the country because land is cheap in the country. Being outside of the city also protects them from potential abusive or sexual predators. And he continues to build today. Currently, the City of Refuge has 82 buildings which include 10 dormitories, at least ten barns for cows, pigs, sheep, 4000 chickens, and horses, a slaughterhouse, a small hotel for incoming missionary teams, a couple kitchens and dining halls, several small houses for workers and employees of the complex, student housing for university students who do agriculture internships at the complex, a welding shop for teaching, three fishery pools where they raise fish, a store front where they sell extra food to the community, a soccer field, a weight room, a wrestling room with a full size wrestling mat from Sioux City, Iowa, a basketball court, and three swimming pools for the kids. That is not all 82 buildings, but as you can see, this is not just an orphanage. It truly is a City of Refuge for both children and locals, including missionaries. The 62 year old director and founder, Tom, who is a former wrestler from a high school in Minnesota, hopes that he will be able to raise up future leaders for Honduras. Not just raise kids until they're 18 and then kick them out, but to raise up men and women of Christ that will contribute back to the country of Honduras.

Continued on Page 19



I met Tom at my church in Winona last summer as he was speaking to churches. He averages 340 talks per year. He also visits the City of Refuge once per month for a couple days. I was able to go visit the City of Refuge over Semana Santa, or Holy Week (in English). This is the week just prior to Easter. In Latin American culture, this is their most Holy week, and it is celebrated even more than Christmas. This makes a lot of sense to me because it is Christ's resurrection that reconciles us to God, and not necessarily the birth of Christ. I took a 14 hour bus ride from Guatemala City, through El Salvador, and then into Honduras. It was mostly smooth sailing on the bus except at the Honduran border where they wanted \$3 USD to enter. And they didn't give change. I only had a \$100USD and some Guatemalan Quetzals. Oh, and by the way, I don't speak very much Spanish. Thankfully, there was a teenage boy standing near me who helped me with the translation, and also going outside the immigration to exchange a small amount of Quetzals into USD. As we were waiting, he told me that he is a Boy Scout. "Do a good turn daily." Indeed.

After I arrived in Honduras, a friend of mine, who I met at the school I teach at in Guatemala City and who had moved back to Honduras a couple months prior, picked me up at the hotel in Tegucigalpa, Honduras where the bus dropped me off. They next day, his non-English speaking uncle drove me to Comayagua where I was supposed to meet a transport at the airport to catch a ride to the City of Refuge. In all, it took me about 31 hours from my house to the City of Refuge. I was very tired when I arrived, but was stunned by what I saw in our three hour tour of the complex. The amount of construction and types of buildings was amazing. But what I was most impressed with was all the very big smiles of all the children when they saw us. They came running up to us and hugged us and said hello. We were instructed not to give them anything and the kids know not to ask, so I can only assume that they have some understanding of what it is that these missionaries do to raise money so that the kids can live a safe life where they get a good education and a belly full of good food three times per day.

Can you imagine? Starving in the garbage dump, or being sold into the sex slave trade, with no hope of ever coming out of it? Can you imagine your own child in this terrible situation? Can you imagine the heartache of mothers all across the world that have to send out their children because they cannot afford to feed them? Yeah, I know. I can hear the hard hearted people saying in their hearts right now, "well, if you can't feed them, then don't have them." Yeah. I know. But as you probably know, God put the drive to procreate deep inside of us. Think about your own weakness to control yourself, and then understand that there isn't birth control in these places. There is only multiplication. Unfortunately, as I estimate, we do not have a food shortage problem in the world. We have a distribution problem. There is enough food, but just not enough sharing of the wealthy cultures with those that are very poor.

Let me be honest here. Being born in the United States is like winning the lottery. That is why so many people are trying to go there. It is not so that they can have a big screen TV, or a Range Rover, or have a good 401(k), or a house with a great lawn. Those things are meaningless to them. They are coming for food and the hope that they don't have to sell their kids into prostitution and the sex trade. Yes, of course, there are very bad people crossing into our country every day at the open border, and it can be quite dangerous to continue to allow it unchecked, and I am in no way advocating for open borders. I only want you to understand the enormous wealth that you have simply because you have a freezer or a pantry FULL of food.

I want to encourage you a little bit. Giving money is good. I certainly need financial resources for the mission work that I do. BUT...I want to encourage you to give something more. I want to encourage you to give up your time. Give up 2 weeks and go on a short term mission trip to a poor Latin American country. But don't just go for 2 weeks and check the box and then return to your life in the U.S. Go for 2 weeks so that your heart is wrecked by the abundance that you have and the absolute lack that other people have. Don't go for 2 weeks and then go back to your normal life. Go visit for 2 weeks and then come back to the U.S., pack up your belongings and put them into storage, or sell them, and then move to some place for one year where you can make a very important impact in the lives of those who have so little that they barely can fill their belly. In this way, you may forego riches on earth, but you will store up riches in heaven.

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## The City of Refuge, Comayagua, Honduras...by Dr. Mike Uker (continued from Page 19)

If you need some counsel in this, I would be more than happy to speak and/or meet with you this summer in Osage. Let me tell you. In making a decision like this, you will not only be saving and changing the lives of those you meet, you will also fulfill one of the greatest callings on earth.

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Matt 10:39

This means that whoever finds a good, comfortable earthly life is in danger of losing their True life in Christ (on earth), and whoever gives up that type of good earthly life for the sake of the Christ will find the True life of the Savior, Jesus, the Christ inside of them, on earth.

So. What do you want? What will you do? You can choose.

If you need help, please let me know. I did this twice for one year each time; once in 2012 in Peru, and once in 2022 in Guatemala. It changed my life and my eternal perspective forever. Once you see and experience these things, including his True life, you will never go back to the lesser Christian practices. You will be forever changed, from the inside out.

Yours in Christ, in his grip, and your friend,  
Dr. Mike Uker



Currently, there are approximately 100 children in the City of Refuge ranging from infants to 20 years old. The older children have been there for many years. They don't have their families or parents, but comparatively speaking they have a pretty good life here.





## Have a great summer!

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As the summer months approach, many of us have begun or are planning our summer vacations, reunions, outside summer activities of camping, boating, cabin time, and visiting our family and friends, just to name a few. All of us in our congregations look forward to a time of refreshment, reflection, and relaxation in the warmer days ahead. Although some may look at summer months in a parish as a slowdown time in weekend church attendance, we encourage you to look forward to the summer months as an opportunity for growth- not to look at summer months in our church as a time of stagnation, but as an opportunity amongst its parishioners.

Just as we are taking time for weekend activities that may affect weekend attendance at Mass, let us remember that folks who are traveling/visiting to the Osage area may also be visiting as guests at our churches, and maybe folks have moved to our area throughout the summer and are searching for a Catholic church to attend. This gives us opportunities to look around us and reach out in welcoming those who aren't familiar with us. One will always remember those churches who welcome them with open arms- potentially they may remember our church the next time they pass through.

Perhaps during the quieter days of the summer, we are given the opportunity to think about our ministry roles in which we serve our churches; a time to gather thoughts, plan, and to set goals to enhance the vitality in our parish life even more. God gives us the opportunities to visit different Catholic parishes when we are away- what inspires you in those Masses that you attend, and could ideas be incorporated at our church life here at our parishes?

Our parishes combined in the St Isidore Cluster are one big family, and one that we really enjoy participating in. Listening to the singing, prayers, and responses are just amazing, a great reflection that attributes to the vitality of our parishes.

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### Anniversaries

#### 25 years

June 20 Thomas & Keri Erickson

August 22 Chad & Judi Halbach

#### 30 years

August 7 Kevin & Cindy Rogers

August 14 Kurtis & Michele Hemann

#### 35 years

August 6 Kyle & Shelly Bobinet

August 6 Keith & Lisa Heimer

#### 40 years

July 1 Roger & Carrie Mayer

August 20 Gary & Robertta Huffman

#### 45 years

June 17 Thomas & Mary Bucheit

June 24 Dwaine & Karen Heimer

July 29 Kelly & Glenda Ross

#### 50 years

July 21 Robert & Diane Fleenor

July 28 Doug & Linda Kronemann

August 18 Allyn & Julie Brumm

#### 55 years

August 19 Curtis & Sandra Mullenbach

#### 60 years

August 17 James & Elaine Havlovic

August 24 Clarence & Doke Kruse

#### 65 years

June 14 Richard & Rebecca Brown

#### 65th anniversary

August 12 Sister Millie Leuenberger

### Happy Birthday!

#### Celebrate 85 years and older!

June 4 Phyllis Buckingham

June 12 Verena Kramer

June 19 James Havlovic

July 10 Leslie Weber

August 2 LouAnn Simon

August 24 Rosemary Hemann

August 28 Marjorie Weis

June 2 Barbara Lappe

June 7 Darlene Mayer

June 8 Violet Steffen

June 10 Irene Mullenbach

June 19 Florence Smith

June 25 Dorothy Niess

July 5 Mildred Betts

July 5 Elizabeth Kisner

August 3 James Rezabek

August 7 Duane Brockney

August 13 John Dempsey

August 22 Marilyn Sullivan

August 29 Barbara Larson



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## Baptisms

Meyer 4-15-23 Sage Samuel, son of Sam & Cylea Heimer  
SH 4-22-23 Tatum James, son of Trae & Belle Riniker

## New Parishioners

VIS Joyce Welch  
SH Brian & Diana Reis  
SH Charles & Gloria Kolbet  
VIS Casey & Kimberly Mayer

## Deaths

SH 3-4-23 Vincent Weber  
SH 3-9-23 Gregory Badker  
VIS 3-12-23 Charles Brumm  
SH 3-27-23 Richard Woodruff  
VIS 3-28-23 Justin Marreel  
VIS 4-11-23 Mary Puettmann  
VIS 4-26-23 Darwin Mauer

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St. Isidore Catholic Community

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