

St. Cecilia Church ~ Iglesia Santa Cecilia

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“Good News Bulletin”: July 2018 – June 2019 Year-End Summary Report



"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"
Psalm 107:1

I am literally singing the Psalm above as we end the fiscal year 2018-2019. We ended another fiscal year with a bang! God has been so good to us, and his mercy is relentless.

You will find in this bulletin a summary of the things that we have done. It's not exhaustive of everything that took place, but it will certainly give you an idea of the vitality, vigor and energy of our faith community. I must admit that sometimes it's gets a little too "energetic"! But, that's just how the Holy Spirit works.

Shepherding our parish community has been a blessing to me with the collaboration and support of so many of you beginning with the parish staff to the various councils' members and ministries' volunteers. Our attitude is that of active and prayerful visioning rather than being in "maintenance mode." This visioning finds its source in the joyful celebration of the sacraments centered on the Eucharist, sustained by a solid faith formation across age groups, and enriched by our social outreach to those who are in the margins both from within and outside our parish. Parish life, then, is basically to live and grow in the theological virtues of faith, hope and love.

Let's continue to build on what we have accomplished thus far, and may our very lives, mirroring the Gospel, be good news in our continuous work of evangelization. God bless.

– Fr. Cary

A photograph of a green field with a yellow sky in the background. Overlaid on the image is the text "Start each day with a grateful heart" in a black, cursive font.

Finance, Facilities & Sacraments Fiscal Year July 2018 through June 2019



Church

Finance

- Offertory exceeded Budget by \$12,278. Offertory provides 96% of Income.
Thank you contributors!
- Expenses were \$55,474 below budget.
- As a result, \$63,823 was transferred to the Maintenance Reserve Fund to maintain and improve facilities.
- Your Lenten offerings were distributed to St. Vincent de Paul (\$13,200); Social Concerns (\$3,500); our partner parish, St. Alexander Church in Cornelius (\$2,500); and Emergency Fund (\$3,453).

FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY					
Fiscal Year	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
Offertory	1,143,114	1,170,198	1,208,326	1,205,379	1,217,657
Other Income	64,058	66,874	56,787	49,796	46,012
Gross Income	1,207,172	1,237,072	1,265,113	1,255,175	1,263,669
Expenses	1,146,802	1,159,330	1,169,893	1,165,498	1,199,846
Net Income	60,370	77,742	95,220	89,677	63,823

Facilities

This year's major projects included: parking lot repairs, activity center kitchen floor refinish, repair to skylights in the parish center and the replacement of the refrigerator in the activity center kitchen.

The funding for these projects as well as numerous other repair projects comes from the Maintenance Reserve Fund which is funded by your contributions to Offertory.

School

Finance

- Total Income was \$17,028 higher than budget.
- Expenses were \$36,118 below budget.

Facilities

This year's major projects included: completion of the turf sports field, replacing the cafeteria/preschool roof, and replacing the computer room HVAC.

The funding for these projects as well as numerous repair projects comes from the School Maintenance Reserve Fund which is funded by tuition, parish subsidy, and fundraising.



112
Baptisms



93
First Communions



105
Confirmations



12
Marriages



26
Deaths

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

FOOD PANTRY

*Food is life
Food is the family table
Food is celebration
Food is stuff of sacrifice*

A spirit of sharing motivates Society members. Monday and Wednesday mornings between 9 and 11 o'clock, food is delivered to the home bound, to those who are unable to come to the pantry because of infirmity, the elderly on fixed income, or lacking transportation. Only one other food pantry delivers food in the Beaverton area. Anyone with a car and time could do this act of kindness and brighten someone's day.

On other weekday mornings food is selected, boxed/bagged for pick up by those sent by 'Care to Share', a non-profit agency that coordinates and screens applicants for food pantries. Along with the food that is provided, there are words of encouragement and support for the disadvantaged. For those who cannot come during the day, because of jobs for example, the same process is available evenings, Monday through Thursday.



Thousands of pounds of food come to the pantry every week from the Oregon Food Bank, Trader Joes, food drives, the parish, individuals, all from people who care. It is good to be a part of that community.

FINANCIAL SERVICES (HOUSING)

Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home.

Places that do not qualify as 'home' are temporary shelters, tents, cars, park benches, the Max, or a night or two at a motel.

St Cecilia Parish has many good Samaritans who see people in distress and do not pass them by. Because of that generosity, many families in our community have benefited. One father of five having been injured, unable to work for two weeks, was in the process of being evicted. The day after a check was delivered to the manager, the father was seen taking his children to the swimming pool...rather than loading up their belongings and going...where?



alamy stock photo

FAMILY PROMISE

For the second summer, St. Cecilia's became a safe haven for four adults, 12 kids and one sweet new born baby.

During the four weeks we opened our parish, we were able to see a family graduate out of the program and successfully move into their own apartment! Those four weeks brought parishioners who took time from their busy lives to volunteer to cook meals, play basketball, ping pong, board games, color and bounce balls, watch movies and stay the night.

To each volunteer who took the time to contribute in making Family Promise a success and especially praying for the families, thank you!

THE ST. GERARD GUILD

The St. Gerard Guild offers parish families and friends of those who have passed an opportunity to gather together after funeral services have been held. Seated around tables in the Parish Activity Center, they can share memories and stories about their loved one and provide comfort to one another. It is usually a stressful and difficult time for the family. We take away the burden of having to provide a reception for family and guests who attended the funeral.

When the call goes out that a funeral reception is taking place, members volunteer their time setting up for the reception or serving and providing clean up duties. This involves setting tables with colorful and lacey cloths and vases of flowers, preparing the coffee, tea and punch, slicing bread rolls, and beautifully arranging deli meats and cheeses on platters. Other members will donate a variety of delicious salads or desserts – their best dishes!

Family members have often mentioned how grateful they are to the St. Gerard Guild for providing a lovely reception for them. Despite their sorrow, there is still joy in reuniting with family and friends they haven't seen in awhile, and the room often rings with laughter when funny stories and heart-warming memories are being shared. Honoring their loved one and consoling the bereaved is certainly a step in their healing process.

If you would like to become a member of the St. Gerard Guild and join us in providing this valued service to the St. Cecilia parish, please contact Judy Winczewski @ judywinczewski@aol.com or call at (503) 524-5397.



Look at those smiles! These ladies are ready to arrange the meats and cheeses onto platters.



A variety of salads and platters of meats and cheeses await hungry mourners.



Decadent desserts are waiting for anyone with a sweet tooth!



SOCIAL CONCERN MINISTRY

Social Concerns Ministry supported Maybelle Center for the 22nd year. Some of our members went to Wildwood Park to prepare and serve a delicious picnic lunch to approximately 100 folks who travelled there from downtown Portland for this annual summer outing which they anticipate each year. This is made possible by your support of our cinnamon roll sales.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Mystery of God meets the mystery of the child...



Our atrium has just completed its third year at St. Cecilia, and this fall we will be entering our fourth year. Pictured are some of the things the children have been doing this year in the atrium!



Elementary Faith Formation K-5th grade Believers and Disciples had an Exciting year!

Students in Grades K-5 meet on Sundays from September to May where opportunities are created for them to *Know God, Love God, and to Be His disciple*. Classroom lessons, hands on activities, prayer services, praise and worship, and family gatherings fill our calendar and our spirits as we walk together on this journey of faith.

Many opportunities to combine classes for projects and prayer, and to gather for "Family Day" activities , have enhanced the lessons, faith, and spirit of the families in our programs.



Lenten Activities



May Crowning 2019



Thank you to all the AMAZING Catechists, volunteers, and parish support for another successful year!
Thank you also to the families that gather and entrust their children to our care! God Bless you, Amy

Classes start in September Registration OPEN now

Inspiring!

Elementary Faith Formation isn't just for the kids. We have Family days throughout the year for parents and siblings to join together in activities to share our faith journey

- Saint Fair-3-5th grade families joined their children once a month to study the Bible and create projects for the May Saint Fair.
- Lent Highlights-
- 1st graders : church tour, Passover meal, learning about saints and traditions etc.
- Children preparing for First Communion attended an inspiring retreat on campus lead by Amy and faithful volunteers.
- We joined together with the Middle School Edge group for a lesson on Lent and Jesus life.
- We celebrated Mother Mary with a procession and crowning with prayers lead by our 5th grade RE class.

Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy were taught and completed throughout the year

- Rice Bowl Service Project Boxes were distributed for Lent and money collected was donated to local and international charities.
- Scarf making for the homeless- families got creative at our December family day .We made over 250 scarves for homeless in Washington County.
- Cards for the Homebound- Created and given to our homebound parishioners
- Prayers for Prisoners- Rosaries made and prayers said

Good luck Jamie!

Thank you for your 6 years of youth Volunteer service and over 3000 hours sharing your dedication and faith to ministries in our parish.
Congratulations on your Mystical Rose award from Valley Catholic as the student that most reflects Christ.

Volunteers NEEDED
for Sunday Morning classroom Teachers and Classroom Aides
Contact Amy, Amaris-volf@stceciliachurch.org



Seekers- First Communion Program

Sacrament preparation is a 2 year family participation program we have developed here at St. Cecilia. Seekers families, "seeking" First Eucharist for their children, in grades 2-5, journey together in their second year of preparation through lessons, homework, hands on activities, and a retreat, growing in faith together.

40+ children and their families walked in faith together this year

We gathered once a month to do activities and lessons, in addition to students regular religion classes, visited the Adoration Chapel, participated in First Reconciliation Sacrament and prayer service in January, attended a retreat designed specifically for our families on St. Cecilia Campus in March lead by Amy and faithful volunteers, made bread for parishioners ,and had it blessed at Sunday Mass in March, and celebrated First Eucharist in May 2019.

Next session starts soon. Contact Amy Maris-Volf for more information.



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FIRST COMMUNION—MAY 4, 2019—10:00 AM



FIRST COMMUNION—MAY 4, 2019—1:00 PM



CONFIRMATION —MAY 7, 2019



PEACE MASS—JUNE 30, 2019

In June, 1981, 38 years ago, the Blessed Virgin Mary began appearing to six children in Medjugorje. A few of them still receive apparitions today. These apparitions have not been approved by the Church because they are ongoing, and parishes have not been allowed to promote pilgrimages there. . . until a few months ago. In May, Pope Francis decided to authorize pilgrimages to Medjugorje! Now parishes and priests are authorized . . . and encouraged . . . to conduct official pilgrimages there. This is amazing news!

Thousands of pilgrims visit Medjugorje every month. They go there from all over the world seeking spiritual renewal, healing, peace, and reconciliation. They experience a conversion of heart, and their lives are changed.

We've celebrated our Peace Mass every year since the early 1990's. We thank Blessed Mother for her time with us, and we pray for peace in our hearts, peace in our families, and peace in the world.

Diane Puncochar, Center for Peace West, Medjugorje Information Center



ST. CECILIA SCHOOL

The completion of the Kathy Budnick (who will commence her 32nd year at St. Cecilia as our PE and Health teacher) Sports Field was easily the highlight of the 2018-2019 school year. We are truly grateful for the financial support, in kind donations of materials and time, and dedicated commitment of so many individuals to bring this three-year turf field project to fruition!

In conjunction with Catholic Schools Week, we celebrated our inaugural “Grandparents Day”! Our honored guests visited STREAM-focused (Science, Tech, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Music) classrooms; attended school-wide Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Vlazny and hosted by the 7th grade; and then were treated to a catered Brunch and Program. We thank Greg Van Pelt (Honorary Chair), guest speakers and musical entertainment ensembles for a truly wonderful event beyond words!

“New” this academic year, our middle school students visited the Hopkins Forestry Center. Thank you Mr. Olekas (St. Cecilia Middle School Science teacher) for coordinating and sharing this science enrichment opportunity. All three classes got the opportunity to take their classroom learning to the next level at the Hopkins Forestry Center. The 8th grade class learned survival activities and how to survive in the forest for a night. The 7th grade class planted trees and learned about maintaining our forest resources. The 6th grade class studied the various ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest forest. All three grades ended their day with a hike through God’s forest creation.



Speaking of enrichment, the school re-launched its very special parish-school outreach program entitled IMPACT (Integrating Many Parents, Parishioners and Children Together). We are blessed that several parishioners have accepted our invitation to share their God-given talents, skills and life experiences on a regular basis during the academic year with the children and youth of our school community.

ST. CECILIA SCHOOL (continued)

The end of the academic year was met with heartfelt feelings of joy, reminiscent memories and tears with student, staff, and teacher changes, comings and goings.

- Our class of 2019 graduates are looking forward to “Everyday Blessings” in high school and beyond!
- Beloved principal, Sue Harris, retired after nine years as our “Fearless Leader.” We are thrilled that our Vice Principal and Middle School Math teacher, Lillie Stevens, has accepted the principal title.
- We welcome Luke Waitrovich as our Middle School Math and 6th grade Homeroom & Religion teacher.
- Caitlin Bisonet, our Middle School English-Language Arts teacher, will be assuming the responsibilities of 8th grade Homeroom & Religion.
- Maggie Loughran has accepted our offer to be our 4th grade teacher – welcome! Maggie replaces our very own Madelain Westermann who decided to step away from her full-time 4th grade instructional “hat” to be a part-time Instructional Assistant in our Preschool program.
- Retiring from her role as Preschool Instructional Assistant, we thank Marci Herberholz for her care for our young students and wish her many blessings.
- After 14 years as our “maestro fabulosa”, Ruth Ozbek bid “adios” as our K-8 Spanish instructor to pursue opportunities closer to home. Stepping into the Spanish teacher role is Jenise Van Pelt, a familiar face to many as a very involved parent, Parent Association team member, and longtime substitute teacher.

Our 2019-2020 school theme is “Do Small Things With Great Love!” We are truly grateful to our supportive community of parishioners, parish and school staff, teachers, students and their parents who “together” encourage and empower us to be the best we can be!

See you Tuesday, September 3rd for the first day of school!



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



HIGH SCHOOL

This past year was by far one of the best ones yet! Here are some highlights:



- We began the year by attending World Youth Day in Panama. WYD is held every three years for Catholic youth across the world. During our time there, we saw Pope Francis several times, attended a Holy Hour with Bishop Robert Barron, spent time with Archbishop Sample, and saw what it truly means to belong to the universal Church. (next page)
- A delegation of six teens joined 500 others across the country to attend the week-long Life Teen Leadership Conference at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. We learned how to become leaders in our parish, school, and family (right top and bottom corners)
- We heard from incredible speakers at youth group, including St. John Society missionaries, students from Oregon State University's Newman Center (bottom left), and Oregon Right to Life.
- Our very own Tabitha Wood shared how God has been working in her life in front of 200 teenagers from across the Archdiocese at the annual Rise Up Rally. (middle left)
- Nearly 100 teens received the sacrament of Confirmation this past May. (top)

OUR MISSION

TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND FULFILL HIS GREAT
COMMISSION, ROOTING OURSELVES IN THE EUCHARIST
AND OUR BLESSED MOTHER

OUR APPROACH

KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE GOD
BUILD VIRTUOUS FRIENDSHIPS
TEACH OTHERS TO SHARE CHRIST



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our middle school youth group, Edge, focused on virtues, morality, and the Holy Spirit. We looked at certain saints as examples of life in the Spirit, including Mary, Maximilian Kolbe, Eustace, and Pier Giorgio Frassati. We also went bowling, played soccer and capture the flag, and had messy games!

Eighth graders at St. Cecilia School were able to visit Temple Neveh Shalom and learn about the Jewish roots of our Catholic faith. We learned about all the similarities among our faiths

YOUNG ADULTS

Spring this year was filled with many opportunities for building community, including an ecumenical Beer and Hymns event with Young Life at Colossae Church, and a Young Catholic Professionals event at the Grotto focused on the joys and sorrows of St. Joseph.

We also hosted several young adult Holy Hour Happy Hours, bringing young adults around the Portland Metro area together in prayer and fellowship.



WE ARE THE YOUNG CHURCH.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Active at St. Cecilia since 2002

Mission Statement: Each ministry member prayerfully knits/crochet shawls (at their own pace) to be “gifted” to those in need of comfort. With each shawl that is “gifted” our ministry prays for the recipient:

- comfort from times too hard to bear; comfort from feelings of a breaking point or threats to your peace of heart;
- be a shelter for times of overwhelming grief; a shade from sorrow too deep for words a shield for times of unimaginable loss.
- May you find comfort in the memories you hold most dear, and
- May you be strengthened in your daily comings and goings; in your tentative new beginnings and in your unfolding new memories.



Before the completed prayer shawl is placed into our Inventory (for gifting), it is blessed by our Catholic Priest. The “gifting” of a Blessed Prayer Shawl is the priority of our ministry. And, even though we have expanded our knitting/crochet gifts (which I’ll mention later), the Prayer Shawl Ministry’s priority will always be the Blessed Prayer Shawls.

With that said, over the years, instead of ONE prayer shawl pattern, we have created different patterns for a little variety: plain knitting with tassels across the top and bottom of the shawl; or knitted with eyelets and tassels; or knitted with eyelets and a ruffle.

The one thing that has NOT changed over the years (and will not change in the future) is the choice of yarn: Lion Brand Homespun Yarn is the ONLY yarn used for our shawls.

Donations to our ministry are appreciated at any time of the year by any parishioner wishing to support our ministry’s ability to continue to provide the “gifting” of shawls: It takes 3 skeins of Lion Brand Homespun Yarn to knit one shawl - about \$20.00 for the yarn. If anyone wants to donate cash, instead of the yarn, that would also be welcome. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry thanks you in advance for any donation you can make.

Since about half of our current membership have been members since the beginning of our ministry, or shortly after we started, our group decided we also wanted to knit other things – but also wanted them to be a complement to our ministry’s mission.



So, we are still adding on and for now (1) we have started knitting the purple hats for the newborn babies to support the education of new parents to the Shaken Baby Syndrome (if anyone wants to knit purple hats, all shades of purple, contact our Ministry for the pattern requirements and when completed turn them in to us); (2) Baby blankets; (3) Car seat “blanket” covers; and still coming up with more ideas all the time.



It’s a good feeling that by doing something we love to do (knitting/crochet) we can also provide a gift for someone that will really be appreciated and accepted. God is good. All the time. God is good!!

In addition to the Prayer Shawl requests that we receive at any time during the year, we have a few organizations that we support regularly: Every February, we provide the prayer shawls (10-15) for Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat; every Fall & Spring, we donate 5-7 shawls to the Mater Dei Sharathons. (\$750.00/ea). Sunday Masses in May each year, our shawls are displayed for awareness and for “gifting.”

Although our membership list contains 22 names, about 6-8 members can’t attend regularly (as life gets in the way) and, therefore, we have about 10 members attending our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month from September through June. If anyone is interested in joining our Prayer Shawl Ministry, you may call Jeannine Hooper at 503-891-0587 or Marylyn Klesh at 503-579-3767. Our first meeting after summer break is Tuesday, September 3, 2019 from 10:30am to 11:30am. Any one is welcome to come and just “check us out.”

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Sumballousa: Following the journey, pondering the happenings of Christ in our hearts. This past year of RCIA classes was a great blessing... Sumballousa in action. We had five adults who received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist); four who were received into the Catholic Church, receiving First Communion and Confirmation; and two who received their First Communion at the Easter Vigil. Then in May, four adults were confirmed by Bishop Smith at a Parish mass. We also had several adults who already had received all the Sacraments and took the classes to enrich their Catholic faith.

Those who took classes and received these Sacraments were: Gustavo Huesca, Lawrence Lee, Tammy Wu, Kiara Beveridge, and Barbara Apilada

Lorin Torres, James Wood, Janice Romano, and Tabitha Wood professed their faith in the Catholic Church and received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

David Childress and Jose Flores received Holy Communion on Easter, followed by Confirmation in May, along with Arica DuPierre and Michelle Garcia Cruz.

Finally, we were blessed that the following joined us for almost every class: Amy Wood, John Childress, Gabriella de la Paz, Janet Robinson, Brenda Cruz Jaimes, and Ronald Kalm.

We welcome all of them to our Catholic faith and send them prayers and encouragement as they continue their journey: Sumballousa continues!



It is with profound gratitude we wish to thank Mike and Peggy for their years of leadership in the RCIA program. Mike's enthusiasm for teaching our Catholic faith is none the less contagious and infectious.



We had an awesome team to teach and support our RCIA class: Fr. Cary, Fr. Brent, Jennelle & Mike Phillips, Damien C., Paula Baldwin, Molly & Jim Woolf, Page Watts, Anissa Bartolome, Anni Reilly, Joe & Noela Painter, Virginia Merideth, Mike & Peggy Flanigan. Many thanks to all!

If you are interested in R.C.I.A. classes, watch for announcements in the bulletin to sign up. Thank you!

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN (CRECIMIENTOS)



This prayer group meets every Monday at 7 pm for Bible class. Graduates are receiving their diplomas. The group prays, eat, and spend time together.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN (CRECIMIENTOS) (continued)



RESPECT LIFE

This is **Angelina** at her baby shower that we recently announced in the bulletin. She received a car seat, stroller, crib, diapers, clothes and hundreds of dollars of gift cards to further support her baby. Angelina was very grateful for the counseling that she received and other assistance provided to help her keep her baby. Thank you to those who generously contributed!

"Let's say "Yes" to life and "No" to death." Pope Francis



Angelina, her son and a gift!



How cute is this!??!!

And lotsa diapers!



RESPECT LIFE (continued)



Angelina modelling her prayer shawl our **St. Cecilia Prayer Shawl Ministry** gives to 40 Days for Life sidewalk counselors/prayer warriors to give to women that might appreciate one!



This is the Respect Life group of ladies that helped Angelina! The ladies are from many Catholic and Christian churches in the area!

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION — JUNE 22, 2019



CORPUS CHRISTI (continued)



ALTAR SERVERS

We appreciate all of our dedicated Altar Servers.



Welcome to our 7 Newest Altar Servers

Callan Holmberg, 3rd Grade,
St. Cecilia

Elena Gorman, 5th Grade,
St. Cecilia

Leia Jerald, 3rd Grade,
Valley Catholic

Mason Severson, 5th Grade,
St. Cecilia

Isaiah Smith, 4th Grade,
St. Cecilia

Gabe Wagner, 3rd Grade,
St. Cecilia

Tara Wood, 4th Grade,
Butternut Creek



New Altar Server Tara Wood



Gabe with older siblings Clare and Timmy



New Altar Server Gabe Wagner

If you have a child interested in becoming an Altar Server, please contact Coordinator Julie Wagner at mjwagner5@frontier.com or 503-887-0506. Eligible servers are students in 3rd Grade up to High School, who have made their First Communion and attend a parish training session. Servers are asked to serve at least once a month at the 5pm Vigil Mass, 9am, 10:45am or 12:30pm Sunday Masses.

Parents use SignUpGenius.com to schedule their child.

ALTAR SERVER HIGHLIGHTS



En esta reunión el Padre Brent nos dio su testimonio y respondió nuestras preguntas acerca de el sacerdocio



Noche de Boliche

Este verano nuestros servidores del altar adolescentes fueron a una conferencia de liderazgo por toda una semana.

Gracias al apoyo y organizacion de Amanda Jewett y Larisa Aguilar los monaguillos fueron a la conferencia de liderazco proveida por Life Teen.

Los jovenes que asistieron la conferencia fueron Chelsea Cumez, Franklin Cana, Kevin Rezedis, Rodolfo Portillo y Larisa Aguilar.



Durante el invierno, los monaguillos y sus padres están trabajando para crear ponchos, gorros, y bufanda para los pobres

WORLD YOUTH DAY



Monaguillos de la comunidad Hispana Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2019 Panama City



Foto de grupo de todos los que asistieron a la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud de la Arquidiócesis de Portland.



Cena crucero por el Canal de Panamá



Catechesis de la JMJ en la Manana



Actividades del Día en la JMJ

SINGLES FOR CHRIST (SFC)



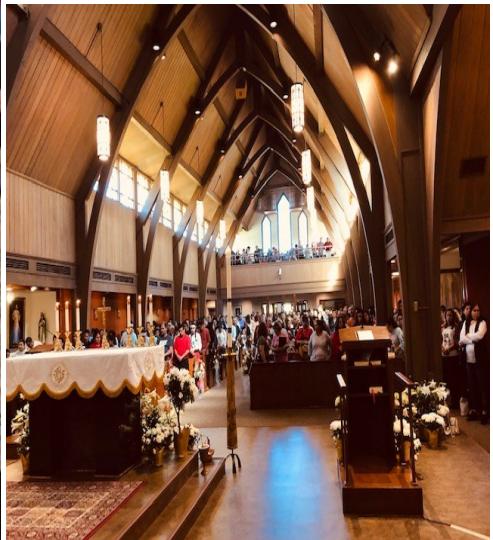
Portland, Oregon was the host city of the 2019 Singles for Christ (SFC) USA National Conference which was held on August 2-4 at the Embassy Suites PDX. This year's event marked the 25th year anniversary of the SFC ministry in the US and was attended by almost 400 delegates from across the US.

The annual event featured a series of inspiring session talks and personal sharing's based on God's goodness, motivating workshops, a gala fellowship night and, of course, very spirit-filled praise fests.

Several priests from different local parishes - - - Fr. Cary Reniva (St. Cecilia), Fr. John Henderson (St. Anthony), Fr. Mike Walker (St. James), Fr. Don Gutmann (St. Clare) and Fr. David Jaspers (Ascencion Catholic Church) offered time and support by giving confessions and celebrating Masses during the weekend event. We are truly honored and delighted to see all of them witness the vibrancy and beauty of this ministry and its conference.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (continued)



CFC YOUTH FOR CHRIST



Our CFC Youth for Christ Oregon represented the majority of the Northwest delegation that attended and competed at the 25th CFC Youth for Christ USA Conference in San Diego, CA on July 12-14, 2019.

Following are sharings/testimonies and photos of their amazing experiences of the Conference weekend.

My YCon experience can be described in two words. A blessing. This was my second national youth conference since I went last year in North Carolina along with 5 other people. However this year, we grew to an outstanding 25. This year, the theme was Onwards. I can not express into words how much this years conference has impacted me. I was super excited going into conference. I was going to meet new people, make new memories with my brothers and sisters in Christ, become closer to God. What more could I ask for? My favorite memory of YCon, besides getting to meet a ton of new people, was worship. Have you ever been to a youth conference that has over 900 people praising and worshipping God? That's exactly what worship is at YCon. And, it's absolutely beautiful to see. Over 900 kids my age worshipping our Lord. That's rare to see nowadays. I remember crying during our worship because of how powerful and impactful it was. I was amazed. I was in awe. I was speechless. I could see the Holy Spirit doing its work throughout the entire conference. I made many new friends, many new memories with both my new and old brothers and sisters and definitely grew in my faith and relationship with God. I can not wait for next years conference in New Jersey. I can't wait to continue the journey God has in store for me. ~ **Maria Naval**



Have you ever thought of having a huge youth conference on a national level? What that would be like? All the chaos, worshipping, and new friendships being made? That's exactly how Y-Con 2019 was with the theme moving Onward. This event was probably one of the most lively events of this year! All the sleepless nights, the partying, everything was perfect. But my most favorite activity of all had to be socializing. Making new friends and getting together to worship was just a blessing in of itself. The talks as well were really fun to listen to as well as the messages they carried. One, for example was the talk by Matt Fradd with "God, the universe, and everything." His message to us was that God loves us no matter what we do that offended him because he is the most loving person there is out there. I'm very blessed to spend the weekend in San Diego with many of my friends (which I now consider family) and just worshipping and talking to God. I really want to thank the CFC for sponsoring Alfredo and I because, without them, this all wouldn't be possible. My deepest thanks goes out to them because of their warm hearts and, most of all, I'm thankful for God and his blessings that he has bestowed on us all. And, with that being said, may God be praised and may we see you next year in New Jersey for a more fun filled experience with God! Let's move Onward! ~ **Jesse Toledanes**

Have you ever seen a group of youths come together all in one spot just to praise and worship God? Just a few days ago, I attended my third youth conference, and I am still fired up with the holy spirit, ready for upcoming youth camps and other activities such as the SFC Conference, which a couple of youths and I will be assisting in as part of the service team. My name is Alfredo Magbual, a 17-year-old high school student who also attends college in Washington. I've been a part of the ministry ever since I was about 10 or 11 with my first conference being at Oregon back when it was still called YFC, Youth for Christ. The San Diego Conference was an experience I will never forget. It broke entry records with over 900 participants and brought in special guests like Matt Fradd and Timmerie Millington, not to mention the fact that it was the 25th Anniversary since the very first conference. Those who were unable to attend this year's conference should most definitely come to future ones. You'll meet a wide variety of people, and you'll grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ through talks and music.

Everyone's YCON experience is different. I had a flight that was on Friday so as soon as I got to San Diego, it was game time. Sports competitions were the first thing on the agenda and let me just say, it was hype. Northwest-A is not a very big region when compared but we surprisingly made a name for ourselves. Our basketball team unfortunately lost the first game, but our opponents had to work hard for the victory. We had two overtime games that were very close in score. Did I mention the ones competing from our region are in middle school and high school? Yes, and they were going up against giants that is still being debated whether they really were in the age range of 13-21. As for our volleyball team, we went all the way to grand finals. That's impressive considering we were a really small group, and we had just come off of playing two games in a row, making grands our third game in a row. It was really intense, but we weren't able to win. We were upset but we knew it was all for fun! Once we finished, we went to our dorms, and then prepared ourselves for talk 1. Nothing too exciting, mostly just getting to know the people around us by sharing the banners each region had created. I'm not sure about the sisters, but the brothers stayed up and played Super Smash Brothers with other regions as soon as we got to our dorms.

The second day was the meat and potatoes. It was filled with many things like adoration, most of the talks and sharings, a night rave, and praise fest! There were a lot of things that happened that I'm unable to describe because my words just won't do the experience justice. A ton of us definitely grew with each other thanks to some of the workshops and fellowships during our breaks. You can feel the nice and heart warming vibe these group of teenagers gave off. You didn't feel like you were excluded from anything, at least I didn't. The best part about this day was either adoration or praise fest. I love both of these things because you could feel God with you. You could really feel the love everyone has for this community and our faith. It's a time where you can be free and let go of any of your thoughts and worries. I really wish I could describe everything in text but I just can't, you have to go and experience it yourself. Anyways, after all of that fun stuff, we got to midnight and it's party time. We ended up moving from the venue to a soccer field, but evidently got kicked out after at least 5 complaints at 1 or 2 in the morning from the neighbors that lived there, so we just went straight to our dorms and shared some tea, or drama or anything that we wanted to talk about like memes.

The final and most heart warming day finally arrived. We were all really sad to say goodbye to all of the new brothers and sisters we have met but we knew that there's always next year. As we got ready for Mass, we all recollected our thoughts and cherished our final moments with each other by keeping ourselves in a prayerful mood. At this time, we were running on about 2-3 hours of sleep, so we were all gone, but we all pushed through to the end.

We went through the last talk and last praise fest, and then the time came when they were going to announce where next year's conference was going to be. The crowd was roaring and were going nuts as a video played, slowly giving hints until finally it showed us where the next conference will be held...New Jersey! Everyone screamed and we were already excited! Some of us were already preparing flight details which I don't even think you can at this time because we weren't even given a date or venue yet.

As we said our goodbyes and went our separate ways, slowly returning to our regular everyday lives, we continue to talk to each other through social media and have created various group chats through Instagram, group me, and even discord! YCON is an experience I think everyone should have. Go to at least one conference and trust me when I say, you won't regret it. This essay might not be very well written and might not sell my point but just know that it doesn't hurt to try. We are all just a bunch of teenagers that love coming together and hanging out. No, we're more than that. We're brothers and sisters in Christ, we are family. Praise God and may he bless every single one of you! ~ **Alfredo Magbual**

EL BUEN SAMARITANO (GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY)



This picture was taken at St. Mary's Cathedral after a day of working with the homeless. Our group had met a homeless woman who had no shoes. We were able to feed her with a breakfast burrito and a hot cup of coffee. Noticing she had no shoes, we were able to provide her a pair of shoes her size. As we were leaving, she came running up to us and gave us each a rose. The group decided to donate these flowers to the Cathedral, and they were placed at the feet of different statues of the Virgin Mary.

The Good Samaritan group had gone to downtown Portland to work with the homeless. Members of the team knocked on the door of a tent to which a woman answered, and we informed her we had something for her to eat and drink and invited her to come out of her tent. When she came to us she had no shoes, her feet were dry and cracked and in bad shape. We offered to give her some shoes to which she replied, "That would be great, but I doubt you have any my size. I am size eleven." As we looked through our box of shoes, we found a nice pair of leather sandals that were size eleven. She was so happy we had something her size. We had gathered a few more things for her — a few shirts, a hat, some pants — and returned to her tent. As we looked inside her tent, we saw that it was absolutely bare, not a thing was inside it except for a crucifix hanging on the wall. It made us realize when you have nothing, you still have Jesus, and He is always with you.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE (WWP) BIBLE STUDY



CYO had a record setting number of teams this year for girls and boys basketball, grades 1-8, with multiple teams making it to the championship tournament games. There were also many St. Cecilia students who participated in track and field, swimming and lacrosse. Registration is open now for Fall Sports at www.cyocamphoward.org. Thank you for your continued support and cheering on our young athletes!

