

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT *COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS*

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

Upcoming Special Events

- Daily Mass during Summer Break: Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 AM
- Individual Confessions:
 - Every Saturday: 3:30 - 4:30 PM
 - Tuesdays & Fridays: 7:40 AM
- May 19/20: Feast of Pentecost (**Wear Red**)
- May 20: 3:00 PM, CHS Graduation
- May 25: Last Day of School
- May 28: Memorial Day: Rectory Closed
- Jun 3: Feast of Corpus Christi (Parish Feast Day)
- Jun 3: Ministry Appreciation Breakfast; 8:00 AM - Noon, Parish Center
- Jun 17: Father's Day
- Jun 18-29: Summer RE Classes; Kdg - 8th Grades, 9:00 AM - Noon, Mon-Fri; St. Edward School
- **Jun 30: Fr. Tom Farewell BBQ; following 4:30 Mass, Parish Campus**
- Jul 4: Independence Day; Rectory Closed
- **Jul 14/15: Fr. Kruse Welcome; Hospitality in the Gathering Space after Each Mass**
- Jul 22-26: "Totus Tuus", 7th - 12th Grades; 7:00 - 9:15 PM; St. Edward School
- Jul 23-27: "Totus Tuus", 1st - 6th Grades; 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM, St. Edward School
- Aug 9, 10, 11: Parish Garage Sale, Parish Center
- Aug 11: Parish Golf Tournament; 7:30 AM - Noon, Shotgun Start, South Hills Golf Course
- Aug 23: First Day of School
- Sept 3: Labor Day; Rectory Closed
- Nov 3-7: Vincentian Metro Parish Mission

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The Presence of Jesus

Pentecost 2018



Fr. Tom McDermott
Pastor

The Pentecost Gospel seems an appropriate one for my final newsletter introduction as pastor of Blessed Sacrament. "When the Advocate comes whom I send from the Father...you will also testify, for you have been with me."

It is easy to say *I've been with Jesus* in my experience of our parish family, and the local Catholic parish and school community of which we are such a vital part. The Advocate Jesus did send—the Holy Spirit who motivates and animates in so many wonderful ways here—is here! I'll take this opportunity to testify to why I can say that so confidently, and gratefully! 😊

When I arrived, we were just completing the effort you began to make the church and sanctuary handicap accessible. As I leave, we are initiating live-streaming the Mass and other prayer services. Whether about those in church with us, or those homebound in some way, both are efforts to make *being present to Jesus* in our parish worship easier for more of us.

When I arrived, our parish Faith Formation leaders offered opportunities to meet Jesus regardless of age. As I leave, the metro parishes have combined to create a shared Faith Formation program that allows busy families and individuals of all ages more options and age-specific programming for *being with Jesus*

than any parish could have done on its own.

In 2011, wonderful things were happening with Rotary's Shoe Box project for children in Nicaragua, Habitat for Humanity, and Sister Water Project in Tanzania. We've since developed the Food Packaging program that involves Christians from across the city in creating over 40,000 meals annually, and are making over 400 food bags for school children during holiday breaks. I'm most grateful for all who made the parish Community Garden part of how the NE Iowa Food Bank assists the hungry. Jesus promised when we do such work for those in need, we do it for Him—we *are with Jesus*!

How we are with Jesus has changed in other ways. We've moved more solidly into the digital age with an even more effective website that allows parish life to reach into our homes as well as welcome guests to our buildings. We've been maintaining our campus through your shared and sacrificial response to the Parking Lot effort. The dedicated response of parish leadership and committees has our strategic plan unfolding new ways of building parish life by adding our Volunteer Coordinator role, and by grouping the parish into neighborhood host-communities so the welcome we offer here at church, can be nurtured and foster the *presence of Jesus* beyond the walls and roof we gather in each week. When I arrived, you were just

(continued on page 2)

The Presence of Jesus (continued from front page)

completing the new Catholic middle school in town. Now we are making our school here more helpful to young families with its expanded child-care abilities.

It is in our spiritual life that it's easy to say I've been with Jesus. Prayer here is a powerful thing. Shared sacrifice for the sake of community reveals Jesus clearly in our midst. We've celebrated a deacon and religious Sister's vocations, and a raft of candidates for the priesthood living with us—

surely because this is a place to know Jesus is in one's midst! There are so many experiences of Christ for me here it would take a book, not a newsletter!

That is the case because there is a core of dedicated Christians here who do what the Apostles did after their experience of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. You reflect on what is going on and gather to share a new awareness that language and all that used to separate, is no barrier for the Holy Spirit. *You pray together*

to strengthen each other's courage to risk for the next encounter with Jesus here. You come together to be the Body of Christ—many parts, one body—whether one is in Dubuque or Waterloo or Timbuktu... we remain one Body. Oh yes, I can and do testify: I've been with Jesus here at Blessed Sacrament! Keep Him present! Thanks for the gift of Jesus, and you!

Fr. Tom

Welcome, Fr. Anthony Kruse

Dear Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament,

I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Fr. Anthony Kruse, and I was raised on a dairy farm north of Petersburg (near Dyersville). I have three brothers and one sister. My dad died of colon cancer in 1995 when I was 16 years old. My mother remarried in 1999 and I have 8 step-siblings. My step-father (who became a father figure to me) died in 2011. I have 9 nieces and nephews and 9 step-nieces and nephews. I graduated from Dyersville Beckman Catholic High School in 1997, Loras College with a B.A. in History in 2002, worked for Fareway Grocery Stores in the meat department, and for three years



worked as a Legislative Aide in the Iowa House of Representatives.

Then I heard the Lord inviting me to discern a vocation to the priesthood. So in 2005, I went back to Loras College to study philosophy for two years. I then spent four years at the Pontifical North American College in Rome studying theology and preparing for priesthood. I was ordained a priest on June 25, 2011. My first assignment was associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Marion and also helped out at various other "country parishes" for two years. I became pastor of St. Mark, Iowa Falls and St. Mary, Eldora in 2013. In addition to

Iowa Falls and Eldora, I also became pastor of St. Mary, Ackley and St. Patrick, Hampton on January 1, 2016. Now I have the fortunate pleasure of becoming pastor of Blessed Sacrament. I am looking forward to this new adventure with you! However, please be patient with me, especially in remembering names. I am a fan of the Chicago Cubs, San Francisco 49'ers, and all Iowa universities. I like to watch movies and Netflix. I love Italian food, homemade Chex Party Mix, and visiting with others. Please pray for me and I will pray for you! See you soon!

In Christ,
Fr. Tony

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."
Romans 12:13



Please Join Us!

Our Parish Committees will be hosting Hospitality Weekends in the Gathering Space on the following dates:
Farewell, Fr. Tom: June 23 & 24, July 1st, July 7 & 8
Welcome, Fr. Tony: July 14 & 15

Farewell, Our Good & Faithful Shepherd

Harland Robinson, PC Chair

As we prepare ourselves in mind and spirit to say farewell to our faithful friend, confidante, and selfless shepherd, who has always been there for us in times of joy and times of sorrow, it is most appropriate that we pause to reflect on Fr. Tom's pastorate these past seven years and express our gratitude for his enduring legacy in our community of faith.

To say that Fr. Tom hit the ground running and has never stopped, is an understatement. With only short breaks to recharge through the panacea of fishing trips to Minnesota and Canada (and who couldn't get on board with that!), he has pushed himself, and us, to embrace our vision of being a beacon of hope to the world by stretching our faith to greater heights - and he has done so! Indeed, it is not uncommon for our



lay leadership to receive an email from Fr. Tom in the wee hours of the morning - his drive, energy, and care for us is a 24/7, 365 commitment. For many of us, his leadership has been transformative to our own faith commitment.

During his tenure, Fr. Tom has nurtured so many projects of benefit to our parish and the wider community. Whether serving as the guiding light shepherding the metro parishes into a consolidated faith formation effort that has reached out to Catholics of all ages, as well

as to the those who are inactive, alienated, or disenfranchised; serving as a pastor representative to the CVCS School Board as they struggle with declining enrollment, issues of consolidation, and the financial challenges of providing high-quality, affordable, faith-based instruction to the community; or nurturing the faith commitment of Blessed Sacrament, Fr. Tom has been relentless in his dedication to this parish, the Church, and the greater glory of God.

Please join with our parish on **Saturday, June 30th** after the 4:30 Mass to say farewell and thank you to Fr. Tom at an **outdoor BBQ** hosted by the Parish Community Life Committee. It is a perfect opportunity to let Fr. Tom know how much he has meant to us and our loved ones.

God Works in Mysterious Ways

Karla Bray, Volunteer Service Coordinator



Two years ago I found myself desperately praying for a job. I prayed for a purpose, a way to use my skills to better the world.

Unfortunately it took months to receive my work permit and when I finally had it the job opportunities did not present themselves. I didn't understand why God wasn't answering my prayers.

Eventually I realized that what I was really craving was a community. It was with that realization that my husband and I decided to join a Parish.

One day while double checking Mass times at Blessed Sacrament

(our favorite Parish), I came across a job posting. How could this have been anything other than God's loving hand in my life? I had found a church I thought I could really belong to and in the same moment found the perfect job. I realized God had answered my prayer, He just hadn't done it on my timeline or in the way I had imagined.

I never thought I would be working for a church, but I quickly found that my spiritual gifts were perfectly suited to the role. I found joy in meeting new people, energized by the excitement of planning events, and thrilled to be able to blog and host workshops.

I didn't think things could get better. Then my son, Nolan, was born and I was greeted with love,

support, and all the accommodation I needed to keep working while caring for my newborn.

All of this is to say, the decision to leave has not been the easy one I thought it would be when I first landed in Iowa. I had originally wanted to move back home as soon as possible. That quickly changed once God led me to my community: my new church family. Now, it is with very mixed feelings that I prepare to leave my position and head back to Canada.

I want to thank everyone for making my time here something to cherish. I can't begin to say how lucky I feel to have found a job and a Parish that I don't want to leave.

Pastoral Minister, Sick & Homebound

Harland Robinson, Editor



We are pleased to announce that parishioner Deb Lundberg has joined the parish staff as our Pastoral Minister for Sick and Homebound Care.

In this role, Deb will provide part-time (11-12 hours per week) coordination for programs in support of our elderly and homebound parishioners, train new volunteers, and provide pastoral care for the elderly, sick, homebound, and care facility parishioners. Deb is also responsible for staffing and management of our Parish Prayer Chain and will assist the Pastor, Parish Bereavement Minister, and Parish Nurse in their roles within the parish.

A life-long Catholic raised in Storm Lake, IA, Deb has lived and worked in Sioux Falls, SD, Minneapolis, MN, Kansas City, MO, and Sac City, IA. She has resided in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area for the past eight years and has been a member of Blessed Sacrament for five years.

Deb has always felt it is important to be active in the parish and finds that she helps herself best when helping others. She has been active in providing transportation to Mass, been a spiritual companion, taught Special Religious Education, and has helped with various functions and activities, including Salad Supper and guest speaker for Catholic Witness Hour. She currently serves on the Stewardship

Committee, Welcome Committee, takes Communion to Allen Hospital, and is a Greeter and Lector for Mass.

Deb's experience over the past 18 years dedicating her time to the sick, elderly, and physically and mentally challenged as a Volunteer Companion at the Senior Center and Nursing Home in Sac City and her work with Hope for Healing/Quakerdale will bless our Community with an experienced, compassionate, and faith-filled Pastoral Minister dedicated to serve.

Please join us in welcoming Deb in her new role as our Pastoral Minister.

Deb can be contacted by calling (319) 464-0648 (cell) or email:

deborah.lundberg5@gmail.com.

Pastoral Associate, Stewardship & Evangelization



We are also pleased to announce that parishioner Maggie England will join the parish staff this summer as our full-time Pastoral Associate for Stewardship and Evangelization.

In her new role, Maggie will assist the pastor in the ongoing development and coordination of parish stewardship and evangelization efforts. As such, she will work with the parish staff and committees to identify, recruit, and develop parishioner

participation in utilizing their gifts in ministries, and especially as committee members, chairpersons, and in other leadership roles. She will also help our parish identify and respond to opportunities for evangelization and spiritual growth.

A long-time member of the parish, Maggie has served as a volunteer in a variety of roles for both Blessed Sacrament and CVCS, most notably as Co-Chair, with her husband Ryan, of the Finance Committee for the CVCS Ultimate Auction for nine

years; Vice-Chair of the parish Pastoral Council; member of the Parish Community Life Committee; Fall Festival Co-Chair; and is a 2017 graduate of the two-year Archdiocese IMPACT Adult Lay Transformation program.

Please join us in welcoming Maggie in her new role as our Pastoral Associate.

Maggie can be contacted by calling the parish office at (319) 233-6179 or (319) 939-8409 (cell) or by email to:

magsengland13@gmail.com.

Daily Disciple

Joanne Chandler - The Quiet Woman

"The quieter you become, the more you can hear". Author unknown.

Amidst all the loud talkers, the over talkers, the never at a loss for words talkers, there is a lady at Blessed Sacrament who stays pretty quiet. She listens. She prays. She stays faithful to her God as she labors in His vineyard.

I had the privilege of speaking with Joanne Chandler. Joanne serves on our Parish Council and our Social Justice Committee. She deeply admires and speaks highly of the folks she's met in those groups. Her latest service began when Father Tom invited her to be on the Council. She says being invited and welcomed is very important when building a parish family. Years ago when she and her husband, Tom, joined Blessed Sacrament all the established ladies and gentlemen would reach out and personally invite newcomers to join their groups. It made her feel wanted and welcomed. She continues to help with funeral dinners, community meals, and the Salad Supper.

Joanne was born in New Hampton, Iowa and raised in a home where there wasn't a lot of money but there was a lot of love. Her father, Joseph, ironically was a carpenter. She grew up in her faith there. Sometimes when the weather would keep the family



home from the commander of the Mass, Joanne Thunderbirds. He served would put her honorably and with distinction. little boots on, Mike is now retired and lives in and her hat and Orlando, Florida, with the four coat and walk grandchildren. Joanne is most alone through proud of Mike's humility. the snow to Seven years ago, Joanne was church. I am diagnosed with cancer. It has reminded that been her unwelcome companion the little child will lead us all. ever since, and will continue to

Her faith has been constant in her life and, at one time, she felt that she had a religious calling. She said there was no real support for her to take that path in life and she quietly gave it up.

Her husband, Tom Chandler, danced into her life at Electric Park. The music was playing and he thought this lovely, quiet, ladylike girl was just the thing. He asked if he could take her home and when he did he says, "she made sure I saw her beads (rosary) when she reached for her keys." Tom is a wise man who knew then, just as he knows now, that she was a person of great value. He considers himself the luckiest of men.

Joanne and Tom married at St. Joseph's in Waterloo, now Queen of Peace, in 1963. Fifty five years of love, respect, and admiration. Joanne quietly went about raising their son, Mike. She owned a tax business for years while Tom, as a State Trooper, became the Bear in the Air, flying all over.

Their son, Mike, must've been bitten by the flying bug, as well. He graduated from the Air Force Academy and wound up being

Margaret Klein, Contributing Editor

be with her for the rest of her life. She says it has given her time to prepare. There is no real fear in her, but there is tremendous faith. Her favorite quote is, "A friend is a gift you give yourself." She has many friends who surround her with love. In her backyard, she has built a little room. Some would say it's a tool shed. They would be very wrong. It is a place where Joanne has tea parties or dinner parties. It is a space for friendship and laughter and joy. The room overlooks her flower garden and allows your eye to rest on sheer beauty. Quiet and peaceful, just like Joanne Chandler.

"The quieter you become, the more you can hear."

Joanne Chandler hears all that is important. She hears and remembers friends and family fondly. She hears and keeps our parish priests lovingly in her heart. She hears and holds tight to her faith. Most importantly, she quietly listens for and hears the Word of God.

Confirmation Class of 2018

Julie Niemeyer,
Assoc. Dir. Of Children's & Family Catechesis



Seventy-six high school juniors and seniors from the four Waterloo parishes, joined by six young people from St. Patrick parish, prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation this school year. The immediate preparation program consisted of four classes with focus on Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Sacraments of Initiation, the Creed, and elements of the Confirmation Rite. There was also a retreat and some written reflection assignments.

Archbishop Michael Jackels conferred the sacrament of Confirmation for these candidates at a 1:00 pm Mass on Saturday, April 7 at Columbus Catholic High School. These fine young men and women are to be commended, along with their parents and immediate sponsors who have guided them in their journey of faith. We pray that by the gift of the Holy Spirit they may be strengthened to bear witness to Christ for the building up of his Body in faith and charity. The newly confirmed from Blessed Sacrament parish are:

Kenneth Bazan, Tanner Bennett, Claire Daly, Thomas Evans, Austin Graff, Sydney Hartz, Josie Hemesath, Kaylee Holthaus, Ashley Johnson, Lucy Klein, Benjamin Leibold, Finn Nagl, Jessica Pham, Kylee Phillips, Christian Schmitz, Kayla Sproul, and Nolan Trent.

For more information about Confirmation preparation and/or to get on a mailing list for the 2018-19 program, contact Julie Niemeyer at jniemeyerff@gmail.com or 319-234-9912.

SUMMER PROGRAM

June 18th - 29th, Monday - Friday

9:00 am - Noon, St. Edward School

**RE^{IG}IOUS
EDUCA^TION**

(Children K-8, Not Enrolled in Catholic Schools)

FALL PROGRAM

Wednesday Nights: 6:15 - 7:30 pm, Sacred Heart School (begins Sept 13th)

Sunday Mornings: 8:15 - 10:15 am, Blessed Sacrament School (Meets twice each month beginning Oct 1st)

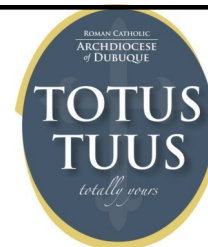
7th - 12th Grade: July 22 - 26

7:00 - 9:15 PM, St. Edward School

1st - 6th Grade: July 23 - 27

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM, St. Edward School

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
July 11, 2018**



For questions, contact:

- Kelleryn Rauzi, Assoc. Dir. Of Children's & Family Catechesis, email: kelleryn-rauziwwf@gmail.com or call 319-233-0498
- Renae and William Brandle, Program Coordinators, email: renaeco57@yahoo.com

This year's topics are: The Apostle's Creed and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Cost: \$5 per Student; No More Than \$15 per Family.

For more information and to register visit: www.waterloocatholics.org/new-totus-tuus

Get Ready, Alpha is Coming to the Waterloo Parishes!

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of 11 interactive sessions with a retreat day away in the middle that freely explores the basics of the Christian faith. There are three components to each Alpha session – a meal, a video talk, and small group discussion. Alpha enables people to ask their questions, share ideas, build friendships, and experience the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. No assumptions are made about a person's level of knowledge, understanding, or engagement with Christianity.

Topics Covered during Alpha:

- Is there more to life than this?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How can I have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how do I read the Bible?
- How does God guide us?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
- How can I resist evil?
- Why and how should I tell others?
- Does God heal today?
- What about the Church?



Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for all adults: all backgrounds, all contexts, all ages. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Alpha is particularly attracting many young adults who are asking the question, "Is there more to life than this?"

How does it work?

Each session includes food, a short talk, and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. There's no pressure, no follow up, and no charge.

How much is it?

There's no charge to participate in Alpha.

Will childcare be provided?

Yes, if the need is there. Please let us know of your childcare needs when you register.

How does our parish community benefit from Alpha?

Alpha helps the parish to become an evangelizing community. Those who have experienced Alpha naturally want to invite their friends to the next Alpha. The Alpha small groups help the parish remember

the importance of welcome and hospitality for those who come to explore life and faith.

Alpha helps the parish to foster a personal encounter and relationship with Jesus through the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Through the simple model used in Alpha for prayer ministry, people learn how to pray for one another and it becomes a normal part of life in the parish.

Alpha engages lay people in the life and mission of the Church. A core team takes ownership and hosts Alpha in the parish. Often guests who have experienced Alpha go on to become effective and confident evangelizers themselves as they share the impact that their encounter and relationship with Jesus has had on their lives.

When will Alpha begin?

Tentative Schedule in Waterloo:

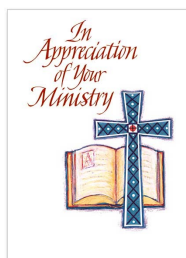
- Fall 2018 – St. Edward
- Winter/Spring 2019 – Sacred Heart/Queen of Peace (held in English & Spanish)
- Summer 2019 – Blessed Sacrament/COR at 220 East

How do I sign up?

Stay tuned for more information from your parish or register online at: waterloocatholics.org/alpha

Ellen Kuchera

Director of Young Adult Ministry



Join Us!!!

Ministry Appreciation Breakfast

Sunday, June 3rd - 8:00 am to Noon (Parish Center)

Vincentian Parish Mission



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our Fall city-wide Parish Mission this year will take place **Nov 3-7, 2018**. A Parish Mission is a special time in a parish community when the community gathers together to gain further insight into a faith filled life. It is a time for grace and renewal of the parish through services and talks filled with stories, examples, and meaning.

This year, our parish mission will be led by a missionary from the Vincentian Parish Mission Center, located in Leawood, KS. The Vincentians continue the work of St. Vincent de Paul to reach out to those less fortunate, especially those in nursing homes and the homebound, with a major emphasis on conversion and reconciliation centering on the Eucharist. Mission preachers attempt to model the five virtues of St. Vincent de Paul ...humility, simplicity, meekness, mortification, and zeal.



Our missionary, Fr. Bill Rhinehart, C.M. was born July 16, 1952 in a small town in Missouri where he grew up with ten brothers and sisters. From early in his childhood, he wanted to be a Priest and as a young teenager in 1966 he joined the Vincentians as a high school seminarian. He was ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Mission of Saint Vincent DePaul in 1979. Father Rhinehart's first seven and a

half years as a priest were spent serving in Taiwan ministering to the Mandarin speaking parishes. Upon his return to the United States in 1987, he was assigned for the next 20 years to parishes and missions within the Pueblo, Colorado and Colorado Springs dioceses. Thereafter for seven years, Fr. Bill continued his parish ministries in his home state of Missouri as Pastor of two rural parishes. Having served as Pastor for 27 years, he gained experience, knowledge, and understanding of parish life. Conducting Parish Missions allows him to utilize his knowledge and experience of parish life in relating to parishioners and the issues and struggles they face. It also allows him to make an impact on their lives and to energize and renew parish communities.

Our goal with this mission is to renew the connection between our parishes and Social Justice Committees with our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. There is value in helping our parishioners take greater ownership, and give greater volunteer effort, to St. Vincent de Paul as a main aspect of our shared care for the poor in our area. **What might be the fruits of joining in the ministry of our parish St. Vincent de Paul conference for you and your family? Among them are: a deeper sense of the dignity of all God's children; a greater awareness of one's being blessed in what I have; a more complete understanding of our oneness as God's children; more experiences of "doing for Christ" what we do for the least among us (Mt. 25); and more! In short: I will find I've been given more**

resources for knowing God's presence and love in my life! Reserve Nov 3-7 for this mission. Treat it as if you were away on vacation! Tell your children's coaches that these nights they will be with you.

Our hope and the Vincentian's instruction is to awaken in us a sense of the spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul (so the gifts and graces awaiting us in ministry to the poor can help us better know, love, and serve our Lord) as a means of motivating a response to work out of that spirituality in service to the poor. While this mission is sponsored by our metro parishes, it is being hosted by our Faith Formation team at Blessed Sacrament and we ask that you prayerfully answer the call to participate in this mission.

Please watch for future announcements in our bulletins, emails, and advertising. And please make this prayer for our mission from now through November 7th:

Divine Savior, transform me into Yourself. May my hands be Your hands. May my tongue be Your tongue. Grant that every faculty of my body may serve only to glorify You. Above all, transform my soul and all its powers, that my memory, my will, and my affections, may be the memory, the will, and the affections of You. I pray You to destroy in me, all that is not of You. Grant that I may live but in You, and by You, and for You, and that I may truly say with St. Paul, "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me."

Fr. Tom

A Personal Story: 40 Years of Deacons

Deacon Chris Evans



2018 is the 40th anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Dubuque and I have been

hoping to share a little bit about my story with you all and how the Diaconate has affected my life. Until I did a little more research when I learned about the anniversary I didn't really realize that there was any effect for me but, as they say, hindsight is always 20/20.

I was born in 1972, 8 years after Vatican II restored the Permanent Diaconate, 5 years after Pope Paul VI opened it to the Church in the west, and 3 years after Archbishop Byrne appointed Father Paul Steimel to direct what we now call Class I for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Those fine and worthy men were ordained on November 5th, 1978. Deacon Jack Barlow was a member of Class I and in Central Catholic grade school was his youngest child, Patrick. In that same grade school class was another youngest son, me. Pat was, and is, a great person. He is smart, articulate, a beautiful singer, cares deeply for those around him, and I am blessed to say, my friend. Pat made Deacon Jack really just Pat's dad and even though he was on the altar at St. Joseph's parish in Mason City he became a normal part of life for me. Deacon Jack was friends with my parents; Jack and his wife Joan worked with my parents on Pre-Cana and probably many other things that I was blind to as their son. I never remember one time that Jack talked to me directly

Permanent Diaconate



about his calling but every time I saw him or his family the call of God was written on his life.

Fast forward about 12 years to March of 1990 at Columbus High School here in Waterloo. I am at a retreat weekend called Teens Encounter Christ (T.E.C. #327) and I don't really know why. It is the weekend before opening weekend for our high school musical *The Wizard of Oz* and I am the scarecrow. My director is out of her mind with anger at me (which is justified) and I fought with her tooth and nail to go to a retreat simply because I was (am) determined not to be told "no". While at this retreat that I never really wanted to go to and assumed that I would be kicked out of, I was granted a vision of God. This was a private revelation and no one but me really needs to know what happened or even believe it. It matters because, for me, I can never doubt the existence of God again. It also left me with the question of "why me?" I thought at first that it must be a call to the Priesthood but that just didn't feel right and it really needs to. So then I looked around for what else might be the calling and volunteered at my

parish and it was made clear to me that the diaconate was what I was called to. This isn't great news for an 18 year old when he finds out that he needs to be 35 to be ordained. 35 is old to an 18 year old and 17 more years is almost as many as were behind me so, knowing the call, I waited impatiently.

Eventually I met Carrie and we had 5 kids in 5 years and 9 months, so my 35 year old plan was pushed a decade so I could regain any semblance of sanity I could clutch together. The call never left though. Carrie reminded me that very early on in our relationship I let her know that one day I would be a deacon for the Church and if that was not okay with her then we should just stop dating now.

So now here I am, 46, married, and a member of Diaconate Class XVII. On the posters celebrating the 40 years of diaconate ordinations for the Archdiocese of Dubuque I see myself and my brother deacons for our class and in the other photo is a picture of Deacon Jack Barlow and his brothers in Class I. I hope I can live up to the examples that have been set for me and I hope someday my grandkids can look at the 75th anniversary poster and see the blessings that deacons have brought to the lives of all people in the Archdiocese.

The impact of those deacons for Blessed Sacrament Parish I will have to tell you about in the next newsletter.

Christian Stewardship: Putting the Eucharist Into Action



In today's troubled world, we may often question how we can respond to the daily challenges and opportunities laid out before us with a sense of gratitude, joy, and confidence? How can we put the Eucharist into action today?

The answer to both questions is to embrace a better understanding of our lives as Christian stewards.

The mystery of the Eucharist celebrates change. We celebrate transformation as the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of our Lord. The whole Christian life of stewardship gives us reason to hope and work for change as well – in ourselves, the Church, and the world.

Stewardship always involves conversion – a change of mind and heart; something that cannot be expressed in one single action, but in a whole way of living. As stewards, we must understand that a grace-filled potential dwells within each of us that is constantly open to conversion and is responsive to the love of God. Our work of stewardship is ultimately our way of saying thanks to God: of putting the Eucharist into action.

Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. God's purpose at Pentecost was to equip His church with the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, that we would be His witnesses to all the nations, resulting in His eternal glory. Thus we are all members of

the same body of Christ. We are not only baptized in the Spirit, we are commanded to be filled by the Spirit. To be filled by the Spirit, we must confess all known sin, die to ourselves, and yield ourselves fully to the Lord and depend on him step by step (Gal. 5:16). The results of a consistent daily walk in the Spirit will be the fruit of the Spirit manifested in our lives and relationships (Eph. 5:19-6:9; Col. 3:16-4:1).

This Spirit can open our hearts to conversion, which is essential to Christian stewardship. We open our hearts to the Gospel message to examine and critique the ambiguities and inconsistencies in our own lifestyles. We seek to understand what it means for human beings who have been blessed with so much abundance to be faithful stewards of all that God has created.

We must commit to a prayerful life; in order to be good stewards of our relationship with God, we must commit our time – this should include periods of time set aside for prayer, the reading of sacred scripture, and for full and active participation in the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments.

We must live in gratitude; the realization that everything we have is a gift from God, and a good steward thanks God daily for these blessings and, in turn, share our blessings and gifts generously as circumstances and time allow. "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good

stewards of God's varied grace, each in the measure he has received" (1 Peter 4:10).

We must make choices that glorify God. Christian stewards regard a high standard of living and accumulation of material goods as secondary to a life of generosity, hospitality, and the nurturing of personal relationships.

We must show compassion. Compassion is more than performing isolated good deeds. It is a commitment to a way of life that reveals care and concern for others. "In truth I say to you, whatever you did to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me" (Matt 25:40).

The best way to respond to God's loving generosity is by reflecting that generosity day by day. The stewardship question is not, "Should I do these things?" but rather, "How much should I do?". Ultimately, stewardship comes down to personal decisions about how each of us lives out our commitment to discipleship and how each of us will respond to God's gifts based on our experience, self-knowledge, and the call of God's grace. "What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good He has done for me" (Psalm 116:12). Christian stewards know the joy of giving. Let go, and let God. You will be amazed!

(excerpts taken from International Catholic Stewardship Council)

*Candice Miller
Stewardship Committee Chairperson*

Join us for a ***Joyfully Gifted Workshop*** to discover and discern your spiritual gifts! Our workshop will be held on **Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in Putz Hall**. This workshop is FREE and includes a light lunch. Registration is required. For more information and to register, please contact the Parish Office at 319-233-6179 or register online at: <https://blessedsacramentwaterloo.org/joyfully-gifted-workshop>.


Blessed Sacrament LIVE!

Harland Robinson, Technology Committee

The 21st Century has arrived at Blessed Sacrament! We are excited to announce that, beginning Pentecost Sunday (May 20th), we will broadcast our Masses LIVE over the internet via Blessed Sacrament Live.


As an outreach program of our Liturgical Ministries, this service is specifically targeting those who, for reasons beyond their own control, are unable to attend Mass or church events. For many homebound/ill individuals, this outreach reminds them they are loved by their brothers and sisters in Christ and that they remain a vibrant and beloved part of our faith community.

Since this service is located on our website, it can be accessed by any internet-connected device (computer, smartphone, smart TV, etc.). It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Simply visit our website: (www.blessedsacramentwaterloo.org);
2. Click on the "Blessed Sacrament LIVE!" hot button;
3. Click on the **PLAY**  **BUTTON** in the middle of the viewing screen and, voila!, you are ready to watch and hear the Mass in 1080p HD. No need to search for a file or follow numerous links to attend Mass. Better yet, make us your internet homepage and you will always be ready to view our Mass, no matter where in the world you happen to be!

Missed a great homily or happening during Mass? No worries, catch it again, or for the first time, with our "on demand" feature found on the page. Simply



click on the **PLAY**  **BUTTON** in the middle of the viewing screen and select "Previous Broadcasts" to bring up a list of previous broadcasts. Our broadcasts are archived on the website for about a month.

As an outreach program for our sick, hospitalized, and homebound parishioners, as well as a tool for evangelization to the wider world, we believe this service to be a key step in achieving our goal of making our liturgical celebrations accessible to the homebound, those without transportation, and as an effort to evangelize to people who are not affiliated with a Catholic parish, especially among the young adult population.

How great will it be for our loved ones to maintain their connection to our parish by attending our Mass while at home due to weather, health, or other reasons?

And what a great way to reach out to those seeking to connect or reconnect to their faith!

This is a very big thing for our parish and we urge you to consider how this ministry can be of benefit to you and your loved ones. Your active participation and support of Blessed Sacrament Live is vital to

its success.

If this ministry meets your needs, or you believe in its potential to minister to our homebound and sick, please help us in support of our outreach program by spreading the word and encouraging its financial support. For a few extra dollars each month, this service can stand on its own and become "budget neutral".

Speaking of which, we are also exploring offering this service, for a nominal fee, to families who desire to live-stream baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Now, no matter what the weather or distance, your loved ones can be a part of these special family occasions. Watch our bulletins for future announcements in this regard.

Donations in support of Blessed Sacrament LIVE can be sent to the parish office or placed in the offertory basket. Simply mark your donation envelope with "Blessed Sacrament LIVE".

On a final note, rest assured, our camera will be tightly focused on the altar, ambo, tabernacle, and font, and while you should be aware that we are broadcasting the Mass, we intend to minimize the appearance of our parishioners on camera and any such appearance would be incidental and fleeting. Of course, our pastor, lector, cantor, commentator, and servers are active participants in the Mass and will be on camera as they perform their duties - all to the greater glory of Our Lord!

Host Communities

Sr. Madonna Friedman, OSF



H - Hospitality
O - Openness
S - Service
T - Trust

The Host Community subcommittee has been working diligently to invite one parishioner from each of the **94 small host communities** to be a contact person for that particular Host Community. Many of you have been invited to consider being the person to pass on the information from the parish office of special things happening in their small Host Community. We are grateful to all of you who responded to this special invitation to carry on the **"Mission of Jesus"**. Everyone in each small Host Community has an **integral part** to help revitalize and create **BONDING, ALIVE, and CARING small Host Communities within the larger COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT!**

All of us have gifts to share. Connecting with those in our

neighborhood offers a wonderful opportunity to share our gifts with them. **Host Communities are a form of ministry that enables us to live out our sharing in the life of Christ by...**

- * Using our gifts of **faith and love**;
- * Using our gifts of **time, talent, and treasure**; and,
- * Using our gift of **energy** in ways that are both simple and fulfilling.

"HOST COMMUNITY ministry" invites us through our Baptism to be host in extending our hospitality in loving and caring ways to others.

The purpose of Host Communities is to be the **Presence of Christ** in our neighborhood small Host Community. And the objective of each Host Community is: **To be a presence of Blessed Sacrament in your Host Community by:**

- * **Welcoming** new members;

- * **Congratulating** new parents;
- * **Being aware of neighbors** who are ill or hospitalized; and,
- * **Reaching out in compassion** when there is a death.

Earlier all parishioners received four pages of pertinent information of our revised model of Host Communities. You either received an email or a mailing. If you did not receive this information, please call Terri at the parish office **233-6179** and she will send it to you. One of the pages had a suggested list of ways in which parishioners can become more connected in getting to know their neighbors.

Please pray that the Host Community Ministry will be an **instrument for a deeper Visible Presence in each Host Community. All of this will have a significant impact in our daily lives and as we worship together with the larger Blessed Sacrament Community at the weekend liturgies!**

Community Garage Sale!

Yvonne Heuer, Garage Sale Committee

Our 3rd Annual Garage Sale will be held **August 9th, 10th and 11th** in the Parish Center. We hope it will be a record-breaking year!

Now is the time to begin looking around your home to see what you might want to donate. You may have noticed that we have secured the use of a 53' semi trailer for limited storage of donated items. If you have items to donate and do not have room to store them at home until August, please call us and we



can arrange to store them in the trailer.

If you can keep your items at home until August, please do so! We will begin accepting donations after each Mass the weekend of **August 4th & 5th.**

We have a great time at this sale. We want you to have a great time too! Please consider signing up to help us.

Continue to watch for updates in the bulletin.

If you have questions or would like to sign up to help with the garage sale, please call Margaret Klein at 319-429-1907 or email: margaret.lenz.klein@gmail.com.

School News

Angie Beck, Principal

Blessed Sacrament School and Daycare provide a nurturing, Christian environment for children to learn and grow. Visit us to learn more about our school and for registration information.



Preschool provides students a strong start in school with small classes and fun, hands-on learning. Children from 18 months old through school-age learn through play in a loving, supportive environment in our daycare center that is open year-round.


Faith, academics, and service are the core of all learning at Blessed Sacrament School. The values, knowledge, and skills acquired in school impact young people for a lifetime.



Lenten Project: "Feed The Hungry"

Derek Mineart, Project Coordinator

Our Lenten project to prepare low-cost, pre-packaged meals for distribution by the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to meet with great success due to the involvement of our many dedicated volunteers from the community, as well as financial and in-kind support from local churches and organizations.

 This year, in partnership with Outreach, we packaged 40,392 meals at a cost of \$10,098.00, of which 34,560 were distributed to the NE Iowa Food Bank and 5,832 went to St. Vincent de Paul. While we were unable to reach our goal of 44,000 meals due to a shortage of one ingredient, we certainly had enough volunteers and time to do so.

As a parish, we raised \$6,279 through our Brass Bucket campaign

and received donations of \$500 each from St. Edward Catholic Church, Zion Lutheran Church, and the Knights of Columbus Council 700. We also received a \$100 contribution from Sacred Heart Parish.

Our volunteer base in support of this project continues to grow within the Waterloo community and we were blessed to receive the overwhelming support of approximately 340 volunteers. Indeed, we had such a good response from our volunteers that we ran out of hair nets and aprons! We are truly blessed to receive volunteer support from not only our own parishioners, but also from Blessed Sacrament School, Zion Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church, Queen of Peace, Sacred Heart, St. Edward, the various Knights of



Columbus Councils, Boy Scouts, and our metro Faith Formation religious education students. What a wonderful expression of our love for others!

We were also blessed to receive the support of the Isle of Capri Hotel and Casino for lodging and United Rentals for providing a forklift.

Since beginning this project four years ago, we have packaged over **200,000** meals!

Thanks to all who participated in making this project an outstanding success!



Blessed Sacrament Men's Choir

Deacon John Herman

It all began when two women approached me and said they would love to see our parish have a men's choir. At first I hesitated. I thought there might not be enough men interested. Then I thought I'd give it a try. It was slow going at first. Only one man contacted me right away. He was a person who had never sung in our choir before. The women kept supporting my efforts.

Right now we have 12-14 men who are in the Men's Choir. Eight of the men also sing in the funeral choir.

A few people have asked why the men can't sing at the Mass they



normally attend. Well there are a couple of reasons. Our schedule is to normally sing at the 8:30 Mass on the 5th Sunday of the month. There are 4 months in the year with 5 Sundays. Our other Masses already have people singing at them. A second reason is that some

of the men sing in the adult choir, therefore they would not want to

sing at two Masses. And some of the guys don't want a heavy schedule, like singing every month; which would also require another practice night.

The Men's Choir did sing for the Good Friday Service which went really well. I am very proud of them.

More men are welcome to join the choir by contacting me. It is always good to have more singers in the event someone can't sing on a given Sunday.

Deacon John Herman, 233-7852 or herman1129@q.com



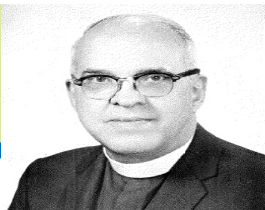
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Parish Golf Tournament
South Hills Golf Course

August 11, 2018 - 7:30 am (Shotgun Start)



Father Putz



Legacy Society

Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and provided for them the gifts they needed to go into the world and make disciples of all people and of all nations. At Confirmation you too received this gift of the Holy Spirit that challenges you to bring the hope, the promise, and the love of Jesus to all you come in contact with every day.

One way you can bring that gift of the Holy Spirit to others is how you talk about, interact with, and help those who are less fortunate. Your faith challenges you to use these gifts: gifts that are on loan to you from the Creator, for the good of others, your family, your community, and those who are most vulnerable in society. Fortunately for you, being a

steward of your gifts and sharing them with those most in need can be done relatively easily.

Christ and his Apostles have challenged us to be stewards of the many gifts you have received from God. They urge us, as a sign of love of others, that these gifts be used to provide a roof over the heads of all, clothes on the backs of everyone, food on tables, and some jingle in the pockets of all humankind. Being a steward of God's gifts challenges you to consider how you can help others who are most in need and for those who bring the love of Jesus to others, including your parish.

It's a major challenge, but there's a way you can do this

today. The creation of a gift in your will, to give some of your estate after you are gone to continue God's work of saving souls through Blessed Sacrament's Father Putz Legacy Society is an act of being a good steward of some of God's gifts. A plan you can create today, of trusting God with a portion of that to which He has entrusted you.

If you would like to learn just how easy it is to set up such a gift to support our parish and its mission contact any member of the Blessed Sacrament Development Council.

On behalf of your parish family, thank you for prayerfully considering such a gift.

Greg Greco

Community Garden

Spring is here! The birds are chirping, the trees have leaves, the tulips have bloomed, and gardens are being planned! And, speaking of gardens, we are preparing to open our Community Garden for our very first full planting season!

The community garden is meant to foster and grow a sense of ministering to the poor, the needy, and the less fortunate. Jesus also calls us to love our neighbor. What better way to love our neighbor



than to feed them and tend to their welfare.

Last year we were able to donate 358 pounds of tomatoes, peppers, collards, broccoli, beans, and melons to the NE Iowa Food Bank, providing fresh produce to those in need. This year, with a full growing season available, we will be able to

substantially increase our food assistance in the local community.

As we all know, there is a lot of effort in planning, preparing, planting, maintaining, and harvesting our garden. Whether it is routine watering or weeding, we need the active participation of our community to make our garden a success.

Please contact the parish office to volunteer and make an impact in our community.

Harland Robinson, Newsletter Editor



Estate Sale Services

Downsizing? Clearing household goods from an estate?

Blessed Sacrament parishioners offer Estate Sale Services for those willing to donate the proceeds back to Blessed Sacrament Parish. At your location, we will set up for a sale, advertise and staff the sale, and dispose of what remains after the sale. If you are interested in discussing or scheduling a sale with us, please call Margaret Klein at 319-429-1907 or email:

margaret.lenz.klein@gmail.com

THE COMMUNITY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

650 Stephan Avenue
Waterloo, Iowa 50701



Rectory Phone 319-233-6179
FAX 319-233-6051
School Phone 319-233-7863
Day Care Phone 319-236-6131

Reconciliation 3:30 PM Saturday or see bulletin
Masses 4:30 PM Saturday
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday
8:00 AM Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 AM Wednesday during School

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We're on the Web!

facebook.com/blessedsacramentchurch/
www.blessedsacramentwaterloo.org

Ten Ways to Grow Closer to Christ This Summer

#1	Pray through the Day	Start your Day with Prayer: http://www.beginningcatholic.com/daily-catholic-prayer Liturgy of the Hours for Families: http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=6367 Conclude the Day with an Evening Examen: http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen
#2	Join a Men's or Women's Group	Start a Men's Group and Fuel your Faith: https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/adult-faith/small-christian-communities/mens-resources/ Gather your Girlfriends and Form a Catholic Book Club: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/column/starting-a-book-club-2704/ Join an Online Women's Book Study: <i>Who Does He Say You Are?</i> : http://womeninthenewevangelization.com/wine/index.php/summer-book-club/
#3	Care for Our Common Home	Living Out Pope Francis' Encyclical, <i>Laudato Si: On Care For Our Common Home</i> : http://nacflm.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Vogt-Handout-NACFLM-on-Laudato-Si.pdf <i>Prayers For Mother Earth</i> Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGTqe-KsnOU St. Francis of Assisi's <i>Cantic of the Sun</i> : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MShtNly61uw
#4	Exercise Your Mind	Start a Prayer Journal: https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/how-to-keep-a-prayer-journal/ Summer Reading Suggestions from the U.S. Catholic Book Club: http://www.uscatholic.org/bookclub Study in a Summer Course with Dayton Virtual Learning: https://vlcff.udayton.edu/
#5	Be Adventurous	Summer Ideas for Families: http://catholicmom.com/2013/05/15/summer-activities-for-you-and-your-kids/ Create a Summer Bucket List: http://lifeteen.com/cym/blog/my-youth-ministry-summer-bucket-list/ Outdoor Scavenger Hunt Adventures: http://cymhub.com/tag/scavenger-hunts/
#6	Plant a Garden	Plant Seeds of Faith: http://faith.5minutesformom.com/8546/planting-the-seed-of-faith/ Plant a Catholic Garden: http://www.catholichomeandgarden.com/the_catholic_garden.htm Prayer for a Garden: https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/prayer-garden
#7	Participate in a Catholic Experience	Stop at New Melleray Abbey to Join in Mid-Day Prayer: http://www.newmelleray.org/ Pray, Hike, and Enjoy Praying Outdoor The Way of the Cross at St. Donatus Catholic Church, St. Donatus, IA: https://50mmimages.wordpress.com/2015/06/14/st-donatus-and-the-outdoor-way-of-the-cross/
#8	Focus on Family-the Domestic Church	Five Ways to a Stronger Family Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXCCg8zocTU Day-by-Day Living for Families as the Domestic Church: https://www.pinterest.com/dbqarch/day-by-day-living-for-the-domestic-church/ Ten Summer Ideas For Catholic Families: http://catholicexchange.com/10-summer-ideas-catholic-family
#9	Practice Mercy	Start Seeing Others through Mercy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDDWvi_q-o8 Fifty Corporal Works of Mercy Ideas for your Summer Bucket List: https://focusoncampus.org/content/50-corporal-works-of-mercy-ideas-for-your-summer-bucket-list How To Practice Works of Mercy Today: http://www.thedivinemercy.org/news/How-Can-We-Practice-the-Corporal-Works-of-Mercy-Today-3153
#10	Find Personal Leisure Time	Check off your list: <i>Ten Classic Movies all Catholics Should See</i> : http://catholic-link.org/2015/11/27/10-classic-movies-for-catholics/ Reconnect with/Visit an Old Friend: http://intentblog.com/5-simple-ways-to-reconnect-with-old-friends/