

Connections

NEWS FROM LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC PARISH | SPRING 2015



A MESSAGE FROM FR. DAVE

PARTNERS IN MISSION



Earlier this year I met with leaders from Sunshine Communities to explore a partnership opportunity.

Serving people with developmental disabilities, Sunshine provides

services including residential and vocational supports. They are seeking to acquire parish property to build a 3000+ sq. ft. residence for 6-8 people.

We are blessed with a beautiful campus of 19 acres, including five acres on the west side of Olimphia Road. If Sunshine were to purchase our property, their development and new building costs are estimated to approach \$1million. Assuredly their presence as neighbors would add value to our own campus, create opportunities for mission expansion and make for a more stable and secure area.

One of the defining features of our parish is our desire to live as *intentional disciples*. We wholeheartedly seek to live the corporal works of mercy and harbor a noticeable capacity to serve people in our neighborhood who are in need. Partnering with Sunshine has all the appearances of an answer to our prayers for new ways to proclaim the Gospel and to live as instruments of God's hope and peace.

"....champions of God's gift of human life."

We envision a new Sunshine residence proximate to our campus to bring forth additional members of our parish in service of God's People who bear developmental disabilities, their families and those who labor as professional caregivers. Such a partnership offers splendid evangelical opportunities and will help us to become even stronger champions of God's gift of human life by advocating passionately for those whom ungodly forces seek to marginalize and even eliminate.

Pastoral Council and Finance Council members are united in their strong support to pursue this partnership. More recently, Bishop Thomas has encouraged us to move forward with discussions, and graciously has made available to us key diocesan officials with whom we are working cooperatively.

I look forward to providing updates with progress on this important initiative.

EMBRACING FAITH

THE CHURCH NOW

Many times our youth are encouraged to become involved in practicing their faith so as to become the "Church of the Future." Little Flower Catholic Parish believes rather that these young members are an integral part of the Church NOW.

Our students embrace the faith in their School of Religion classes on Sunday or in their studies at St. Benedict Catholic School. In these environments, catechists strive to help the children grow in their understanding of the faith based on a relationship with Jesus. This is only the beginning of their journey in lifelong intentional discipleship.

Some of the younger girls in our parish community join their mothers as part of the Little Flower Girls Club. Regular meetings introduce them to specific virtues as manifest in the lives of the Saints, and they explore how they can grow in these virtues in their own lives.

Our youth also engage in service and take responsibility for manifesting the care and compassion of Jesus to others. An eighth grade student, Katelyn Schoen reflected on her leadership role in the school's Haiti collection during Lent. "I've always enjoyed service and the Letter to James taught me that you must connect your faith with action. The Haiti Project has humbled me and opened my eyes to how we must help others. This successful fundraiser raised more than \$1,100 and seeing this success has allowed me to set goals in the future when it comes to my relationship with God, my faith and worship, and what other service projects I can aspire to do."

Other acts of service are ongoing. Asked why she continues to serve at Mass, Mary Bishop (high school junior) replied, "Serving allows me to participate in special ways by assisting Father. It lightens my heart to know that I am helping out as much as I can in God's house."

The high school Life Teen students came together weekly prior to Easter to pray and reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us in His passion and death. These weeks of prayer culminated in a live enactment of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

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SR. MARILYN MARIE

MORE THAN JUST LETTERS



Individuals sometimes express amusement and/or confusion about our generous use of acronyms. Everything from LF (Little Flower) to SOR (School

of Religion) to ACTS (Acts | Community | Theology | Service) pepper our bulletins and other communications. One such acronym which is a mystery to many is RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

RCIA is a journey, a process, a rite by which the Church welcomes new adult members. Some of the individuals who engage in the RCIA come from a background in which they practiced no formal religion and are seeking baptism. Some come from another Christian denomination with a desire to embrace and profess our Catholic faith. Some, for a variety of reasons, were never confirmed and seek to receive this sacrament. Some have received their initiation sacraments (Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation) but are eager to

grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith.

The RCIA process brings these individuals and their sponsors together for weekly meetings from September until Easter. Our meetings are focused on growing as intentional disciples, individually and as members of the Little Flower Parish Community. The candidates themselves reflect:

“If I would leave this earth today I would go happy knowing that I got to share new experiences, giving me a new family, a new life being in the 2015 RCIA class with my sponsor along with all team members, sponsors, and candidates who were as willing to teach, learn and share their experiences, prayers and blessings as I was.” (Ron Bruner)

“RCIA has been so valuable in growing closer to God. It has helped me to cultivate a constant pursuit kind of mentality toward my relationship with Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit. As long as we are searching for Him and seeking His will in all things we can know that He will meet us where we are and that we can trust His strength where ours inevitably fails. RCIA has helped me to understand that more fully and in ways that are deeper than just a formal relaying of knowledge.” (Sara Elias)

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE ENGAGED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH, THE RCIA PROCESS MAY BE RIGHT FOR YOU!

FR. DAVE NUSS

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES AND SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT

According to Gallup research spiritual fulfillment can be measured by these nine items below (listed randomly).

- 1. My faith influences my daily decisions and ordinary living
- 2. My faith gives my life purpose, meaning and direction
- 3. My faith gives me inner peace
- 4. I am a person who is spiritually committed
- 5. I pray to God daily and worship God weekly
- 6. My faith makes it possible for me to forgive people who have hurt me deeply
- 7. My faith moves me to develop my God-given strengths
- 8. My faith leads me to take unpopular stands at times
- 9. I speak words of kindness to those in need of encouragement

Gallup further finds that strong church commitment heightens spiritual fulfillment. At Little Flower this is witnessed in our determination to live as intentional disciples. While the features that follow are not requirements for membership, they reflect our commitment to live the faith and result in a more meaningful experience of church and elevated spiritual fulfillment.

- Worship God at Sunday Mass and on Holy Days of Obligation
- Invite others to join us for worship at Mass
- Invite parents to enroll their children in Saint Benedict Catholic School
- Pray daily, remembering especially to pray for those needing healing
- Join in Eucharistic Adoration and other regular devotions
- Participate in offerings to grow in your understanding of the Catholic Faith including bible studies, faith sharing groups and special presentations
- Give financially to the parish regularly and sacrificially
- Share your time to a parish ministry
- Reach out to members of the parish family who are sick, grieving, or anxious
- Influence positively the people with whom you interact beyond the parish family
- Participate in special community events, savoring the delights of existing relationships and making new friends
- Make an ACTS retreat and support this exciting movement of the Holy Spirit



OUR CATHOLIC CULTURE

If you were to walk into our school and peek inside a classroom, you might notice several things that make us unique. You would see children being inclusive and empathetic. You would hear our students using words of respect and kindness. You would witness our teachers telling stories of Jesus and his love for us. These are just a few examples of the Catholic Culture at St. Benedict Catholic School.

One of the definitions of “culture” is “the sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another.” At St. Benedict Catholic School, we do all we can to build up a Catholic culture.

Artwork and images are important reminders to us on a daily basis that we are here because God is central to all we say and do. Our faith is infused in all classes. The Masses we celebrate, the opportunities for prayer together, the daily Religion classes seep into the way we relate to God and others.

“...we do all we can to build up a Catholic culture.”

Everyone in our school community (a group of human beings) contributes to our Catholic culture. The faculty and staff model actions to our students that speak of God’s loving care for us. The students interact daily in such a way as to give witness to Jesus’ commandment that we love one another. In the classrooms, at lunch, on the playground, our students learn to form communities in which all are revered and accepted. Our parents and family members are no less important as they contribute to the school’s success and excellence.

At St. Benedict School, we are instilling Catholic values into our students and preparing a new generation to go out into the world and make a positive difference.



PARISH RETREATS

ACTS RETREAT NEWS

There is no question that the ACTS Retreats here at Little Flower Parish continue to impact the lives of individuals and the life of our parish community.

Forty-six men participated in the second ACTS Men’s retreat in November 2014. One of the retreatants, Bob Nelson, describes the ongoing impact of the retreat in his life: “When I attended the ACTS men’s retreat in November I was an RCIA candidate, new to the Catholic faith and Little Flower Parish. I experienced the faith, fellowship and support of committed Christian men who became my ACTS brothers. Their friendship and words of encouragement continued throughout my RCIA journey to full communion in the Catholic Church.”

The women gathered for their second retreat in May 2015. Karli Vercellotti says of her experience as participant last spring and her involvement as a team member this year: “The ACTS experience has inspired me to extend my Catholic faith into everyday life more than ever. God has provided me with the comfort of knowing He is there for me. He shows me daily both as a member of the Little Flower community, and as part of the ACTS retreat team. I find ACTS a great blessing in my life.”

The threads of Adoration, Community, Theology and Service are stronger in our parish community as a result of the ACTS retreats.

JOSH VENIA

PARISHIONER



We congratulate Josh Venia, Little Flower parishioner and student at Central Catholic High School, who won the Division II State Wrestling Championship in March of this year. Josh has been wrestling for about five years now. When asked about the connection between the practice of his faith and his success as a wrestler, Josh shared, “Practicing my faith helps to keep me focused and gives me confidence which also helps me in my wrestling. I like being a team member and helping out the team whenever I can.”

PATRICK ANDRES

PARISHIONER



In February, I was selected to be a 2015 *Sports Illustrated Kids* Kid Reporter. after a lengthy application that included writing a story and an essay. I was one of fifteen kids across the country chosen for this

honor. My ‘job’ as a Kid Reporter includes covering sports of all types and writing blog posts for the Sports Illustrated Kids website. I have written several stories so far. In March, I was at a Cleveland Cavaliers game, where I interviewed players such as Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love. A week later, I was back at Quicken Loans Arena, inside the Kentucky locker room after their Elite Eight win over Notre Dame.

You can find the stories I have written at www.sikids.com/kidreporter. Part of my interview with the Cavs’ Kyrie Irving will be included in the June issue of *Sports Illustrated Kids* magazine.

WELCOME

NEW PARISHIONERS

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Asmus
Marty and Jackie Ball
Ms. Carol Barnhart
Mr. John Berry
Ms. Denise Best
Mark and Laura Bodenmiller
Ms. Eileen Brubaker
Jan Cathey
Miss Sara C. Collins
Mr. & Mrs. John Conway
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fallgren
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Flynn
Benjamin and Diana Franco
Cathy T. Frogameni
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley J. Gasser
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gaynor
Samantha Gerlach
Mrs. Ernestina Gilbert
Valentin and Natalia Grinberg
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gutierrez
Jacob and Tiffany Harper
Jeremy and Hollie Hartle
Ms. Gordyne Kaslly
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Keating
Daniel Lietaert
Sara Locker
Callie Lorton
Miss Constance M. Maas
Disney Maxwell
Sandra McCluskey
Alicia McElheney
Patrick and Mary McNamara
Andrew and Nikki Mock
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Morgan
Robert and Maria Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. William Noltner
Claire Nusbaum
Mr. Paul Onody
Marian and William Parkins
William and Jan Paul
Drs. Brent and Ashley Paulus
Amanda Pietraszak
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Ragan, Jr.
Mr. Allen Rawlins
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Shaw
Phillip and Megan Solle
Mr. & Mrs. Byrne Stapleton
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Sulick
Gregory and Jessica Talbert
Austin and Korinne Turnbell
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Unger
Mrs. Mary VanCleve
Dave and Kathy Well
Miss Kathleen A. West
Terra Williams
Timothy and Lindsey Wisniewski
Mark Ziehr

DECEASED

Frederick “Mike” Bercher
Virginia Boratyn
Mary Jo Brenneman
Roger Clark
Charles Drabek
Robert Earl
Cosimo Figliomeni
Catherine Filiere
John Foisy
Robert Forche
Robert Jankowski
Nellie Jarosz
William Johnston
Marilyn Jones
John Kalisz
Joan Keith
Richard Keith
Joseph Koerper
Leona Krukowski
Genevieve Kwiatkowski
Edna Madalinski
Eleanor Menzel
Jack Paquette
Margaret Rade
Cornelia Spino
Kevin Tidd
Eleanor Tucker
John Van Nest

BAPTISMS

Eleanor Paige Duran,
Daughter of Martin and Nicole Duran

Blaise Mason and Gunnar James Fleming
Children of Patrick Fleming and Angela Kolodzaike

Collin Hunt Hansen
Son of Chandler and Christina Hansen

Boyd Kenneth Lubomirski
Son of Joseph and Janelle Lubomirski

Evelyn Jane Unger
Daughter of Jason and Nicole Unger

Madelyn Hope and Sophia Faith Johnson
Daughters of Chris and Jillian Johnson

Evelyn Marie Schak
Daughter of Jeff and Andrea Schak

Zarek Gabriel Sadowy
Son of Bob and Aby Sadowy

Jackson John Berry,
Son of John Berry and Tabitha Woodbury

Miles Harrison Muskovich
Son of Dr. Dustin Muskovich and Mrs. Suzanne Muskovich

Ava Rae DiCresce
Daughter of Tom and Megan Dicresce

Sarah Elizabeth Nusbaum
Daughter of Claire Nusbaum

Olivia Mae Brown
Daughter of Daniel Lewinski and Dani Brown

Vincente Alexander Barrett
Son of Tyler Barrett and Callie Lorton

Gabriella Jean Hartle
Daughter of Jeremy and Hollie Hartle

Dominick Michael Pluszczynski
Son of Tim Pluszczynski and Adria Seawick

Cole Matthew Huntebrinker
Son of Chad and Tracy Huntebrinker

Jana Jacqueline Ducey
Daughter of Kyle and Amanda Ducey

Fenton James Engle
Son of Branden and Danielle Engle

Logan James Trala
Son of Justin Trala and Amanda Pietraszak

Bradley Michael LaForge
Son of Joe and Heather LaForge

Charlotte Victoriana Talbert
Daughter of Greg and Jessica Talbert

Ivan Richard Paulus
Son of Ashley and Brent Paulus

2015 CONFIRMANDS

Patrick Andres
Ericka Barriclow
Bridget Bishop
Maximillian Carr
Frederick Cherry
Trevor Errington
Rachel Gorman
Sara Hall
Carson Lake
Ashley Kim Le
Mariah Mattison
Gabrielle McCluskey
Molly Musgrave
Skylie Ohlman
Hannah Rattigan
Helen Saggese
Anna Scharf
Katelyn Schoen
Cecilia Silvestri
Emily Smith
Hunter Spino
Matthew Stansley
Kennedy Taylor
Kathryn Urrutia
Bryson Varwig

2015 COMMUNICANTS

Lydia Bal
Sydnie Baumbarger
Claire Bishop
John Cherry
Landon Coy
Grace Dumas
Joshua Fallgren
Julian Fordham
Sanjay Gray
Myah Greene
Rachel Heckman
Enzo Penrod
Ava Saggese
Malakai Schak
Allison Scharf
Lauren Schoen
Stella Smith
Maxwell St. Clair
Blake Terrill
Audrey Vendemo
Rebekah Vercellotti
Javier Villanueva



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Several of our young adults spend time in their study of Scripture and the Catholic faith. Their discussion leads to a clearer understanding of how their faith is an integral part of their lives. Several of these young adults serve on the Life Teen Core Team.

Far from being a distant dream and a mere potential, the faith of our young parishioners is vital NOW for the life and well being of our parish. We are proud of who they are AND who they will become!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL GRADUATION
JUNE 6 | 6 PM

Little Flower Catholic Church

ALTAR AND ROSARY RUMMAGE SALE
JUNE 18-19 | 9 AM - 6 PM
JUNE 20 | 9 AM - 12 PM

O'Grady Community Center

Father Dave Nuss
Pastor

Doug Bullimore
Deacon

Sister Marilyn Marie
Ellerbrock, SND
Director of Evangelization
and Faith Formation

Laurie Fitzpatrick
Administrative Assistant

Missy Gillig
Bookkeeper

Kathy Well
Administrative Assistant

Christine Lewinski
Business Manager

Diane Spetz
St. Benedict School Secretary

Jason Szynkowski
St. Benedict School Principal

Tom Williams
Director of Music and Liturgy



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home
is here.org

My rehab is
here.

After surgery for a routine hip replacement, Mike was anxious to get back to his normal, active lifestyle. His brief three week rehab stay at Franciscan Care Center helped maximize his performance, and was the perfect stepping stone from hospital to home.

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and to learn more about all of our services.**



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