



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Welcome to Our New Parish Newsletter!

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the first issue of our new monthly parish newsletter!

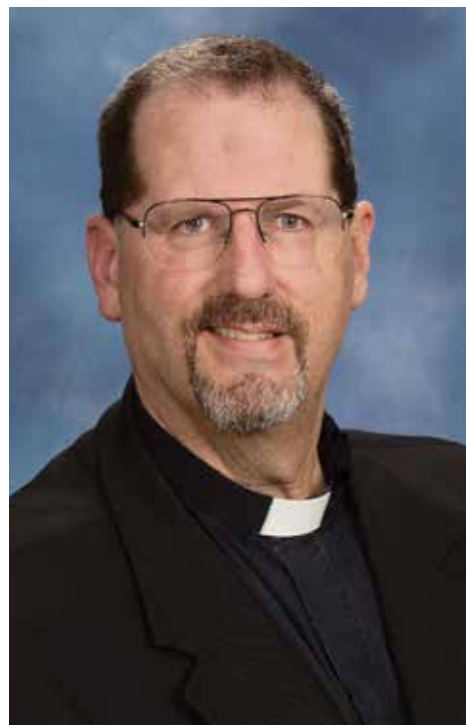
As our parish community continues to grow and develop stewardship as a way of life, we recognize the need for increased communication. Through this newsletter, we hope to share stories that will help us all to better understand who we are as Catholics and what we are doing as individual members of Christ's family. In upcoming issues, we will focus on what's going on in the St. Anthony of Padua community, and how those activities and events are changing hearts and minds and helping parishioners grow closer to Christ and each other. Each article will ultimately

focus on Christ at work within our community through the stewardship way of life.

Our hope is that this newsletter will be a successful means for ongoing education and formation in our faith, and I pray it will be a vehicle through which you are informed and inspired to become more actively involved in the life of Christ and the parish.

Another way I hope to improve our parish's communication efforts is through a comprehensive parish survey that will be conducted this winter. Through the survey, I want to hear from you regarding our parish and its future. A survey will be mailed to each home, and then I will ask you to take the time to fill it out and return it as soon as

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What Does Stewardship Mean?

The Old Testament is not the only place where we can find references to stewardship. Indeed, of the 36 parables in the New Testament, more than half of them deal with time, talent, possessions, or money. Therefore, if Jesus spoke of stewardship that much, it should be a very important part of our lives!

What comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

Do you think of it as just another way to talk about money? Do you quickly dismiss it as a notion that has nothing to do with being Catholic?

Stewardship is actually a concept that is Scripturally based, and is absolutely vital to our life as Catholics. God tells us, in the very first book of the Old Testament, “Be fertile and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth” (Gen 1:28).

What does that mean to us today? It simply means that God is telling us, “This is yours, so take care of it.” One of the first things God tells us to do is to be good stewards of the gifts He has entrusted to us!

The Old Testament is not the only place where we can find references to stewardship. Indeed, of the 36 parables in the New Testament, more than half of them deal with time, talent, possessions, or money. Therefore, if Jesus spoke of stewardship that much, it should be a very important part of our lives!

As Catholics, we refer to the three facets of stewardship as “time, talent and treasure.” Although these are three concrete ways to express and measure stewardship, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us that stewardship is part of discipleship. Stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call in every aspect of our lives.

The Scriptures and Church traditions teach us one important point that cannot be overstated — that stewardship is primarily based on our need to give in gratitude, not on the Church’s need to receive. Of course, both the Catholic Church and our particular parish will always need money. However, we are not asked to give simply to defray costs and fund charitable programs. We are instead asked to remember our need to gratefully return a portion of our time, talent and treasure to God, recognizing all that He has given to us.

It is important to remember that stewardship is a way of life, and not a program. True Catholic stewardship involves an ongoing call to live as followers of Christ. It takes time to



find and define personal goals. You can begin by examining your personal commitments to the parish. How do you live your faith in your daily life with your family and friends? How much time do you spend in daily prayer, going to Mass or being involved in parish ministries and activities? What percentage of your income should you give back to God every week? What talents do you have that could be used to strengthen our parish family?

The coming months will see us increasing and intensifying our education and communication on stewardship. We will be developing a better understanding of how stewardship is a way of responding to God’s call to discipleship. And with God’s help, changes will occur in each of our hearts as we devote ourselves to a stewardship renewal within our parish. Examine how you are currently responding to God’s call to stewardship. If God called you home tomorrow, would He proclaim, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”?

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA



“Thank You for Your Hospitality!” *St. Anthony’s New Parishioner Welcome Ministry*

Whether opening your home to visitors or greeting your neighbor, there are many ways to put the virtue of hospitality into action. As our parish family continues to grow here at St. Anthony, we have so many opportunities to make others feel welcome!

“Once you make your first contact with new parishioners, they greet you whenever they see you at church, school or elsewhere because they remember that first connection,” Ken Klauser says.

The New Parishioner Welcome Ministry exists to create these moments of connection with new members of our faith community. Ultimately, ministry members hope to be the face of Christ for these newcomers who come from many different walks of life.

“Our new parishioners might be transferring to the area or may have lived here all their lives,” Ken says. “Some of them may not have children, or some of them have children at St. Dominic. Others are from another parish in Quincy, and others are just getting married and joining a parish.”

As for Ken and his wife, Jean, they have been St. Anthony’s parishioners since their wedding in 1969, and they both became more involved as time went on. Two years ago, they decided to begin intentionally giving their time to welcome new members to the faith community that welcomed them.

“We went to a few meetings for the We Care Ministries, and there was a conversation about starting a ‘welcome group’ for new parishioners,” Ken says. “The idea would be to make contact with them and see if they had any questions or needs.”

Jean and Ken both liked the idea of making others feel welcome. They began working with the parish office to see a list of parishioners who had joined in 2014.



Jean and Ken Klauser

Then, beginning in January 2015, they started reaching out to each of them.

“It is hard being in a new place, so we call and try to make a time to visit,” Jean Klauser says. “We made 24 visits to new parishioners last year.”

The Klausers bring with them a fruit basket, which includes the church directory and a magnet with details such as Mass times and contact information for the parish and the school. If there are young children, the basket will include age-appropriate books.

The basket also has a welcome brochure that explains parish and school resources. Jean and Ken try to help new parishioners consider how they would like to be involved in parish life. One woman they recently visited also began giving her time with the We Care Ministries.

“We visit with each of them and talk about what their interests are, and see what they might like to be involved

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“Once you make your first contact with new parishioners, they greet you whenever they see you at church, school or elsewhere because they remember that first connection.” — Ken Klauser

Fun Traditions to Mark Catholic Schools Week at St. Dominic

"It's important to recognize the value Catholic education provides to our young people, our church, our communities, and our nation. It is a wonderful recognition of our schools and our focus on faith development, academic excellence, and dedication to service to others." — Principal Sue Kelley

The Christmas decorations have been put away, and we have celebrated the New Year. Is there anything else for our St. Dominic students to look forward to this winter? It just so happens there is — in fact, our school is getting ready to celebrate something very special.

Each year, St. Dominic School and thousands of schools like it throughout the United States celebrate National Catholic Schools Week — this year's celebration takes place from Sunday, Jan. 31, through Saturday, Feb. 6. Special assemblies, various events, and celebration week Masses are just a few of the ways schools nationwide will celebrate. And at St. Dominic, our community will join in the fun with its own special traditions.

"It's important to recognize the value Catholic education provides to our young people, our church, our communities, and our nation," says Principal Sue Kelley. "It is a wonderful recognition of our schools and our focus on faith development, academic excellence, and dedication to service to others."

This year's theme — "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service" — will help students explore and celebrate the values behind Catholic education in all aspects of their lives. Mrs. Kelley says students

at St. Dominic will have the opportunity to see the theme carried out each day of the week.

"We make sure to incorporate activities that reflect this theme throughout the week," she says. "The students are excited about the week as they model their faith, share and demonstrate their knowledge, and give of themselves to brighten the lives of others by participating in the service projects."

Among the events students and staff look forward to every year will be special themed days, such as Pajama Day, and service projects like making cards for those in the military and nursing homes.

"The students look forward to the special themed dress days, going bowling during the school day, and the all-school volleyball tournament in the gym," Mrs. Kelley says. "They also enjoy the change of the schedule during the week to include special activities. They get very excited."

This year in particular, St. Dominic has much to celebrate. As Mrs. Kelley

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A group of students enjoy the bowling outing during Catholic Schools Week 2015 at St. Dominic School. The annual event is among several that Principal Sue Kelley says the students look forward to each year.

ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



Catholic Schools Week at St. Dominic *continued from page 4*

explains, enrollment has jumped from 156 students to 174 students in the last academic year — and hard work on the part of parents, faculty and staff has made a difference.

“Our faculty, staff, and students played a big role in making this year special through their dedication to teaching and learning, and through the planning and participation in various activities throughout the year,” she says. “We were blessed to receive various grants that enabled us to expand programs and technology in our school. Parents and parishioners volunteered their time in many ways to help us continue to provide a quality Catholic education, including serving on committees and organizing fundraising activities. We just continue to grow.”

Mrs. Kelley said fundraising held by the Parent-Teacher Organization supports the events throughout the week, including bowling and transportation to and from the bowling alley.

“Our PTO has really worked hard in the past few years,” she says. “They’ve done a wonderful job fundraising for this school.”



As part of the annual Catholic Schools Week, students at St. Dominic dress for their future jobs on Career Day. Theme days often highlight the annual week-long celebration of Catholic schools.

If you would like to learn more about Catholic Schools Week at St. Dominic, or if you would like more information about our school, please visit stdominicquincy.org or contact the school office at 217-224-0041.

St. Anthony's New Parishioner Welcome Ministry

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in,” Jean says. “You can go to church anywhere, but you get that sense of belonging from being involved.”

While some of the conversations are only a few minutes, on other occasions, Ken and Jean have chatted with our new community members for 45 minutes to an hour.

“These visits are very enjoyable,” Ken says. “We have grandkids at St. Dominic, and I’ve found that the school is a great way to get people talking.”

Whether or not we’re active in the New Parishioner Welcome Ministry, each of us can help create a welcoming environment for our parish family by greeting each other or simply smiling at your neighbor in the pew. Even in our “small actions,” we are the face of Christ for others!

“I would really like to thank new parishioners for giving us the opportunity to come into their homes and speak with them,” Ken says. “Thank you for your hospitality!”

From all of us at
ST. ANTHONY
of PADUA Catholic Church

Welcome!

We are a Catholic community parish based in local culture & tradition. We will enter into the Gospel & do God's will through prayer, service, & good example.

P.S.R.
Our P.S.R. Ministry (Parish School of Religion) provides catechetical instruction to students (firstly grade) who attend public schools. We strive to help the students grow in knowledge about their Catholic faith, integrate the teachings of the Gospel into their daily lives, complete preparation to receive the sacraments, and most of all, to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our P.S.R. classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00-11:00am beginning after Labor Day until the start of May. For more information, please contact our P.S.R. Resource Nurse at 217-222-3996.

R.C.I.A.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a ministry for those who have not been fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Those who are interested in joining the Catholic Church meet together to discuss Catholic teachings and scriptures, to pray together, and to grow in their personal faith. Each person has a sponsor who is a fully initiated practicing Catholic in good standing who sponsors him or her through the process. Upon completion of RCIA, new members are welcomed into the Church during the Easter Vigil.

We are always in need of helping hands! We encourage you to get involved with our parish and school activities. Not only does this help our parish and school, it gives each of us a sense of purpose while having fun and meeting new people. Please consider sharing your time and talent!

Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is if your gift back to God.

St. Anthony Parish Societies

- Ladies Society (1st Monday 7:00pm)
- Men's Society (2nd Monday 7:30pm)
- Prayer Shield Ministry
- Prayer Tree Ministry
- Bereavement Society (2nd Thursday 6:30pm)
- We Care Ministry (4th Thursday 7:00pm)
- Parish Quilters (Wednesday 6:30-7:00pm)
- Parish Pastoral Council (1st Tuesday 7:00pm)
- Finance Council (1st Tuesday 7:00pm)

St. Anthony Parish & St. Dominic School Events

Lenten Fish Fries, Summer Card Parties, Vacation Bible School, Monday Mystery Dinner, St. Dominic Jamboree, St. Anthony Parish Picnic, Field Chicken Dinner, St. Dominic Youth Night, Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, and so much more!

Please call one of our offices for more information on how you can get involved!
St. Anthony Parish: 217-222-3996
St. Dominic School: 217-224-0041

Our school...
ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL
is a dedicated Catholic school community promoting spiritual growth and academic excellence, while challenging students to use their talents to lead and serve.

Principal: Sue Kelley • 217-224-0041
skelley@stdominicquincy.org

Secretaries: Suzanne Spencer • 217-224-0041
spencer@stdominicquincy.org

St. Dominic Catholic School
1030 Columbus Road
Quincy, IL 62305
Phone: 217-224-0041
www.stdominicquincy.org

Would you like more information on our academic accomplishments? Please feel free to check our website or call our school office if you have any questions!

Brochure included in the welcome basket for new parishioners

For more information about the New Parishioner Welcome Ministry, please reach out to Jean and Ken Klauser at 217-223-7182.

Understanding the Role of Sacramentals in Our Faith

The Church, through Christ's passion, death and resurrection, has given us these sacred signs to lead us in holiness, and to better recognize an authentic Christian life. How many sacramentals can you recognize in your life? Probably more than you think.

Most Catholics are familiar with the idea of sacraments in the Church, of which there are seven. Sacraments are the foundation of the spiritual life for an individual and the Church. Sacraments are sources of grace — God's very presence in our lives and unmerited favor from God. They are signs of God's love, and these signs make present what they signify. Although a person benefits — receives the gift of grace — from the sacraments regardless of whether he or she is well disposed to them, one must cooperate with what the Spirit is doing in the sacrament to receive its full benefit.

Sacramentals are different. These are also sacred signs that can build holiness, but they do not work on their own. One must be aware and fully conscious of the sacred action. Sacramentals sanctify us to get the most benefit from the Sacraments (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1667). Sacramentals are given to us to make holy certain actions in life and life's circumstances. There are many such sacred signs that are reminders to us of God.

The sign of the cross is perhaps one of the most fundamental of these signs, and for Catholics, this invocation is done at the start of every sacred action and prayer. Holy water is a sacramental, as it reminds us of our Baptism. By dipping our fingers into holy water

and making the sign of the cross, we are combining two foundational symbols of the Christian life and the Paschal Mystery — the passion, dying and rising of Christ — and bringing them to life in us.

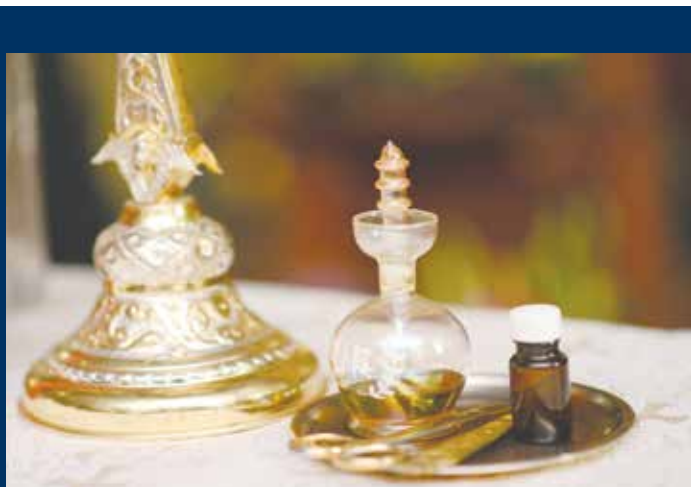
The exchange of peace in the Mass — and at other Catholic rites — is another example of a sacramental. By making some kind of meaningful sign of peace, we are giving the peace of Christ to another person. The chalice and other sacred vessels at Mass also are sacramentals, as they remind us of what they are to contain — the very Body and Blood of Christ.

It might be helpful to organize the types of sacramentals into categories, as author Michael Pennock lists in *This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults*:

"Actions (blessings; genuflections; the sign of the cross; bowing one's head at the name of Jesus; church processions); *Objects* (candles; holy water; statues and icons; holy pictures; blessed ashes; palms; rosaries; relics; incense; vestments; scapulars; church buildings; crosses; religious medals); *Places* (the Holy Land; Rome; Fatima; Lourdes; the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.; and other places of pilgrimage; chapels, retreat centers, and even Catholic cemeteries; *Prayers* (short prayers we say throughout the day; grace before and after meals; prayers at rising and going to bed; praying the rosary, praying a host of other traditional Catholic prayers and devotions); *Sacred Time* (liturgy; holy days; feasts of saints; your saint's name day; special days of prayer; fasting and abstinence; retreats, etc.)" (*This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults*, 176-177).

"Sacramentals...prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it" (CCC 1670). In a word, sacramentals, through the prayer of the Church, bring us to holiness in Christ. All devotions of piety, including sacramentals, should point us toward the liturgy of the Church, a connection to a local parish community, and to the Eucharist (CCC 1675).

The Church, through Christ's passion, death and resurrection, has given us these sacred signs to lead us in holiness, and to better recognize an authentic Christian life. How many sacramentals can you recognize in your life? Probably more than you think.



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



“Just Being There is Showing Christ to Them” *The Butterfly Committee*

Being part of a parish community provides countless opportunities for us to experience God’s love and to show Christ to others. While stewardship is often associated with giving of our time, talent and treasure, our simple acts of kindness to others go beyond providing for one’s physical needs — they enable us to help one another during life’s most challenging moments, presenting Christ to others through our words and deeds.

Parishioner Mary Courty is a member of the Butterfly Committee, and she views this ministry as a real way to show Christ to others, as well as a way to create family bonds within the parish.

“I always thought that giving your time to individuals is part of the way to be a good steward of God’s gifts to you,” Mary says. “This understanding has only been enhanced since I’ve been involved in this ministry. It’s a privilege and honor to be with someone as they near death or are going through the death process with a loved one. It’s an important time for people to know that they have someone who cares for them, who will sit with them, and see them. Just being there is showing Christ to them.”

While most bereavement ministries provide support for people only after they have lost a loved one, the Butterfly Committee’s mission and goal has a much wider scope.

“When I started at the parish here two years ago, one of the first things that came up was the need for a

bereavement committee,” Deacon Harry Cramer says. “At St. Anthony’s, we took a different twist with it. We want to provide care and support for people when a person is dying. If hospice isn’t there, our people can be there.”

After spending a year in training and organizing the structural aspect of the Butterfly Committee, our parish is currently blessed with six people who have been trained to provide care and support before, during and after the death of a loved one. They do this in countless ways, such as being a comforting presence before a loved one dies, praying with families, helping with basic needs such as meals or gas, providing funeral planning assistance, and being available for after care.

“The society we are in is so mobile,” Mary says. “Our family support can’t always be there, so being there for our fellow parishioners is important, especially during difficult times. We have an opportunity to show people who are suffering the face of God.”

Deacon Harry shares how this ministry is important because of how the volunteers emulate Christ to those who are suffering the loss of a loved one.

“The volunteers reflect the hands and feet and face of Christ,” Deacon Harry says. “Their shoulders are the shoulders of Christ when they come in and support people. They show compassion to those who have lost, or are losing, a loved one, like Jesus did when he approached Lazarus or the widow who had lost a son.”

If you are interested in learning more about the Butterfly Committee and about how you can get involved, please contact Deacon Harry at 217-224-1160. The Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and would like to visit with one of our members, please contact the parish office at 217-222-5996.

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

Welcome to Our New Parish Newsletter! *continued from front cover*

possible. Your input will be very important, and it will give the Pastoral Council and me a better understanding of your thoughts about our parish.

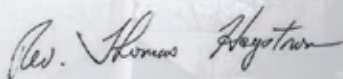
Later this year, in the fall, we will conduct our Annual Stewardship Renewal. The Renewal is the time each year when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. It is the time we write down how we will become more devoted to Christ over the next year with our commitments of time (using my time on earth wisely; making time for personal prayer, family prayer, and quality time with friends and loved ones); talent (using God-given gifts to strengthen the Church through service to parish ministries and other activities), and treasure (the wise and just management of

my financial resources; giving a proportionate amount of my income to the parish).

As we strive to develop stewardship as a way of life at St. Anthony of Padua, the support and involvement of each individual parishioner is necessary to sustain the life of our parish. All of you have a place here, and all of you have a role to fill in the life of the parish as we live our lives as disciples of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit renew and refresh all of us as we work together to build our parish family through the use of our time, talent and treasure.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Thomas Hagstrom, Pastor

