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ST. ANTHONY *of PADUA*

“It Is a Way That We Can Serve God, the Parish, and the People in the Parish” The Cemetery Ministry of St. Anthony of Padua Parish

In announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which began last Dec. 8, Pope Francis reminded us that God makes love “visible and tangible.” Love, the pope said, “indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviors that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is His loving concern for each of us.”

During this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is calling us to focus on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in our daily lives. Through participation in these works, we are called to be “merciful like the father” – the theme for this Year of Mercy. “Burying the dead” is accorded as a corporal work of mercy. So, praying for the dead, especially by attending funeral rites for our relatives and

friends, is the most concrete way to live out this corporal work.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish has been blessed to have our cemetery since the 1850s. This holy sanctuary is the resting place for scores of parishioners and their families. For the past several years, the cemetery has been cared for and watched over by a group of families in the parish, who form our Cemetery Ministry. The current family representatives who perform this merciful duty are Margie Benz, Joe Dreyer, Mark Frericks, and Mike Hummel.

“My family and some other families in the parish have cared for St. Anthony Cemetery for generations,” Mike says. “I inherited this responsibility from my father, and it is a way that we can serve God, the



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Stewardship of Treasure GIVING TO GOD FIRST

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. God gave us our talents that help us earn a living, after all. He should come first.

Have you ever wondered why no one really becomes uneasy when someone brings up the first two “Ts” of stewardship – giving of your time or talents – but when the third “T” comes up, many of us become uncomfortable?

That third “T” is treasure, and some people simply become so annoyed by the subject, they tune out the words from the pulpit.

Why is there seemingly such an adverse reaction?

Our finances are such a personal subject. Discussing money issues with others is not easy, and having someone tell us what to do with our finances is even worse. We earn the money, after all. So shouldn’t we decide what to do with it?

Of course, the answer is “yes” – we decide every day how to spend

our hard-earned dollars. Indeed, the monetary choices we make will either keep our finances in check, or put us into the red. The average American family has about \$7,000 in credit card debt – so finances certainly represent a challenge to our current society. Tight budgets, trying to “keep up with the Joneses” or poor financial management may be to blame for our tight resources. Does this mean we do not have anything left over for God?

Stewardship, at its roots, teaches that we are not supposed to give God our “leftovers.” We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our “first fruits” – giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. God gave us our talents that help us earn a living, after all. He should come first.

This idea can be worrisome for many. If our finances are already strained, how will we ever find enough to give back to God? Or, if we do try to give God our “first fruits,” will there be enough left over to cover our required expenses?

Taking the correct financial steps toward good stewardship simply boils down to trust – believing that God, who takes care of all of His creation, will take care of us. Trust that in giving to God first, we are both acknowledging that our multitude of blessings come from Him, and that we are thankful He chose to give them to us. And finally, trust that if we give to Him first, that all else will fall into place – because He is in ultimate control.



ST. ANTHONY *of PADUA*



A LETTER FROM OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

All Things and All People Are Made New

Dear Parishioners,

We associate the Easter season with springtime — a time of new life and new beginnings — and Holy Scripture addresses this idea of newness many times. In one of our readings during April, God declares, “Behold, I make all things new.”

This idea of being “new” is important to us as Catholics, and it is important to our parish. We strive to be renewed on a daily basis. Think of the fact that all was once new. Regardless of how you view the development of this earth and those of us who occupy it, all was once new. And it will be new again, “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev 21:1).

In this Easter season, we retain that idea of becoming “new.” And becoming “new” means experiencing conversion in our hearts and minds. Stewardship is at the heart of conversion. That is, when our hearts and minds are changed, it shows up in our words and in our actions. We become more eager to pray, more generous with our skills, and less attached to our stuff. In a word, we become more ready to share our time, talent and treasure.

Christ’s Resurrection is the source of our new life — our own future resurrection. St. Paul wrote about it to the Romans in the following words (Rom 6:5): “For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.”

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§654) puts it, “The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his

Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life.”

Hope for a new life beginning now and extending on into heaven is the result of Jesus’ Resurrection. What greater grounds for thanksgiving can there be than this Easter hope? We should sing with joy about God’s promise to us: “Behold, I make all things new!” (Rev 21:5).

St. Paul also wrote (Col 3:1-2): “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” Jesus’ Resurrection and His promise of a new life for us means that we need to live in conformity with our status as adopted children of God.

How do we show our joy and our gratitude to God for this amazing gift He has given us? We join in worship, and praise God by word and song. We share the Good News of Jesus’ victory over death with our family, friends and neighbors. And we offer back to the Lord a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us.

Yes, the Easter message is that we share in the benefits of Christ’s Resurrection, which indeed makes all things new — the ultimate foundation for all Christian stewardship.

The Lord is risen, alleluia.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

St. Anthony of Padua
Stewardship Committee

*Behold, I make
all things new*

Scouting Valuable Programs for Boys, Girls

The motto for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts alike is "Be Prepared." And the youngsters in our Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops at St. Dominic School will step into the wide world prepared to face any challenge with sound knowledge and strong values.

Boys can begin their scouting experience at St. Dominic as first-graders in Tiger Cubs, and then progress through Cub Scouts, Webelos, and finally, Boy Scouts. Girls can join scouting in kindergarten with the Daisies, then progress from Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, on up to Girl Scouts. And through it all, they will learn the value of service to others, all while having fun and making lifelong friends.

Todd Klauser is the Cubmaster for Pack 76, and he currently has 18 boys in the pack. His assistants are Matt Springer and Mark Sherman.

"We always go camping at least twice a year," he says. "Most years, we go caroling at St. Vincent's Nursing Home.



We had a Christmas party, and an overnight lock-in at St. Anthony's basement. We also had our Pinewood Derby in March."

The Cubs also take part in the annual Scouting For Food that helps the local food pantry. The boys volunteer at the parish fish fries during Lent.

"We also usually go kayaking and fishing in the spring," Todd says. "And over the summer, we try to do one activity each month to keep the boys active. This usually includes playing Frisbee golf at our park, or going for a creek walk when the boys can go looking for minnows and crayfish. We always take garbage bags and pick up litter we find."

During all the fun and activities, Todd says that teaching the boys to be service-minded is a very important part of Pack 76.

"We teach them to think of others through our service projects," he says. "We also try to model for them now to appreciate and accept others who are different. Some of our scouts have some learning needs, and it is good for them to socially interact. It's also really good for others to learn how to accept anyone who is different."

Todd is proud of the fact that he has had boys join the pack who are from other parishes and public schools.

"We've never had a boy not welcomed into our troop," he says. "We don't recruit from other schools, but if boys want to be Cub Scouts and wish to join, they're always welcome to join our pack."

The pack meets every other Tuesday evening at the church.

Rob Stull is Scoutmaster for St. Dominic's Troop 76, which currently has 11 boys between the ages of 12 to 17.

One of their activities was attending Polar Bear Camp at Camp Saukenauk, where they spent two nights in homemade shelters. Out of the 22 troops with more than 200 boys attending, Troop 76 won several competitions at camp.

Troop 76 members help during the Lenten fish fries, and support events at St. Anthony's by washing dishes, and bussing tables. The Men's Society provides support to the troop, and the boys reciprocate by helping at the pancake and sausage breakfast, the chicken dinner, and the Diamond Dinner.

The boys also continue the long-standing troop tradition of assisting disabled veterans to Sunday Mass at the Illinois Veterans Home three times a year.

This summer, the troop will embark on a canoe trip from the Boundary Waters in Minnesota into Canada, while the regular summer camp will take place in mid-June.

During the meetings, the younger boys work on badges together, while the older boys work as individuals.

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"I don't think there is a better program for boys," Rob says. "In many cases the chartering organizations are churches or faith-based organizations. It's very important that my boys learn to pray openly and become men of the Church. I always told them, 'Become men of God, and if you become an Eagle Scout, that's wonderful – but become men of the Church, first.'"

Sueanne Spencer, secretary at St. Dominic's, is the Girl Scout leader with her fourth-grade Juniors in Troop 5042. There also are two Brownie troops for first and second-year Brownies, and a new Daisies troop at the school.

There are nine girls in the troop, and they have been with Sueanne since they were Daisies. Sueanne's co-leader is Julie Peter.

The Juniors are busy working on their Legacy Badges, which include art, cooking, government, and first aid. The girls worked on the skills involved in the badges when they were Brownies.

Some have earned the Community Service Badge by helping with activities at St. Dominic's or St. Anthony. The girls help with the fish fries, the PTO Soup Suppers, and the Diamond Dinner by bussing tables, carrying trays, and serving drinks.

The troop meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at school. The girls also try to meet one other time for an outing or a field trip to meet badge requirements.

The value of the Girl Scout program is what inspires Sueanne to be a leader.

"Just the confidence it gives them, and the things they can learn are endless," she says. "There are so many activities offered by the Girl Scout office."



"We try to be 'girl-run,' and the girls let us know how they want to earn their badges," Sueanne adds. "To have them come up with ideas, and have ownership of the meeting, that's really important to them. They really enjoy it. We try to do as many field trips as we can. We made a visit to the Quincy Art Center, where they staff helped the girls earn their Art Badge."

And, as Sueanne notes, the troop members like to give back.

"They are really giving souls," she says. "Within the Art Badge, they also worked on little bags they decorated, and they donated the bags with coloring books and crayons for the pediatric ward at Fort Madison Community Hospital. We have caroled at Christmas and they handed out homemade cards at the local assisted living facility. They also rang bells for the Salvation Army. By giving back, they grow in their faith. They're learning that giving makes them feel even better than receiving. Sometimes we don't see the return – they couldn't deliver the packages themselves to the hospital – but they got a thank-you card that made them feel just as good."

But the atmosphere at St. Dominic fosters a giving spirit.

"That's what St. Dominic's School is about," Sueanne says. "It's giving to our faith and community."

Anyone interested in the Cub Scouts may contact Todd Klauser at 217-653-5270 or klauser95@yahoo.com. Those interested in Boy Scouts may contact Rob Stull at 217-242-0071. Those interested in Girl Scouts may call Sueanne Spencer at 217-779-7474.

Sowing the Seeds of Stewardship and Faith: The Kasperie Family

"When you talk about preparing [children] for the world, you do all the peripheral stuff – making sure they know how to keep clean and take care of themselves – but it's probably hardest to keep the inside of them the way they need to be. The reason it is the hardest is because you have to be role models. It's easy to tell them how to do things, but you also have to model it." – Michelle Kasperie

As any parent could tell you, one of the most profound and challenging aspects of raising children is preparing them to face the world on their own. We strive to give them the kind of faith that will stay with them through all of their life experiences, even – perhaps especially – for the times when we can't be there with them.

For parishioners Jim and Michelle Kasperie, parents of five, sowing the seeds of faith that would help their children make their way in the world has always been a priority.

"You ask yourself, 'Am I doing what I need to do as a parent?'" Michelle says. "And then eventually, you have to let go and let them find their way."

The Kaspersies credit their close ties to St. Anthony and St. Dominic, in addition to the great mentorship of several priests, with helping them to grow their family in the faith over the years.

Both Jim and Michelle were raised by devoutly Catholic parents and always knew that they wished to instill the same values in their own children.

"When you're involved [with the church], it's also about mentoring your own children as far as a way to be Christian, to be Catholic," Jim says. "It's saying that this is the way we're going to do things, even if that's not the way the world may do them."

As Michelle notes, living the Catholic faith out every day can sometimes be a challenge, especially when you are trying to be an example of faithful living for your children.

"When you talk about preparing [children] for the world, you do all the peripheral stuff – making sure they know how to keep clean and take care of themselves – but it's probably hardest to keep the inside of them the way they need to be," she says. "The reason it is the hardest is because you have to be role models. It's easy to tell them how to do things, but you also have to model it."

Among the values that the Kaspersies strive to impart to their children is the practice of good stewardship. Both Jim and Michelle have been actively involved in the parish at St. Anthony and St. Dominic School for a very long time. Jim spent many years on the School Board and serves as a Eucharistic Minister at the church. In addition to her role as lector, Michelle has now joined the School Board herself,

and has served on the Pastoral Council and as a pastoral associate in the past. Both enjoy helping regularly with various parish and school fundraisers, fish fries and picnics.

Following in their parents' footsteps, the Kasperie children have served as altar servers, lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, proving that stewardship really is all in the family! In addition to the example of stewardship they have seen in their parents, the five Kasperie kids have also had their faith nurtured through their attendance at St. Dominic School.

"Catholic education is important," Michelle says. "Faith starts at home, but we can't do it all. We're not perfect by any means! When we're at our worst, I like to think we have

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Jim and Michelle Kasperie with their children – (from left) Ben, Ellie, Nick, Alex, and Tess

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Sowing the Seeds *continued from page 6*

put them in the vicinity of people [at the school] who can do for them what we can't at that time."

"I like having them involved with a Catholic school where the same morals and same values are being taught daily – a place where that happens, even when we're not there with them," Jim agrees.

Another way that the Kasperie family has grown in their faith is by developing close friendships with several priests over the years.

"We both have had personal relationships with the religious," Michelle says. "Jim and I have had priests

coming to dinner while we were growing up, and then with our own family."

"[Several priests] have been very influential spiritual mentors to us," Jim adds.

Through their own dedication to stewardship and strong ties to the parish, school, and larger faith community, Jim and Michelle Kasperie have sown great seeds of faith in their family. With their oldest son about to graduate from law school and their youngest in sixth grade, they witness daily the fruits of the faith that they have passed down as their children continue to follow their example of stewardship!

The Cemetery Ministry

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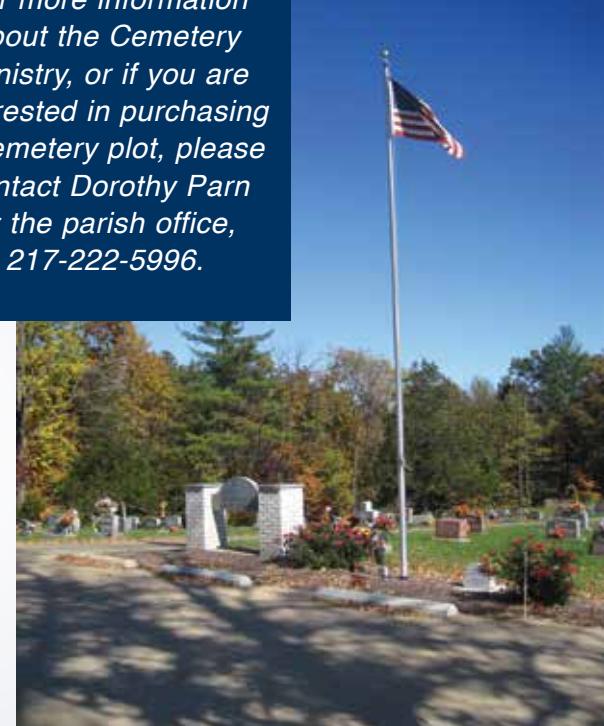
parish, and the people in the parish. My dad did it before me, and it seemed natural for me to continue in this ministry when he died. We are all volunteers. I, and the other members of the committee, grew up with this. It is a way of serving, a way of being a good steward."

The Cemetery Ministry oversees the care of the cemetery grounds and the graves, and organizes the cemetery for burials and the selling of unused burial plots.

"We check the cemetery on a regular basis, so we are aware right away if any problems develop," Mike says. "Through the years, we have made many improvements to the cemetery. As a group, we meet officially a couple times a year and other times when it is necessary. I think the cemetery may even be older than the parish is. A couple Boy Scout Eagle projects have really helped enhance it – adding the flagpole and flag, and some other attractive landscaping."

There is a set process if someone is interested in purchasing a plot, and then in having a burial in the cemetery. Dorothy Parn, the Financial Officer, makes arrangements as necessary and provides information about who to contact and how.

For more information about the Cemetery Ministry, or if you are interested in purchasing a cemetery plot, please contact Dorothy Parn at the parish office, 217-222-5996.



"My dad did it before me, and it seemed natural for me to continue in this ministry when he died. We are all volunteers. I, and the other members of the committee, grew up with this. It is a way of serving, a way of being a good steward." – Mike Hummel

ST. ANTHONY of PADUA

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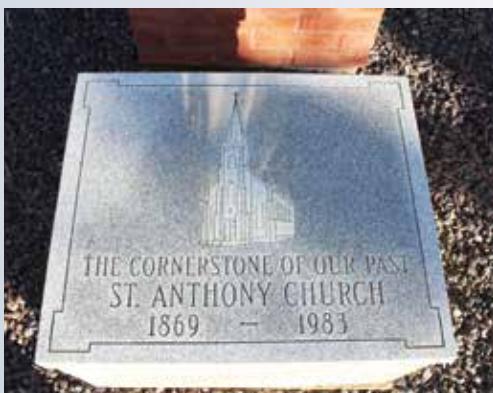
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DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.
SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
CONFESIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

DID *you* KNOW...?

- *In 1959, the parish bought a new Chevrolet for the Pastor, Fr. Anthony, to use.*
- *Prior to the building of the new Church, during the annual St. Anthony Picnic, a soda stand was located just north of the church, with bottled soda kept in stock watering tanks containing ice and covered with canvas. One could buy a bottle of soda for 10 cents in the 1960s.*
 - *We have a babysitting service for children ages 1-5 at every 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.*



To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.