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ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

The Quilters Ministry *Having Fun Sharing Talents and Serving the Church*

A Note From Our Pastor

As many of you know, longtime parishioner Sharon Maas recently passed away. Sharon was a wonderful woman who shared her time and talents with St. Anthony of Padua parish in many ways, including as a member of our Quilters Ministry. The following article was written prior to Sharon's passing, and as a tribute to her and the Maas family, we dedicate this newsletter to her. Please join me in praying for the repose of Sharon's soul, and please keep her husband, Melvin, and her entire family in your prayers. — Fr. Tom



Members of St. Anthony of Padua's Quilters Ministry working on their latest project.

When parishioner Sharon Maas retired she began looking for a way to unite her love for quilting with her growing desire to make a difference. She began looking for a way to use her unique talents for the glory of God and the service of others. And that is precisely what she found along with so much more thanks to St. Anthony of Padua's Quilters Ministry.

"I always enjoyed quilting at home," says Sharon, "So when I retired I started quilting here at the parish on Wednesdays along with the other ladies. We just have a good time when we get together, enjoying one another's company. We all

love to quilt and it helps out the church in the process."

Sharon and her fellow quilters meet every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church office. Members are able to come and go as they need to during this time, coming together for food and fellowship as well as the actual quilting. And in the process they've been able to form lifelong friendships.

"The friendships we've been able to build amongst our members has been a tremendous blessing," says Sharon. "Most of us bring a sack lunch and we just have a good time together."

Though many of the ladies are lifelong quilters, no prior experience is needed to join their ranks. Parishioner Connie Maas, for example, had never quilted before in her life before showing up one Wednesday morning. She was just curious and interested in finding new ways to volunteer at the parish. Connie says she was soon "hooked," causing her to become a regular member.

"It's really not that hard to learn and we'll show anyone who is interested," says Connie. "I kind of wanted to volunteer

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FORMATION

Transformed Through Christ

“Jesus not only calls people to him but also forms them and sends them out in his service.”

— **STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE’S RESPONSE (U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS’ PASTORAL LETTER)**

This month, we are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship — formation. Formation is the process of studying Christ’s teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a lifelong effort by which we “put on Christ” (Rom 13:14) and are “transformed by the renewal of our minds” (Rom 12:2).

Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to “discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God’s will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like Him — as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

Formation is not just an individual task. Instead, it is a communal responsibility that, when applied, will further help St. Anthony to grow as a stewardship parish. Each one of us has an inherent need to give — to move from “selfishness to selflessness,” as the Diocese of Wichita’s document *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* aptly states. Formation is a process of spiritual growth, and it leads to a deeper understanding of loving others as God loves us.

Naturally, then, our Catholic formation should not end upon celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, or turning 18 years old. Formation is a formidable task that we as Catholics should participate in for the duration of our lives. It involves “education of the mind and conversion of the heart” (*The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*), and helps us to lead the stewardship way of life rather than just understand it.

As we approach the season of Advent, why not make formation a part of your penitential renewal to Christ? Start off by reading 10 minutes of Sacred Scripture a day, or by studying a chapter of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on a daily basis. Read a biography of your favorite saint for an example of an individual who lived as a disciple of Christ, and use this person as a role model when tending to your daily tasks. Keep an eye on our weekly parish bulletin for faith formation opportunities at the parish. Before long, your commitment to formation will lead you to naturally live the Catholic faith and understand stewardship in ways that you never imagined before.



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

A Month Filled with Gratitude

Dear Parishioners,

The month of November of course brings to mind thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day — although I look forward to it with happy anticipation — but thoughts regarding the many reasons we should be thankful.

We begin the month with a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of All Saints, on Nov. 1. It is a stewardship feast in so many ways, instituted to honor all saints, known and unknown. The communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read about the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and their prayers aid us.

We follow All Saints' Day with All Souls Day on Nov. 2 so we can honor and commemorate all those others who may have been "saints" in our lives. It may have been a mother or father, sister or brother, son or daughter, next-door neighbor, good friend, grandparent, uncle or aunt, cousin, teacher, or student — the list is endless. We have been blessed in our lives with people who have shown us what it means to be a good Christian, what it means to be a good steward. During this month of November, we need to thank God for those people in our lives. In fact, we need to thank God period, which is another important element of this month.

Toward the end of the month we celebrate what is mainly a secular holiday, Thanksgiving, but this national holiday is so grounded in our Christian stewardship tradition. This year is the 156th anniversary of the first official Thanksgiving in

the U.S., as proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, during the horrors of the Civil War. In the beginning of that proclamation, President Lincoln stated, "*To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.*" Lincoln takes great care to recognize God's presence in all of the "thanks."

Couldn't we say those words of Lincoln about our lives, about the life of our parish this year? In fact, we could say it every month. Stewardship is the appreciation of our many, many blessings, both personally and as a faith family.

From the beginning of the month, when we thank God for the example of the saints and for the example of the "saints" in our lives, to the end of the month, when we thank God for basically everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to remember and to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship really is — approaching God; approaching each day; approaching all those with whom we come in contact — with grateful and loving hearts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor

The Pritchett Family:

Living Out the Stewardship Vision Together



The Pritchett family

When Mike and Kate Pritchett began sending their oldest child, Matthew, to St. Dominic's School, they opened up amazing new doors of opportunity for their family.

"All of our involvement in the parish school started when we enrolled Matthew in kindergarten," Kate says. "Whenever the school is looking for volunteers, I think about our skill sets and see if we can make use of the gifts we have in some way. When our kids graduate from St. Dominic's School, we hope that it will be a little better because we contributed to it. Being an active part of the parish school

family has allowed me to have a better relationship with God than I have ever had before."

Matthew is currently in third grade at St. Dominic's, while Mike and Kate also have a daughter, Kamryn, in second grade, as well as a 1-year-old daughter, Lilly. Mike and Kate truly enjoy pitching in however they can to make our parish school an authentic, nurturing Catholic environment for its families.

"I am a member of the School Board, and at our meetings we talk about our Catholic identity as a school," Kate says. "We also discuss how our

school is bringing the parents of our students along in their own spirituality, as well. It is never too late to deepen your faith. I may not be a student, but I am still learning every step of the way and re-examining my relationship with God to make it better."

By regularly attending the meetings of the Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools Leadership Team — an organization that helps our local Catholic schools work together — Kate is able to help our Catholic community grow in faith.

Furthermore, Kate recently volunteered to teach the sixth-graders'

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Junior Achievement classes to prepare them for the Capstone Project for 12 weeks.

“It was really fun to get to know more of the students at our school,” she says. “What I love about St. Dominic’s is that it is like a small family, and I really like that my children can be educated in such a supportive environment.”

Mike and Kate also serve as chaperones for the Run Club at the school, and help out with the JuneFest school picnic. Mike represents St. Dominic’s School on the Catholic

Youth Organization Board, and coaches basketball and baseball for the third-grade boys.

“Putting our children into St. Dominic’s School has allowed us to go through their education alongside of them,” Kate says. “Volunteering at the school has given opportunities to be together and serve God together — even helping out with small things and spending time together as a family. We are fortunate to have gift and talents to share with others.”

“Whenever the school is looking for volunteers, I think about our skill sets and see if we can make use of the gifts we have in some way. When our kids graduate from St. Dominic’s School, we hope that it will be a little better because we contributed to it. Being an active part of the parish school family has allowed me to have a better relationship with God than I have ever had before.”

— Kate Pritchett

Quilters Ministry *continued from front cover*

and, like Sharon, I couldn’t during my working years. So after retiring I thought I would give the Quilters Ministry a try. I was hooked on it immediately. In fact on the weeks we’re not able to come a lot of us miss it. It’s just so much fun to do.”

Once completed, quilts are then raffled off at parish events such as the JuneFest and the annual picnic, helping to generate additional funds for

the parish. The ministry will also, upon occasion, make quilts for individuals or other special occasions as well. And that, says Sharon, is really the ministry in a nutshell.

“It’s really a simple little group,” says Sharon. “We’re all about helping out our church while having a good time. And we really could use some new quilters. We’ll take anyone that’s willing to learn.”

“It’s really a simple little group. We’re all about helping out our church while having a good time. And we really could use some new quilters. We’ll take anyone that’s willing to learn.”

— Sharon Maas, Quilters Ministry

Parishioners interested in joining the group can show up at the church office any Wednesday. You can also support the ministry by donating funds or actual quilting supplies. Contact the parish office for more information.

Thanks to All of Our Volunteers

Sharing Gratitude and Our Volunteers' Dinner

Our faith community extends its thanks to all of our volunteers, providing all of us — including our youth — with wonderful examples of stewardship in action.



Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for all you do for our school and Parish. We could not function as well as we do without you. At the school you mow lawns. You set up for Jirehfest and the St. Anthony Picnic. You also help put in new installations in the Church.

You help me personally by mowing the lawns so my wife and I can play outside in peace. You also put on fun events, like the mighty Mardian's Night, and even just showing me what a good steward does! You donate your time, talent, and even some treasure to us. It's for an amazing but piece of all you are doing. God's will, and serving him through stewardship and selfless acts of kindness. Thank you for all you do, and I hope you realize we appreciate you!

Sincerely,
Aubrey Williams



Dear volunteers,

Thank you all you have Done like for example, you mowed lawns, you help set up big events and you also do hundreds of other things, but in the end you're all serving God. Everyone that is not a part of you says that.

You do a lot of stuff for us like help set up for picnics. They help me with not going crazy to get up everything myself. You guys are the best! You are very helpful.

Your friend,

Michael Miller



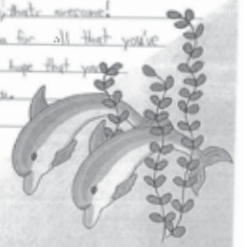
Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for helping set up for school and parish events. Like taking the time out of your day to mow our lawns, cleaning up after events, working being steady and to repair out of stage objects at the school and parish. Not to mention also it all you do it with a smile on your face, that is just incredible! I don't think I could ever do what you do for even a hour, and sometimes you will do it for a hour straight!

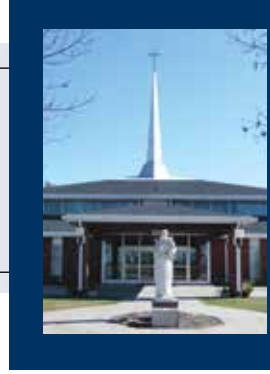
All you do help the school and the parish so much, and everyone in it. For example, when you clean up after events you let the children at the school come back to a nice clean environment. You do that all I realize but you do it without a complaints. They when it is all over you end up smiling for another thing, say thank you!

Like I said before, thank you for all that you've done, it means so much to us. I hope that you will continue to volunteer, thank you.

Sincerely,
Peggy Hill



ST. ANTHONY of PADUA



Grief Share Ministry

Providing Sympathy and Support for Grieving Parishioners



Videos are shown as part of the ministry, providing practical tips and education on the grieving process.



A candle is lit at the beginning of each meeting in memory of the group's deceased loved ones.

When parishioner Jim Liesen lost his wife three years ago, his world was utterly shaken. Suddenly bereft of his lifelong partner, he struggled to find healthy ways to cope.

"I was in what I refer to as 'limbo' or the 'crazies,'" Jim says. "Everything was so numb for me and I didn't really know which way to turn."

Fortunately, he was invited by a friend to attend a Grief Share session in Hannibal, Mo. Thinking to himself, "*Why not?*" Jim agreed to go. It ended up being just what he needed, providing him with support, comfort and practical tools on how to survive the grieving process. In fact, the 13-week program was so beneficial that Jim decided to attend the entire series a second time. And with each passing session, he felt increasingly called to bring the Grief Share program back to his St. Anthony of Padua Community.

"It was just right for me at the time," Jim says. "It's a biblically-based program and the videos are excellent. They touch on every aspect of grief that a person goes through. And somewhere between the first and second session, the

Lord just told me that He wanted me to bring this back to Quincy and start a Grief Share in our area, particularly here at St. Anthony's."

After receiving Fr. Tom Donovan's blessing, Jim officially launched the parish's Grief Share Ministry. This first session consisted of eight parishioners, dealing with varying forms of grief. One of these attendees was Rosalyn Boone who, like Jim, found the program to be truly transformative.

"My husband had died very suddenly about six months prior," Rosalyn says. "And so I decided to give the Grief Share a try. It was very rewarding for me, making me feel a lot better. At that first session, there was a lot of sadness and tears, but by the end we all had smiles on our faces. It made me feel that I wasn't alone — it created a real sense of community that lasted long outside of the program."

Now four sessions later, Jim has watched many parishioners and even outside community members receive the same solace that both he and Rosalyn experienced through the Grief Share Ministry. This is accomplished primarily through the spirit of camaraderie that exudes

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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.

Grief Share Ministry *continued from page 7*

through the program, as well as the practical tools provided. All experiencing similar struggles, attendees are able to share about their deceased loved ones and the grief caused by their absence with people who can truly understand and walk the journey with them.

“It gives people an avenue that they never had before,” Jim says. “In old days, we were taught to just move on with life. I think it’s so important, though, to give people a place to truly process their grief in a healthy manner — because if you don’t deal with your grief, it will deal with you.”

Though the entire program consists of 13 sessions, it remains open to new members at any point. The Grief Share Ministry currently meets Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Hall. At the end of the series, there will be a 14th bonus session with a video and discussion specifically on how to survive the Christmas season.

“We’re not there to counsel or even give information,” Jim says. “We just listen with a sympathetic and open mind to all of the hurts. And we’re just blown away each week by how the Lord opens and heals hearts.”

“It gives people an avenue that they never had before. In old days, we were taught to just move on with life. I think it’s so important, though, to give people a place to truly process their grief in a healthy manner — because if you don’t deal with your grief, it will deal with you.” — Jim Liesen

If you would like more information about the Grief Share Ministry, please contact Jim Liesen at either 217-577-6664 or roseann@adams.net.

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