

NORTHERN LIGHTS*of Mercer & Auglaize Counties*

SPRING 2013—VOLUME 58

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St. Aloysius, St. Joseph (Wapakoneta), St. Francis,
 St. Joseph (Egypt), St. Anthony, Immaculate Conception,
 St. Bernard, St. Henry, St. Augustine, St. Wendelin,
 Precious Blood, St. Rose, St. Patrick, St. John (Fryburg),
 St. Joseph (St. Joseph), St. Teresa, St. Peter, St. Mary,
 St. John the Baptist, Holy Trinity, St. Paul, St. Sebastian,
 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Redeemer, Holy Rosary,
 Mary Help of Christians, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

And Spring arose on the garden fair, Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere; And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast rose from the dreams of its wintry rest. —Percy Bysshe Shelley

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN

St. Augustine is known for his famous declaration: “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!” To be sure, Christians have long identified themselves as an Easter people. Yet at the same time, we know we don’t always live in an Easter world. At the time of this writing, our country is reeling from the tragedies that occurred at the Boston Marathon and in West Texas. On a daily basis, we live with the tensions of a post 9/11 world, including instability and violence in the Middle East and North Korea. No doubt, much of the world has yet to catch up with Easter, including the world that lies closer to home.

In this Easter season, we recall

the depths of God’s mercy. The cross of Calvary is soon followed by Jesus invitation, “Peace be with you.” The betrayal and violence of Good Friday is overcome by the forgiveness of Easter. The justice of God meets the gift of peace. The reconciling and healing Spirit of God is unleashed on a broken world. And through our remembering and celebrating together, we discover once again that we are truly an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.

I hope you take a few minutes to read a few of the ways in which the mercy and love of God is made present in the people St. Marys Deanery. If you’ve been away from the Sacrament of

Penance for any time, now would be a good

time to celebrate the sacrament in your parish church. By going to confession, we have the assurance of God’s forgiving presence. For your convenience, parishes will begin posting confession schedules for all parishes in the deanery.

Finally, since our last edition of *Northern Lights*, we have been blessed with a new Successor of Peter, Pope Francis. Please pray that God may use him in a special way to bring greater unity and peace to our Church and our world. *Fr. Tom Mamebach*

**IN MOST NEED OF THY MERCY**

By: Dianne Hart of St. Henry Parish

In the spring of 2012 I began corresponding with an inmate at the North Correctional Institute in Marion, Ohio which has inspired me to gather donations for their Catholic Program.

These donations from local citizens and area churches have – in the words of one inmate who works in the chapel – turned a “dull, cold room into a proper chapel” where they are

now able to “celebrate the Holy Mass with proper tools.”

This inmate was a coach in the Faith Dorm at the first camp to which he was assigned.

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DEANERY WELCOMES NEW DEACON

By: Katie Eilerman

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of the St. Marys Deanery, Deacon Clif Perryman. Deacon Clif is currently serving as the full time Pastoral Associate for the Marion Catholic Community. Here are some quick facts on Deacon Clif:

Personal: Married for forty-one years to Jane Farno of Minster

with four children and nine grandchildren.

Education/Work: Undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Dayton and MBA from Ashland College.

Past-President of Custom Deco located in Toledo, OH and past-President of Milsco

Manufacturing Company located in Milwaukee, WI

Ministry: Ordained to the Diaconate by Archbishop Pilarczyk in 1987 in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Previous parishes of ministry: St. Augustine Parish, Minster; St. James Parish, Milwaukee, WI; Blessed John XXIII Parish, Perrysburg, OH.

The first couple of months in my new role as Pastoral Associate has been a complete joy and I don't expect that to change. It is exactly what I had hoped for when I pursued the opportunity last fall. Everyone has been very welcoming and positive making me feel very much at home. I am touched by the level of faith in the community and the active involvement of so many young people. This community is truly blessed.

Yours in Christ, Deacon Clif



DID YOU KNOW?

By: Katie Eilerman

If you find yourself wondering what the Deanery Center exactly does, here is your answer! I like to think of the center as the central networking station for the parishes of the deanery. We host several events that allow those in ministries to collaborate resources with one another, ask questions and gain incite from the experienced. Church ministry is no small feat. When we have others to bounce ideas off of and receive guidance, the road we walk is not so lonely!

The pastors and deacons of the deanery convene for a meeting five times a year to discuss parochial matters. Representatives from area groups join the latter portion of the meeting to provide information and updates on events. Among these groups include Catholic Social Services, Hispanic Ministry and the Catholic Social Action Office. Religious Education Coordinators meet twice a year to exchange ideas for their religious programs over a

carry-in brunch. The Deanery Board, consisting of representatives from each parish/cluster, the Dean, Director and Archdiocesan representative meet three times a year to provide updates on parish activity. An appreciation lunch for the secretaries of the deanery is held annually as well as an in-service for catechists. The Deanery Center has much more to offer in addition to these gatherings. Please let me know how I can help your parish!

ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS

By: Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer; Foreword by: Katie Eilerman

The following sermon was written by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer, former childhood resident and pastor of our area. After moving to Texas to minister in the high plains, he reflects on his former life back home and the culture of his community.

I share this text with you in hopes that it brings forth a sense of gratitude for the goodness of the community we live in. I pray we never forget our responsibility to cultivate this goodness by creating stable and loving homes, where the goodness of our Catholic faith is taught through both words and actions. May we always continue our quest to make our communities and homes eternally "good".

"When I think of home, I think of silos and corn fields, football teams and county fairs. I also think of churches.

The church in the town where I grew up was named for St. Michael the Archangel. Above the main entrance was a huge statue. Michael's wings were spread out like an eagle in flight. He wore {a} metal plate across

his chest and gripped a pitchfork in his hands with which he stabbed an ugly demon crouched at his feet.

As a boy growing up, the statue of St. Michael conveyed a clear message and that message was this: *Be good!* That pitchfork looked a lot like a cattle prod, and I could hear Michael saying, "Get on the side of the angels, boy. And *stay there!*"



The older I become the more I appreciate growing up in a home where I learned the value and experience the comfort of being good.

Like the goodness that takes root in homes where statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Joseph, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus stand guard on chests-of-drawers in children's bedrooms

and parents' bedrooms.

The kind of goodness found in the faces of neighbors and friends receiving Holy Communion on Sunday mornings in the light of stained glass windows and candle flames dancing on vessels of gold.

The kind of goodness that swells in your chest when, driving along a country road at night, you see the lights of a grain truck sweep across an open field at harvest time; when you hear a marching band play at half-time; when you know that neighbors stand ready to lend a helping hand at any time.

Back in the early 1800's a French philosopher named Alexis d'Tocqueville toured our young nation. After traveling through the cities and towns and countryside, he came to a simple conclusion. He wrote: *America is great... because America is good.*

Without a good place to call home, individuals won't thrive and society cannot survive. We all need a home...a good place and a good nation... to call home."

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil and may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

IN MOST NEED OF THY MERCY

Continued from cover page

He earned the title of coach because he showed characteristics in leadership and religion and had a good relationship with his peers and God. Due to his good behavior, he was deemed a low security risk and was transferred to the Honor Camp located a few miles from the main camp. He immediately got a job in the chapel where he facilitates two rosary groups per week, a prayer group/bible study almost every night, and prays for the welfare of all his fellow inmates. This young man, who will be getting out in a few months, plans to do missionary work for the Catholic Church as well as advocate for prison ministry and the Pro Life movement when he goes home. His goal is to collect donations and help out Catholic Services in Ohio Prisons. His work in the Catholic Program at the Faith Dorm at NCC Camp is to be commended and his efforts and enthusiasm are inspiring.

At the Faith Dorm there is no chaplain; a priest comes in once a week. A year ago, the room used for Catholic services and programs was bare; now it is adorned – if only simply – with religious items that promote prayer, education, and meditation. While all religions are accepted and welcomed, the Catholic religion is the focus for this young man. He has inspired

me to gather Catholic items I had in my own home and ask family, friends and local churches to donate religious items as well.

A visit to the Maria Stein Pilgrim Gift Shop proved beneficial as I purchased items to donate at good prices. Several area parishes also offered donations, including: vestments, chalice paten sets, bibles accompanied by a set of bible-on-cassettes, books, missalettes, crucifixes, small religious statues and other items. A woman from my hometown donated 1000 rosaries she had made with her own hands and willingly offered as a gift to the institution.

The Prison Religious Program has acquired a television, DVD and CD player, so religious movies, educational programs, and music would be welcomed – along with any other items that can be used in chapel such as musical instruments, hymnals, books, communion sets, and altar items. Monetary donations are also accepted to purchase items.

Now a coach in the Honor Dorm, this man has been a role model for other inmates who desire to know our Heavenly Father and the Catholic religion as well as become a better Christian and child of God. It is uplifting to

know there are people everywhere who feel compelled to do God's work.

On a related note, mail means so much to all of the inmates. As my correspondent wrote: "It is ever so much better when it comes from a person of faith." I do believe that there are inmates who have confessed their sins; they are paying for their crime in the legal system; they are truly sorry and are repenting for their sins; they are trying to make things right with God. They long to communicate with people on the outside who can converse about day-to-day life and events in the world including religion, politics, culture, music and sports. If anyone knows of a group who would be willing to write a letter to an inmate, perhaps they could consider doing so. Letters can be mailed in care of the priest who ministers to the prison. Individuals could write anonymously or use only a first name. The letters would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in writing letters to inmates or donating religious items to this program, please contact Fr. Joseph Klee at frjosephklee@yahoo.com; 614-372-5249; c/o Sacred Heart Church – 893 Hamlet St. – Columbus, OH 43201.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

By: Katie Eilerman

In 2000, Pope John Paul II granted the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, which had previously been celebrated exclusively in Poland and Vatican City, to the Universal Catholic Church. This decree for universal celebration was in conjunction with the canonization of Sr. Faustina. Sr. Faustina was a nun in Poland during the 1930's who experienced revelations of God's mercy. She then recorded these revelations in a diary, resulting in a widespread devotion to God's mercy.

Divine Mercy Sunday is rightly named as one is able to experience the great mercy of God by receiving a plenary indulgence on this particular day. A plenary or full indulgence means that one is completely freed from temporal punishment resulting from one's sin. Temporal punishment is the punishment we experience in our earthly lives now versus the eternal punishment we may face after death. In order to receive a plenary indulgence one must receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy



Maxine Bruns & Vickie Schmackers, Coordinators of Divine Mercy Service

Eucharist as well as pray in devotion to the Divine Mercy in a church and/or during the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Divine Mercy Sunday is always celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter.* Continued on pg 6

SANCTUS '13

[sæ kt s] (Latin: "holy") Because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

MATT MAHER



\$15

★ **FEATURING** ★
SUNDAY

AUGUST 11, 2013

4PM Gates open
6PM Audrey Assad
7PM Matt Maher

Sponsored by the Northern Network of Catholic Youth Ministers

AUDREY ASSAD



Food and drinks will be available for purchase! Lawn chairs and blankets welcome! COOLERS ARE PROHIBITED! Tickets available online @ www.itickets.com

Spiritual Center of Maria Stein 2365 St. Johns Rd. Maria Stein, OH 45860

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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This year, devotion to the Divine Mercy was held on April 7th at St. Sebastian Church. The service included confession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary and singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Thank you to Maxine Bruns and Vickie Schmackers, who coordinated

the service and to Ernie DeMange and Brenda Barhost, who provided the lovely music.

“For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

* Information from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, page 370 and <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/>



Brenda Barhorst & Ernie DeMange,
Musicians

ST. CHARLES SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

By: Sr. Martha Bertke

Hanging on the wall in my office is a beautiful sketch of the faces Dorothy Day, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr. This sketch was created by Sister Catherine Martin, Order of Carmelites, and was aptly named “Prophets of Non violence”. For nearly 30 years I have had this work of art and dearly treasure it because it not only speaks to me of the tremendous commitment of these three individuals but also it challenges me to consider what I am doing for humankind.

One of my favorite quotes from Sr. Martin is, “Art – an expression of a deeper sense that connects...that inspires...that transforms...” **Artistry Under the Dome**, an Art Fair took place April 5-10, at Saint Charles Senior Living Community. The event was a huge success! This new fine arts and crafts show included more than 20 artists

from Mercer and Auglaize Counties. Art work was displayed and some was available for purchase. High School Art Departments were invited to display their students’ work. Throughout the event numerous positive comments were shared by the artists and the many people who came to see the art. It truly did connect people, inspire folks, and transform lives. Many thanks to the Planning Committee; Lisa Wolters, Nick Wenning, Jane Dippold, Ralph Stuckman and myself. We at St. Charles are very grateful for each person who had a part in this.

An **Organ Recital** performed by Stephen Schnurr on April 9th was well attended. The organist was pleased to come and play the historical organ. Many people shared lovely comments and took delight in the evening. Thanks to all who participated.

Joe Meiring and Esther Hoffpaur, brother and sister to one another, moved into St. Charles on April 1, 2008 and continue to live here today. The two were recently given special recognition for these five years at an ice cream social, attended by residents and the Board of Directors. During the evening to express gratitude to Joe and Esther, Mr. Neil Diller, President of the Board of Directors, presented each of them with a plaque in recognition of their presence at St. Charles. We honor them for their choice and commitment.

Consider living at Saint Charles, a great place where you can feel at home and secure in a very peaceful setting. Come and visit us. For a tour or an appointment, call 419-925-4516, ext 112 or e-mail: smbertke@bright.net



Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Marys Deanery Confession Times

Holy Redeemer, New Bremen	Monday at 6:30-6:45 pm Saturday at 4:00-4:30 pm (and by appointment)
Holy Rosary, St. Marys	Saturday at 4:00 pm Wednesday at 11:30 am Thursday before first Friday of the month at 8:30 am and 6:30 pm
Holy Trinity, Coldwater	Saturday at 4:00-4:30pm Wednesday & Thursday before first Friday of the month at 8:15-8:45 am Thursday before first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (and by appointment)
Immaculate Conception, Botkins	Saturday at 4:00-5:00 pm Thursday before first Friday of the month at 4:00-5:00 pm
Immaculate Conception, Celina	Saturday at 11:00 am
Maria Stein Shrine of Holy Relics, Maria Stein	Saturday at 11:00 am
Mary Help of Christians, Ft. Recovery	Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00 – 6:30 pm Saturday at 4:00-4:40 pm
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Cassella	Thursday at 7:10-7:20 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Montezuma	Saturday at 11-11:30 am and 5:00-6:00 pm Thursday before first Friday at 8:30 am
Precious Blood, Chickasaw	Wednesday at 7:10-7:20 am
St. Aloysius, Carthagena	Monday after 7:30 am Mass Saturday at 7:00 pm
St. Augustine, Minster	Saturday at 4:00 pm
St. Bernard, Burkettsville	Tuesday after 7:30 am Mass
St. Francis, Cranberry Prairie	Wednesday after 7:30 am Mass
St. Henry, St. Henry	Saturday at 4:15 pm Thursday and Friday after 7:30 am Mass Thursday before First Friday at 3:00 pm
St. John, Fryburg	Saturday at 5:15 pm
St. John, Maria Stein	Friday at 7:10-7:20 am Saturday at 4:00- 4:45pm

RURAL-URBAN MASS TO BE HELD

By: Pam Long

A young farm family outside Versailles will welcome Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, as well as Catholics from the St. Marys and Sidney Deaneries to this year's Rural-Urban Mass.

The Archbishop will say Mass on the large wrap around porch at Ryan and Krista Schmitmeyer's farm, 6504 State Route 242, Thursday, June 20, at 7 p.m. Individuals attending Mass should bring lawn chairs to sit on the lawn around the porch. In case of rain, Mass will be held in a barn.

At Mass Archbishop Schnurr will present awards to Catholic farm

families who have applied for admission into the Catholic Century Farm Registry within the two deaneries. The Archbishop will also bless soil and water that will be distributed after Mass. Parishioners at the hosting parish, St. Denis, will offer a dessert reception upon conclusion.

The annual Rural-Urban Mass is an opportunity for farmers and the people who share in the benefits of an agricultural community to come together in a prayerful way to praise God for the blessings of faith, farm and family.

The Catholic Rural Life

Conference serves Catholics who directly work in agriculture or live in communities supported by agriculture. The Conference of the St. Marys and Sidney Deaneries has also offered Rural Plunges to university and junior high school students. The local conference meets in January, March, May, September and November on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Charles Senior Living Community.

Call Pam Long, Regional Director, for more information at 937-224-3026, or email plong@catholiccincinnati.org.