

Transformed!

The Good News at St. Hilary Parish

February/March 2020



James and his son Sean help prepare dinner for St. Bernard's Hot Meals Program.

Feeding souls with food and prayer

It is a cool, damp Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. Bernard Church. Diners mill around narrow stairwells leading to the social hall, waiting to be seated for the weekly hot meal served to the needy. They are men, women, and families with children. Some are homeless, some are the working poor, and many of them are regulars. All are hungry.

Also waiting are 20 volunteers from St. Hilary led by coordinator Dawn Hosick Sabol. They gather inside the social hall as Mike Zorena guides them through a brief orientation. Some volunteers like Mike have been coming for years, while others such as James Dodd, his wife Beth and teenage son Sean are newcomers, having responded to a recent bulletin announcement.

Once their instructions are complete, the group splits up. Some volunteers fill plastic sandwich bags with homemade cookies and store-bought candy that guests can consume on

the spot or take home. James and Sean fill a giant steel bowl with lettuce, while two others place packaged pancake syrup on trays.

According to Dawn, tonight's dinner features leftovers from a Christmas Eve breakfast a few days before: French toast sticks, hash brown potatoes, salad, quiche, and a fruit cup. The menus for these Sunday dinners are determined in part by Mike and Patty Ayers and Tony Smith of St. Bernard Hot Meals Program with input from the St. Hilary coordinator. They plan for about 180 guests for each meal. The ingredients often come from the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank with funding from donors such as parishes like St. Hilary. Patty was quick to point out that 300 gifts given at the Christmas Eve breakfast were funded by St. Hilary.

At 4:30 the guests flood in, families flock to an area reserved for them as others take their favorite seats. Soon,

volunteers bring drinks—coffee, tea, water, and milk for children. Tony encourages volunteers to engage in conversation with the guests.

While the St. Hilary helpers concentrate on feeding the hungry, another ministry focuses on feeding the soul. The Prayer Warriors, as they are called at St. Bernard, are members of St. Hilary's Charismatic Prayer Group who are on hand to pray with those who are open to it. Tonight, John Jeanmaire and Gabrielle Ferrer go from table to table greeting guests and asking who might want someone to pray with them. One of them is Jim, who had complained of stomach pain some weeks ago and had prayed with John. He is now pain free; John credits the healing with prayer.

Just before food is to be served the volunteers gather in the hall with the guests and pray in a circle. Thanks are given to the volunteers from St.

Continued on page 2

Hilary, the Prayer Warriors, and the teens who came to serve the meal. Then Dawn offers an impromptu prayer followed with the traditional Catholic meal blessing: “Bless us oh Lord, and these thy gifts...”

Closer to serving time, volunteers line up in pairs in the kitchen—one person to hold the tray and the other to serve the food. Volunteers fill their plates and exit the kitchen with steaming trays, the smell wafting with them.

Families are fed first. Then the volunteers go to the far side of the room and serve the waiting guests. At the end of the meal, volunteers clean up the tables and mop the floors.

Dawn originally shared the coordinator duties with Trish Goodin-Yard until illness prevented Trish from continuing. While the Ayers and Smiths operate the Hot Meals Program for their parish, Dawn represents St. Hilary. “I am perfectly able to share ideas for the menu,” she said. “Sometimes, there are things to look for, such as donors or restaurants who will provide an entrée. St. Hilary provides ongoing donations for whatever it takes to make this ministry happen. The staff of the Hot Meals Program are more than willing to help us be ministers. It’s a blend of providing services.”



Gabrielle Ferrer and John Jeanmaire offer prayer support during the meal.

St. Hilary actually has two teams of volunteers. Dan Sollenberger leads the other team. Parishioners can sign up for either one depending on their availability. The commitment is flexible; one can sign up as often as one’s schedule permits.

Dawn says she became involved after her husband Clark Hosick died. “I became aware of the connection between being in a pew and listening to Scripture, and applying it to the action. I got into this because Clark was a director of a nonprofit agency who lived serving others. I didn’t internalize what that was completely,

until after he passed away,” she said. That inspiration led her to volunteer at Catholic Worker House and the Peter Maurin Center, ministries similar to the Hot Meals Program. “Once you become immersed in service, you start to see the need everywhere. I do this because it’s living out what Christ asked us to do—serve others.”

Are you discerning whether or not to volunteer? Dawn suggests, “You don’t have to have all the answers or know how to do something. If you are willing to listen and learn you will receive all the grace you need. It’s all about saying yes.”



Dawn Hosick Sabol coordinates a team of volunteers from St. Hilary.

If you’ve never served at a hunger center but have always wanted to, this is a great opportunity! Students 16 years and older are welcome. Below are the upcoming dates. For the full list of dates and to sign up, visit sthilarychurch.org/feedthehungry.

Sunday, March 15

Wednesday, April 22

Sunday, May 17

Sunday, July 19

WORD on FIRE ENGAGE



St. Hilary Lenten Series

Are you looking to better understand and to deepen your faith?

St. Hilary Parish is excited to offer you the opportunity to receive a series of emails, each containing a short, engaging, high-quality video produced by Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, founded by Bishop Robert Baron.

Video 1: *Who is Jesus?*

Video 2: *Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross?*

Video 3: *Why does the Resurrection matter?*

Video 4: *What will happen when we die?*

Video 5: *Does God really send people to Hell?*

Video 6: *Why Purgatory is actually a good thing...*

Video 7: *What can we know about angels?*

You will receive the first email of the Lenten Series on Ash Wednesday, February 26. *Signing up for this Lenten Series will also give you access to the entire Word on Fire digital library!*

To sign up, text **LENT2020** to **84576**
or visit **sthilaryparish.flocknote.com/lent2020**.

For more information, visit sthilarychurch.org/wordonfire.



Journey Women find quiet time to pray

As the pressures of life begin to intrude, wouldn't it be nice to get away for even just part of the day to spend some time with God? Enter Journey Women, a retreat that takes less than a day to recharge spiritual batteries and offers just the right blend of silence in solitude along with the companionship of community.

Usually held on the fifth Monday, Journey Women meet either at Shady Hollow Pavilion at nearby Sand Run Metro Park in warmer months or at St. Hilary's Spiritual Center Lower Level in the depths of winter. Julie Slattery and Susie Straits have been regulars since the group began with former Pastoral Minister Sr. Marlene LoGrasso about 20 years ago.

A friendly format

According to Julie and Susie, the retreat has a predictable format. Participants gather around 9:30 a.m. After introductions, Pastoral Minister Beth Rado shares the theme with the group and explains the order of the day. She then reads the upcoming Sunday Gospel and a short group discussion ensues. Afterward, there's time for quiet reflection followed by

lunch and group sharing. The day ends around 2 p.m.

It's that quiet time that both Julie and Susie treasure. "We go into silent mode for two hours—until noon, during which Beth will play instrumental music," says Julie. Everyone receives a folder of materials from Beth, including four or five articles related to the theme. "You are encouraged to bring a Bible and notebook for journaling. During those two hours you might read one or all of those articles or you can bring anything else that helps you to pray."

'What draws me are the people, but the main thing is the quiet time with God.'

Julie Slattery

In warm weather, Julie takes her folder outside and hikes a bit to her favorite hemlock tree to read. Others spend that time inside if they desire. "What draws me are the people," said Julie, "but the main thing is the quiet time with God. It makes me take the time; otherwise, at home there are too many distractions—and I don't take the time.

And that's what I find most enjoyable—spending time with God."

The silent time goes quickly for Julie. "It's only two hours. The time is set aside; so, I take the time. And the articles Beth gives us to read are really good. She says it's Spirit led."

Time without distractions

Susie said she finds being in the park a delight, and she is particularly drawn to those two special hours. "Because I have so many commitments, I am with people all the time," said Susie. "I am always organizing and communicating with others. I just need the quiet—there're no telephone calls—two hours with no phone!"

She also enjoys the articles that Beth provides. "Of all the readings she gives, there's always one or two that address a situation in my life," Susie said.

The Journey Women retreat has strengthened Susie's faith and has influenced her prayer life. She recalled an especially difficult time when her daughter-in-law was diagnosed with a brain tumor. "At first we were told there was no cure. We had to rely on prayer.

Pictured at left: Pastoral Minister Beth Rado starts the morning with prayer and the Sunday Gospel reading.

Out of that experience I decided to go to daily mass. That was in 2017. By the third test, the surgeon said it turned out to be operable—not malignant.” According to Susie, her daughter-in-law has since made a full recovery.

Time to build community

After two hours of reflection, the group comes together to share the food each has brought plus insights from the morning. “By noon we come together to share lunch. We share at tables about what we read. Seating is assigned so you don’t necessarily get to sit with those you know the best,” Julie explained.

She said there is a sense of community at these retreats. “Because there are regulars, you know the others’ stories and can share as much as you want or are comfortable with,” said Julie. It’s a

time to get to know other women in the parish—those who come every time, and those who come when they can. “There are people you don’t normally see any other time,” added Susie.

According to Beth, “With our busy lives in this high-tech world, it’s easy to get caught up in our day-to-day routine and lose sight of our purpose.

We hear in Scripture how Jesus stepped away and took time to pray, re-centering himself before continuing his ministry. Journey Women is a wonderful opportunity to take that time away for quiet reflection as well as communal sharing with other women of faith. Come, join us March 30 at Shady Hollow Pavilion!” she concluded.



The group breaks for lunch, sharing a snack, lunch item, or dessert, allowing for more time to discuss the day’s theme and socialize with each other.



Meg Hopp shares a reflection during the group discussion portion of the morning.



When Journey Women falls during a warmer month, the group meets in the Sand Run Metro Park.



Sue Crookston and Debi Coudriet listen as Susie Straits responds to a discussion question.

Join Journey Women!

The next Journey Women is Monday, March 30 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Sand Run Metro Park. Contact Beth Rado in the Parish Office to sign up.

Life Teen: Helping youth say YES to God

St. Hilary bustles with activities for nurturing the spirituality of the faithful during the week; however, Sunday evening belongs to the youth. It starts with 5:30 Mass, which attracts parishioners of all ages, but is geared toward young people and features contemporary Christian music. The focus on youth continues with dinner followed by the Life Teen meeting called Life Night.

According to Youth Minister Rachel Maykut, Life Teen at St. Hilary seeks to “build community among the teens, offering them more opportunities to follow Mary’s fiat (her yes to God) leading to an active response that lives on in their lives. Our goal is to better meet the needs of the teens by incorporating their culture into the weekly Life Nights, showing them ways in which their faith can and is present among them on a day-to-day basis.”

One of the Life Teen regulars is Maggie McCarron, a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, who has been playing guitar and singing with the 5:30 group since sophomore year. “It’s

different than sitting in the pews. I get more out of the Mass by helping to lead everyone to grow in their faith,” she said. Maggie sees it as a form of evangelization. “And I want to keep doing that every day!”

For Maggie, Mass flows right into Life Teen. “It’s easy going right from singing my heart out to going to the meeting.”

Early in the year the group builds community with outdoor events. “During the first few meetings we had Olympics and Draft Day, which were like field days,” Maggie recalled. “We had Oscar Night in February and in the summer showed a movie on the wall of the school. We also had a Friendsgiving Meal around Thanksgiving,” she added.

According to Rachel, a typical Life Night begins with the teens and Core Team gathering for dinner, prayer, and an introduction of the night’s topic. Afterward, a member of the Core Team or a guest speaker expands on the topic by sharing his/her knowledge, a witness story, and a song or a video.

Teens then break into small groups to reflect on what was shared and take advantage of time to grow in faith and community. The night ends with time in adoration, praise and worship, prayer, or a concluding activity that inspires and energizes members to go forth and live their faith in today’s culture.

“Discussion nights are interesting,” said Maggie, “because you go a lot deeper when it comes to your faith. Instead of just having fun, I’m learning about my faith.” But what Maggie says she enjoys most are the people. “Everyone is so nice. We can joke around and take it seriously at the same time.”

Her involvement in the youth group goes back to seventh grade. “It was fun. A lot of people in my class did it after school.” That steady commitment has made a big difference in Maggie’s faith life. “Life Teen has encouraged my faith to grow and brought it more into focus. It’s given me a more personal connection with God,” she said.

The turning point in her faith life was attending a youth conference at



The group cheers on Fr. Matt at the third Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Game at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

Franciscan University of Steubenville with St. Hilary's youth group two years ago. She especially treasured the opportunity to attend Eucharistic Adoration there. "Since then I have gone on that retreat every year."

Being part of the March for Life with the youth group was also significant for Maggie. "It was encouraging to see so many people agree and fight against this evil—abortion," she said.

In February, the group joined with teens from St. Clarence in North Olmsted and St. Peter in North Ridgeville for the

DISCOVERY Life Teen retreat at the St. Leonard Retreat Center in Avon. Maggie was one of the teen leaders along with Helen Hohlefelder and Grace Kosco.

Rachel described the retreat as "an opportunity for high school teens to take a weekend to explore what phase they are in on their journey of faith and to recognize that like our vast cosmos, there is more to 'the great unknown that is a relationship with Jesus Christ.' Through prayer, breakout sessions, and activities, this retreat is leading teens to 'live long and prosper.'"

Whether it's retreats, conferences, outdoor activities or Sunday night meetings, Life Teen is making a difference for St. Hilary's young people. For those who are considering joining, Maggie suggested, "Try it out and bring a friend—it's always more fun with a friend."

For more information and upcoming events, visit livefiat.wixsite.com/sthilary-lifeteen.



2018-2019 Life Teen group at Senior Night



Maggie sharing how God is at work in her life and alive through her discipleship at a 7th/8th grade Confirmation Retreat.



The Saints Fantasy League gathered underneath the pavilion to kick off Life Teen for the 2019-20 school year and to recruit saints for the competition games.



A FAITHFUL PAST...AN ABUNDANT FUTURE

2750 WEST MARKET ST. FAIRLAWN, OH 44333

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH
PERMIT NO. 1088

2020 Interfaith Justice Series
Moving from Trauma To Healing

Please mark your calendars for this opportunity to make a difference in our larger community.

March 4
What is Trauma?
Recognizing the Signs & Symptoms
Faith Lutheran Church

March 18
Violence Induced Trauma
St Hilary Catholic Church

March 11
Trauma & the Cycle of Poverty
New Hope Baptist Church

March 25
The Path to Healing
Temple Israel

For more details and to register, please contact the Parish Office
or visit sthilarychurch.org/2020-interfaith-justice-series.

