

Transformed!

The Good News at St. Hilary Parish

May/June 2018

Rosary Makers share devotion to Mary

At the home of Todd and Christin Rickel, 16 people gather to pray the rosary and make rosaries and sacrifice beads (a version of the rosary). The group starts with petitions. The hum of Hail Marys settles in the room. It is peaceful.

Afterward, members begin working on the project at hand—sacrifice beads to be given out on Ash Wednesday.

Divine inspiration

The Rosary Makers group grew out of the Rosary Workshop held last May. The purpose of the event was to teach attendees about the Holy Rosary, how to pray this traditional Catholic devotion, and how to make their own rosary.

For Todd and Christin Rickel, the workshop inspired them to learn more about how to make different types of rosaries. This interest brought them together with fellow



From left, members of the Rosary Makers craft sacrifice beads: Rosanne Rohana, Evans Cottman, Candace Hanson, and Sue Crookston.

parishioner Evans Cottman, who has been making rosaries for 26 years. For Tim Baker, the Rosary Workshop drew him closer to the Blessed Mother and a devotion to her through the Holy Rosary, something he had witnessed in his own mother and longed for in his life.

Having become friends through *Christ Renews His Parish* (CRHP), Todd had to share with Tim what he had learned from Evans, and a new ministry was formed around the Rickels' dining room table.

"After the first evening, I went out and bought all the things you see here," Tim exclaimed, showing a canvas carryall neatly organized with pliers, beads, wire, crucifixes, and religious medals.

Before long, curiosity led others to the table. Among them were Tim and Debbie Miller.

"At the time, I was developing a Marian devotion, so I felt God prompting me to come and see," shared Tim Miller. He continued, "I never thought I'd be making rosaries, but that is how all of us have been called to this ministry."

Learn, do, teach

"When we first started with the group, Todd, Tim, and Evans encouraged us to make one full rosary for ourselves so we understood how to do it. It's what I call the 'learn, do, teach approach.' So now, as the group grows, we teach others. As it turns out, my wife Deb



Tim Baker and Todd Rickel

Continued on page 2

is much better at making rosaries than I am!" he added with a chuckle.

A missionary ministry

The group has branched out from making simple plastic missionary rosaries to personalized rosaries for special people in their lives and for the parish. "The Holy Spirit always guides me to whom to give them," shared Evans.

Ministry member Rosanne Rohana knows first hand the power of receiving a personalized rosary. "Receiving a rosary made just for me reminds me to pray, and to pray for the person who made it for me," Rosanne said showing the rosary Evans had made for her.

Rosanne now makes personalized rosaries for others. Tim and Debbie Miller made one for their son Patrick, and for their grandson Jackson for his First Communion.

Todd and Tim have also taught members of the group how to make different types of rosaries such as string rosaries, wire rosaries, wirewrapped rosaries, sacrifice beads, and chaplet rosaries. In addition, the group now provides rosaries and rosary devotionals to shrines like St. Dymphna and Our



A sampling of rosaries made by the Rosary Makers

Lady of The Snows, and to the Queen of Angels gift shop at St. Joseph Parish in Cuyahoga Falls.

Unexpected blessings

According to Todd, "praying the rosary helps unite communities of faith." The group has also come to realize that rosary making is a powerful evangelization tool. While making rosaries is the group's main purpose, providing an opportunity for parishioners to pray the rosary and engage in intercessory prayer has been an unexpected blessing.

New life for old rosaries

The group is also happy to repair broken rosaries. Todd and Tim frequently rescue rosaries they find at garage sales, refurbish them, and give them a new home.

Do you have a rosary in need of repair? Drop it off in the parish office with your name and phone number and the Rosary Makers will fix it for free!

Come experience the Holy Rosary at St. Hilary Parish

Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Rosary

8:35 a.m. Monday-Friday
in the Reservation Chapel

Traveling Fatima Statue

Invite the Blessed Mother into your home.
Sign-up calendar is
in the Gathering Area.



Annual Parish Rosary Rally

Saturday, October 13, 2018
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Parish Rosary Makers

Thursday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Call the parish office
for more information.

Ministry helps parishioner get his groove back

A lifelong Catholic, Tim Krall was deeply involved in his parish in Parma as a Eucharistic minister, lector, offertory counter, financial advisor to the pastor, and member of finance council. After going through a separation in 2009, he moved to Richfield and briefly attended St. Victor Church.

Then he met someone special and for the next six years attended St. Andrew Church in Norton with her, although he never officially joined the parish or participated in ministry there.

When their relationship ended, Tim went back to St. Victor, but it didn't last long. "I heard the call to pick up my cross and follow Him. After three weeks, God told me, 'This is not for you. You are going nowhere here.'"

Finding a path

"There is this band called Sidewalk Prophets. They have a song called 'Help Me Find It.' One of the lines says, 'If there's a road I should walk, help me find it.' I kept praying that prayer. It's a very fitting song, and in God's time, I found St. Hilary was that road."

Tim's initial impression of St. Hilary was a positive one. "The first time I attended Mass here, there was a Eucharistic minister who welcomed me—who didn't know me from Adam!" he exclaimed.

Tim's decision to become a member of St. Hilary led to his meeting Stewardship Minister Marie Colaner. "She knew I was looking to get involved with the liturgy. I was excited because there were drums here, and I had never played drums in a Mass before.

"It was because of Marie, that I met Anna Hall and Matt Fresh at the



Tim Krall plays the congas.

Joyfully Gifted retreat. It was her intent to introduce me to them. Then Anna and Matt invited me to join the 9 a.m. contemporary ensemble.

"When I told God that I needed a path, I promised Him that if this is going to happen, I'd play drums. It was actually the first time in my life that I gave up my talent to God without getting paid for it," Tim said, adding that he had played drums professionally since he was a teenager.

*'If you hear God's call,
you should answer it.'*

"I heard an author say once, that if you choose not to perform on an instrument that you know how to play, you are preventing others from seeing God in you." Now Tim shares his musical gifts freely at Mass and has found fellowship in the process.

Restoring relationships

Another turning point in Tim's relationship with God, came last fall when he attended the *Christ Renews His Parish* (CRHP)

men's renewal. The experience was a healing one for him and opened him up to other things God would do in his life. One of the first, was the restoration of his relationship with his special friend on the Feast of The Immaculate Conception.

Tim also agreed to be on the team for the next men's CRHP retreat. "If I can take someone who has heard the call of God, but doesn't know what to do with it, and help them see what they are looking for, that would give me great joy," Tim said.

Growing in virtue

Attending a Men's Group meeting one Saturday led Tim to the rosary. "We went to the Tabernacle to pray the rosary after the meeting. I am looking around at all these men saying the rosary and that changed my life because I didn't think it was a masculine thing to do."

Participating in a Mother of Sorrows rosary prayer service sparked an on-going devotion to the Blessed Mother. This led Tim to explore the seven Catholic virtues. "I told God, I would try to accomplish all seven of them, and I did!"

As a result of putting those virtues into practice, Tim also began to see changes in his relationships at work. Practicing fraternal charity, Tim paid to have a co-worker's car fixed. He also learned patience, temperance, and prudence. "That's how I learned to have a much better relationship with the person who owns the company I work for—by treating him differently," Tim recalled.

"Looking back, I can remember Fr. Steve Breck saying in one of his homilies that if you hear God's call, you should answer it. I'm sure glad I did."



The Power of Pilgrimage: Transformed by Place & Grace

Walking the same roads as Jesus, touching the place where he was born, standing where Mary and John stood looking on while Jesus hung on the Cross, experiencing the awe of the Resurrection Tomb—these are moments when pilgrims encounter Our Lord in a whole new way. Jesus and Mary become more real.” Randy Malick, Director of Faith Formation for Adults

Pilgrimages are not only opportunities to draw closer to Christ, but also to fellow travelers. The profound experience of walking side by side, uniting in prayer, and growing in the love and knowledge of the faith, forms a deep bond.

As parishioner Rosanne Rohana explained, “traveling with so many faithful people was spiritually strengthening during and after the pilgrimage. Everyone respected each other, helped each other, and new friendships were formed. Upon returning, a highlight has been running into fellow pilgrims; once strangers, we now greet each other with open arms.”

A new tradition

A pilgrimage to France was originally planned for the parish’s 50th Anniversary year, but the financial crisis of 2008 put the trip on hold. According to Fr. Steve, parishioners who had expressed interest in the trip at that time approached him a few years later. In June 2014, Fr. Steve led the

first parish pilgrimage to Poitiers, France, the home of St. Hilary! “At the conclusion of the that trip, the pilgrims asked if we could do another trip in two years to Italy,” Fr. Steve recalled. So in 2016, he led a second pilgrimage to Italy, with stops in Assisi, Pisa, Siena, Florence, Lucca, and Milan. At the conclusion of this trip,



St. Hilary parishioners on the Via Dolorosa.

conversation on the bus turned to, “Where are we going in 2018?” The realization that the next pilgrimage would correspond with the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions led to this summer’s trip to Lourdes, France, Spain, and Portugal.

Inspired by Scripture

After years of walking in the footsteps of Christ through the vibrant Scripture studies he leads, Randy Malick, Director of Faith Formation for Adults, was inspired to begin offering pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

The first Holy Land pilgrimage took place in 2016. For Fr. Steve, “celebrating Mass in the very places where Jesus preached, taught and healed, helps you draw closer to Him in a new and profound way. Walking the Via Dolorosa, praying the Stations of the Cross, and ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (which is built over Golgotha and the Resurrection Tomb) was especially meaningful.”

Interior transformation

Pilgrims notice their interior transformation while in these places, but also well beyond their return home. "I can't tell you how transforming this trip was for me. I know I have been called, and I am patiently allowing God to reveal what it is He wants of me and where He wants me to be with this new spirit I have for HIM!" declared parishioner Trish Goodin-Yard.

Participants also grow intellectually and want to know more. Another parishioner who participated in last year's Holy Land pilgrimage shared, "This has been a faith journey which has helped me to better understand the roots and teachings of my Catholic Faith. I have a greater understanding of God's love and His plan for our salvation. The art, architecture, archaeology, and history of these places certainly expand one's horizons and foster a richer understanding."

Tools for the journey

Pilgrims are provided with all of the tools they need to make most of their journey. "We suggest spiritual and historical reading materials. Pilgrimage preparation meetings include not only logistics but also biblical background that provides a framework for what we will see and experience," Randy explained.

'The trip is sure to pay for itself in spiritual dividends!'

"We also provide a scripture journal for meditation, reflection, and note-taking. Upon our return, all participants receive a copy of the pilgrimage scripture teachings. Recordings of homilies and our guides' presentations are also freely accessible to all pilgrims. We do our part to pray and prepare, and the Holy Spirit shows up with the power in these places to transform us by his grace!"

The tradition continues

To celebrate our parish's 60th Anniversary, Randy and Fr. Steve will be heading to Greece and Italy to walk in the footsteps of St. Paul. The pilgrimage begins in Athens, and continues on to Corinth, Thessaloniki, and Philippi.

Randy shared, "In these places whose names we hear Sunday after Sunday, we will come to know St. Paul, one of the most influential leaders of the Church. We will take time to meditate on themes St. Paul made known to these earliest Christians, themes that shaped Christianity from his rich, Spirit-inspired understanding of who Jesus was as the fulfillment of all God's promises to us. We will then continue on to Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rome (where St. Paul was martyred), and the Vatican - the trip is sure to pay for itself in spiritual dividends!"



Upcoming St. Hilary Pilgrimages

*Walk Where Jesus Walked
Guided by the Holy Spirit in
Israel with Fr. Norm Douglas*
Nov 27-Dec 7, 2018

*Following in the Footsteps
of St. Paul in Greece & Italy
with Fr. Steve Brunovsky*
Feb 10-21, 2019

**For more info and to register,
visit incrediblejourneystours.com or contact Randy
Malick in the Parish Office
rmalick@sthilarychurch.org
330.867.1055**

Being a mom becomes a ministry for Regenia

Regenia Spoerndle's Mother's Day greetings arrive from all over the world—Spain, Italy, Germany, Morocco, China, and Brazil—since she has been a host mom to eight exchange students through AYA (Academic Year in America), a high school student exchange program that's part of the American Institute of Foreign Study.

Last year's greetings were extra special because Meriem, their exchange student from Morocco, contacted all of the Spoerndles' previous AYA students and asked them to send her a video greeting for their former host mom. Meriem combined each clip, added music, and played the special Mother's Day movie for Regenia. "I cried through the whole thing!" Regenia said with a laugh. "It was such an unexpected expression of love."

A family affair

Regenia and husband John have six children of their own—Aidan, a seventh grader at St. Hilary School; Sierra, a sophomore at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School; Micah, a senior at Elon University in North Carolina; Jonah, an

athletic trainer for Cleveland Clinic; Sammi, a French teacher at Walsh Jesuit High School; and Courtney, a quality engineer who works in Cuyahoga Falls.

This year the Spoerndle family is hosting two exchange students, Letizia from Italy and Alice from France. In addition to serving as a host mom, Regenia works for AYA as a local coordinator, supporting students and host families during their exchange year.

A happy accident

Regenia said they accidentally got involved with AYA after answering an ad looking for families to host exchange students for three weeks over the summer. "We asked for a girl since our oldest two daughters were teens at the time. Instead, a local French teacher called me and said he had a boy he needed to place."

Despite not being what the family originally intended, they decided to host Guillaume Gélan, a 17-year-old from France. "When he got in our car, he touched the dashboard and said, 'we have this same car!'"



Regenia and Meriem

He was amazed and so were we. The entire three weeks together was a continuous series of "Us too's!"

Unexpected joy

Right before Guillaume's arrival, John had to make a very difficult business decision that would have lasting consequences for the Spoerndle family. The decision was a heart-wrenching one, but Guillaume's visit brought the family a welcome reprieve from the stress.

Later, Regenia discovered that Guillaume's placement in their home occurred after the French teacher in charge of matching students and families had prayed over each student and asked God to help him match each student with the right family.

"Of all the people who could have come to live with us, it was this French Catholic boy from a family of nine. Not only did our family love French culture, but this kid was like an instant member of our family. He had brothers and sisters the same ages as our kids and our family chaos was normal to him. It was an incredible gift to have Guillaume with us during this time and it felt



The Spoerndle's enjoy summer vacation with their exchange students. From left: Sierra, Regenia, John, Mirko, Ashley (Jonah's girlfriend), Jonah, Micah, Aidan, and Javier.

as if God was whispering to me, 'If I can find this one French boy to bring joy to your house in the midst of this storm, I can definitely handle this problem for you.' It was a reminder that God had us in the palm of His hand."

Over the past 12 years, Guillaume and the Spoerndles have remained close, sharing visits and family milestones. Sammi, who was 15 years old at the time of his visit, was so influenced by the hosting experience that she traveled to France multiple times while still in high school to visit Guillaume and his family and to develop fluency in the language.

"God used our willingness to extend hospitality to strangers to transform our lives in so many ways," Regenia said. Little did she realize at the time, that serving as a host parent and AYA local coordinator deeply influenced her openness to becoming Catholic.

Inspired change

In 2010, due to fractured relationships in their homeschool support group and church, it was evident the family needed to reinvent their lives. "Wanting our younger children to continue a faith-filled education, we turned to St. Hilary School for Aidan, and the Elms for Sierra, even though we were not Catholic at the time," she said.

The summer after Aidan's first grade year, Regenia and John decided to attend Inquiry classes offered at St. Hilary because Aidan wanted to make his First Holy Communion, and Sierra wanted to be confirmed.

In 2016, after participating in the RCIA program, Regenia, Sierra, and Aidan were received into the Catholic Church. "Having our two exchange students at the time present—Mirko (from Italy) and

Javier (from Spain)—made for the sweetest memory," said Regenia.

Called to ministry

Working as a local coordinator for AYA and serving as a host parent has become a kind of ministry for Regenia. While AYA is not a religiously based organization, it has given her a chance to live out her faith.

'God used our willingness to extend hospitality to strangers to transform our lives in so many ways.'

"Today in our country there is so much division and negative talk [surrounding diversity]. Serving as a local coordinator and as a host parent is a way for me to be an advocate for peace in a gentle, authentic way," Regenia shared.

"Part of the appeal of Catholicism for me is that it truly is in every part of the world. Seeing such diverse cultures and students from all over the world find unity in their faith

reminds me of the beauty and complexity of God.

"When you invite someone to live with you who has grown up so differently, or you work with a student and their host family over the course of 10 months, you learn how to build relationships with diverse people through communication, patience, and compassion. The result is a new appreciation for the simplest moments of family life. Bearing witness to this reminds me of what God expects of all of us. He expects us to embrace diversity and to unconditionally share our love, even when it's hard.

"Today, I can honestly say that we have family all over the world and that God has directed all of it. We are truly blessed," Regenia said.

If you are interested in hosting an exchange student or would like to learn more about AYA, visit:

www.academicyear.org

**or contact Regenia Spoerndle
330-701-4440**



Sierra, Regenia, Gabriel (from Brazil), John and Aidan (front).



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