

Transformed!

The Good News at St. Hilary Parish

February/March 2019

The Feast of St. Hilary Celebration 2019

A heartfelt thank you to all who volunteered in order to assure the success of our 60th Anniversary Feast of St. Hilary Celebration! So many people have expressed to me how much they enjoyed the evening; from the beautiful Mass, to the Art Show, to the welcome center history display and video, to the beautifully transformed Horning Hall, to the entertainment and the wonderful food and drink! As one parishioner stated, "All of the volunteers were so cheerful and welcoming!" This was a wonderful way to celebrate our parish family! Happy Anniversary!

Fr. Steve Brunovsky



A beautiful ending to a wonderful celebratory Mass



Bishop Perez greeting parishioners after Mass



2019 Feast of St. Hilary Mass with Celebrant Bishop Nelson Perez, along with Fr. Chris Trenta, Deacon Joshua Trefney, Fr. Matt Jordan, and Fr. Steve Brunovsky



Bishop Perez gives his homily.



Fr. Matt Jordan and Fr. Chirs Trenta leading the precession



Deacon Joshua Trefney presents the gospel.



Fr. Steve Brunovsky thanks the parish for 60 wonderful years.



Parishioner artwork on display for the Celebration of the Arts



Pencil drawings with a whimsical Van Gogh Chair by Sister Carol



The Welcome Center in the Multipurpose Room housed historical documents and videos.



Vestment by Sister Carol Joy for Fr. Koegel



Portrait of Fr. Koegel included in parish memorabilia



The adult celebration took place in Horning Hall.



Christin, Elizabeth and Todd Rickel
Elizabeth was one of the performers for the evening.



Mary Lou and John Grossmann, Deacon Joshua Trefney, Evans Cottman, and Jennifer and Jon Woodman



Melanie and Tim Baker, and Fr. Matt Jordan along with his parents Shari and Walter Jordan



Stephen and Katie McCarthy, Tina Oelschlager and Robert Brownfield



Front: Jeff and Sandra Kornick, Nancy and Dan McMahon; Back: Jeff and Cathie Durkin, and Jim and Debbie Pianalto

Martha Ministry puts faith into action

When illness strikes, caring people often offer meals as a way to reach out and show their concern. For the members of the Martha Ministry, that concern becomes a way of putting faith into action.

One of those is Rosanne Rohanna, a recipient and now a member of the ministry. “Due to health challenges, I was home-bound for several months and struggled with food preparation. Several parishioners reached out mentioning the Martha Ministry, but I declined, bashful to accept assistance at first. Thankfully, they were very persuasive! What initially felt humbling, quickly became an unmatched blessing. A brief phone call with Gretchen Kennedy inquiring about food preference, schedule frequency, and needs produced an electronic calendar for meal deliveries.

“Twice a week for the next two months, almost a dozen people I had never met came to my home bearing home-cooked meals and big smiles. The joy with which these strangers offered their meals was stunning—they were so excited to be able to help!” she said.

Opportunity for evangelization

“Most interestingly,” she added, “the brief meal deliveries became an unexpected opportunity to connect with others on a personal level and to share faith. Several friendships emerged and one individual even accepted an invitation to attend Christmas Mass together after several years of absence,” she recalled.

For Gretchen Kennedy, starting the ministry was a natural response to parishioners who brought her family meals some years ago when her late husband Pat underwent a kidney transplant with Gretchen as the donor. “It was great, but not anticipated. We thought the church ought to have something like this, and indicated that



Gretchen Kennedy with daughters Maria and Bianca.

we would be happy to coordinate it once we were able,” she said.

When their situation improved, Gretchen sought help from Katie McCarthy who was Stewardship Minister at the time. Katie introduced Gretchen to a website called the Care Calendar, specifically designed for meeting the multiple needs of families dealing with personal disaster. St. Hilary uses the site just for providing meals. According to Gretchen, Katie also came up with the name for the ministry.

‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.’

Here’s how it works. When Gretchen becomes aware of someone in need of meals, she finds out the details that volunteers would require. This includes the recipient’s likes and dislikes, allergies, number of people in the family, time of day the family eats, and anything else the volunteer would need to know. The information is added to the website. She then sends out an

email to volunteers with a link to the Care Calendar. The volunteer consults Care Calendar, signs up, then makes a complete meal and delivers it to the recipient. The ministry has over 40 volunteers!

First-hand experience

Gretchen has seen first-hand the ministry’s effectiveness when their daughter Anita was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. “We again became recipients because Anita was on a chemo schedule that required that she be hospitalized every three weeks. So, it was again incredibly helpful,” said Gretchen.

When it comes to putting their faith into action, the Martha Ministry gives the entire Sejba family the opportunity to get involved. “It’s something we can do together, so the kids have a part in it. They are really good at making dessert and cleaning fruit. It’s another way to share the blessings we’ve been given.”

The ministry volunteers prepare an entire meal for the person or family in need. “We take a fair amount of soup because I can put it in the crockpot,”

Melanie said. “We make a Mexican bean soup and pumpkin taco soup, and chili, and sometimes in the summer Matt will grill something. We usually send a complete meal. An example would be cornbread, chili, fruit in season, cookies or cake depending on how many people there are. And the kids are always there for the delivery so we talk about what we are doing and why.”

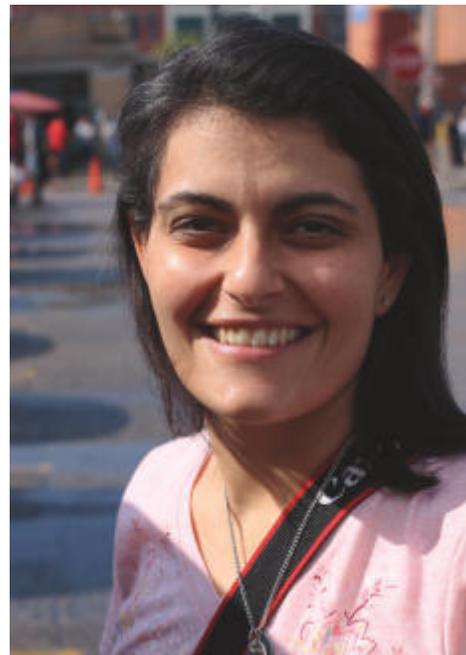
Blessed to be a blessing

For Melanie, there are several reasons to be involved in the Martha Ministry. “It’s a Spiritual Work of Mercy. We are comforting the sick and sorrowful. Most people who ask for help are dealing with some kind of loss or illness,” she explained. Being part of this ministry enables Melanie to do something tangible to help. “Often times, I don’t have the words to express concern—providing a comforting meal does the same thing. I can see the face of Christ in the people we serve. And we pray as we make the meal, asking Jesus to send them peace and comfort in their time of need,” she said.

From Rosanne’s point of view, “A friend of mine often says, ‘We are blessed to be a blessing.’ In that spirit, I now serve in the same ministry that once served me. And there’s so much joy in giving! The Martha Ministry is an entry-level ministry—a simple and practical way to serve others and get involved in the parish community. There are no meetings, no obligations, and no requirements other than being able to offer a meal at your convenience. Additionally, we are always on the lookout for those who would benefit from a few meals; the parish office can direct inquiries for assistance to Gretchen Kennedy, ministry leader.

“St. Teresa of Avila said, ‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.’ This sums up both the mission and the fruit of St. Hilary’s Martha Ministry,” Rosanne concluded.

If you, or if you know of an individual or family in our parish who could benefit from this wonderful ministry, please contact Gretchen Kennedy at gretchenpt@yahoo.com or 330-807-2035.



Rosanne Rohana



The Sejbas make chocolate chip cookies. From left: Maggie (8), Annie (11), Timmy (3) and Rachel (6) are supervised by their mother, Melanie Sejba.



Stewardship of Time

While stewardship activities often focus on talent and treasure, Stewardship of Time is just as important. As Pastor Fr. Steve Brunovsky explains, “The Stewardship of Time refers to our commitments to grow in our faith through time spent with the Lord in prayer and celebration of the sacraments. Taking an opportunity to reflect on this commitment is a good annual exercise, as it provides a chance to reflect on what we are doing, what we would like to do, and to make a concrete plan to do something to grow in faith.

“Statistics show that people who think about and then write down a specific spiritual commitment are twice as likely to *do it!* Whether it is a commitment to Sunday Mass, weekday Mass, weekly Adoration, daily rosary, an annual retreat, or 15 minutes of prayer time each day, your commitment is between you and the Lord. The good news is that any time you spend with the Lord will be greatly rewarding and will help you grow in faith! That has the power to transform your life! Here are the stories of three parishioners and the ways that they have integrated prayer, a form of Stewardship of Time, into their lives.”

Jeff Bisesi on Daily Mass

Jeff Bisesi, married father of four boys and a manager at a busy surgical center, said, “Daily Mass starts my day off on a positive note. It feels like there’s something missing if I can’t get to daily Mass.”

“It is important—it sharpens my focus. It stresses things that are important for daily life. We are here for a short time and ultimately our goal is to get to heaven. And ultimately, I feel we are responsible for those around us—our family and those we come in contact with.” For Jeff, the time he spends in prayer at Mass influences his relationships, including those he works with, even those he finds difficult.



The Bisesi Family (left to right): Ben, Josh, Danny, Colleen, Jeff and Brad.

He gave an example of a colleague who seemed to have a lot of problems, like asking off work. “This time she asked off for a funeral.” It was inconvenient to find a substitute, but going to daily Mass made Jeff stop and reconsider his reaction to the situation. “Here she was trying to honor someone in her family. In the scheme of things, her calling off was not as important. It was an eye-opener.” As a result, he chose to respond with compassion.

“Prayer and Mass give a completely different perspective on things. It reminds me of what is really important. I think it has made me a better person, a more caring person,” he said

“I think I pray most for wisdom. It reminds me of that story from the Bible of Solomon who wanted wisdom. The older I get as a husband, father, and manager, the more important it is to make the right decisions based on my faith,” said Jeff.

Prayer impacts his parenting, too. “I remember being a teenager and all the turmoil and influences on them. So, you’re trying to be a strong spiritual guide for them.”

Rosie Orchosky attends Eucharistic Adoration

Rosie Orchosky’s prayer life is grounded in Eucharistic Adoration. Unable to experience the Eucharist during Mass due to a host of perplexing allergies, Rosie has turned to spiritual communion, visiting Our Lord at St. Hilary on Wednesdays and area churches within a half hour drive from her home in Copley.

The experience has transformed Rosie’s prayer life. “God gives me words through my prayer time in Eucharistic Adoration. The word that was revealed to me at the beginning of Advent in 2017 was *joy*. When I pulled up to the little chapel in Green,

there was this nativity with the word *joy* and the Holy Family was in the O of the word *joy*.”

“A lot of cool things have happened, so I started writing them down in this little notebook because I wasn’t good at sitting and praying. I was praying a lot, but I wasn’t listening. *Listen* was one of the words, the second was *silent*.” While listening to Christian radio one day Rosie learned that the same letters in the word *silent* are in *listen*.” In her notebook, Rosie writes what she hears when she is silent and listens. For example, she wrote down Psalm 46:10—“Be still and know that I am God.”



Paul and Rosie Orchosky

When Rosie first started going to Adoration a few years ago, she used the time to pray the rosary. Later she added other worship aids that she would find, including the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, novenas and a prayer journal. Using these aids have led to a deeper relationship with Christ, the Blessed Mother and St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

She also uses the time for prayer intentions, including all the children she has tutored through Seeds of Change. And while Rosie prays for her own healing, what she has received most is spiritual insight, which has brought her great peace.

Retreat renews Christine Owen

Needing time away from her hectic life, Christine Owen decided to attend the women’s Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) renewal weekend last spring. The experience was life changing. “Sitting with those women, listening to those stories, it was just so powerful. The Holy Spirit was working overtime in that room. It was just so wonderful to hear that others have the same struggles I was having,” she added.

“Through the retreat, I came to understand that God loves me right here, right now. I just realized that the problem for me was my guilt, and I just let it go. We had confession and Adoration, and I walked out of there a different person. Prayer changed my life on retreat,” said Christine.

In the morning while on retreat, Christine found herself waking up extra early and going to the chapel to reconnect with God. She related, “The thing was, you didn’t have all the distractions, so if there was down time, it was a good time to pray. You didn’t have to think about cooking dinner, cleaning up, getting ready and going off to work. You just sort of forgot the world.”

Now prayer is part of her everyday life. “It’s that one-on-one time. I get up and say good morning, God, and we have our little chit-chat. It is more constant than before the retreat. Before I would go a whole day without even thinking about prayer. Since the retreat, I make time for Him every morning and throughout the day,” she said.



The Owen Family (from left to right): Christine, Matthew, Alexa and Clay

My Gift of Time



Prayer is the beginning of stewardship.

Only when we spend time with God in prayer are we spiritually prepared to offer ourselves in service to others and the church.

Please indicate your stewardship of time for 2019 by making a check mark on the lines to the right, and cut off and drop in the basket in the Parish Office, or visit www.sthilarychurch.org/stewardshiptotime to complete the form online by February 22.

- Bible Study
- Charismatic Prayer Group
- Daily Mass
- Weekly Mass
- Daily Personal Prayer
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Evening Prayer (Advent & Lent)
- Pray the Rosary
- Make a Retreat
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Stations of the Cross
- Other



2019 Interfaith Justice Series

From HATE TO FORGIVENESS: A Journey of Conversion

How Shame Leads to Hate

March 13 at St. Hilary Catholic Church

Tony McAleer, co-founder of "Life After Hate"

How Fear Grows Hate

March 20 at Temple Israel

The Jewish Feast of Purim: The story of Queen Esther and Haman

How Compassion Changes Hate

March 27 at New Hope Baptist

Dr. Geraldine Nelson, Portage County NAACP and guest panelists

How Forgiveness Heals Hate

April 3 at Faith Lutheran Church

Video: Homeboy Industries Gang Ministry

For more details on the schedule and to RSVP, please visit
www.sthilarychurch.org/2019-interfaith-justice-series/ or call the Parish Office at 330-867-1055.