

# Transformed!

Good News at St. Hilary Parish

February/March 2018

## Bill Miller—an author in our midst

Parishioners know Bill Miller as a lector, cantor, and spiritual director. He spent his career as a catechist on the parish and diocesan level, and served for three years as president of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership. Bill is now the author of *Finding Your Spiritual Direction as a Catechist*. According to Bill, the book is a reflection of his own spirituality, which he hopes others, even non-catechists, will find beneficial in their faith journey.

### Answering the call

"I believe that we are all called to be catechists. One of the most significant phrases that Pope Francis has used this year is "missionary disciple." A missionary disciple is one who goes out—not necessarily one who goes to Uganda, but one who goes out like the priest says at the end of Mass—sent forth. We are carrying the message of Christ to the world." For that reason, anyone can read Bill's book and grow in their relationship with God.

The book covers eight principles of spirituality, each with its own chapter. "I believe that they are general principals that lead a person to a holistic spirituality, one that is healthy, God-centered, and that is specifically Christian—through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit," he said.

Bill writes in the introduction,



**Parishioner Bill Miller has authored a new book anyone can use to improve their relationship with God.**

"The principles contained herein are important for anyone who wishes to grow in love of God, neighbor and self. . . we each have opportunities each day to model catechetical principles by the way we live our lives."

***'I believe we are all called to be catechists.'***

Bill's spirituality is a reflection of his Catholic upbringing, especially the way his parents modeled the living of their faith. "I came from a very loving, but eclectic background. Mom was a Roman Catholic Democrat and a city girl, and my father was a Methodist Republican farmer. They were very much in love. So I was raised Catholic as

Dad was deferential to my mom," he said.

Bill is one of three siblings. His brother Ben was severely disabled with cerebral palsy, mental challenges, and autism. Instead of leaving him in an institution soon after he was born, which was common at the time, Bill's parents went against experts' advice and raised Ben at home. "They modeled compassion and love. They were both strong in their faith," said Bill. Shortly after the book was published, Ben passed away at the age of 70. He lived much longer than anyone expected, Bill explained, most likely due to the loving environment he grew up in.

*continued on page 6*

# Missionary disciple lives with purpose on purpose

How does one live as a missionary disciple? Ask Skye Forney, whose favorite Scripture verse is Romans 8:28: “All things work for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.” Based on that verse, her personal motto is “Live with purpose on purpose.”

“Everything I do is for others,” she said. From caring for her father until his death before Christmas, to starting a foundation to benefit the visually impaired, Skye considers others first. “It’s not about me. It’s about giving the glory to God.”

Originally Baptist, Skye grew up in Akron, lived in Atlanta and then Columbus for several years, during which time she became a Catholic. For 15 years she was legally blind. “I had a guide dog and a red and white cane, and with my tenacity, I went back to college and graduated from Capital University in 2008.” Their first blind student, Skye earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and pre-law. She was a top debater on the college level.

## **Desire to serve**

“I wanted to serve the underserved,” she explained and started the Skye Forney Foundation to help inner city youth learn debate skills so they could obtain college scholarships. Her focus shifted however, when she returned to the area in 2015 to be near her elderly father. A priest at the parish she attended in Columbus recommended St. Hilary, and Stewardship Minister Marie Colaner helped her find an apartment.

An opportunity to regain her sight arose when someone from Children’s Hospital mentioned

corneal transplant surgery. “I went through transplant surgery to take care of my dad. I didn’t even know about transplant surgery until my dad asked me to come home.” She had surgery in April 2015 for one eye at the Eye Center of Columbus and returned a year later for the second transplant.

After having surgery to implant a pacemaker, her father could no longer live alone. Skye moved in with him. She soon found out he was also suffering from kidney disease and dementia; he was later diagnosed with colon cancer.

## **Why not me?**

While some would find this daunting, Skye saw a new purpose. “While people say, ‘Why me, Lord? I say, ‘Why not me, Lord?’” She managed his medication, doctor visits, rehab, hospice staff, and home health aides who came to the house a few hours a week.

“I stood by his bed and fed him three meals a day, I bathed him everyday, and changed his diapers. I took care of my dad, and I wouldn’t change anything, because I did what he asked me to do, and that was to come and take care of him.” She said she coped “by the grace of God.” To ease the situation, St. Hilary’s Martha Ministry provided meals every Friday, which she greatly appreciated. Until her father’s death, Skye was otherwise housebound.

In between taking care of her father’s individual needs, Skye found a way to give back and returned to the work of her foundation, but with a different purpose. “Blessed with the restoration of my vision, it made sense to build something on a



**Skye Forney**

deeper level. My foundation assists youth as well as adults with visual disabilities.”

## **Beyond Vision**

Skye founded the Beyond Vision Program to provide visual aid equipment to the blind and those with low vision. On February 10 she presents her first Beyond Vision Conference at the Cleveland Marriot East, which includes a gala dinner, guest speaker, entertainment, and award for the top educator who serves the visually impaired. While the conference is mainly a fundraiser, she also hopes to raise awareness and networking support for those who provide services to the visually impaired. The Beyond Vision Performing Arts Academy will also be introduced at this event.

## **Living with purpose**

The work is challenging. It has meant investing her own money and asking others for support. “My father raised three strong girls to never ask anyone for anything—let alone money. But God put me in a position of challenge, taking me out of my comfort zone into something bigger than I am.” But even this is okay with Skye because in her eyes, “All things work for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.”



# New series results from interfaith collaboration

A shared desire for peace and healing in our community motivated members of St. Hilary, Faith Lutheran Church, New Hope Baptist Church, and Temple Israel to come together for *Conversations on Race*, last year's annual Lenten Series. The series was so successful that all four communities have committed to continuing this collaboration under the auspices of a newly formed Interfaith Justice Committee.

This year's Wednesday evening Lenten Series, *Examining Our Inherent Biases: How Class, Creed, Color, and Culture Influence Our Thinking and Actions*, will expand the dialogue. Mary Lou Grossmann, St. Hilary parishioner and member of the Journey Together for Justice ministry (now Interfaith Justice Committee) states, "The power of this effort rests on the commitment of people from each congregation to participate for four weeks, with the same diverse group of folks. It is in such dialogue that barriers are broken down, faith is shared, and real change becomes a possibility."

Tom Pasadyn, who has attended the Lenten Series the last four years, plans to return this year.



**Interfaith Justice Committee members from left: Jack Vollman (St. Hilary), Nellie Rasberry (New Hope Baptist), Pastor Jean Hansen (Faith Lutheran), Pastor David Nelson (New Hope Baptist), Ellen Vollman (St. Hilary), Sandy Selby (Faith Lutheran), and Mary Lou and John Grossmann (St. Hilary).**

"I found the topics addressed to be thought provoking and challenging. I particularly liked last year's format where, after a large group prayer service, small group discussions followed with participants from each congregation. We spent time sharing a meal and discussing pertinent topics for the common good of not just ourselves or our own family, but the common good of society."

In support of the series, Fr. Steve Brunovsky reflected, "What I have learned from this experience is that my story and experience are not the same as another person's story and experience. Acknowledging that, we can begin to work together to increase understanding and plan to take meaningful and concrete steps to move forward, treating each other with dignity, respect, and yes, with love."

## Examining Our Inherent Biases



*How Class, Creed, Color, and Culture Influence Our Thinking and Actions*

**Feb. 21** at St. Hilary – **Class**  
**Feb. 28** at New Hope Baptist – **Creed**  
**March 7** at Faith Lutheran – **Color**  
**March 14** at Temple Israel – **Culture**

### Program Schedule

6:00 pm	Gathering/Sign-in
6:15 pm	Meal
7:00 pm	Worship
7:30 pm	Presentation/Discussion
8:45 pm	Evening Concludes

**RSVP required. Register online at <http://bit.ly/2CVya3r> or contact the parish office at (330) 867-1055. Please plan to attend all four sessions.**

# Our website transformed!



330-867-1055 | 2750 West Market St, Fairlawn OH 44333

[Mass Times](#) [Calendar](#) [Bulletin](#) [St. Hilary School](#)



[HOME](#) [WELCOME](#) [BELONG](#) [BELIEVE](#) [SERVE](#) [GIVE](#) [RESOURCES & MEDIA](#)



You Belong Here.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Church is not a building, it is a community that can only be fully experienced through its people. The new St. Hilary website provides a virtual door into our parish and all that it has to offer. Today, many people ‘shop around’ to find a church community to call home—often times online, and our website is undergoing a transformation to meet that need. Parish communications now come together in one place, making information accessible to everyone, parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

## WELCOME

True hospitality begins with our parishioners, which is why we felt it was important for visitors to our website to meet some of our members and hear their stories. We’ve made it easy to get to know our parish staff and stay connected by signing up for one of our email groups, the weekly bulletin, and parish newsletter.

## BELONG

It is said, “belonging leads to believing.” For this reason you will find separate menus for adults, children, and teens. An “I’m New” tab invites first time visitors to learn about the parish and for us to learn about them. Current members can also update their contact information here.

## BELIEVE

Most of us have learned about our faith as children. Why we believe is as important as what we believe. Information about What Makes Us Catholic, the Sacraments, and Becoming Catholic (RCIA) can be found here. A Frequently Asked Questions menu provides answers to many common questions.



[Resources & Media](#)



[Mass Times](#)



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Information most often accessed is available through this series of Quick Links.








St. Hilary Parish  
2018 - 1 - 14 - 730am - 2nd Sunday Of Ordinary Time - ...

9:16

**Want to hear that fantastic homily again? We have them on file right here. There is also a page devoted exclusively to Formed.org.**

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## SERVE

As a parish with over 100 ministries, it can be challenging to decide where to share your talents. Whether at the parish or in the community, this menu offers interactive ministry pages to help you explore and experience service in a whole new way.

-  BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK
-  COOKIE MINISTRY
-  CREATION CARE MINISTRY
-  FAIR TRADE MINISTRY
-  GIVING TREE

## GIVE

Looking for convenient ways to share your treasure? Now you can take advantage of convenient online giving right from our website. Looking for a way to ensure the future of St. Hilary Parish? Explore legacy giving through the St. Hilary Parish Foundation.

Already giving with *Faith Direct*?  
Sign in below

[Forgot Password](#)
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A man of integrity and a natural educator, Bill's father was a man who ran his hardware store as he lived his faith. His father's influence extended into Bill's adulthood. Since Bill's father was a World War II veteran, Bill thought it only right that he should serve his country as well. At the time Bill was getting a college education, the Vietnam War was raging. However, Bill had no desire to kill people, so when he joined the Air Force, he was assigned to be an assistant chaplain serving at US bases in Alabama and Japan.

### Discerning vocation

While in the Air Force, he wondered whether or not he should become a priest. It was a question he would revisit. The Air Force's sponsorship of the Covenant Players, a Christian drama group which performed for the troops where he was stationed, changed his life. "They were a missionary organization. I was very impressed with what they did. The director was a Hollywood producer who produced plays with a Christian message.

"I joined the Covenant Players after I left the service in Los Angeles, and it was there I met my wife, Marilyn. We ended up touring in different parts of the world. After two years (she was in Europe), we were in a tour that traveled together."

### The chance to serve

Although Marilyn and Bill were dating, Bill was still thinking of the priesthood. "I was 28 years old when I left Covenant Players and decided to go back for a master's in religious education at Duquesne in Pennsylvania." Through discernment of his vocation, Bill decided to marry Marilyn. "I knew that if I served God, God would give me a chance to serve," he said. This February the couple celebrates their 39th wedding anniversary.

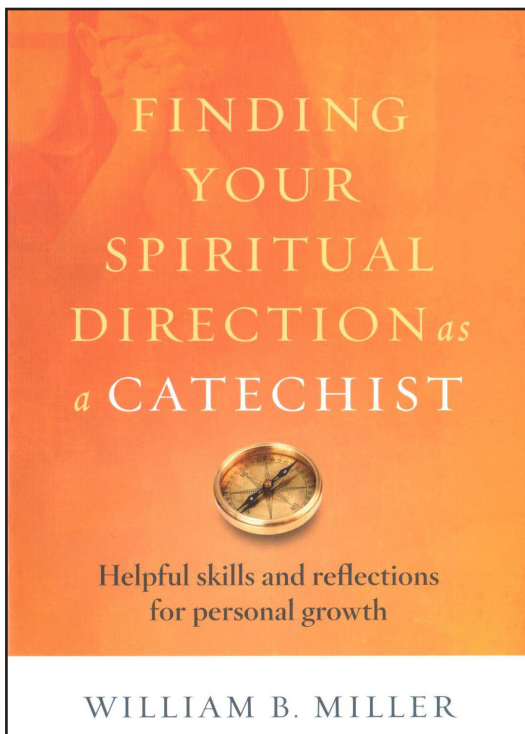
"When I started looking for work," Bill recalled, "I noticed that jobs in the Church were opening up for lay people on parish staffs. I worked as a lay person on the diocesan level in Des Moines for four years, seven years in the Diocese of Toledo, and 17 years with the Diocese of Cleveland."

### Landing at St. Hilary

When Bill went to work for the Diocese of Cleveland, the family joined St. Hilary and have been parishioners for over 20 years. "Marilyn and I have felt blessed to be here. We have flourished here. Our daughter was here at St. Hilary School for two years and went on to Hoban."

Bill's story comes full circle in *Finding Your Spiritual Direction as a Catechist*. While serving as president of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, he realized he did indeed have a book inside him. When he was approached by a fellow catechist and spiritual director who worked for Twenty-Third Publications, he agreed to write this book.

"For me those eight chapters are the heart of what motivates my life—based in faith, the Spirit of God in me. I am honored that a company would ask me to share those. People can decide if it helps them."



## Looking for a great read for Lent?

Consider Bill Miller's new book:

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### ***FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AS A CATECHIST***

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Author/Parishioner Bill Miller  
will be signing and selling copies of his new book  
after ALL Masses in the Gathering Area  
for the discounted price of \$7  
February 10 and 11

# Ongoing search for answers, understanding leads to RCIA

A search for answers to his questions regarding faith led Kaj Nilsson (whose first name rhymes with tie) to his decision to join the Catholic Church and eventually to St. Hilary. Originally from South Akron, his family moved around a lot when he was young. “Mom took us to a lot of different churches, but she never got us baptized.

“When I was young my mother would tell me to read the Bible.” Kaj had lots of questions about what he was reading and sought out the pastor of the church they were attending. Unfortunately, it seemed to Kaj that the pastor didn’t know the answers. “There was no central authority; no one could say why. There were so many holes in what they believed and why they believed it, so I decided to do some research of my own. I found out that every church my mom took us to was a splinter group from the Catholic Church,” he said.

“I can’t remember all of the specific questions I would ask, but when

I asked a Catholic priest one day when I went to church with one of my friends, he was actually able to answer most everything. And when he wasn’t able to answer, he got back to me,” he recalled.

Kaj’s search for an affordable college education in computer science led him away from the University of Akron to Arizona and finally to the state of Washington, home of Microsoft. “When I was living out west, I met a lot of Mormons.” One day he opened his door to young Mormon missionaries. After listening to them, Kaj said, ““This is all very interesting...it doesn’t mean I believe it, but I’ll go attend your church on Sunday and just see what they say.’ They said, ‘No, you can’t just walk in. You need to be Mormon to walk in.’ At that point I felt offended. Isn’t a church a place where anybody could just walk in?” he said.

While living in Kent, Washington, Kaj began Inquiry classes at Holy



**Kaj Nilsson**

Spirit Church. However, when his step-father passed away he returned to the Akron area to care for his younger brother and sister. They are now living on their own. In the meantime, Kaj found St. Hilary on-line and has continued the RCIA process here.

“At RCIA they explain everything the Church teaches. They explain what other churches believe, but they don’t attack them,” he said.

Kaj will be baptized and receive First Communion and Confirmation at this year’s Easter Vigil.



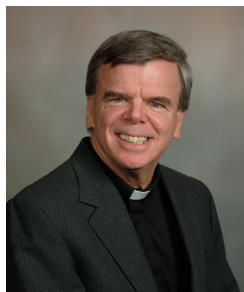
## *Celebrate the Sacraments* Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

Join us at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31  
NEW Starting Time — 7:30 pm

Welcome our newest members of the Church!

Barbara Bute	Laura Bute
Ryan Carlson	Michelle Hathorn
Tom Karpen	Kaj Nilsson
Randy Parsons	Rob Walker
Matt Swartzbaugh	





**Faith Alive Retreat**  
***Experience a Spiritual Resurrection***  
***with Fr. Norm Douglas***

Friday, March 9 & Saturday, March 10

To register, call the Parish Office  
or email [church@sthilarychurch.org](mailto:church@sthilarychurch.org)

## LENT & HOLY WEEK AT ST. HILARY

### **Ash Wednesday, February 14**

Masses with Ashes: 7 am, 9:30 am, 6:30 pm  
Prayer Service with Ashes: 12:10 pm

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Every Wednesday: 7:30 am-7 pm in the Church

### **Faith Alive Retreat**

Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10

### **Friday Lenten Fish Dinners**

Feb. 16 & March 23, 5-8 pm  
School Multipurpose Room

### **Stations of the Cross**

Fridays during Lent at 7 pm

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

- + Every Saturday from 3-3:45 pm
- + Diocesan-wide Reconciliation: Feb. 28, 5-8 pm
- + Communal Penance Service: March 21 at 7 pm
- + Private Confession: Thursdays, March 1-22,  
8:25-9:15 am; March 26, 7-8 pm; March 27,  
10-11 am; March 28, 2-3 pm

### **Holy Thursday, March 29**

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 pm

### **Good Friday, March 30**

- + Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm
- + Stations of the Cross: Noon (outdoors), 2 pm  
(church), 8 pm (Youth Living Stations)

### **Holy Saturday, March 31**

- + Blessing of Food at 2 pm
- + Solemn Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30 pm

### **Easter Sunday, April 1**

Masses at 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:45 am, 12:15 pm