

Transformed!

The Good News at St. Hilary Parish

July/August 2018

St. Hilary welcomes new transitional deacon

It's a good thing Deacon Joshua Trefney's mother got him into theater when he was young. It changed his life. While it seems a stretch at first, upon deeper reflection, St. Hilary's new transitional deacon might have chosen a different path other than the priesthood.

When Joshua was in 7th grade, his mother got him involved in the Clague Playhouse in Cleveland near his West Park neighborhood. The group of young thespians there included students from St. Bernadette and St. Ladislav Parishes who invited Joshua to their youth group.

The two parishes offered the youth group jointly, which also included Life Teen. Joshua, originally from St. Mark Parish, remained involved in Life Teen through his senior year at St. Ignatius High School. By that time he knew he wanted to join a religious order, he just didn't know which one.

He finally settled on the Salesians (founded by St. John Bosco) and began filling out the application. "I was very attracted to them because they had the youth ministry aspect that was very huge in my life, and they had the community life, but after finishing the application process it didn't



Deacon Joshua Trefney (left) with Bishop Nelson Perez.



Deacon Joshua Trefney alongside Bishop Nelson Perez and fellow newly ordained transitional deacons.

seem like the right fit, it just wasn't right," Deacon Joshua explained. By that time it was too late to apply to other colleges.

In the end, he went to Cuyahoga Community College. "It was one of the best decisions I made. It saved a lot of money, and it gave me all of my basic core classes," he said. It also gave him time to explore other options. This included attending a silent retreat with his friend John at Abbey of the Genesee in New York.

"At the end of it I felt God was calling me to do some kind of service work over the summer, so I looked into everything from Greenpeace, to Peace Corp, to

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Franciscan Missions. I found that nothing was going to work because they all wanted you to raise your own salary, or have the money so you can pay for yourself, or to have a degree that is useful to them. I didn't have any of those things."

One day while Joshua was having lunch with John at his office, a coworker recommended Madonna House Apostolate in Canada, which she had visited when she was younger. Joshua related, "She said, 'You should check out this place. They let you stay for up to a year for free; they let you do all sorts of service and ministry all over the world, and they will be happy to take you.'

"When they elevated the Eucharist...I heard a voice say, 'this is how I want you to bring me to my people.'"

"So I went up there for a month and while I was there, I was doing all sorts of work—everything from planting potatoes and feeding animals to sorting paperwork for them. While I was there I had a spiritual director who knew I was thinking about the priesthood. He encouraged me to go on a poustinia, which is a type of retreat where you fast and pray for a set period of time. All you have is a loaf of bread and jug of water, and you are out there in the middle of the woods in these little cabins. There is something powerful about being out there in the middle of the woods," he said.

Joshua's time at Madonna House led to his participation in a pre-discernment program. "One day, there was a Sunday Mass with about 20 priests concelebrating at

the altar," Joshua recalled. "When they elevated the Eucharist and were all chanting together during that part of the liturgy, I heard a voice say, 'This is how I want you to bring to me to my people.'

"I wanted to stay and began the novitiate process. Halfway through, I started hearing in my heart thoughts about diocesan priesthood—I always thought of becoming an order priest, but I started having this desire to get back to Cleveland," Joshua said.

He continued to persevere in prayer and meanwhile contacted Fr. Mike McCandless, Vocations Director at the time at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland. The two kept in touch. "When I came back to Cleveland, I set up an appointment and started in the fall of 2010. I was at John Carroll for three years and then went on to St. Mary's Seminary," he said. In May he was ordained a transitional deacon.

This summer Deacon Joshua will be living at St. Hilary and experiencing parish life on a daily basis. In the fall he will go back to St. Mary Seminary to complete his studies, returning to St. Hilary on the weekends throughout the school year. Next May he will be ordained a priest.

As a seminarian, Deacon Joshua took up painting with acrylics on canvas. "I'm a messy artist. I use lots of paint because I'm a big texture person. In a series I'm doing based on the liturgical seasons, I'm incorporating pages from the breviary," he said. Deacon Joshua shares an art studio in Lakewood with Sarah Hamski, a friend from high school who is an art therapist and counselor. "Sarah always encouraged me to keep doing art." Last January, Sarah and Deacon



Bishop Nelson Perez ordains Deacon Joshua Trefney.

Joshua curated an exhibit called *Sanctus* featuring Catholic artists throughout the diocese at Elevate Gallery in Slavic Village near The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus. In December, they will present another such exhibit, *Sanctus II*. In January he will also spearhead our Night of the Arts as a part of the Feast of St. Hilary.

We welcome Deacon Joshua to St. Hilary and pray for him as he continues his journey to the priesthood!

**Stop by and welcome
Deacon Joshua in the
Parish Office, or after Mass!
He can be reached at
330-867-1055 or
jtrefney@sthilarychurch.org.**

New youth minister brings passion for faith

Rachel Maykut, St. Hilary's new Director of Faith Formation for Teens and Young Adults, has been passionate about her faith since she was a student at Sts. Joseph and John School and a parishioner at St. John Neumann Church in Strongsville. "In grade school I was known to be the individual who was super passionate about religion and art. I was drawn to religion classes and school Masses."

"Through Life Teen I was challenged and inspired to fully become the person God wanted me to be."

"Transitioning from a Catholic grade school to a public high school was really difficult, but my mom pushed me to become involved in the parish's youth ministry program. Through Life Teen I was challenged and inspired to fully become the person God wanted me to be through interactions with the core team and mentoring by the youth minister," Rachel said.

"By my senior year of high school, I was encouraged to become a teen

leader. Through all those interactions and faith-based experiences, I was inspired to become a youth minister and inspire other teens the way the youth minister, Nancy Fiaminga, inspired me," she said.

When it came to college, Rachel wanted to combine art and her passion for her faith. "I'm all about utilizing your talents to the best of your ability. I had talent in the field of art, but also a passion for religion, so I somehow wanted to weave them together." With that in mind, she began her studies at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA, majoring in graphic design.

It was MYRACLE, a campus ministry retreat program for young people, however, that led Rachel to change her major. "Through Mercyhurst Youth Retreat Catholic Leadership Education Program (MYRACLE) we came together as a team to plan and lead retreats for middle and high school students in the Cleveland, Erie, and Buffalo dioceses," she explained. "Through MYRACLE I realized I was called to ministry."

Rachel graduated from Mercyhurst University in 2016 with a Bachelor of

Arts Degree in Religious Studies and minors in Graphic Design, Catholic Studies, and Philosophy. From there she became a youth minister at St. Brendan Parish in North Olmsted, where she put on high school retreats, collaborated with the elementary school, and assisted with Confirmation preparation.

In coming to St. Hilary as a youth minister, Rachel will be able to realize her initial desire to inspire others through Life Teen as it inspired her. She will also be in charge of the parish's Young Adult Ministry. A cheerleader for football, basketball, hockey and wrestling teams all four years of college, Rachel said she also hopes to develop relationships with middle school girls so she can share her love for cheering.

Outside of ministry, Rachel likes to play golf. She is close to her family and has an older sister and younger brother. And she still loves art. While she enjoyed drawing and using pastels when she was young, she now prefers photography and digital media, especially using Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign.



From left to right: Christine, Andrew, Rachel, Dennis and Melissa Maykut



Rachel Maykut

ST. HILARY 1958-2018
60 Years
A FAITHFUL PAST...AN ABUNDANT FUTURE



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS AT ST. HILARY

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of St Hilary Parish! We were established on August 1, 1958 to minister to the growing population on the western edge of Akron and Fairlawn. Needless to say, we have grown over the years both in numbers and in ministries, now with over 2,700 families and 114 ministries! The impact of our parishioners extends far beyond the walls of our church and school buildings, as many are engaged in ministries throughout the greater Akron area that feed the hungry, tutor children in need, visit the sick in homes and nursing facilities, and build homes both physically and symbolically, to name a few.

Prayer and worship are the source of all that we do, as we are nourished by the Eucharist and told at the end of Mass to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives!" So many of our parishioners continue to grow in faith and prayer through the many opportunities for bible study, prayer groups, faith sharing groups, and retreats. We

are never done when it comes to faith formation, so it encourages me to see parishioners of all ages continuing to learn more and striving to be more faithful to Christ every day.

The theme for our 60th Anniversary is "*A Faithful Past... An Abundant Future!*" This reflects the fact that so many former and present parishioners have been generous with their time, talent, and treasure to get us to this day. It also reflects our hope the St. Hilary Parish will continue to have a future of abundant life due to parishioners who are fully engaged in the work of the church, energized by the spirit, and generous in their support of the parish mission!

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Hilary Parish in the past and we look forward to you being a part of our Abundant Future!

Fr. Steve Brunovsky



SAVE THE DATE!

60th Anniversary Year Events

SEPTEMBER

- 9 *Help! My Family Isn't Catholic Anymore* workshop with Terrie Baldwin
- 16 Back to Church Sunday

OCTOBER

- 3 Guest speaker Jason Evert: *Love or Lust!*
- 13 Rosary Rally

NOVEMBER

- 3 Parish Day of Service
- 10/11 Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat
- 22 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Day Service

DECEMBER

- 8 Guest Speaker: Scott Hahn
- 16 Gaudete Sunday Concert

JANUARY

- 12 60th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Perez;
Feast of St. Hilary Celebration and Nights of the Arts

FEBRUARY

- 6 *REBOOT* with Chris Stefanick

MARCH

- 31 Laetare Sunday Concert

APRIL

- 18-21 Easter Triduum & Easter Sunday
- 28 Divine Mercy Sunday

MAY

- 4 *Joyfully Gifted* – Spiritual Gifts Retreat

JUNE

- 9 Pentecost Sunday – *Taste of Stewardship*

For more information, visit:
www.sthilarychurch.org/60thanniversary

Young Knights of Columbus find community, service, and opportunities to grow in faith

About a year after Andrew Roman and his wife Julia moved into St. Hilary Parish, he discovered Bob Griesse and his wife Ellie had not only joined the parish, too, but both lived on the same side of the same street in Copley. The two had attended Hudson High School at the same time, grew up in St. Mary Parish, and were members of the same Life Teen youth group.

They soon decided that they would join Knights of Columbus, although they were attracted to this men's organization for different reasons. Not your stereotypical Knights, the two are under the age of 35 with young families.

Getting involved

For Andrew, the K of C fish bakes were the immediate draw as well as the excellent food served at their monthly meetings. However, a deeper look at this Catholic men's group revealed just what he was looking for—a variety of activities with social, spiritual, and service components he had already experienced in Life Teen and Catholic groups he was part of in college and graduate school.

Upon reflection, Andrew noticed that although St. Mary Parish did not have a Knights of Columbus council, they did have a men's group that put on fish bakes. At St. Hilary, he found an opportunity to become involved in fish bakes through the Knights where he and other younger members haul tables and chairs from the multi-purpose room to the storage area in Horning Hall. It's physical labor he enjoys. Besides food, Andrew said, "What

I like is that their monthly meetings are informational sessions that let you know about upcoming opportunities and that it's really flexible for you to pick and choose things that interest you and work for your schedule."

Variety of activities

In addition to fish bakes during Lent, Andrew has sold raffle tickets for the golf outing and volunteered for the Mitzvah Day of Service where he helped with landscaping and hauling dirt for Nazareth Housing Corp. An unexpected benefit was sharing the time with his friend Vince and meeting people with similar values, such as Cesar Daza. "Now he's one of our close friends."

In a different project, Andrew helped repaint and repair the parish's outdoor Stations of the Cross. At the time, it was an activity that his wife Julia was able to take part in with their new baby in tow.



Julia, John Paul, and Andrew Roman



Andrew said he readily found the spiritual component that he was looking for in the prayer services connected to events the Knights supported or sponsored. Additionally, his involvement with the Knights enables him to model service to the Church for his wife and son.

Living his vocation

"My primary vocation is to my wife and family. I am responsible for making an impact on them. My son can see from an early age what I'm involved with. We carted him to Stations of the Cross when he was just a few months old. Even now we go to the fish bakes as a family. Julia attended Stations of the Cross while I worked at the fish bake. They see the importance of service to the church and it keeps them



The Romans enjoy an Indians game.

attuned to those values,” he said. In keeping with those values, Julia has since joined Women of Service, which supports the Knights and engages in a variety of service projects both at the parish and in the community. Some of their activities include putting together raffle baskets for the fish bakes and sponsoring the Fair Trade Market which features a variety of vendors in the fall.

Family influence

Bob was introduced to St. Hilary’s Knights of Columbus when he bought one of their life insurance policies for his growing family from Pat McCarthy. While the parish Bob grew up in had no Knights of Columbus, both his grandfather and brother had joined through their church communities. “My grandfather was a Grand Knight at the age of 35. He was a spiritual example for me and my brother. He died when I was 10,” Bob recalled. In spite of these connections, Bob said it took some convincing on the part of his brother who told him, “Dude, you should go!”

Since Bob joined the Knights, he has benefited from meeting St. Hilary Knights of all ages and stages of life. “In connecting with a lot of guys who’ve been involved for

a long time, I found that it’s just a great community. At first, I said we’ll just stick to ourselves; but the more I got to know more of the guys, I saw that age didn’t matter at all. Most of us are dads. Most of us have the same life experiences.

“I’m a member of the Fairlawn Chamber of Commerce where I can network with others. But if I can talk to someone with the same spiritual morals and values, it is so much more valuable to me—learning more about being a father, a man, and a business owner,” he said.

While Bob also helps the clean-up crew at the fish bakes, he credits the Knights for his involvement with Habitat for Humanity, which has significantly impacted his faith life. “Through Habitat for Humanity I have an appreciation for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have less than us.

Personal encounter

“It’s easy to have money taken out of our taxes or give a donation and never encounter the person who receives it or never be part of the process of affecting that person’s life. Whereas meeting and actually working alongside them, which is part of Habitat, is a lot different.

We actually get to meet and get to know people who are going through a hard time.” He explained that if you never met the person you are serving, then it’s not really charity. “Otherwise, it’s just like doing home repairs on someone else’s house,” he said.

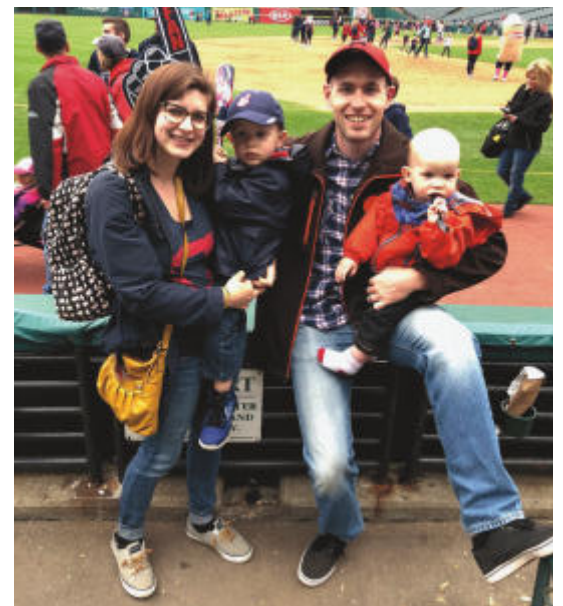
Deeper involvement

Bob sees the Knights of Columbus as a kind of gateway organization that has led to deeper involvement with the parish and greater faith. “Through the Knights and Habitat for Humanity, I met Sam Arockiasamy, who invited me to go on a Christ Renews His Parish retreat.” Through the CRHP retreat Bob says he began to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Bob recommends other young men consider joining the Knights of Columbus. “The welcoming aspect of Knights of Columbus gives the opportunity to feel like you are a part of what’s going on.” Recalling his grandfather’s influence, he added, “Each person has their own reasons for joining, but I ask myself, what kind of legacy do I want to leave to my family? I want them to see what I saw in my grandfather. Knights of Columbus gives an opportunity to see what I saw in that person and more.”



Ellie and Bob Griesse with Matthias (left) and Isaiah (right).



The Griesse family cheering on the Indians.



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Read inside for details, and join us for our upcoming events!**



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