

Northern Lights

of Mercer & Auglaize Counties



Winter 2011—Volume 51

Newsletter for the People of the St. Marys Deanery

From the Desk of the Dean

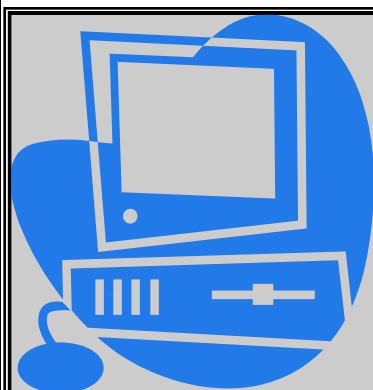
The New Year ushers in some changes in the life of the St. Mary's Deanery. My name is Fr. Tom Mannebach, and I am the pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in New Bremen. As of January 1, 2011, I have been appointed by Archbishop Schnurr to become the new dean of the St. Mary's Deanery. I am succeeding Fr. Jim Seibert, C.P.P.S. who has served in the capacity of dean for the past eight years. Over the years, we in the St. Mary's Deanery have been blessed with faith-filled and capable leaders, and Fr. Seibert is no exception. We owe him and his predecessors a debt of gratitude for the leadership they have provided.

A little personal biography of myself. Although I was born and raised in suburban Chicago, my adult life has been lived in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. I am a 1986 graduate of Miami University (Ohio) with a B.S. in business administration. For seven years after graduation, I lived and worked in Cincinnati as a salesman in the packaging and printing business. My first career helped rekindle a life-long curiosity about a priestly vocation, and in 1993 I decided to "give it a try" and was accepted for admission to Cincinnati's Mt. St. Mary's Seminary (a division of the Athenaeum of Ohio). There I received a truly first-class education in theology and spiritual formation, and received my Masters of Divinity degree in 1999. I was ordained to the ministerial priesthood by Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk on May 15, 1999 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati. My first assignment was to Holy Trinity Church in Coldwater, and was later expanded to include St. Mary, Philothea. There I was initiated into priestly ministry as an associate pastor under the guidance of Fr. Ron Wilker. While there, I also learned of the strong work ethic and the depth of Catholic faith history of Mercer and Auglaize counties. (I also learned that people here are pretty fond of high school football!) In July of 2003, I was fortunate to be named pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in New Bremen, where I continue to serve.

The role of the dean is primarily one of coordinating the pastoral activities within the deanery. I want to continue the spirit of collaboration that has characterized the 27 Catholic parishes of this deanery. We have accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of; still, we know that challenges remain in maintaining and building healthy parishes and schools. More pastoral planning is needed, and religious vocations must continue to be encouraged. Moreover, all our parishes will need to prepare for the new English translation of the prayers (Third Roman Missal) at Mass beginning in Advent of 2011.



Newly appointed Dean of the St. Marys Deanery: Fr. Tom Mannebach



Check out the new and revised St. Marys Deanery website:
www.stmarysdeanery.com

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As the new dean, I hope to continue the tradition of prudent leadership established by my predecessors. I thank the Missionary Priests, Brothers, and Sisters of the Precious Blood for their vital presence in our area. I also thank my fellow diocesan priests and deacons for their continued presence. Finally, I thank Tess Mescher for her service as Deanery Office Director. I look forward to working with all these groups—clergy, religious, and laity—in building up the Kingdom of God in the St. Mary's Deanery. Above all, I ask for your prayers as I assure you of mine.

Fr. Tom Mannebach

The Persistent Nagging of the Holy Spirit....

How the St. Anthony Dinner Theater Began *by: Tess Mescher*

Recalling a dream from the previous night, Janie Timmerman of St. Anthony, vividly saw a defined number of set tables and explicit details of how to coordinate a dinner theater. The dream was dismissed, until a month later when it happened again and then again until the frequency was a relenting five times a week. One day someone casually commented that the CYO needed a fundraiser and Janie spurted out that she knew how to raise the money - by having a dinner theater.

Oddly enough Janie had no experience with this type of endeavor and wondered how those words even flowed from her mouth, but accepting this was larger than herself and a work of the Holy Spirit she never looked back, except to humbly reflect on the success of the past twelve years. The charity of the St. Anthony Dinner Theater November/December productions have brought in over \$100,000 to help support area families. The annual event began as a one time deal and now offers nearly a dozen performances each year and is sold out months in advance. The stories of lives changed and folks brought back to their faith and to regular worship are endless and heart warming.

The Holy Spirit continues to guide Janie, the cast and crew and the many volunteers and community members who are drawn to be involved at every level. Even when a person may not quite know what it is they are called to do the answer is revealed by a need to act, sing, prepare the set, cook the food or possibly to find the perfect decorations or finishing touches or possibly to be one of the in kind donors or 300 plus businesses who purchase program ads.

The first year", Janie tells, "I wanted the play to be about Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary so I contacted a publishing company and was sent the perfect play. I also thought a large statue of Gabriele would be a perfect in the scenes. Out of no where Alvin Dues, local community member, loaned to us a beautiful Angel Gabriel statue that had just arrived for placement at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein where Alvin is on the board of directors."

"That first year I called twenty people to be involved and not one turned me down, now the number of volunteers has grown to over 250 people. It is quite common for individuals, mission commissions and organizations to contact us offering all sorts of help and support for the play and to serve the nearly 1,400 meals or to bake the desserts we serve at each performance."



St. Anthony Dinner Theater cast members standing are Rene Klosterman, Ron Brackman and Todd Ashbaugh who share an exchange as fellow passengers at the Padua Airways terminal await their flight in "Wings of Christmas".

Show tickets range in price from \$5.00 for a child up to \$25 for the sought after Tony's Terrace location which includes the meal, but the message of the play and the genuine spirit that fills the 1945 gymnasium moves people to open their hearts and drop in combined donations that often top \$1,000 following a show.

The donations help the CYO programs of St. Anthony, St. Peter and St. Joe as well as fund capital improvements to the schoolhouse and gym where the play takes place. Janie and some of the other volunteers attended school at St. Anthony until the school closed in the 70's. Now the building is used for religious education, CYO basketball, funeral meals and other parish functions. The bulk of the donations are used for acts of charity for those in need. The kind of charity that gives hope and increases the faith for people and families as well as for each person associated with the play or sits in the audience.

"Each year a family in need is recommended to us, we meet with them, make a visit to their home and do some research. We have helped families who are in extreme need, mostly from catastrophic medical conditions and injuries," says Janie. "But, the financial is almost secondary to the spiritual," Ron Brackman, cast member continues, "Many people have shared with us personally or through the stacks of letters and cards that the message of the play has brought them back to a stronger relationship with their faith. They have returned to the Church, they have reconciled with their families and some have shared how the message of the play had helped them to turn from alcohol and drugs."

In conclusion the handful of volunteers who met for this interview reflected that people come here from hours away each year to watch the play, they are very complimentary of the performance and the meal and of how polite the youth who serve them are. "We appreciate these comments but we know that it is not us, all that the St. Anthony Dinner Theater is, has done and represents is through the Holy Spirit and we continue for the Glory of God," Janie concluded.

For more photos and information concerning the St. Anthony Dinner Theater:
www.saintanthonydinnertheater.com or 419-375-2320

A sense of common community.

by: Tess Mescher

This past summer while in Tanzania I held hands with someone I had never met before, most likely will not cross paths with again and did not speak the same language as. But during the celebration of Catholic Mass we held hands and our hearts spoke the same language as we received the body of Christ. We are all a community of believers. We attend Mass and worship together to support and encourage each another,

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." Matthew 18:20

At any given time the Catholic Mass is being celebrated throughout the world, prayers are being prayed from hearts and the lips to God's ears, rosary beads are clutched and candles lit – all at any given moment throughout the world, what a sense of community and peace! This gives me pause to whisper a prayer of thanksgiving for my heritage of faith. My head welcomes an image of Heaven and the incredible awesomeness of millions of faithful departed brothers and sisters as they join hands and sing praise to the Lord in complete harmony and peace.

At Mass, in the celebration of Eucharist we receive an amazing gift of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Fr. Benedict Magabe celebrates Mass on the anniversary of the Society of the Most Precious Blood, July 1, 2010 in Itigi, Tanzania. Fr. Tony Fortman concelebrates second from the left of the altar.

Spiritual Center of Maria Stein

by: Robin Goettemoeller, Coordinator



Laughter... I grew up in a household filled with lots of love and lots and lots of laughter. For this I will always be thankful. As a result of that upbringing, I still tend to laugh a lot. Those that know me well, know that I tend to joke around and would much rather laugh than cry.

Some say laughter is the best medicine in the world and recently I had the opportunity to have my fill of that medicine! In early December I attended the National Catholic Convention on Youth Ministry in New Orleans. I traveled with six other area youth ministers and found myself laughing so hard at times that my sides hurt. The first workshop that I attended was with Sister Anne Smollin, CSJ, Ph.D. from Albany, New York. The workshop was called "Live, Laugh and Be Holy: Finding Joy in Everyday Moments". I wish I could remember all of the stories she shared with us because from start to finish, all we did was laugh. I am thrilled to say that we are in the process of bringing her to the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein in October of 2011! Her vision of life is one that every person should hear. She shows us that while difficulty, stress, and sorrow will always be a part of life, a positive attitude – and a healthy dose of good humor – will help us live each moment, both good and bad, more fully.

This winter and spring, take a little time to relax and enjoy life. Remember to put laughter in each day. Our Lunch, Laughter, and Learning programs are a great opportunity for you to take some time out of your day for yourself. The guest speakers give us insight on things that can keep us Holy, Healthy and Happy. This series continues to take place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:30 until 12:30.

Another way to chase away those winter time blues is to join us at the Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 3 from 1-3:00 p.m. for a program called "Laughter, the Sanity of the Family!" Presenter Dr. Ray Guarendi will talk about family issues and will leave us laughing, feeling emotionally upbeat, and much more self confident.

It seems that we have a bit of a laughter theme going on at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein! With smiles and laughter, your days will become lighter, more joyous and more bearable, even on those hay-wired days. Laugh even at yourself and smile at the simplest pleasures in your life. We hope to see you some time this winter at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein. Join us for a retreat, a workshop or simply stop to shop in our gift shop. The door is always open and the coffee is always hot. And above all, remember to laugh!

"The most wasted of all days is one without laughter" – e.e.cummings

Blessings, Robin



St. Charles Senior Living Community

by: Sister Martha Bertke C.P.P.S.

As we begin another year, perhaps we make resolutions; look ahead to make plans for a good year or we decide to do something extra in 2011. The other day, I saw one of the priests walking the hallways in Saint Charles as he prayed his rosary. I thought of how we are all so very busy, even retired people find ways to multi-task and get more done. It seems we are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient, ways to accomplish more, and ways to have more time for ourselves. Rev. Moedel once told the seminarians that if they found themselves so busy they should spend more time in prayer.

It is a wonderful blessing to live at Saint Charles because here there is time for reflection and prayer throughout the year. Mass is celebrated Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Each day people gather for community prayers and Benediction. Living here gives people the advantage of easily making visits to the Chapel whenever they wish. That surely is a tremendous blessing. Although people who live in this retirement community find themselves busy, they can choose to take the advise from Rev. Moedel and "spend more time in prayer".

Now while we are in the winter months the beautiful sun shines brilliantly through the large windows and floods the rooms and hallways with natural light – warming the spirit and heart on these cold days. Being tucked inside warm and safe and looking out over the hundreds of snow dusted trees, glistening lakes and plenty of playful creatures scampering around give such enjoyment. Seeing the snow and ice from a distance without needing to shovel it or slip on it is another blessing of living at Saint Charles!

For more information about St. Charles Senior Living Community, go to www.st-charles-cpps.org or contact Sr. Martha Bertke, C.P.P.S. by phone 419-925-4516, ext. 112 or by e-mail smbertke@bright.net.

Sister Martha

Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

by: Don Rosenbeck, Administrator



Think Globally, Act Locally. That is a phrase that first came to my attention through the activities of the National Audubon Society. From an environmental aspect, it stressed how our actions at a local level impact the environment on a larger, even global scale. It proposes that results seen on a global scale may be attributed to very small actions taken by a large number of individuals. If we think about it, I expect we could all identify that principle at work wherever we might call home and under all kinds of circumstances.

The idea of thinking globally, acting locally has often been applied to other areas. Its origin is thought to have come from town planning. It has also been used in education, business and mathematics. But I'd like us to consider how this concept—Think Globally, Act Locally—may apply to the use of the talents with which we have all been blessed for the good of people all over this earth. Our time is so precious. Both the goods of this earth and our time really are finite resources, so how we use them are of great importance. As we begin a new year, we might take time to evaluate how we will invest our time this year. What can we do, right in our own backyard, that can make a difference as our actions are combined with those of an army of others creating a truly global impact?

Together we are the Body of Christ. This is why each small thing we do every day to make our world better mushrooms into something with a larger impact. We never act alone; all our individual efforts are added to those of others. As St. Paul reminds us, "But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. . . . the gifts he gave were for the building up of the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Eph 4:7, 11,12-13; NRSV). May we always use our gifts to serve those near and dear to us, welcoming the promise that the whole Body of Christ—the whole world—is growing to its full stature, its full measure of grace, its unity in the Body of Christ.

Don Rosenbeck

Website: mariasteinshrine.org

Shrine and Museum hours: Tuesday—Sunday 9:30—4:00 closed Mondays and holidays.

Gift Shop hours: Fri.—Sun.: noon to 4:30; Tue. and Thur.: noon to 6:00; Wed.: noon—7:30; closed Mondays and holidays.

Regular Chapel Services: Weekdays: 11:45 Noon Day Prayer; Sat. 11:00 Sacrament of Reconciliation;

11:08 Rosary; 11:30 Mass. Tue., Wed., Thur. 1:00—5:00 hours of Eucharistic Adoration

Calendar of Opportunities

“Who is This Holy Spirit?”—with Fr. Tom Brenberger Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at St Charles. Free, registration preferred: call: 419-925-5022

EWTN Pilgrimage June 21, 22, 23rd with Fr. Riedel. Individual cost begins at \$235 & includes all motor coach transportation, food and lodging. Contact Tess at 419-305-0106 for more information.

Lunch, Laughter & Learning: “Holy, Healthy and Happy” - This series continues to take place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10:30 until 12:30 at the Spiritual Center, to register: (419) 925-7625

“Laughter, the Sanity of the Family!” Dr. Ray Guarendi will talk on family issues. Dr. Ray is a clinical psychologist, regular on “Catholic Answers Live” & “The “Doctor is In” & author of five common sense parenting books. Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 3 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.

“Changes, what changes?”

by: Fr. Matt Lee

The *Third Edition of the Roman Missal* is coming soon to a parish near you! In fact, it's coming to every parish near you starting Advent 2011. This immediately raises two important questions:

What is changing?

Why is it changing?

The changes will be many and varied in scope. The most noticeable changes are in the prayers of the Sacramentary (the red book that contains all the procedures for celebrating the Mass).

Why is it changing? It's a long story, but in a nutshell the changes have been coming since 1969, when the Mass was first translated into English. That translation was completed in 1985 based on the concept of **Dynamic Equivalency**. The basic idea of Dynamic Equivalency is to get the gist of the particular Latin prayer and communicate that in the local language. For example, the Latin greeting “*Dominus vobiscum*” (“**The Lord be with you**”) was answered by the people with “*Et cum spiritu tuo*” (“**And with your spirit.**”). But according to the principle of Dynamic Equivalency, the answer is instead translated “**And also with you.**” This is the response most of us grew up with, and so it is the response we automatically make.

In the new translation (Third Edition) of the Roman Missal, the response “*Et cum spiritu tuo*” is translated “**And with your spirit.**” Why? Because the Third Edition of the Roman Missal adheres to the principle of **Formal Equivalency**. The basic premise of Formal Equivalency is to translate using not only the Latin words, but also their meaning in context. Important to remember is this fact: the ritual of the Mass is not changing. What we do at Mass is not changing; how we do what we do at Mass is changing. It's a matter of “learning to pray in a slightly different way.”

Yes, we'll all have our noses in books for a while, and that will be true for the priests as well. Surely, it will take some getting used to. In the coming months we can look forward to a number of resources made available from the Archdiocese and the USCCB to make the transition easier.

Fr. Matt

Editors note: The St. Marys Deanery Office Director, Tess Mescher, serves on an Archdiocesan sub-committee through the Worship Office concerning the implementation of the Third Roman Missal for pastors, staff and parishioners. As more information and learning opportunities firm up there will be announcements of programs and materials posted on the Deanery website, within bulletins and through your parish. We will all work together to learn the changes and at the same time enrich our Eucharistic experience at Mass.

Tess Mescher



Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman presented at two November workshops on the Third Roman Missal

Preparations for the Third Roman Missal

Pastors, religious brothers, sisters and deacons, catechists and parishioners attended a two part series with Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S. in November speaking on the history, purpose and future of the changes coming with the Third Roman Missal.

Resources:

http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/worship/pdf/roman_missal_introduction.pdf

www.usccb.org/romanmissal/

Worship Ways Conference

The first weekend of December over a hundred musicians, choir members, religious and laity from Ohio and Indiana came together to hear Fr. Jan Michael Joncas, Tony Alonso and Marty Haugen present a Worship Ways Conference at Holy Redeemer Parish, New Bremen. The very talented trio present this conference nation wide in preparation for the changes coming with the Third Roman Missal.

Attendees shared the following comments:

The conference was inspiring. What a joy to spend time with three clinicians that obviously have both a deep love and a comprehensive knowledge of liturgy and liturgical music. This was the perfect Advent gift.

Attending Worship Ways has inspired me even more in my music ministry role to get things right so that worldwide the Mass is truly universal.

The presentation of information was excellent. The presenters were as good or better than any I have ever witnessed, and I have been to 20-30 workshops with my parish music ministry work over the years. The presenters added enough humor to make it not only interesting but entertaining, which is a real art when having a lengthy program.

Marty Haugen, Tony Alonso, and Fr. Joncas have made an amazing contribution to Catholic church music and the study of liturgy. The three of them made a perfect team. I was blown away with the wealth of knowledge they possess, but I also felt that each of them spoke directly to me. All three of them made me feel so comfortable and capable in my role within my parish.

The Worship Ways conference was the perfect prescription to help prepare me for the many changes in the upcoming Roman Missal.

The three presenters made me aware of the awesome responsibility I have and the impact and contributions I can make as we go into the Third Roman Missal.

Father Michael Joncas outline and overview of the Catholic church since the year 313 was very impressive and informative. I had never seen or heard of it told in such an interesting way as he did. He could have even talked much longer as he really held our attention to the subject and his presentation was great!



Fr. Jan Michael Jonas



Tony Alonso



Marty Haugen

“What so ever you do, you do unto me...”

by: Tess Mescher

Words from a popular song encourage us to consider others and their needs, that by giving of ourselves we serve the Lord. On Mission Sunday we may visualize an ordained priest walking the dusty roads of a third world country or through a rainforest to enlighten tribes of Catholicism. As we follow Jesus we are all called to share, to reach out to others in our everyday lives. The ordained and the laity alike are called to mission, through our baptism, to propagate the faith and carry on humanitarian work both physically and through prayer.



Tess with children in Mwanza



Building project in Jamaica

Parishioners throughout the St. Marys Deanery exemplify this response and obligation through baptism as they perform ministries at Mass; teach youth and adult religious education and offer physical and monetary support to their church. This selfless giving extends to those in need locally, nationally and internationally.

Local outreach may include: food bank donations; Angel Tree; outreach to nursing homes residents and the homebound; gift boxes for the military and outreach to their families; outreach to those facing illness and the newly bereaved; hosting and responding to blood drives; and support of St. Vincent DePaul and Glenmary Missions to name a few.

Throughout the world local parishioners help to build schools; houses; orphanages and churches; they sponsor children's educations; teach advancements in agriculture and drill water wells in countries such as: Haiti; Grenada; Guatemala; Jamaica and Tanzania.

Multiple mission trips are planned and carried out annually that bring help, hope and encouragement beyond the Auglaize and Mercer county deanery to countless others as we do unto the least of our brothers in the name of Jesus Christ. Many deanery parishioners who have participated in missionary activities and outreach are willing to share their experience through presentations to groups. This past summer I had the opportunity to visit Precious Blood facilities and parishes with Fr. Benedict Magabe of Tanzania who is currently serving in the St. Henry Cluster. If anyone is interested in viewing a power point presentation of this trip please call me at 419-305-0106.