HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FR. BILL!
Celebrating 45 Years

THE CHANGING FACE OF PAX CHRISTI

Blessed to have a growing number of members from around the world.
PAX CHRISTI Catholic Community

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
Phone: 952-941-3150  Website: www.paxchristi.com

Office Hours
Monday–Thursday  8:00am–4:30pm
Friday  8:00am–12:00pm

Mass Schedule
Weekend Masses
Saturday  5:00pm
Sunday  9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm
Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses
Mondays  8:30am
Tuesdays  8:30am with Rosary to follow
Wednesdays  6:00pm
Thursdays  8:30am
Fridays  8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation  (private)
Saturdays  4:00–4:30pm

Mission Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community, in company with God, and guided by the Spirit of Vatican II, welcomes all as leaders in faith for service to the world.

Vision Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community will be a community guided by a cooperative spirit that supports growth in faith and calls for each member to engage in active and generous service to each other, our community and the greater world.

THE PAX CHRISTI NEWS IS PRINTED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF PAX CHRISTI OF EDEN PRAIRIE. EMAIL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO MELISSA NAULT, COMMUNICATION ARTS DIRECTOR, MNAULT@PAXCHRISTI.COM, OR 952-405-7221.
The Catholic Church in the United States has always been an immigrant church and continues to be so. Our country is built on great expectations. Our ancestors from European countries didn’t come here because they were successful and happy back home. They came because they expected a better deal: better housing, better food, land they could afford to buy, jobs that might give dignity and decent wages, and a future that would be good for their children.

During the mid-19th century and the start of the 20th century, there was a great wave of immigrants coming to the United States from European countries. Since 1965, most of our new immigrants are coming from Asia, India, and Latin America. Our most recent immigrants are now from Africa and the Middle East, along with the traditional countries that have been our country’s source of immigrants.

The European immigrants brought their European form of Catholicism to this country, along with their own clergy who spoke their language. The Catholic Church in the U.S.A. has always been dependent on foreign-born clergy to help staff our parishes. It has been only since the Great Depression that the Catholic Church has seen an increase of native-born clergy. Our own archdiocese has a number of priests from India, Africa, Latin America, Philippines, Vietnam, and Korea serving parish communities.

Ireland, when it had too many priests, would send many of their priests to the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Asia, South America, and Africa. They were known as the F.B.I.: Foreign Born Irish! All that has changed as Ireland now has to import clergy from Africa and Asia to serve in their parishes.

As you come to Mass at Pax Christi, you are seeing the “changing face of our catholic (small c) community.” We are blessed to have a growing number of members from around the world. And that makes us more catholic (again, with a small c). To ask the question “What makes us catholic?” really comes down to “Who is my neighbor?” In other words, how open are our hearts, how wide our concern, whom will we welcome and include? Catholicity invites each one of us in our faith community into solidarity with all humankind. At its best, catholicity means to welcome and love every “other.”

The Apostles Creed, which dates back to the first centuries, has Christians profess, “I believe... in the holy catholic Church.” The Nicene Creed, first drafted at the Council of Nicaea in 325, has the confession: “I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. And though all four marks were counted as essential to the Church, the Roman Church chose to name itself “Catholic.”

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386) explained that the Church is catholic because it is contained to no one place or nation, teaches everything needed for salvation, welcomes to “right worship” people of every class — “rulers and subjects, learned and ignorant” — forgives every kind of sin, and mediates the grace needed for living every virtue.

St. Ignatius of Antioch (d. 107), a bishop and martyr of the early Church, was the first to use the word catholic to describe the Christian community. In his letter to the Smyrneans, we find the statement: “Where Jesus is, there is the catholic Church.” The surrounding text indicates Ignatius meaning, namely, that where the spirit of Jesus prevails in a community, it is complete, the “whole” Church is present. In other words, each Christian community constitutes its own unique expression of Church, and the completeness is an instance of catholicity.
After the Reformation, however, few Protestants used *catholic* to describe the Church, except when reciting the creed. The Reformers associated *catholic* with the leadership of the Church of Rome they were rejecting. By contrast, Western and Eastern Catholics began to claim they were fully *catholic* and that this proved their credential as the Church of Jesus Christ. Vatican II avoided such polemics and proposed *catholicity* as a challenge for the whole Christian Church. *Catholic* is not an accomplishment of any Christian denomination but a vision of what Christians — Protestant and Catholic — should become together. The Catechism of the Catholic Church echoed this sentiment, saying that the Church is “called to realize” its *catholicity*

Jesus championed *catholicity*. He preached the great law of love without exception — even enemies. He said that people will come from “the east and the west, from the north and the south” to recline at the table in the Reign of God, and everyone will be welcome. He taught that God will hold people accountable for their lives and by the same criteria of how they treated their neighbors in need. Jesus sent his disciples to bring the good news of God’s love to the ends of the earth.

Throughout his public ministry Jesus taught by word and example that everyone would be welcome in His community and that His community should care about everyone — whether disciple or not. So inclusive was his table fellowship that it scandalized traditional piety and was the first criticism raised against Him: Some scribes asked, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Yes, our Pax Christi Catholic Community is known as a welcoming community and is now becoming more diverse as we embrace sisters and brothers from countries around the world. We are changing, but let us always be one community as Jesus prayed to God at that final meal: “that they may be ONE, just as we are one” (John 17:21).

Happily, the Holy Spirit is not finished with the Catholic Church as we keep changing and evolving as an ALIVE CHURCH.

We are a circle of learners and seekers.
We are disciples who follow Jesus.
Alive in the adventure of Jesus
We are uprising in a new way of living.
Transformed by the Spirit.

Thank you for being a disciple of Jesus in and through this wonderful community of Pax Christi.
A CHANGING CHURCH: FATHER BILL REFLECTS ON 45 YEARS OF MINISTRY

As a priest, Father Bill has experienced the modern changes of our Church and parish first-hand. His journey to becoming a priest began while he was in high school and college in the early seventies, which was when he felt called to the priesthood. After studying philosophy at John Carroll of Ohio and going to seminary at the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago, he had his first deacon internship at an inner city parish in Chicago.

Between then and now, Father Bill has observed several changes among churchgoers. One of these changes was that in the seventies and eighties, there were more families going to church on Sundays. Father Bill believes that the sexual abuse crisis as well as anger at the administration of the Church, especially in this diocese, has influenced the number of people who regularly attended Mass. Additionally, the iPhone also did not go unmentioned as a factor that has affected Mass turnout. Although, he notes, “We’re not playing a numbers game. So, while we always welcome anyone who wants to celebrate Mass, the number of people who do shouldn’t be our sole focus.”

Another change Father Bill has observed is that more people today are well-educated and strive to grow deeper in their faith, with more people asking themselves what it means to be Catholic. “It’s not just eating fish on Fridays” during Lent, he remarks with a grin. Especially in recent years, Father Bill has seen more parishioners incorporate Catholic social teachings into their lives, namely in the realms of justice and charity. One manifestation of this is Pax Christi’s expansion of the endowment for justice grants and justice-related learning opportunities. Father Bill also observes that parishioners are now more hands-on in serving the needs of others, recalling that this year’s youth mission trip to Detroit has been the “best yet.”

A further change Father Bill has noticed is that more and more churchgoers tend to be from an older crowd. Additionally, one of the most notable changes Father Bill has witnessed is that our parish has become increasingly cosmopolitan. He says that if you look around, you can see that more people have immigrated here from all over the world, and he believes our parish will continue on this trajectory of ever-growing diversity.

Despite these changes in the makeup of our Church and parish, the reason Father Bill wanted to become a priest remains the same, that reason being the people. He was never in this for the “office work,” he noted, smiling. Throughout his decades of preaching, he reflects that he’s always loved being a part of the community, and he feels blessed to have met people he might not have otherwise met. Whether people are celebrating joys or working through sorrows, Father Bill has always cherished walking with others on their journeys. And that will never change.

Written by Emily Corpuz, Parishioner
PAX CHRISTI’S PRINCIPLE OF CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

HOSPITALITY IS THE WAY WE COME OUT OF OURSELVES. IT IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD DISMANTLING THE BARRIERS OF THE WORLD. HOSPITALITY IS THE WAY WE TURN A PREJUDICED WORLD AROUND, ONE HEART AT A TIME. — JOAN CHITTISTER, 40-DAY JOURNEY

WE HUMAN BEINGS all have fears and suspicions and other beliefs and behaviors that interfere with opening ourselves to others, especially strangers, and more especially, those who are different from us.

The Pax Christi community has long had a strong reputation beyond its walls for being hospitable. We all have many opportunities to be more hospitable and thus more engaged — the prayerful worship services, the many dynamic ministries, and many other events — there is really something for almost everyone. For us as shared ministers, all of these are opportunities for relationship building and expressions of faith by example.

Here are a few numbers. There are 138 active ministries. In the past year, there have been 3,682 occurrences of Shared Ministry. As an example, two occurrences are: Joe is a member of a Council, while his wife Mary is a catechist in Faith Formation. Altogether, we parishioners of Pax Christi donated an estimated 100,234 hours to making the parish work (this is the equivalent of 49 full-time employees). All of this points to the level of engagement in the parish.

Our goal is to continue to grow engagement through higher levels of Christian Hospitality. One tactic we did is Name Tag Weekend, enabling each of us to greet each other by name. And, if you have interest in helping grow engagement, contact Dave Putrich, dputrich@comcast.net, or 952-831-9096. Also, we invite you to share those aspects of community engagement encountered over your summer vacation. Email or call Dave.

Another source for reflection, this one from Scripture:

Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you. Therefore we ought to show hospitality to such people, so that we may become co-workers with the truth (3 John 1:5, 8).

In the recent article on our third principle of Christian Hospitality, Share, Love and Grow, there were several questions for reflection regarding the Pax Christi value statement on hospitality. Each of us is invited to seek through prayerful reflection the answer to the question that lies at the heart of the matter: "What can I do to modify my own beliefs and behavior so that I am more open to others?" It is a question worth answering as we travel together as a spiritual community to forge stronger relationships with one another.

And we close with a quotation from Joan Chittister:

There will be racism in the world until you and I begin to take the other races in. There will be war, until you and I begin to take the enemy in. There will be classism, until you and I begin to take the other segments of society into our own worlds and lives and parties and neighborhoods.

The Rule of Benedict is a tonic for human separations. Benedict takes in the poor and the pilgrim, the young and the old, the rich and the deprived, the ones of our own family of faith and the passersby. And every guest is received with the same warmth and the same care, the same dignity and the same attention.

The three articles on Christian Hospitality in the April, May, and June issues of PaxChristiNews discussed briefly what Christian Hospitality is in ordinary daily life and the spiritual journey we parishioners are on in practicing hospitality.

Written by Dave Putrich, Member Engagement Steering Committee
A SPECIAL WELCOME TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

ALL ARE WELCOME is posted on our main entrance doors. Pax Christi makes every effort to be a welcoming place for families to nourish their spirituality together. Children are a gift from God. Jesus welcomed the little children, and so do we!

The June 12, 2017, issue of America Magazine (Catholic magazine published by the Jesuit order) reported on the results of their nationwide survey of their readers about how their children were received by their parishes. Seventy-two percent of their reader sample said that “the way their children were welcomed had a critical effect on their own relationship with their parish.” The way we welcome children as a community affects the parents and the whole family’s experience of church. Our interaction with our neighbor in the pew is very important. Parents who had a positive experience of bringing children to church described how people had “played with, engaged or included their children.” One parent described support from a parishioner who said “what a gift it is to have babies at Mass.” Others spoke of older adults thanking them for bringing their children to Mass.

Some parents said that negative interactions made bringing their children to Mass very stressful. One parent at a parish in North Carolina was judged by a parishioner for the ear plugs in her son’s ears. She said that her son “is on the autism spectrum and is sensitive to noise.” Bad experiences led some parents to switch parishes or to simply avoid going to church.

The article points out that “Children are vital to sustaining parish life.” Parents find support from the community when people smile at their children, help with their children, or engage with and include their children.

Parents, you are doing something very important. It is hard. You take a lot of time to prepare — getting the children ready, packing items children need: snacks, beverages, diapers, bibs, toys, and other items; bundling them in coats and boots in the winter; and getting them set up in their car seats for the journey to and from church. In church your arms are overflowing. As you rock and sway trying to keep the baby quiet you are also juggling a toddler, a container of Cheerios, a picture book, and a stuffed toy. It feels like everyone is watching you, even though they are not.

But it is important, and what you are doing makes a difference. It is important to the community to know that families care about faith. When you are here, we are complete as a community, as the People of God, as the Body of Christ, as set forth by Vatican II. When you are here, we know that children are learning how and why we worship, and they are learning that worship is important. It makes a difference for your children. They feel that they belong, that they are an integral part of this church.
Children notice, absorb, and feel deeply. They respond freely. Children perceive God. They learn that their prayers, their songs, and their presence are a part of the community. They are sharing the sign of peace with new friends and building community. Other parents are also supported and are not alone in bringing children. It matters to children to see that other children are sharing in the worship experience.

At baptism, parents and godparents promise to bring children to worship, and the community promises to support families bringing children. Children may make a little ‘joyful noise.’ but we welcome them because they are part of the community. Being together in community is how we learn to be community. Children learn about worship and how to participate in community by practice, by how they are welcomed by others in the community, and by observing what others are doing.

It takes time and effort to bring children to church. It is hard work. Many aspects of parenting are challenging. But the rewards make it all worthwhile. Children are not the church of the future; they are the church of the present and are to be treasured as such. Thank you for bringing your children to church.

Written by Lynn Schelitzche,
Director of Faith Formation

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS WITH CHILDREN

- Tell them what happens at church. Tell them about the parts of the Mass where they sing, they pray in worship or thanksgiving, where we all listen or watch, and where we all process forward together in communion with each other and the Body of Christ. Children can be taught to cross their arms over their heart at Communion to receive a blessing from the Eucharistic minister.
- When possible, sit in the front pews or next to an aisle so they can observe.
- Have them engage where possible. One example is helping you carry and place the burgundy bag of food at the monthly food offering for the food shelf.
- Worship with your child, guiding her or him through the service so s/he can feel what it is like to worship together.
- Worship at home by saying meal or bedtime prayers together and by blessing your children with the Sign of the Cross and “God bless you.”
- Ask your kids where they noticed God’s love in their day and how they shared God’s love with others.
- Sometimes children need to move around and play. If it is more comfortable for you as parents, we offer the hall with windows and TV screen to view the Mass next to the church sanctuary. For your young child at any time during worship we also provide a wonderful and safe nursery space down the hall from the main door.
- At the Sunday Masses we offer Children’s Liturgy of the Word for the first half of Mass. The children are invited forward and blessed, then sent to the chapel to enjoy their version of the Word portion of Mass. They return for Communion with the community. CLOW is offered every Sunday mid-September through May and two Sundays a month in the summer. Children ages 4 through third grade are invited. Teens and adults are invited to be a part of this ministry.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADULTS WITHOUT CHILDREN

- Be helpful to parents of small children and don’t make them feel unwanted.
- Acknowledge children by smiling, engaging with them, and sharing the Sign of Peace to show your appreciation of them.
- Pray for the children and their families.
- Thank parents for bringing their children.
- Introduce yourself to a young child before or after the service, tell him/her you are glad to see him/her and that you will be looking for him/her next week. You might be the reason the family returns.
HEIßT DU ANNCHEN?
NEIN, ICH HEISSE LENCHEN WICHMANN.
KENNST DU MICH?
NEIN, ICH KENNE DICH NICHT.

–DIALOGUE FROM GERMAN CLASS, HIBBING HIGH SCHOOL CIRCA 1976 (STILL RATTLING AROUND IN MY BRAIN TODAY)

FOUR OF THE FIVE siblings in my family studied German in high school. My older brother selected German, and the rest of us just followed suit. When I traveled to Germany many years later as an adult, I had my German audio dialogues on reserve in case anyone asked me where Monika was — she was an den See (at the lake), and I also remembered that Joachim was im kellar (in the cellar — complete with the cellar echo response). My penultimate phrase at the tip of my tongue was the above dialogue inquiring whether the person was Annchen? No, his name was Lenchen Wichmann. Do I know you? No, I do not know you. During my visit, I was unable to use this phrase in any way, shape, or form, other than entertaining our host one evening. Now, I fully understand that the dialogue’s purpose was for me to practice that Germanic “ich” sound, but 40+ years later, these words are ingrained in my brain, hearkening for a way to be utilized in some other fashion. Perhaps someday I will meet Lenchen Wichmann, and then he will know me, and that will complete my quest.

Language can be a barrier to completely forming a community. If we cannot understand one another, how can we move forward to the next step in a relationship? However, it isn’t only language that can separate us from one another. Our customs, habits, lifestyle, education, and more can both unite and separate us from those around us. A successful community is one that finds ways to break down all the barriers encountered and provide a genuine, hospitable welcome — building relationships that changes lives.

Over 35 years ago, a sign was posted on the corner of Homeward Hills and Pioneer Trail in Eden Prairie. It was a simple phrase but rich with intent: All are Welcome. This phrase became the central vision of Pax Christi Catholic Community. Our doors were open to all, regardless of perceived barriers. By posting that sign and then living up to the interpretation of what that phrase meant, the founders of Pax Christi broke down the barriers, opened the doors, and built relationships in the greater community. As a result, many more joined in, and the reach of Pax Christi has expanded far outside its borders. The work of this community has changed lives, communicating the message of Christian love, even as the community changed and grew.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.
When they first moved to the area, Clarissa Lobo and her family came to Pax Christi because of the location. As they began to get involved with the parish, however, it was the sense of community that really drew them in. Coming from a parish of over 10,000 members in Bombay, India, Clarissa has really appreciated the personal connections she and her family have made at Pax Christi. The priests know her family and always greet them after Mass, and they have met many friends at the parish. Her children, ages four and eight, look forward to going to Mass.

Clarissa enjoyed singing in her parish in India, so she has gotten involved with music by joining the choir at the 11:00am Mass. She gets joy and fulfillment from praising God with her voice. Clarissa also taught faith formation for second-graders this year. She says it was a great experience and she plans to do it again.

In addition to their regular participation in music, Mass, and faith formation, Clarissa and her family enjoy special events at Pax Christi like the Halloween party. These events have been a great way to enjoy the community and strengthen connections with other members, and also gives an opportunity to invite friends from outside the parish to "come and see."

Visit the Pax Christi website to learn about and donate to the Pax Christi Community Endowment Fund: www.paxchristi.com/endowment

Written by Adrienne Huschke, Parishioner
AS I WRITE this article, I am reflecting on the two years I have been a member of Pax Christi staff. A part of me feels as though I’ve always been here, woven into the fabric of your stories. At other times, so much still seems new to me, and I marvel at the history of this sacred place and wish I could have been here when that first cornerstone was laid. I hear stories of cherished staff that have come and gone, programs with a long-standing tradition, and of others that sounded good at the time but no longer meet today’s needs. As it is with most things, there’s an ebb and flow. It’s always healthy to step back to review and reflect on what is emerging in our church and world and how God calls us to respond. Reviewing, reflecting, and responding is what the Pastoral Care Ministry Council has been doing these past several years and thus discerned that it is time for a name change.

The council recognizes that pastoral ministry is vital in every parish as it responds to parishioners in times of grief, crisis, and transition, yet we see it lived out in many ways due to specific parish size and the configuration of staff. Here at Pax Christi we respond to the myriad of pastoral needs by utilizing the gifts of staff and many very dedicated lay ministers who, along with our Priests, carry forth the call to serve the elderly, the sick, and the dying. Much of this ministry is hidden from view yet known and deeply appreciated by those it serves.

Through a process of prayer, discernment, and just plain practicality, the Pastoral Care Council and staff felt it was time to envision a new name for the ministry work we do. While we will always be grounded in the theology of caring for the sick, aging, and dying, it was felt that a new name would better reflect what we do and open us up to new possibilities. It moves us from an ecclesiastical understanding of pastoral care to a more expansive vision to include additional opportunities of wellness and spirituality.

Beginning August 1, Pastoral Care Ministry becomes Care and Support Ministry. This name reflects the charisms of both the care and support we have long provided through the many ministries we oversee, yet will also guide us in our desire to promote healing, growth in prayer life, and to companion with others from an early chapter on their journey. Through God’s grace, a new narrative will unfold. Five new members have joined the Care and Support Council, and in harmony with the larger parish mission, they will help guide us as we discover new ways to bear witness to the continuing love story of God.

Along with a name change come changes to the website as well as job titles. My new title will be Director of Care and Support Ministry, Mary Ann Callahan, Care Ministry Specialist, and Renee Reardon, Care Ministry Coordinator. We are each excited to write this new chapter as we seek to create additional partnerships and further relationships.

The previous Pastoral Care Council, under the leadership of chair Mary Lillicrap, has already helped guide us to a vision that includes new contemplative prayer practices and opportunities for deep listening to God. Centering Prayer begins this month (see side article) and other opportunities such as Silent Saturdays are being planned as we step back and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Prayer, both individual and communal, serves as our cornerstone, so please pray with us as our vision and mission continues to be revealed.

Written by Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry
WHAT’S IN A NAME?

VERY FEW people seem to know exactly what Pastoral Care means or what we do as a council. This became obvious to me when I would get blank looks from fellow parishioners when I said that I was on the Pastoral Care Council: “Do you take care of Fr. Bill and Fr. Marc?” “Do you do anything other than funerals?” “What exactly is Pastoral Care?”

The myriad of ministries that the Pastoral Care Council oversees at Pax Christi is huge. I had no concept of how many ministries, volunteers, and groups we were responsible for when I joined the Council three years ago. I came to Pastoral Care through funeral hospitality, so I had some idea about that area of our work, but I had no idea that we have over 300 shared ministers who provide funeral hospitality. Last year we provided 6,700 meals for families who held funerals at Pax Christi. We have Companion Ministers, Care Center visitors, and Pax Pets Teams offering their diverse gifts to the seven care centers within our boundaries — taking the “power and love” of God and Pax Christi to those who can no longer join us at Mass. We have various different prayer groups who pray for those who are sick. We also oversee several support groups as well as the Boomers and Beyond Senior Ministry, Burgundy Bags, and Twelve Baskets. The list goes on and on…

It was at a visioning meeting earlier this year when it became apparent that the two words we kept repeating were care and support. We care for the sick and the elderly. We provide support to those families suffering the loss of a loved one. We care for the lonely and needy. We provide support to the wider community through the Burgundy Bags and Twelve Baskets drives. We agreed as a council to present our change request to the Community Council. Changing our name from Pastoral Care Council to Care and Support Council more accurately reflects what we do and who we are. The name change has been approved and, as of August 2017, we are Care and Support Ministry.

I shall be taking leave of Pastoral Care/Care and Support Council as my three year council term has ended. However, I will take with me the wonder and awe of how much love there is in this parish for those in need. God is truly at work within our physical church, and He walks with us as we go out to serve those in need both within and outside our community.

Written by Mary Lillicrap,
Pastoral Care Council Chair.

CENTERING PRAYER BEGINS AT PAX CHRISTI

HOW SHALL I start the morning? I rise twenty minutes early and find my way to my comfy chair. Before that first sip of coffee, before others awake, in the summer’s sunshine or in the winter’s darkness, I sit in the presence of God.

In these 20 minutes, I embrace what I have learned from others about the practice of Centering Prayer. Sitting in stillness I let my thoughts float away. I make no plans for the day, I let go of worrying, and I make room for The Divine. I have read that God’s first language is silence, and that is what I am seeking.

The blessings of this form of prayer are found not only in the moments spent in silence. The true benefits are experienced as my day unfolds. In my personal experience of this discipline, I am more aware of God’s Spirit. In moments of stress, that calm part of me seems a little closer. And I know that I am called to see goodness and beauty in myself and in others. It is that peaceful feeling of being “held in the palm of His hand.”

I am excited to experience Centering Prayer as a group this year at Pax Christi. As the world’s problems seem to be constantly in one’s face, this is a blessed respite from the intensity.

CENTERING PRAYER
Begins Thursday,
August 10, 9:00am

Continues the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Prayer Space, Room 221.

Centering Prayer is the practice of silencing mind and body. This method of quieting our minds and bodies allows us to be aware and receptive to God’s presence. It is not meant to replace other forms of prayer. Rather, it adds depth to all prayer. It is simply resting in God beyond thoughts, words, and emotions.

You are encouraged to practice a 20-minute period of prayer twice daily. By joining a Centering Prayer group, you will be encouraged to persevere in your practice and will enjoy the support of others on your spiritual journey.

We hope to see you Thursday, August 10, as we start this journey of prayer together.

Written by Mary Schad,
Care and Support Council Member.
I BEGIN by telling you I love Pax Christi. I usually sit with my Mom in the center area along the railing designated for wheelchair seating. I also love music, and can see the musicians very well from that area.

I was born Ross M. Jacobson on June 20, 1980, at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee. Apparently there was nothing remarkable about my birth except that I had a very small hole-in-my-heart (VSD). I still have it; it’s a “functional murmur.” I grew like most babies but could not always repeat actions. My Mom is an RN, and she and Dad had my first neurological evaluation done when I was one year old. They thought I had a mild case of CP (cerebral palsy) and would outgrow it by the time I started school. At age 16 months, my Mom requested an EEG (brain wave study). This test confirmed that I was having seizures! I was admitted to HCMC for tests and started on seizure control medications.

I started early intervention therapy very young. I learned to walk in a swimming pool around the age of four. I love water! I also love plastic because of how it feels. As I grew up, I started attending special education school. I have always lived in Shakopee, but my first school was at Jordan and then Belle Plaine. Eventually Shakopee developed their own special education program, and I completed my 12 grades.

From 16 months on, I had seizures. My family never knew what my diagnosis was. In the summer of 1991, when I was 11, we visited Washington, DC. A lawyer with Capitol Hill IDs approached us and asked if I had Angelman Syndrome. (His daughter has it). When we returned to Minnesota, my doctor ordered the tests. Yes, that is what I have. I am missing part of a chromosome. Things didn’t change for me, but now we knew I had a diagnosis: Angelman Syndrome.

As I reached my late 20’s, my seizures were becoming more frequent and difficult. My Mom was not satisfied with the Twin City neurologist’s answers so I became a Mayo Clinic Rochester, patient. As of November 6, 2012, I have been seizure-free. My life changed in ways I cannot describe. I guess the lesson is never quit asking, and never give up hope. My Angelman disorder will not go away, but I can live with it.

I continue to live at home. We do a lot of family activities. Dad and I go swimming at the YMCA. I go to Majestic Hills Ranch for therapeutic horse riding. The RV goes to Pete’s Retreat at Malmo during the summer which is a fun family campground. I enjoy boating, and fishing, too. I like to travel, especially with the RV or stay in timeshare condos. My favorites are by the ocean or where they have nice swimming pools and hot tubs. I love music, especially marching bands and concerts. I also like to bike with Dad in my side-by-side bike.

I have an older brother. He graduated from the Air Force Academy and is a pilot. I go to visit him and his family. Mom is a nurse and Dad a civil engineer. They both are military veterans. Mom and Dad have now retired from their careers.

In conclusion, I can’t write or speak, so my Mom wrote this for me. I communicate with gestures. I understand much but can’t communicate that back to you. I often smile a lot like Angels do!
PARISHIONERS’ ART EXHIBIT
SPRING OF 2018

The 10th Annual Pax Christi Parishioners’ Art Exhibit will NOT take place this December, but rather in the spring! The change was decided upon by the art committee as we feel that it gives parishioners more time to prepare their works and feel less rushed to get work on display over the holiday season. We hope you consider joining your fellow parishioners who will be sharing their artistic gifts in the Pax Christi parishioners exhibit, Spring of 2018. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information to come regarding guidelines and application procedures. Art is welcomed from parishioners ages 16 and older! Looking for amateur, hobbyist, or professional artists to show their fine art and fine craft, which may include works in sculpture, pottery, fiber, photography, film, and/or video (which will be discussed upon application as we have limited room for displaying such media).

PARISHIONER NEWS

JUNE BAPTISMS
Lou Kenneth Onkka 6/4/2017
Lucy Jade Sheldon 6/4/2017
Eliora Malimda Sogoyou 6/4/2017
Michael Benjamin Harasyn 6/11/2017
Agustin James Sanchez-Hafdal 6/11/2017
Isaac Roman Schuh 6/11/2017
Eden Kathleen Wiberg 6/11/2017
Charlie Elizabeth Jacobs 6/18/2017
Ansel Finnegan Moore 6/18/2017
Sophia Anh Phan 6/18/2017
Vicky Anh Phan 6/18/2017
Grace Kelly Stack 6/18/2017

JUNE WEDDINGS
Lauren Cici and Alex Hanson 6/9/2017
Briana Cassidy and David Gronwall 6/24/2017

JUNE FUNERALS
Elaine Hautman 6/10/2017
Mary Lu Norman 6/12/2017
William W. DeGonda 6/14/2017
David Lynn Edwards 6/27/2017

JUNE NEW MEMBERS
Bryce and Mary Fier
William Freitag and Krystle Aman
Maureen and Thomas Larson

READINGS FOR AUGUST

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6, 2017
Sunday:  Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/ Mt 17:1-9
Monday:  Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-17/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday:  Nm 12:1-3/Ps 51:3-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36
Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday:  2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-9/Jn 12:24-26
Friday:  Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-16, 21/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday:  Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51/Mt 17:14-20

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13, 2017
Sunday:  1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9-14/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33
Monday:  Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday:  Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10-12, 1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20
Thursday:  Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-6/Mt 18:21--19:1
Friday:  Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24/Mt 19:3-12
Saturday:  Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11/Mt 19:13-15

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20, 2017
Sunday:  Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/ Mt 15:21-28
Monday:  1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:  1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-6/Mk 6:17-29
Wednesday:  1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-12ab/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:  1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:  1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:  1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Mt 25:14-30

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 27, 2017
Monday:  Jgs 2:1-19/Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday:  Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-14/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 212:2-7/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday:  Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Friday:  Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-10/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday:  Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-5/Mt 23:1-12
ON THE ROAD TO JERICHO
A PAX CHRISTI JOURNEY OF UNDERSTANDING THE PLOIGHT OF IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES

The Good Samaritan rescued and cared for a stranger who had been robbed and beaten on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a well traveled, downhill, arid, trek used by traders, military personnel and pilgrims. Ignored by many, the injured man was rescued by someone, “not of his kind,” while others passed by and left him to die. Through this parable Jesus invites us to comfort and care for the stranger. —Referenced in Luke 10:30-37.

HEEDING THIS CALL of Christ, a small group of parishioners started meeting in February of this year to explore how we as a Catholic community devoted to Catholic social teaching could or should respond to the Church’s call to “Welcome the Stranger.” We are calling this effort “On the Road to Jericho,” which reminds us of the Good Samaritan and challenges us not to pass by the stranger on the road, but like the Good Samaritan, take action, and assist someone in need.

This small exploratory group undertook research to better understand both the situation that immigrants, migrants, and refugees face, and the appropriate response a Catholic community should undertake. In the last several months, this group has had the privilege of meeting with representatives of the immigrant community, other faith communities, Church leaders, community organizations, and others who are either actively supporting or interested in supporting refugees, migrants, and immigrants. Suffice it to say, we have been both enlightened and motivated by our conversations.

On the Road To Jericho explores the following: What is the picture of the immigrant community, especially in the areas served by Pax Christi? What is an appropriate response by our faith community to the situation? How can we engage our entire parish community in a conversation on this issue?

As with many matters of faith and conscience, the important conversations are often the most difficult ones. But our conversations are not about government policy but rather about faith, justice, and the impact on real families.

Our exploratory committee used as its guideline Matthew 25:45: “Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.” Therefore, we want to offer opportunities for meaningful exploration and dialogue within our own faith community around the suggestions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the National Council of Catholic Bishops, and our own Archbishop, Bernard Hebda.

Some of these opportunities have already begun and include online resources from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis www.archspm.org, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) www.usccb.org/immigration.

Written by Mary Beth Buckman, Community Council Member
“Pursuing the Dream” Film Viewing
Sunday, August 13, 12:30pm in Room 212

In this film, we learn about how the immigration system has been warped to increase profits for the wealthy few. Come view this compelling film, and join the discussion afterwards.

JustFaith: 24-Week Series
Mondays beginning September 18 through April 23
6:30–9:00pm in the Garden Level gathering space  RSVP

How do we engage more compassionately with people on the margins? JustFaith is a process that provides a context in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for vulnerable people and become advocates for justice. During this extended formation and justice education process, groups employ books, videos, guest speakers, discussion, prayer, retreats, and hands-on experiences. Participants also form a community and share a journey of faith and compassion that is life-giving and challenging. JustFaith participants discover a deeper connection to their faith, parish, and community and discover new perspectives. Participants develop a new level of understanding of systemic issues and see more clearly the faces and lives of people most affected by those systems. Inspired by new insights about the world’s needs, JustFaith participants develop passion, compassion, and patience that prepares them for the work of social ministry.

JustFaith includes 24 2½-hour sessions, broken into four phases of six sessions. An optional fifth phase, a three-session discernment phase, completed in one 6-hour day or broken into three 2-hour sessions, is highly recommended. All sessions include prayer, dialogue, active listening, and relationship-building. Some sessions also include videos and/or guest speakers. Resources Participants deepen their understanding through in-depth reading of several books and viewing a number of DVDs and online materials. The most essential resource is the community formed through the JustFaith process. To broaden perspectives, each of the four phases include an immersion where participants visit local organizations to learn from the stories of those living and working on the margins of society.

Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and The Human Journey
8-Week series meeting September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 13, 6:30–8:30pm in Chief Joseph Room 247  RSVP

Immigration is a complex issue that is reshaping the cultural, economic, and political landscape of the planet. Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey offers the opportunity for prayer, reading, and reflection, as well as discussion and discovery related to this critical and controversial issue of our day. We will find common ground and discover more about ourselves, our values, our God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. Fee of $35 per person. Visit www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration to register. Questions? Please contact Joan Howe-Pullis, jhowe-pullis@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7247.
**THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**  
*Wednesday, August 9, 6:00pm Mass with Dinner Following*

Anointing will be available for any member of our community who is in need of an emotional or physical healing. While the physical effects of a healing are not always noticed, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age. Anointing often begins for us with the oil of chrism at Baptism, is used to reaffirm our journey of faith during Confirmation and, when we are sick, anointing with oil can bring us healing of the mind, body, and spirit.

As we move from anointings in our life, we are reminded that Jesus is with us through all our passages of life. All parishioners are welcome to join us for this Mass as we gather together in prayerful support of those who are sick and in need of healing. Following Mass, a light dinner will be served in the Dorothy Day Social Hall for those who have been anointed, along with their family members and guests. If you or someone you know could benefit from this sacrament and would like to attend this Mass, we ask that you please contact Mary Ann Callahan, Care Ministry Specialist, 952-405-7227, by August 2.

**CENTERING PRAYER**  
*Begins Thursday, August 10, 9:00am*

Complete details can be found on page 13.

**TWELVE BASKETS BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE**  
*Drop Off Weekend of August 12/13*

This annual parish event, sponsored by the Twelve Baskets ministry, helps to ensure children in need are well equipped to start the new school year and focus on learning. Shop and bring items when you come to Mass. Flyers with detailed lists of needed items are available at the entrances starting July 29/30. Red bins at doors 1 and 3 will be ready to receive your contributions. Items will benefit students at Risen Christ Catholic School in south Minneapolis, Blessed Trinity Catholic School in Richfield, Community of Saints Catholic School in St. Paul, and Gichitwaa Kateri Catholic Church in Minneapolis, as well as PROP, serving students in Eden Prairie and Chanhassen.

**ASSUMPTION OF MARY - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**  
*Tuesday, August 15, 8:30am in the Sanctuary*

This feast celebrates the belief that Mary was taken up or “assumed” body and soul into heavenly glory. The feast was celebrated by early Christians as the anniversary of Mary’s “falling asleep in Christ,” or “dormition.” In the early Church, martyrs and saints were remembered on the date of their death, not the date of their birth. Having died, they are born into new life with Christ in heaven.
TWELVE BASKETS BOOK DRIVE  

**September 16/17 and 23/24**

Twelve Baskets is sponsoring a book drive for Blessed Trinity Catholic School, a Pax Christi grant recipient, to help them replenish their school library. Book titles from their wish list will be on display at doors 1 and 3. Parishioners have the option to purchase a book for the library or make a cash donation.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  

**Monday, September 18, 7:00am–6:00pm, $65.00**

RSVP

Pilgrimage is one of the most ancient spiritual practices, going back to the Old Testament. When we go on pilgrimage, we leave the familiar surroundings of our everyday life to journey to a holy place — a spiritual time to be renewed in faith, hope, and charity. Additional details of the day are available on the back cover or online at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration.

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT BIBLE STUDY  

**Tuesdays, September 26–April 10, 9:30–11:30am, $100**

RSVP

Women with Spirit Bible Study invites women of all ages and faiths to spend 23 Tuesday mornings exploring “The Alpha and the Omega.” The series will start with a study of the Gospel of Mark, the first of the gospels (Alpha), and end with a new look at the last book of the Bible (Omega), Revelation. In between, a few weeks will be devoted to exploring the books of Daniel and Ezekiel as a prelude to the study of Revelation. Each session starts with a one hour presentation by university professors who share their extensive knowledge of biblical texts, and the second hour is spent in small groups, sharing insights and personal perspectives on the lecture. Please consider joining this active group of women who share a desire for a greater understanding of the scriptures. Tuition includes books used during the series and childcare. Register online today. Questions? Contact Bible Study member Kathy Ogrin, 952-934-3639, or Lynn Schelitzche, Director of Faith Formation, 952-405-7230.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: ARTISTS NEEDED  

**Saturday, December 2, 9:00am–3:00pm**

This juried show features a variety of handcrafted items — over 50 artists’ booths, a bake sale fundraiser to benefit our youth, and a luncheon. Interested artists are encouraged to submit an application. Information and registration forms are available online, www.paxchristi.com/holidayboutique. The application deadline is August 14.

HOLY LAND AND JORDAN WITH FR BILL MURTAUGH  

**April 16–27, 2018**

RSVP

Travel to the Holy Land and Jordan with Fr. Bill Murtaugh and walk in the footsteps of Jesus throughout this special pilgrimage. Explore the Red Rose City of Petra. Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Renew your wedding vows in Cana. Visit the Garden of Gethsemane for Holy Hour. Walk the Via Dolorosa, and pray the Stations of the Cross. Celebrate Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. And so much more! To learn about this special pilgrimage, please visit www.magitravelinc.com. Register online soon as a limited number of seats are available.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND  

PAX CHRISTI SENIOR MINISTRY

Sign-up at www.paxchristi.com/boomers to receive info on up-coming events.
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See pages 16–19 for details or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.
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Dave Wagner
Wayne Ward

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Shari Steffen
Bruce Koehn

FINANCE COUNCIL
Sandy Towey, Chair
PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

ALL ARE WELCOME!!  Monday, September 18, 7:00am–6:00pm, $65.00  RSVP

The Worship Council and Boomers and Beyond have planned a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe’s beautiful shrine on September 18 in Wisconsin. All Pax Christi members are invited to join the pilgrimage!

Pilgrimage is one of the most ancient spiritual practices, going back to the Old Testament. When we go on pilgrimage, we leave the familiar surroundings of our everyday life to journey to a holy place — a spiritual time to be renewed in faith, hope, and charity. We will go in the company of other pilgrims — members of Pax who are also on the same journey to transform our ordinary life into something truly extraordinary through Jesus Christ.

We will depart at 7:15am from Pax Christi’s parking lot on a modern and comfortable Gray Line Motor Coach. We will stop for a short comfort/refreshment break and arrive at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe by 10:45am. The shrine’s grounds are located on over 100 wooded acres, above the city of La Crosse. The shrine consists of 12 devotional areas, bronze sculptures, votive chapel, and the shrine church. There will be time to enjoy the gentle Meditation Trail with various stops, leading to the church. Golf carts will shuttle pilgrims as needed. Also available will be an optional tour of the church and confessions. Holy Mass is scheduled at 12:15pm. A full hot lunch will be served to Pax Christi pilgrims in the Café. Please notify us of any dietary restrictions when registering. After lunch, we’ll have until 3:00pm to browse in the lovely gift shop or other shrine areas before we leave at 3:00pm, arriving at Pax Christi around 6:00pm.

Complete details of the day are available at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration. Register online by August 31.