



HEART OF JESUS, KING AND CENTER OF ALL HEARTS

A quarterly message
from
Sacred Heart Church
to all
of our members

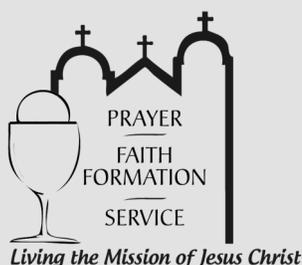
VOLUME 10
ISSUE 3

August 2015

*From
the Heart*

Published by
Sacred Heart Church
810 South Cedar
Owatonna, MN 55060
Tel. 507.451.1588

website:
www.sacredheartowatonna.org



AMAZING PARISH CONFERENCE

BY FR. SAUER

Shortly after Easter Wendy, Sandy, Christopher, Minnie and I travelled to Denver to attend the second Amazing Parish Conference. This gathering brought together parish teams from across the country to learn, discuss and be inspired for mission when we returned home. It was a fantastic experience and one that continues to pay dividends for our parish staff. I have asked each of those who attended to write a paragraph on what they found helpful or inspirational about the time we spent together.

For my part I was energized by the learning and the sharing that went on. One of my signature themes in the Strengths Finder inventory is "Learner." This means that I enjoy learning and that it something that gives me energy. The presentations were a favorite part of the event. I also enjoyed that, based on the talks and the new insights, we were invited to begin the process of planning for our parish when we returned home. Our discussions were lively and are helping us to shape our direction going forward. There is much yet to accomplish and it is easy to get side tracked but I am convinced that this experience has strengthened our parish staff and our work together.

From Wendy, our pastoral associate:

The Amazing Parish Conference was an incredible opportunity to learn, grow, and meet people with new ideas and new ways of serving God through

the parish. For our parish community to thrive and grow, we need a church filled with hearts on fire for Christ. Every topic and each facilitator focused on that need, and taught us what we can do to get there. An added bonus from this conference was the opportunity for our staff to really get to know each other outside of the office. The long conversations, laughter, and worship we shared together is something I will always cherish.

From Wendy, our pastoral associate:

As I think back to our time in Denver, CO for the Amazing Parish conference, so much good surfaces for me. It was a large room in a hotel, filled with hundreds of people from all over the country who wanted to make their parish community better. It doesn't mean we were broken communities, in contrast, some of the best and most engaged parishes attended in order to better themselves. In fact, the origins of the conference were retold to us. Respected business leader Patrick Lencioni, who founded a management consultant firm to help executives focus on organizational health, shared that he and a few other Catholics he knew got together in the most informal of ways (around a kitchen table, I believe) and brainstormed what could be done to help make the Church they love a powerful force of good in the world. He knew that for most of us, our main encounter with the

Continued on page 2

universal Church would be the local parish. So that's where energy must be spent: everyone who comes to a local Catholic Church needs to be offered a profound experience of Jesus Christ, especially on Sundays. Patrick reasoned: if he spent his life and used his gifts working with businesses who wanted to better themselves, why couldn't he use these same principles to help churches who wanted to better themselves? And thus the Amazing Parish Conference was born. This small team of folks were not prepared for the huge response by parish leaders to the first conference—not just in the Denver area but all over the nation, which tells us something about what they have put together. They made some improvements and offered a second one, and it grew even bigger. Our staff of Sacred Heart attended just the second gathering of this young initiative. The days held good talks, really good talks, by dynamic speakers. I've been to a lot of church conferences in my years of ministry, and these speakers truly were engaging, energized, and right on target. As we listened to talks, we were always given time to process and plan as a team what we heard, but never enough time, of course. The days were jam-packed full from early morning to late at night, and breaks were continually being shortened to fit it all in. Intermixed with the talks and team time were various prayer experiences including Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and a real treat: a concert by artist Matt Maher, one of the few Catholics to make it big in the Christian music scene, and worthy of our support.

One of the best parts of the conference was the challenge they put forth to each parish there: to set goals for ourselves, turn them in, and to know they would be calling to check in on our progress. Someone would be holding us accountable! With this in mind, we are committed to working toward regular staff meeting time, unifying the Hispanic and Anglo communities of Sacred Heart, beginning a small group experience here at Sacred Heart, and honestly looking at and evaluating the Sunday worship experience, and remaining open to ways to improve it. I am glad our parish invested time and money to attend, and am very glad that I had a chance to represent Sacred Heart as one of its leaders. The seeds have been sown, now we begin the long and hard process of sustaining excellence in our work as a parish. I'm committed to what this looks like and where it might bring us as a community of faith.

From Minnie Gonzalez our Hispanic Coordinator:

Thanks to Father Sauer, for giving me the learning opportunity to be part of the Amazing Parish Retreat in Denver. Even though it was for a few days everything was marvelous. We had tremendous speakers and with Faith everything gets accomplished, lots and lots of great information that can help our parish to grow. I had the opportunity to meet the Perpetual Sisters and of course I took pictures with them. I met a Hispanic staff from Wisconsin, I joked with our staff that they were my new BFF's, very nice people. Time was flying ...after those

intenseful days, we got to know each other more like humans, friends, co-workers that now I consider our staff like my second familia...after ALL.... OUR GRAND CATHOLIC FAITH. Thank You Father.

From Christopher, our music director:

The Amazing Parish seminar was important to us primarily as a staff, the team who runs Sacred Heart. It affirmed some of what we already know about the structure and function of a parish, but then went further in explaining how we should utilize the parts of that structure to improve all the functions of our parish. During the seminar it was stressed that it is important that we understand the working styles and personalities of our co-workers. By doing this, we then know how to approach each person within our team and therefore have successful outcomes because of good communication and understanding.

The most important part that I came away with was that I needed to create a team out of the shards of my Music Ministry, and to create a consensual interdependence and understanding between the participants. The team then must assume group responsibility for the success of our ministry as a whole. Guided by one leader the group must flourish and be creative within their own groups, yet also be mindful of the overall needs of the parish. Proper leadership that stresses delegation of responsibilities to the correct people, with the ability to do so, strengthens the fabric of our Catholic community.

***Drawing our life from the Eucharist Our parish family will live
The mission of Jesus Christ Through prayer, faith formation, and service***

Servant Leaders for Life

St. Mary's junior high features a program called Servant Leaders for Life. This program was developed to celebrate academic achievement, reward student performance, and recognize service. The 6th-8th graders earn points in the following categories: academic, character, and community service. Students are rewarded on a trimester basis as well as at the end of the year. At the end of the year their points for each trimester are tallied, and they are awarded prizes and certificates for Gold, Silver, and Bronze Levels. During the 2014-15 school year, end of trimester celebrations for those who met the point criteria were movie

and popcorn, roller skating, and an end of the year party at Dartt's Park. While at Dartt's Park, students were given a certificate for Kona Ice based on their Gold, Silver, and Bronze Levels. Out of 118 6th-8th graders at St. Mary's, 24 students earned the Gold Level; 48 earned Silver; and 26 earned Bronze. We are extremely proud of our junior high students' successes!

8th Grade Graduation

St. Mary's School held 8th grade graduation for its 43 eighth graders with a 6:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, June 2nd. Following Mass the students received their diplomas at church from Father McGrath and Father Sauer. The

graduation banquet, sponsored by Home and School, and program was held in the school cafeteria. The invocation and closing prayer was done by parents of the graduating class, Jerry and Michelle Redman and Mary and Mark Rahrck. Sam Pumper was the student speaker and Mrs. Prottollo gave the address from St. Mary's School. The Christianity Award was presented to Reese Lindholm and Sam Pumper. Sam Pumper was also awarded a Certificate for Perfect Attendance during his K-8 time at St. Mary's. Several families, 21, were also recognized for the time their family has been at St. Mary's, that ranged from 3 to 18 years.

8th Grade Graduation Speech by Sam Pumper

"Eighth grade isn't about being in charge of the school or getting out as fast as you can. It's about remembering where we all started, and how we got to be the friends we are today. Kindergarten was the place we entered St. Mary's, but most importantly, it's where our friendships began. From here on out we grew in inches, and in our relationships with each other. In first grade we tested our sewing skills by sewing a bear. Let's admit, how many of us were clever enough to name it "Teddy?" Second grade was the year that we prepared for our First Communion. We thought we were on top of the world being able to participate in the Eucharist like the older kids. In third grade we drew these fantastic endangered animals, which we all thought were the best, but let's face it, most of us couldn't tell which animal it is if we looked at it today. Fourth grade drilled into our heads the 50 states in alphabetical order, which we all still know how to sing. In fifth grade we thought we were the coolest people when we got to patrol the streets outside the school, and inflating the pig lungs was the highlight of the year. With sixth grade came a lot of new opportunities. We got lockers to shove people in, some of you know what I'm talking about. We became the kings and queens of the elementary. Seventh grade is where things got real. We moved up to the top level, timeouts, better known as R-time, made a comeback and high-fives became illegal. As we moved through the years and through the school, we eventually made it to the eighth grade.

Eighth grade is the time where the biggest memories are made and our friendships became ones that will last a lifetime. We finally ruled the school. Eagle Bluff made up the first memories of this year. We learned to work together as a team. We sat through classes upon classes until it got to the good stuff – student teacher games. As we all know, we won, and of course our wacked out outfits helped with that. It was finally our time. We were in charge of track and field day. This is the day we all looked forward to since kindergarten. This year, for our mission trip, we were given the opportunity to go to Eden Prairie as part of the Just Five Days Retreat program. We helped by fixing old houses, volunteering at the thrift store and influencing the development of children. During this trip we were able to grow in our faith and we were able to grow as a class. Our bonds with each other grew stronger to the point where they are inseparable. Through out our many years at St. Mary's we have gotten to know the amazing teachers. These incredible people have pushed us to be the best we are able to be in our faith, education, and friendships. Without all the teachers we have met on our way, we wouldn't be the people we are today. We wouldn't be able to call ourselves the friends we are or be able to call this place our home.

Eighth grade year was the year where we found ourselves, but we found something more important. We found friends that we will always be able to fall back on. We found friends that will be there to laugh with in the good times and be a shoulder to cry on in the bad. We found friends that aren't afraid to tell us how it really is. We found family. We may not all live together under one roof, but we know how to push each others' buttons. This year may mark the end of our careers at St. Mary's, but it doesn't end our laughs, tears, or memories. Most importantly, it doesn't end our relationships with each other. St. Mary's has built up friends that will be there forever, and that we will never forget."

As those of us who have lost a child, a spouse, a parent, sibling or best friend know, the pain usually doesn't take a "summer vacation". Often these few months of sunshine and warmth can be even harder as "everyone else" seems to be having such a good time with their family reunions, picnics, walks and bike rides, trips to the lake, etc. Hopefully, as we continue to proceed on our grief journey, we remember that the tears that fall and the mourning we live through are a measure of the depth of our love for the person who has died and most importantly...only of this time on earth; temporary until our reunion with our Creator and the one(s) we miss so much now.

One of my best friends gave me a book many years ago that I have found to be of comfort. The title is HEALING AFTER LOSS by Martha Whitmore Hickman. It is similar in structure to a daily devotional with 365 meditations for working through grief. An example of one day's message follows.

(Quote) *I know well there is no comfort for this pain of parting: the wound always remains, but one learns to thank God for what He gave, for the beautiful memories of the past, and the yet more beautiful hope for the future.*
 -Max Muller

(Author's thoughts) *A woman whose life had had many hard times said, "The hardest grief I have had to bear is this temporary separation from*

my daughter." That she was able, in faith, to view her adolescent daughter's death as a temporary separation surely helped her immeasurably. But of course she longed for her daughter's presence now. (continued; two more paragraphs)

(Final thought or prayer) *As I think about my loss, the strands of grief and memory and hope are mysteriously braided together.*

I recommend this book to any of you who might appreciate a little "daily structure" in your grief journey. Also know that I am available by phone (456-1203) or personal visit to anyone who may need a sympathetic ear as you mourn the loss of your loved one.

SACRED HEART SOCIAL JUSTICE OUTREACH TO TANZANIA BY MARY TRENDA

CARING HANDS FOR TANZANIA is a project to "Sister" the Matamba Catholic Parish of Tanzania by the Sacred Heart Social Justice Committee, generated from a visit by Father Augustine Mbiche.

Started in 2005, **CARING HANDS FOR TANZANIA** is a project that helps over 2000 orphans in the Matamba Catholic Parish in the Southwest Highlands of Tanzania, Africa.

The monetary assistance we give to Father Augustine through his bishop, Bishop Alfred Maluma of Njombe Diocese, goes directly to the orphans to feed them, to clothe them, to provide health care, and to support their educational needs. Why are there so many orphans? Makete District was declared a disaster area by UNICEF because of the high number of AIDS deaths among the adult population. Of the Makete District population of 80,000;--18,260 are orphans. In the Matamba Township alone, of 30,000 people, 3,500 are orphans and our Matamba parish is taking care of 2,500 of these orphans.

Sacred Heart has been instrumental in the building of St. Monica's Pri-

mary Boarding School which recently had its first graduation class of eighth graders. Denny Werner/ Tammy Ebeling and Denny Werner and Father Sauer have traveled to Tanzania to see firsthand how our Sacred Heart's contributions are being used. Some of their observations and quotes,

"What struck me was the faith and devotion of the people who traveled long distances to be at Mass and then sang and participated in such a beautiful way. I was surprised how quickly the children touched my heart. As I looked into their faces and interacted with them, I felt a real connection although we did not know each other."
 ~Father John Sauer

"Little things make such a difference! They have nothing! A pair of "Flip Flops" is great for bare feet and a lot of walking and they make smiles happen! These children pray for us every day at church. Father Mbiche is so caring and is concerned about the total wellbeing of his parishioners. He knows that education is the key to becoming self-sufficient in the 21st Century and he is willing to go to

great lengths to obtain it. He has proven to Sacred Heart where he diligently spends our donations."

~Tammy Ebeling

"I talk with Father Mbiche at least once a month. He has finished another building to house 50 more children at St. Monica's Primary School. This allows children in the Matamba area to stay in a dormitory style building on a full time basis. These children are well taken care of. Many children still have to travel long distances to get to school. The gratefulness of these children warms my heart."

~Denny Werner

The SJ Committee is looking for those who see needs in our society and want to make a difference. We follow St. Francis and Pope Francis. We have pledged ongoing support for our sister parish and St. Monica's Primary School. A 'breakdown' of your dollar amount, is available from committee members. Donations can be made anytime. Tanzania envelopes are available. Call the Parish Office for more info, e-mail and phone numbers etc.

Thank you (Asante) in Swahili.

I came here from a rather small parish community. It was a lively and dynamic community, with campus ministry at its heart, and it was a young community with a lot of baptisms and weddings, but very few funerals. Perhaps 3-4 funeral Masses were celebrated per year, on average. And after I spent 27 years as a member of that parish, and 15 years in ministry there, it was likely I knew the family experiencing grief, and knew them well.

In contrast, I've been here in the Sacred Heart community for only a year now. One short year, with so many names and faces now familiar to me, but so many more yet to learn. This is a big parish! And although we too have a lot of baptisms, we also celebrate a lot of funerals here. Starting on my second day here, I began to attend funeral Masses, to be both present and helpful to the family, the ministers, and the presider. I'd spend time in the kitchen getting to know our wonderful crew of women volunteering, women who provide hospitality and sustenance to those mourning, and visiting with members of the Resurrection Choir as they ate too. But rather suddenly, during the weeks of

Lent, I started to know some of those whom we were celebrating funeral Masses for: Alice. Jake. Mel. Ken. Ron. Wonderful people I had visited with in their home, or brought bulletins and communion to over the course of many months. People who introduced me to their spouses or children; people who told me about their lives, their work, their families, their joys, and sometimes their heartbreaks. Some deaths were expected, others took me by surprise. Death is like that, I guess. Even if we know it is near it can still catch us off guard.

As I stand here, one year into ministry as your Pastoral Associate, I know I am forming relationships with our families and members here, some of which will be deep and lasting. I feel connected to you as we worship together on Sundays, perhaps exchanging a smile, or simply watching you bring up the gifts at offertory or return to your pew in the communion line. I'm beginning to share sadness with you when we lose someone from our community, whether through death or a move away from Owatonna...or even through a transition into an assisted living facility. Sometimes names are mentioned to me with longing,

names of those unable to come to Mass very often with us because of age or illness. I'm told stories of the involvement they had with our parish, whether it be with a ministry or a committee or our school, and what they are remembered for. If you have left your home for a care facility, know that you are remembered and loved, and still belong to us. Please let me know if you would like a pastoral visit from me or another member of our staff. Or let me know if you live at home still but would like to be added to our weekly communion route for the homebound because getting to weekend Mass is simply proving difficult.

And if you've been away from us intentionally, for whatever reason, know that we feel the void. The Body of Christ is not complete without each member there. Remembering our Eucharistic theology, where we receive Eucharist so we can go into the world and BE Eucharist for others, we know that Christ is not just on the Table, but *at and around* the Table as well. Come home. Our doors are open for quiet prayer, for communal worship, or for a one to one visit. I'm a pretty good listener.

CHURCH SUPPORT THROUGH ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

Electronic Funds Transfer—or EFT—is the easy way to manage your church support. By authorizing Sacred Heart to automatically withdraw your weekly or monthly contributions you never miss a week.

On vacation and forgot to mail your envelope? Living at the cabin all summer? Gone to Arizona or Florida for the winter? No Problem. Simply specify the frequency and dollar amount you would like to donate and Sacred Heart takes care of the rest.

You get credit for contributions the same way as your check or cash donation.

Not only does EFT make giving easier for you, it helps Sacred Heart, too.

For more information or to sign-up, call the parish office or download a form online at sacredheartowatonna.org.

From the Heart

Published by

Sacred Heart Church

810 South Cedar

Owatonna, MN 55060

Tel. 507.451.1588

website:

www.sacredheartowatonna.org

2 0 1 5 - 2 0 1 6

Sacred Heart Pastoral Council Members:

Ron Kubicek (Trustee)rkubiceks@gmail.com

Tom Soukup (Trustee).....tsoukup1@msn.com

Terry Evans.....tevens@evanstaxservice.com

Tricia Johnson.....bushelboyfam@msn.com

Robbe Knielknielr5@msn.com

Sue Pap13jeffandsue@charter.net

Kevin Sedivysedivy9625@gmail.com

Joe Stiles.....jstiles1224@msn.com

Gordon Hofius

Pastors:

Fr. Sauer: Johns@sacredheartowatonna.org

Fr. Sutton: brians@sacredheartowatonna.org

Pastoral Associate: Wendy Cichanski Caduff

wendyc@sacredheartowatonna.org

Parish Administrator: Sandy Strand

sandys@sacredheartowatonna.org

Music Director: Christopher Fazzi

christopherf@sacredheartowatonna.org

Spanish Ministry Coordinator: Minnie Gonzales

minnieg@sacredheartowatonna.org

Finance Secretary: Shari Carlson

sharic@sacredheartowatonna.org

PARISH OFFICE- 507-451-1588

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 8am to 4:00pm Fri. 8am to 2:00pm

Send your newsletter articles and photos to:

sharic@sacredheartowatonna.org

Bulletin Announcements: bulletin@sacredheartowatonna.org

Bulletin materials are due by Tuesday, 12:00 pm for the upcoming weekend



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
OWATONNA, MN
PERMIT NO. 10