

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 35, number 4

June 2017

upcoming events

June 3, 2016

Holy Name Benefit
Maguire Hall, 3:00 pm

June 5, 2016

Liturgy Committee
Community Rm, 7:00 pm

June 6, 2016

Parish Council, 7:00 pm,
Holy Family Hall

June 7, 2016

St. Ambrose Seniors
Maguire Hall, 12:30 pm

June 13, 2016

St. Agatha
Holy Name - 7:00 pm

June 16, 2016

St. Vincent de Paul Mtg,
Holy Family Hall, 8:45
OLCP Seniors
Maguire Hall, 1:00 pm

June 24, 2016

Summerfest Meeting
Café, 7:00 pm

June 27, 2016

Finance Meeting
Rectory, 7:00 pm

June 28, 2016

Summerfest Meeting
Café, 7:00 pm

June 30, 2016

Holy Family
Anointing of the Sick
following 8:00 am Mass

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko (and Friends)

In last month's "View," we asked for readers to respond to some of the more recent radical utterances of "experts" interpreting the message of "Love Your Neighbor" for us. And we got responses! While I am grateful for the thoughtful returns we got, I am ashamed to admit that I lost one. We had a rather eventful week at Mercy Hospital and I have misplaced a handwritten response I got from Betty from Koester Street. I am so sorry. If I find it, I will be sure to include it next month, as it was a great response.

This comes from Michael Herrman. The focus for his opinion, he relates, has been Matthew 22:34-40:

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The first thing I learned about this passage is that "love" is an action word. It doesn't refer to happy or pleasant feelings. It refers to doing for others, as they need your help. Helping each other (and allowing others to help us!) is what gets us through this life. The "neighbor" part of this was always a bit ambiguous to me until I read the verse in French: "Tu aimeras ton prochain comme toi-même." Here, the word "prochain" is translated as "neighbor." However, it literally means "next person." Once I realized that, it became clear...we are to love (i.e. serve or help) the next person we encounter. There is no qualifier attached to that "next" person. It could be my actual next-door neighbor. It could be the first person I see in the office in the morning. It could also be the person in need whose story pops up in the news. There are so many avenues open for "encounter" these days!

Pax Christi,
Michael Herrmann

Jennifer M. Byrne also responded with her thoughts. She found the attitudes we mentioned troubling:

"I am deeply troubled by the attitudes you mentioned. They're hypocritical, for one thing, in view of all of the services currently available to our poor.....Social Services programs such as SNAP, HEAP, WIC....housing assistance, food pantries, etc. If poor people choose to be poor, why do we have these services? If you're going to cut health insurance programs for the poor because they want to be sick, why should you help feed and shelter them? How fair is it to classify all poor as curs or

lepers undeserving of help?

“Indeed, there is ALWAYS time to help the poor, as Jesus said. When He said that, He didn't mean that He should come first and the poor later on. What He meant was "help the poor as I can wait. My needs are not as great as nor more deserving than those of the poor." He didn't mean that He comes first. That was a selfish, self-serving interpretation of our Savior's word!

“God's love is all inclusive. As God's children, and wanting to be closer to Him - to spread His word - we should love ALL of God's children, whether rich or poor, healthy or sickly, sheltered or homeless. No one chooses to be poor or sickly. NO ONE. Poor choices, bad luck, Karma - whatever you wish to label it - they are all temptations of Satan that we ALL fall victim to at one time or another in our lives, even the rich who choose to condemn the poor have made poor choices or suffered some ill fortune in their lives.

As for religious intolerance... in this age of hatred, what we need is a ray of light. We need to realize that one person's Catholic belief is no different than that of another's Muslim belief, or Jewish belief, or Wiccan belief. THEY ARE ALL BELIEFS IN A BEING MIGHTIER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN US. The only difference is HOW each believes - the practices, the teachings. In the end, we are ALL still God's children, even if we call Him by another name. We ALL still have faith, we all still believe. It should not matter what religion we align ourselves with. What matters is that we believe. And in believing, comes love. In love comes compassion. In compassion comes a way to help those who need it.

With all of the hatred, we need to choose to love one another: to help one another, to encourage and

strengthen each other. We should not be separated by, nor punished for, our differences - be they financial or health, religion or race. WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN. WE ALL DESERVE A HELPING HAND FROM ONE ANOTHER. That is how we become closer to Him, how we live in His divine love and grace.

I couldn't have said it better myself. Thank you Michael and Jennifer. And thank you too, Betty. I'm sorry I was so careless.

One Family Growing Faith

By Molly Sheehan

Our Lady of Charity has been my parish since I was little girl, and I have always considered it to be my home and family. Many people have found their place here at OLC because it is a warm and welcoming community, and there is always something for someone to be a part of. Together, as a family we grow and strengthen our relationship with each other and God. We work together to make our way to that one goal to have a place in heaven.

However, no one said it was going to easy. Every family faces challenges, and hardships throughout their time together, and it is times like this where we must pull together as one family. OLC has been through a lot of changes from the merging of the three parishes, to a sad goodbye of a priest we all loved, to the welcoming of a wonderful new priest Fr. Bryan. But no matter what changes OLC parish has managed to grow stronger in faith. We stayed together because of our faith, and accepted these challenges and changes that not only brought us closer to each

Wayside
Family Restaurant
2301 South Park Ave.
Serving Homestyle
Specials Daily
Breakfast, Lunch & Supper
Your Host...
Dennis Spinelli
10% Senior Discount on Dinners
826-2279



DAVE'S
Service Center
Auto Repairs of All Types
- Foreign & Domestic

826-8390
2365 South Park Ave.



 **Day & Night** 
Plumbing Co. LLC

SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING
SPECIALIST

Water Heaters • Water Services
 Sold, Installed and Repaired
 824-4408

other but more importantly closer to our Father in heaven. Though it is not always easy to make sure that everyone is happy, changes occur and unfortunately the sad truth is there is no way around it. Much like a new born baby who brings excitement and joy to a family we must nurture and raise that baby to be the best the baby can be. I have noticed a new and exciting vibrancy within our Parish family, people getting excited, great responses to Discipleship, everyone working to help our parish grow and move forward and be the best that it can be. And we, as a family of God, are fortunate to have so many wonderful parishioners who think this way. Like a mother letting go of her infant's hand for the first time, is she scared? Yes! Is she ready to move on? No, but she does and a wonderful child emerges. Some say we are moving too fast, others are afraid of changes. But like that mother who lets go of her child's hand for the first time we must also let go and guide our Parish into a stronger, more wonderful faith filled body of Christ. Isn't that what we all as a family of God are striving for? May God Bless this family of faith.

St. Francis of Assisi "Prayer for Peace"- A Reflection

By Audrey Kunz

Lord, make me (your servant, N.) an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Through my chosen ministries, help me to model the complement of a friend as being "love in action".

Where there is injury, pardon,

Increase my capacity to be less judgmental and more forgiving.

Where there is doubt, faith,

Help me to share an awareness of Your presence in all aspects of life.

Where there is despair, hope,

As I minister to persons who are lonely and in declining health, guide my words and actions to support them.

Where there is darkness, light,

Through my ministries, guide my words and actions in the spirit of collaboration to problem-solve with other persons.

And where there is sadness, joy.

In times of difficulty, help me to lighten another person's burden.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

May I never miss an opportunity to offer a kind word or action.

To be understood, as to understand;

May I always listen with an open mind and a pure heart.

To be loved, as to love.

May I never forget that all persons are made in Your image.

For it is in giving that we receive -

May I always be mindful of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

May I serve other persons with compassion.

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Along the journey of life as we strive to attain a place in Your heavenly kingdom.

Amen.



LAUBER FINANCIAL PLANNING *LIFE: Live Inspired. Financially Empowered.*

- Objective, professional, experienced financial advice
- Specializing in comprehensive and holistic financial planning, coaching and guidance
- No products offered or sold, so no conflicts of interest
- Fee-only (hourly, flat-fee, retainer); sliding scale fees available for spending plan/debt coaching

Amy Jo Lauber CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™
Lauber Financial Planning
3976 Seneca Street, West Seneca, NY 14224
(716) 430-1634
ajlauber@lauberfinancialplanning.com

Nightengale Funeral Home

1884 South Park Avenue
822-4371

AFFORDABLE PRICES

CREMATION SERVICES

Price Guaranteed Pre-Plan Services
Nursing Home/Medicaid accounts

Family Owned and Operated Since 1926
Marty Nightengale - Licensed Manager

"Ask the Families we have served..."

Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

*Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of
Lauber Financial Planning*

“And He said to them, ‘Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch.’ So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.” John 21:6

This piece of scripture reminds me to ask for direction from God, for the faith to see my vision through, and the strength to keep going. I urge you to take this passage and use it in your own finances. What is Jesus telling you to do to improve your situation and are you willing to do it?

Greed can lead us into an unhappy life, tethering us to things.

Protect yourselves and use your free will to actively choose your purchases wisely.

Thank You Notes

“Thank you for your generous gift to the Midwest Jesuits and your continued commitment to our mission and the ministries of Rev. Joseph Mulligan, SJ in Nicaragua. You make our work possible,” Jeremy Langford, Acting Director of Advancement - Midwest Jesuits

The Sisters of St. Francis were grateful for our kindness and generosity that supports their ministries in Kenya.

A note was received thanking our parish for our support, donations of food and monetary donations to the St. Patrick Pantry which is now under Peaceprints of WNY.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas sent a note to thank us for our gift that will provide funding for the Phillipine feeding programs.

The Consolata Missionaries are very thankful for our donations that supports their mission work in Kenya.

We welcome into our parish family:

Baptisms

Lucy Catherine Lipinczyk
Matilda Elizabeth Pratt
Shane William Szewc
Connor Steven Burch
Zachary Aidan Cordner
Evelyn Mary Veith

New Parishioners

Christopher & Katherine Murphy
and their daughter, Rose
Joseph & Nancy Zippier
and their daughter, Sara
Sarah Veith

Student Honors - Third Quarter

St. Francis High School

First Honors

Tyler J. Kalinowski Senior

the bridge

Published by
Our Lady of Charity Parish Council
<http://ourladyofcharityparish.com>
65 Ridgewood Road
Buffalo, NY 14220
822-5962

Fr. Bryan Zielenieski, Moderator
Shirley Banko, Editor
submit articles to: sabanko@roadrunner.com

Staff

Steve Banko Pat Margerum
Amy Jo Lauber