

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 36, number 3

March 2018

upcoming events

March 6, 2018

St. Ambrose
Night of Mercy
6:30 pm

March 7, 2018

Maguire Hall
St. Agatha Seniors,
12:30 pm

March 9, 16, 23, 30

Holy Family
Stations of the Cross
6:00 pm

March 9, 2018

St. Ambrose
Irish Sweepstakes
Gym 6:45

March 10 & 11, 2018

Lenten Food Drive
All Masses

March 12, 2018

St. Ambrose
Parish Penance Service
6:30 pm

March 14, 2018

St. Ambrose
Community Garden
Information Meeting
Community Room
6:00 pm

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

Mercy ... forgiveness ... penance ... joy ... grace ... sin ... piety ... suffering... discipleship ... prayer ... devotion ... generosity ... absolution ... friendship ... community ... love ... hatred ... sorrow ... truth ... contemplation ... peace ... solemnity ... caring ... eternity ... salvation ... grace ... injury ... healing ... gratitude ... patriotism ... justice ... - thirty-one words in no particular order that are offered to you in this final month of Lent as a challenge.

Where once Lent had a major meaning to us, that meaning tends to diminish as we grow older, as our world grows more complex, as demands on our time become more urgent. In our world, it might seem too difficult to be attentive to the call of Lent. I know that's the case for me so it is easy for me to assume that's the case for you too. So I am hoping to simplify things for us by offering those thirty-one words that, not surprisingly, correspond to the thirty-one days in March. The challenge, then, is to take a little time from each of your hectic days to think about one of those words and its meaning in your life. At a very trying period in my life, a wise man told me to keep putting one boot in front of the other and don't worry beyond the day at hand. At another stressful time, I was counseled to take one day at a time and not look too far down the road. Along the way, the thirty-one words above have played important roles in my life and I assume, in yours as well. The pressing demands of the world in which we live can steal a lot from us. So let's put one boot in front of the other.

Have you experienced mercy or forgiveness? Where does your joy come from? Have you felt the power of grace in your life? Are you searching for healing or know someone who is? What can you do for yourself or for a friend or loved one? Can you take a few minutes from your day to offer a fervent prayer? Do you know someone who could use some peace in his or her life? Can you help provide that peace? What does love mean to you? How do you express it? Take one word for each day in March that can calm your day, or excite your brain, or touch your soul. You don't need to take too long or think too hard. Take them as you wish. Allow your heart and head and soul communion for just a few minutes each day to take inventory of our lives, both spiritual and temporal. Let Lent become special again, one word, one day at a time.

My Mystical Experience

By Christian Hehr

I haven't shared this story with many people. As a matter of fact, I could probably list off the people I've told this story to on one, maybe two hands. The reason? Well I think it takes a special person to get something out of a story like mine. I know this because the people that I've talked to about this that truly grasp it are often the ones who have had a similar experience. But God told me the other day on my drive to my office to tell the story. He told me to say it because it might make someone hungry for a close relationship with Him. Fair enough. I do the will of my Father. Here is the story about my vision.

My story may not be as flashy as some of the other vision stories that have been told to me, but my story is mine. God gave it to me for some reason. I digress...

It was a bitter cold and long drive to Niagara University that January morning. I had just began my final semester of college to get my degree in Religious Studies. I parked in the Dwyer parking lot, just like I did every single day for well over a year. For those who don't know, the Dwyer parking lot is right in front of the hockey rink, a pretty good walk to the opposite side of campus where my first class would be that morning.

Something felt different that day when I rolled in and gathered my belongings to begin the trek to Dunleavy Hall. I felt the presence of God that entire ride to school. Nothing tangible yet, just a very strong sense of the Holy Spirit with me.

The first thing that happened was I sold one of my paintings as soon as I checked my phone upon my arrival. I thought "Wow! This is awesome! A little bit of extra cash coming my way. God, thanks for making her want my painting!" I really felt God with me after that.

I put on my gloves feeling pretty confident and positive already. I put my ear buds in my ears and was

looking for that perfect song to walk to class to, as I did every morning. There was a song I had particularly fell in love with the previous semester that I was shown during my Introduction to Hebrew Scripture class. It was called "Wonderfully Made" from the Scripture Lullabies series (I highly recommend all three albums, especially the third volume). Before I hit shuffle, I said to myself, "It would be super spooky if "Wonderfully Made" came on when I played my songs, but that's probably just me being hyper-spiritual."

I hit shuffle.

The piano intro to "Wonderfully Made" began to fill my ears. I had to double take. And yes, it was spooky. God was next to me. The Spirit was talking to me.

Already a little freaked out, I began to walk to my class across campus.

My walk was bitter cold and tiring. Niagara Falls in the dead of winter, with snow flying, and the wind stinging my face did not make for an enjoyable walk. With the wind chill that day, it was well below freezing. But I did it countless times before so it didn't bother me too much.

I walked up the steps to pass in front of the art museum. The wind whipping off the gorge was just as cold as I ever could've remembered. But then something strange happened. And it stays in my mind just as vividly now as when I experienced it.

The wind became warm. Not like when it's so cold that it feels hot. It was warm. Like a tropical breeze you'd feel while lying on the sand next to the ocean. Pausing, I looked toward the direction of the wind thinking maybe it was a heater from the museum. There was nothing there.

The wind still blowing warm, all of a sudden, the frigid, grey, winter scape of the campus changed to summer. The trees were full and lush. The grass was green and soft. The sky was a gorgeous blue. Flowers lined the grounds outside each building. The campus was fully in summer time.

Just as quickly as the vision appeared, it was

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gone. A moment of a second had passed, and it was gone back to winter and snow.

Now you can interpret this however you'd like. Maybe I was tired and seeing things. Maybe it was in my head. But I know what I saw. And frankly, I don't know what that vision means yet. I know God wouldn't have shown it to me if He didn't mean something by it, but currently, I don't know what that meaning is. But it's ok. God will reveal it to me in time.

I'm very blessed to have had this experience, and I know others like me feel blessed to have had their experiences. It's something that no one else will have; that vision was some sort of promise between God and myself. And I hold it dearly to my heart. What I can tell you, my brothers and sisters, it to be ready. If you abide in God, you will see Him manifest too. Maybe in a vision, maybe in a voice, maybe in some way only unique to you. But allow yourself to open up to Him. Thaw your hardened hearts and let the Spirit work. Let Him show you something special too.

**Camp Shanaho
Arkwright Summit Wind Farm**
by Kevin Kelley

Our Lady of Charity Parish owns a 272-acre piece of property in Arkwright, New York. The property was purchased in 1963 with the blessings of Monsignor Shaw and Father Brennan. The property was given the name of Camp Shanaho. Named after former Pastors of Holy Family Church Shaw, Nash and Hogan (Shanaho). The land was purchased for the purpose of establishing a Boy Scout Camp for Boy Scout Troop 120 sponsored by Holy Family. At the time of the purchase, Troop 120 was a vibrant Troop with a membership of around 100 scouts. Times have changed but we still have Troop 256 with a smaller enrollment but carrying on the great traditions of scouting. For the past 54 years the Scout

Troops have been responsible for raising the necessary money to cover the cost of maintaining the property in appreciation for the commitment our parish has and continues to show towards scouting. Throughout the years the camp has unfortunately fell victim to fires and vandalism. With hard work and the skills of many past and present committeemen of Troop 120 Camp Shanaho has always been put back together better than it was before.

Over the years the property has provided some income for the parish with logging and natural gas wells. Now, after a ten-year process, a company called edp Renewables (EDPR) is developing an exciting new project. The Arkwright Summit Wind Farm is a thirty-six-wind turbine farm. Five of the turbines will be located on Camp Shanaho. This means great things for the parish and property. Our parish has a 30-year lease with EDPR for the turbines, which will provide a much needed revenue source for our parish.

EDPR currently has renewable energy projects in 12 countries. This wind farm will produce 78.4 megawatts - enough clean electricity to power 33,000 homes. Arkwright Summit represents a capital investment of around \$133 million. Some of the economic benefits from this project include millions of dollars in payments to local governments, millions of dollars paid to local landowners, creation of jobs, millions spent within 50 miles of the wind farm and power generated from the farm will support the nation's electric grid.

This property is a tremendous asset for our parish and Boy Scout Troop. Thousands of scouts over the years have been afforded some of the best camping experiences and memories because of Camp Shanaho. Ask any former scout what they loved most about Troop 120 and Camp Shanaho will be at the top of the list. With the new energy and vision of Father Bryan we have begun to use the Camp for a number of other exciting purposes. The confirmation class retreat and staff retreats are just a couple of the recent events held at Camp Shanaho.



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Friendship Corner

by Audrey Kunz

“A good friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have.”

Irish Proverb

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”

Charles Dickens

“The Eucharist is a never-ending sacrifice. It is the Sacrament of love, the supreme love, the act of love.”

St. Katharine Drexel (Feast Day-March 3rd)

“May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore.”

St. Patrick (Feast Day-March 17th)

“St. Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.”

St. Pope John Paul II (Feast Day- March 19th)

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’”

Robin Williams

“And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

Gospel of John 14: 13 (Last Supper Discourse)

New Parishioners

Thomas Lawson
 Carissa Williams
 Melissa & David Brown and their son Nolan
 Maria Marinaccio & Marc Braun
 Taylor Eslick & Samantha Kirby
 Michelle Reardan
 David Moore
 Frances Pici

Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

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

*“For I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of eating well or going hungry of facing either plenty of poverty.”
 Philippians 4:11-12*

The true secret to financial peace is having peace within yourself, regardless of your financial circumstances. Surely we may enjoy financially flush times more than financially lean times, but there is peace and wisdom in both. Try not to curse those lean times; bless them for what they teach you.

We welcome into our parish family:

Our Newly Baptized:

Vivian Elaine Bader
 Lilah Teresa Morgan
 James Robert Kates

the bridge

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