

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 35, number 5

July 2017

upcoming events

July 5, 2017

St. Agatha
Seniors Meeting 12:30
Maguire Hall

July 7, 2017

St. Ambrose
Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament, 12:00 pm
ending with Benediction
at 6:00 pm

July 11, 2017

St. Agatha
Holy Name - 7:00 pm

July 12, 2017

St. Ambrose
Pre-Baptism session,
6:00 pm Rectory mtg.rm.

July 15 & 16, 2017

Sister Sharon Radice will
speak at all Masses on
behalf of the Allegany
Franciscans

July 21, 2017

Seniors' Picnic at
Fontana's Grove
beginning at 1:00 pm

July 26, 27, 28, 2017

Summerfest - Come join
the fun!

July 28, 2017

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

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

"If anything matters, everything matters." - God

We just watched a pretty incredible movie titled "The Shack." I'd been given the book by the same name a few years back but it has been left unread, what with my writing of my own novel and other excuses. The simple fact was I avoided reading the book because I don't like to read a lot of moralizing stuff.

My mistake.

The movie (and I assume the book as well) has some pretty important lessons in our faith and lays them out in a very understandable way. The quote that begins this essay didn't exactly come from God's mouth to my ears. Rather it is something said by the God of the movie and in five words, it says volumes.

At the same time I urge anyone and everyone dealing with human problems, faith problems, and everything in between to read the book or watch the movie, I don't want to give away any of the suspense. Suffice it to say that simultaneous acts of heroism and horror put the plot in motion. Along the way, we see the beauty and value of simple acts coupled with the pain and suffering brought about by our flawed humanity. It's important to note that the "Flaws" in flawed humanity are not the consequences of our creation. Rather they stem from our own folly, foibles, and fallacies about what that humanity means.

Too often, we sully God's creation with our weakness that manifests itself in greed and lust and pride but equally in our need to judge, to seek vengeance, to let guilt overwhelm our lives. We profess our belief in a just and gentle God even as we curse the darkness in our lives; a darkness resulting from our confidence that we can know God's will. We can even go so far as to begin to judge God based on our knowledge of human and personal suffering. I will always recall a recurring theme in Father Stanton's sermons with regard to our individual trials and pain.

"God shed the first tear," he reminded us, alluding to the fact that free will and man's innate imperfections can often derail our lives and bring great suffering. We can tend to hold on to that suffering, to let it consume us. Likewise, we can be wracked with guilt about past acts, forgetting that we persecute ourselves for actions God has already forgiven. In the same way, we can be infected with the need to judge, to assume a power we don't have, to allow a desire to "make things right" through vengeance. And despite our contention that we believe in God, how many times does our faith fails us in coming to terms with crises in our lives

Mentioning these failings in our lives might sound like I am contending they

continued on page 2

are easy to correct. I am not. These things are hard. It is not easy to let go of righteous anger. It is not easy to forgive those who cause us pain. It is not easy to “let go, let God.” We are not wired for surrender. We want to cling to the notions of our own infallibility, our own individual strength, and our own devices - no matter how many times those devices fail us.

But as hard as it is to let go of our many pre-perceptions, it’s essential we do so to be able to live in our imperfect world. But don’t take my word for it. See the movie or read the book and see if makes as much sense to you as it did to me.

Prayer for Independence Day

*Dear God,
as we celebrate today with fireworks
and festivals,
help us never to forget the reason for our joy.
Help us remember that our rights to life, liberty
and the pursuit of happiness
were signed into our heritage
with the willing blood of American patriots.
Most of all, help us remember
that the rights of all people
are more than words on a document,
and that all people have rights
because you have given us
the dignity of human life.
Grant freedom to all,
and give us the strength
to protect the rights of others.
Amen.*

Moving House: A View from Parish Council

by Elisa Church-Goupil

In May, Our Lady of Charity parish held Vision Sunday. Thanks to all parishioners and visitors who responded. Your feedback was presented to the parish council during our June meeting. We agreed there was too much to review during a two-hour meeting, so we will meet for discussion in July.

As I’ve been reading responses, I could understand and sympathize with many of your concerns. The past year has been a period of rapid change -- some unexpected, and some jarring. Other changes were dictated to Father Bryan by the diocese, such as consolidating masses and being fiscally responsible with OLC’s over-abundant properties.

With every change, OLC feels different – almost like moving to a new house. Why must OLC move, we ask. On a personal or parish level, moving is necessary to fit our present needs. Sometimes our house becomes bigger to accommodate a growing family. Sometimes our home becomes an easy-care apartment. Whether we downsize, upgrade, or remodel what we have, our home remains our home. “That’s the old (Blank) home, but now they live (wherever).”

Moving from the past into a re-imagined spiritual home offers OLC a great opportunity. We can jettison the things which don’t work anymore – “that old faucet...” – and replace them with things that do. The best way to create a fully functional home is to participate. Claim that sunny bedroom! Repaint the ugly color on the kitchen wall, so it can be your favorite room.

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Parishioners or visitors, work to make OLC your home. If you find yourself a regular visitor, make a commitment by becoming a registered parishioner. Parishioners, don't despair and refuse to get out of the moving van. Sentiment can be sweet, but often when we revisit the past, we find memories challenged by reality -- "How did all of us ever fit in that tiny house," or "I can't believe we ever maintained that giant yard." If you don't take ownership of OLC, you will cede your voice to someone who chooses to speak.

Consider becoming more active in the parish community. OLC Summerfest is in July. It's a great opportunity to volunteer and forge a stronger OLC identity. Just the parish council, or Father Bryan, or people on committees, or people who only go to Holy Family, or only Ambrose, are not OLC -- they are individuals or isolated groups. OLC must be all of us working together toward a successful future.

We on parish council promise to advocate for the greater OLC community. The council has undergone many changes this past year, moving from an elected body to a volunteer group. It's been challenging to navigate relentless change, but fulfilling when we create things like OLC's popular Friday dinners. The council is working to improve communication. Members have been writing short biographies to be shared in the bulletin. This fall, we will begin keeping minutes of our meetings and share them in the bulletin too.

Thank you for being part of OLC during this time of transition. This is our home. May God guide us; May we work together so our move will serve us now and into the future.

Important July dates:

- *Save your Monday evenings in July for something special from the Spiritual Life Committee. Watch the bulletin for details!*
- *Summerfest Meetings: Wednesdays, July 5 & 12; Tuesday, July 25*
- *Set-up: Wednesday, July 26, 6:00-9:00*
- *Summerfest Dates: Thurs., Fri., Sat., July 27-29*
- *Clean-up: Sunday, July 30, 10:00 am*
- *Attic Treasures Drop-Off Dates & Times:*
Saturday, July 8, 9:00 am-12:00 noon
Wednesday, July 12, 5:00-7:00 pm
Sunday, July 16, 9:30 am-1:00 pm
Saturday, July 22, 9:00-12:00 pm

Other July Dates

- *Choir Practice takes place every Wednesday (except July 5) at 7:00pm in the Holy Family Hall*
- *Yoga will continue during the summer at Magire Hall on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm*
- *Community Dinners Fridays in July (except July 28), 4:30 pm, Holy Family Hall. We still need groups to sponsor dinners in July & August.*



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Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of
Lauber Financial Planning

“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Thessalonians 1:3

Managing your money – how you earn, save, spend, invest, protect and share it – must be a regular part of your life in order to be successful and peaceful. Ignoring or being lazy with it will only prove fruitless and frustrating.

As you strive to make better decisions with your money, first put your faith and trust in God (after all, “In God We Trust” is right there on our money!). Maintain hope and work hard, strengthened by your faith and hope, to remain committed to doing the best you can.

We welcome into our parish family:

Baptisms

Ethan Joseph Trinh Do
Samuel Joseph Fazio
Josephine Lee Ganley
Rose Patricia Murphy

New Parishioners

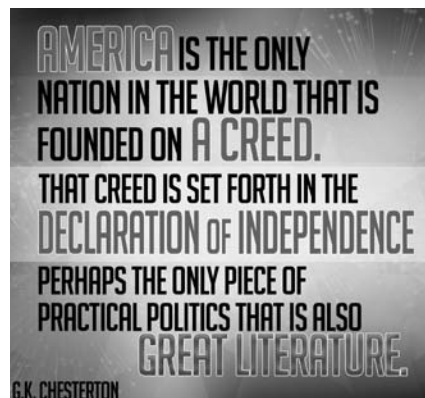
Kenneth Selby & Elizabeth Mulvaney
William Appler & Kelly Anne Rau
and their daughter Nora
Eric & Chelsea Hanlon
and their son, Noah
Alicia Aszkler & Andrew Alvira

Thank You Notes

A thank you note was received from the Midwest Jesuits for our gift and continued commitment to the mission and ministries of Rev. Joseph Mulligan, SJ in Nicaragua. In June, their province ordained 13 Jesuits who will live out their vocations serving in one of the 60 ministries of the Midwest Jesuits.

The Sisters of St. Mary Africa-Brazil were grateful for our donation that assists them in their work in the Congo nutritional centers. The Sisters "are continually feeding the starving and those who are hospitalized and whose families cannot help them."

The Sisters of Mercy sent a note of thanks for our donation that benefits their ministry in the Philippines.



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