Do we have any visitors?

By Sr. Francine Koehler, SNND

This is the familiar opening of most of Father Francis’ homilies.

Our Care for Creation Team was surprised on Sept. 16 when we were preparing for an outdoor prayer service to commemorate the Season of Creation declared by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si. Suddenly we saw a couple of our Knights of Columbus men wheeling a statue of St. Francis into the Activity Building.

“Hey, look who has come to visit with us this evening! Where did he come from? Could you please put him here in the garden for our prayer this evening?”

We were informed that parishioner Richard Schmitt donated the attractive outdoor statue. We began our prayer in thanksgiving for all the gifts of God’s creation, and in thanksgiving for St. Francis’ timely visit, hoping he becomes a permanent presence here at Sacred Heart.

The Season of Creation is globally observed every year September 1 – October 4, the feast of St. Francis. We invite you to join us for a blessing of our new statue on Sunday, October 4, after the 8:30 Mass.

Our Care for Creation Team also takes this opportunity to invite you to join us (virtually) for our monthly meetings. One of our regular activities is litter control on the streets around our church. Our next pick-up is October 18 at 3 pm. If you can help, please inform Nancy Singh at Singh_nancy@yahoo.com. That way the City of Columbia provides us with enough gloves, grabbers, and safety vests for the volunteers.

Richard has been a cantor at both the 4:30 and 11 weekend Masses, sharing with us the beautiful voice God gave him. He has moved back to Iowa to be close to his family. Our loss will certainly be their gain. We wish him the very best and thank him for his donation of the St. Francis of Assisi statue to Sacred Heart.

Make the Sacred Heart columbarium your permanent home

Sacred Heart has ordered a columbarium which will be placed in a garden-like area where the old office building once stood. A number of niches have already been sold. We invite you to consider purchasing a niche to make your final resting place among friends and fellow parishioners.

What Is A Columbarium? A columbarium is a structure that has small spaces, or niches, to hold cremated remains. Cremation has been allowed by the Church since 1963. According to the Order of Christian Funerals cremated remains (cremains) are treated with the same respect given to the body from which they came. The cremains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.

Why A Columbarium? Spiritual...Since there is no Catholic cemetery in Columbia, the columbarium is a place where you and your family can be inurned in a religious setting. Simplify...The columbarium eliminates the pressure of choosing a burial site, casket and monument. Inurnment and

Continued on page 2
Heart of the Matter

Birthdays

Oct. 1  Stacy Cooper, Noah Fisher, Lindsay Hernandez, Konnie Huisman, Tzetzi Mendez
Oct. 2  Elizabeth Barry, Luke Boss, Doug Boyer, James Evans, Aaron Ghidey, Charles Londrie, Henry Londrie, Alex McBain, Laura Rutter
Oct. 3  Dorothy Gallo, Claudia Garcia, Edith Lopez, Stephanie Rogers, John Schmitz, Vernon Shaw, Steven Thomeczek, Katherine Vradenburg
Oct. 4  Jason Herman, Peter Higgins, William Kimes, Rogelio Mendez, Jillian Riester, Natalie Rogers, Rita Schulte, Henry Stansfield, Mary von Schoenborn
Oct. 5  Susan Brightwell, Liz Marquez, Dolores Morris, Alejandro Squicimari
Oct. 6  Carla Folkerts, Jennifer Holland, Cormac Kelley, Laura Mendez, Jenny Ochsner, Kerri Urban
Oct. 7  Benjamin Galloway
Oct. 8  Brianne Bishop, Cristiano Delgado
Oct. 9  Chioma Anyanwu, Yoselin Herrera, Augusta Nicolaus, Jacob Thomeczek
Oct. 10 Sara Alvare, Henry Burton, Richard Clawson, June Kelty-Van-Le, Allison Lansford, Joshua McNutt, Ryan McNutt, Nancy Pliego, Henry Scheffler
Oct. 11 Stephen Bosch, Mary Gardner, Staci Ortboys, Christine Pickett, Lucas Volkman, Austyn Wade, Rita Walsh
Oct. 13 Greta Grellner, Betsy Kimes, Andre Mandro
Oct. 14 Jesse Fudge, Jordan Green, Mary Kay Head
Oct. 15 Yvonne Chamberlain, Veronica Gunther, Teresa Gutierrez, Azulbaladi Lugo Quintero, Leslie Naugle
Oct. 16 Helen Kurtz, Yvan Quinn
Oct. 17 Daira Hernandez Garcia, Jasmine Jones, Yeji Lim, Victoria Vizcarra
Oct. 18 Rogelio Arzate, Roger Caffrey, David Crises, David Mendoza, Jon Pauley, Nayeli Saldaño Jared Yates
Oct. 19 Rockne Corbin, Magalo Cortes, Kevin Feltz, Joseph Keene, Ava Kitchen, Patricia McDonald, Pedro Meza
Oct. 20 Isaac Boss, Marie Dickerson, Olivia Herman, Christiane Quinn, Grace Urban
Oct. 21 Abigail Eckerle, Matthew Johnston, Adrian Kosiara, Fabio Squicimari
Oct. 22 Daniela Elvira-Uribe, Ron Freiburghaus, Kathryn Hammond, Derrick Richardson
Oct. 23 Stephen Cravens, Leslie Espinoza, Augustine Frymire, Anna Inslee, Phillip Kassera, Hugo Loredo, Jeanne McGuire, Gary Ochsln
Oct. 25 Malia Kahl, Aine MacSithigh, Evan Pitzer, Deanna Sporleder, Jane Wilson
Oct. 26 Hillary Allen, Phillip Knappe, Michael McGowan, Cyndy Mehrer, Danna Vazquez, Melissa Williamson, Terese Zidon
Oct. 27 George Anz, Zane Nichols
Oct. 28 Alejandro Ramirez, Liberata Ruseka, Charles Williamsson
Oct. 29 Brad Anderson, Allyson Bertrand, Tina DeClue, Nathan Gilpin, Bobby Haley, Cory Hodapp, Isabel Kosiaiaa, Daniel Larson, Martin Mendez
Oct. 30 Laura Jolley, Lisa Lammers
Oct. 31 Kimberly Arzate, Erick Lopez

Eternal Rest

Celestine Anyanwu

Celestine Chukwuonyere Anyanwu, 79, passed away on July 6, 2020 at his home. He was the husband of Eugenia Ngozi Anyanwu. They shared 45 years of marriage together. Born in Enyiogwugwu, Mbaise, Nigeria, he was the son of Joseph Anyanwu Madumene and Martha Nwachi Okoro Anyanwu. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Master's of Business Administration from Lincoln University in Jefferson City.

He was a faithful member of Sacred Heart Parish and The Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed gardening, soccer, tennis, reading, and spending time with family. He will be remembered for his gentle nature, kind spirit, infectious smile, and love of people.

He is survived by his wife, Eugenia Anyanwu, his son, Kemdi Anyanwu, and two daughters, Ogechi and Chioma Anyanwu.

Columbarium

Continued from page 1

memorial service can be in one location. It also offers a practical and comfortable way to make advance plans relieving your family of making difficult decisions at an emotional time. Savings…A niche in the columbarium is significantly less expensive than an in-ground burial. The fee to reserve a niche is $1500.00. Each niche will hold the cremated remains of two people. The fee includes opening and closing the niche, the names and dates of birth and death, and perpetual care. Location…The columbarium will be located on the church grounds in a garden setting that will provide a place of beauty and comfort where family and friends can meditate, pray and remember.

For More Information Or To Purchase A Niche: Pick up an application packet from the church office and follow the instructions or send an e-mail to shcolumbarium@gmail.com

Heart of the Matter

Sacred Heart Parish, Columbia, MO
Pastor: Fr. Francis Doyle
Editor: Mary Kay Head
Layout Editor: Katherine Cummins
Send comments to: jhead2403@aol.com or 105 Waugh St., Columbia, MO 65201

Articles in Heart of the Matter that address Church teachings or articles of faith are expressions of the author’s opinion.
**Eternal Rest**

**Barry John O’Neill, 1949 - 2020**

Barry John O’Neill, 71, passed peacefully at home on Monday, Aug. 24, 2020 following a lengthy illness.

Barry was born April 27, 1949 in South Bend, Indiana to his parents, Emmet and Catherine Foley O’Neill. Barry grew up in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, and returned to South Bend for college, graduating from Notre Dame in 1971. He then worked for Sears for 31 years.

On December 18, 1982, Barry married his wife, Kathy Ford O’Neill, in Peoria, Illinois where they had met while working on a planning committee for an Irish Fest.

Barry enjoyed anything Irish, fishing, and cheering on Notre Dame, Kansas City Chiefs, and Mizzou. Barry was instrumental in starting the Mid Missouri Notre Dame Club and served as president.

Barry is survived by his wife, Kathy; brother, Kevin O’Neill; sister, Kathleen O’Neill Toale (Tom); sister in law, Irene O’Neill; brother in law, Stephen Ford; nieces: Julia Hollenback, Jennifer Ford (Josh Manning), Stephanie Londrie (David), Erin Toale, Shannon Toale (Jillian), Kaylyn Toale, and Meghan Casteel (Bobby); nephew, Patrick Ford (Tori); and 5 great nieces and 11 great nephews.

Barry was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Patrick O’Neill; and niece, Jennifer O’Neill.

Memorial services were held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 105 Waugh St., Columbia, MO 65201 on Saturday, September 5, 2020 with visitation starting at 1:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 2:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the following: Unchained Melodies Dog Rescue at www.unchainedmelodies.org/donate; Central Missouri Humane Society 616 Big Bear Blvd., Columbia, MO 65203; or Diabetes Research Institute Foundation at www.diabetessersearch.org.

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**Knights of Columbus Council 14414**

The Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus Council #14414 gathered Sept. 16 for a tailgating meal and meeting in the parking lot behind the Education Building. The Handyman Ministry repaired a kitchen cabinet for a parishioner, installed a pet door in the garage of another parishioner, and caulked and painted the patio ceiling of an Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner; for which we received $70 in donations which will be used to support Sacred Heart.

**Coming Up**

- Oct. 10 Drive-Thru Fish Fry at Tolton High School; volunteers will be needed for all aspects of this event
- Oct. 10/11 Tootsie Roll Drive weekend
- Oct. 21 Business Meeting (Details TBA)

For information or to join Council 14414, contact Dave Rapoff (573/864-1068; davidr@cmcmfg.com) or Steve Sutter (573/489-6001; steves42868@gmail.com).

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**KofC fish fry in October!**

Our Knights of Columbus council has not been able to hold the normal fundraisers this year due to COVID. However, they will be holding a drive-through fish fry dinner on Saturday, Oct. 10, at Father Tolton Catholic High School. Serving will start at 4 p.m. and continue to 7 p.m. Price is $12 per dinner. Menu includes a generous portion of fish, green beans, slaw, and our famous chips with orders of more than one dinner. We will also be selling Tootsie Rolls with proceeds going to benefit developmentally disabled persons.

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**Sacred Heart Cares**

A project of the Health Ministry committee offering support to parishioners who are homebound or have related needs. If you or a family member need assistance, e-mail sacredheartcares@gmail.com or call Glenda Kelly at 573-443-3976 or Johanna Bishop at 573-356-4053 or complete the following form and mail to Sacred Heart Cares, 105 Waugh, Columbia, MO 65201

Examples of available support includes:
- Help with meals
- Transportation to medical visits
- Help with errands or grocery shopping
- Social visits
- Requests for prayers

Name: __________
Phone: __________
Parish School of Religion News

By Maria Cox
It’s not too late to register for PSR this year. Please use this link https://forms.gle/xNLed9ARSHTHyayV6 to fill out the abbreviated form and your special online code to access support activities, then I will schedule a time for you to pick up PSR materials. We are still using the Pfau curriculum for both grade level instruction and sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Please recall that the fee this year will only cover the cost of materials; $16 per child; or $16+$13 = $29 for the Sacramental prep materials.

This is a new platform for PSR this year. I welcome suggestions, questions, and comments about the program. I want to make sure I am providing families with good, appropriate curriculum.

No es demasiado tarde para registrarse en PSR este año. Utilice este enlace https://forms.gle/xNLed9ARSHtHYayVL6 para llenar el formulario abreviado y su código especial en línea para acceder a las actividades de soporte, entonces programaré una hora para que usted recoja los materiales de PSR. Todavía estamos usando el currículo de Pfau tanto para la instrucción al nivel de grado, para la preparación sacramental para la Primera Reconciliación y la Primera Eucaristía.

Recuerde que la tarifa de este año solo cubrirá el costo de los materiales; $16 por niño; o $16+$13 $29 para los materiales de preparación sacramentales.

Esta es una nueva plataforma para PSR este año. Doy la bienvenida a sugerencias, preguntas y comentarios sobre el programa. Quiero asegurarme de que estoy proporcionando a las familias un buen y apropiado plan de estudios.

OLL Interparish School News

By Chris Drury
Each day of school OLLIS is open is a true gift. The faculty, staff, students, and families are giving thanks to God that they are able to be open. It is possible due to the support and cooperation of OLLIS families. It is important to remain vigilant about safety habits. We do not want to let caution fatigue become an issue as we will see an increase in illness. Thank you to all families for your support and cooperation. Please remember to let the school know if your family has had positive contact with COVID and needs to quarantine. Teachers will work with you to keep students up to date on lessons. Also, if your child goes for a COVID test, please let the school know the date of the test and the results. This is important as they work with contact tracing. Working together, OLLIS is confident in its ability to serve students and families.

OLLIS has used CARES Act funding to purchase many things to keep students safe. Some of the purchases include: medical grade air purifier in every room, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, medical grade masks and face shields for staff, gloves, UV-C sanitizing wands for keyboards and other items, desk shields, no contact thermometers for every classroom, voice amplifiers for teachers, and individual supplies for students. This year looks a bit different for students. Due to social distancing restrictions and capacity restrictions, OLLIS is currently attending school Masses virtually. The class that plans the Mass will attend in person. All other classes will watch the Mass in their classrooms. Parents will be able to watch Mass live through Facebook as well. They all look forward to the day when they once again can hold an All School Mass.

School was not in session on September 18th as teachers were participating in some professional development required by the Diocese. Please know that this day is important for the educational program so staff can remain current on best practices.

Normally in October, the OLL parish holds its annual Oktoberfest. Unfortunately, the event has been cancelled due to COVID. Please be watching for any updates on any alternate.

Meet your 2020-2021 School Board Members:

President: Kelly Walls (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Vice President: Megan Tipton (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Secretary: Chris Drury (Sacred Heart)
Education Commission Rep: Crystal Aholt (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Members: Monica Viet (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Mike Johnson (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Christine Bell-Pfannenstiel (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Bill Dall (Newman Center)

Did you know:
Your OLLIS School Board consists of eight members representing all three parishes.
Six board members represent Our Lady of Lourdes, 1 board member represents Newman Center and 1 represents Sacred Heart.
The School Board mission is to provide a Christ-centered learning community dedicated to the spiritual, intellectual, and moral development of each child.
The School Board advises Fr. Chris and Mrs. Hassemer on policy and procedures. However, the School Board is not a decision-making entity.
The School Board meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.

Continued on page 6
Fr. Tolton News

Important Upcoming Dates

- School and athletic activities are on the school calendar which can be accessed on the website www.toltoncatholic.org.
- September 28 - October 2 — Homecoming Week
- September 29 — Picture Retake Day
- October 1 — Flu Vaccination Clinic
- October 22 — Open House

2020 Cash Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our 2020 Cash Raffle Winners! Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket to support our Athletics and Activities Fund!
- $15,000 Winner: Barb Rice
- $2,000 Winner: Michael McCluney
- $1,000 Winners: Madeline Kohr, Natasha Nivens, Beth Feger
- Tuition Incentive Winners: Graves Family
- $250 Top Seller - Connor Head
- $100 Top Seller - Abigail and Catherine Mayhan

Standardized Testing on October 14

On Wednesday the 14th of October, TCHS will be testing the 9th-11th grade students on standardized tests. The 9th grade and most of the 10th grade students will be taking the Pre-ACT test. Some of the 10th grade and all of the 11th grade students will be taking the PSAT exam. The 10th grade students who took the PSAT on Wednesday will take the Pre-ACT on Friday morning.

Students will be dismissed upon completion of their exam which is roughly 11 a.m. Students can stay in the commons until 12:30 p.m. and supervision will be provided until then. No lunch will be provided that day.

Seniors may use the day for college visits, home college application work or work on applications in the Tolton library if they need assistance.

Homecoming Week Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for Homecoming Week. More information, including dress down day themes, will be announced soon. Unfortunately, due to COVID, there will NOT be a Homecoming Dance this year.
- Monday, Sept. 28 — Powderpuff Game (will be live-streamed)
- Tuesday, Sept. 29 — Mass (will be live-streamed)
- Wednesday, Sept. 30 — Door Deck work day
- Thursday, Oct. 1 — Homecoming Court activity (will be live-streamed)
- Friday, Oct. 2 — Homecoming Assembly including King and Queen announcements (will be live-streamed). The Homecoming football game at 7:00 p.m. will be live-streamed as well.

2020 Influenza "Flu" Vaccine Clinic

The 2020-21 injectable Influenza vaccine (flu shot) will be given free of charge to students at Fr. Tolton Catholic High School on Thursday, October 1, 2020 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services will be onsite to administer the vaccine in Room 201. This opportunity to have your child vaccinated is strongly encouraged, but it is NOT mandatory.

Lunch Volunteers

We still need lunch volunteers on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:45 to 12:45. You can work every week or alternate weeks as needed. We're happy to work with your schedule! Contact Brenda Neuhaus at bneuhaus@toltoncatholic.org to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Open House — October 28, 6-8 p.m.

Come meet with faculty and students to learn about our academics, faith, community and activities! If you have any questions about enrollment at Tolton Catholic, please contact Admissions Director, Laura Sasser, at lsasser@toltoncatholic.org.

Blaze of Glory — Moving Online for 2020

Due to limitations on large gatherings, the 2020 Blaze of Glory Gala will be moving to an online auction this year. While we will certainly miss the fellowship and community building (and dancing!) that this event provides, we are excited about the opportunity to reach supporters around the country that normally may not have been able to participate. Thanks to our friends at Atterberry Auction and Realty, the online auction page will open on Saturday, November 7 and will close on Friday, November 13. There will be lots of great auction items to bid on, as well as fun new games of chance. We hope we can count on your support as we blaze new trails this year.

Athletic Highlights

Softball won the Lady Jay Classic. Senior Paige Bedsworth has racked up three no-hitters and a perfect game. She's currently one strikeout away from reaching 1,000 career strikeouts (a feat only 10 pitchers in Missouri have accomplished!).

Girls Golf set a new school record with a team score of 312, winning the Smith-Cotton Invitational in Sedalia. Freshman Audrey Rischer was the individual medalist with a one-under-par 69.

Cross Country won both the boys and girls division of the Tolton Invitational, Salisbury Invitational, and the New Haven Invitational.

Football picked up their first win of the season, defeating Missouri Military Academy, 28-12. year!
Sacred Heart garden update

By Miriam Hankins

The garden has produced quite well this year. The early spring and fall plantings were the most productive. The hot, dry summer takes its toll. There are committed folks that help keep the beds watered. Without them the plants would wither and die. Insects have been a problem since there aren’t many birds around to help keep them in check.

The garden has produced bok choi, tat tsoi, radishes, Asian turnips, beets, kale, lettuce, cucumbers, green beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, strawberries, herbs, and flowers.

Sometimes it has been difficult to find an outlet for all the produce that sometimes comes all at once. We have distributed produce to St. Francis House and to David Johnson, owner of the Broadway Diner, who has been making free meals for school children. Ideally, we would like to find a family, or two, who need to supplement their families’ diets and might want to adopt the beds for their use. We, as a parish, can help with supplies and mentoring. If you know of someone, please email me at mirmann@aol.com, or text 573-529-1597.

Liturg Commission

By Lucas Volkman, Chair

The September Liturgy Commission meeting was held on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:30pm. After chairman Lucas Volkman led the attendees in an opening prayer, the minutes from the most recent meeting in June were approved as submitted. Mary Kay Head provided the membership with a parish council report.

Those present then turned to Old Business and focused on Mass attendance and online streaming. Overall, attendance in person on the weekends tended to fluctuate from 60 to 100 people. A volunteer was found to help with the camera to stream the Masses. Overall, things are going well, as can be expected, with the weekend Masses. This year we are moving forward with parish calendars again, even without a sponsor.

The committee than moved to new business. Member Phyllis White talked about some ideas for possible enhancements to the church interior. The group thought that there were some good ideas there that merit future discussion at subsequent meetings. Under the Director of Liturgy Report, Chris Vitt explained that the Time and Talent forms would be mailed out to everyone in the parish. The group thought that the panels in the church looked lovely and thanked the Art and Environment group for their work. Finally, the October 11th Rosary Coast to Coast was mentioned.

To end the meeting, Fr. Francis led the commission in a closing prayer.
Caring for our home

By Miriam Hankins

According to Scripture, the earth was given to us as a wondrous place to live, where all kinds of fruits, vegetables, grains, and roots were provided in abundance. We were given dominion over this abundance; unfortunately, this dominion (or control) can be one of care and stewardship, or it can be one of abuse. Mankind seems prone to squeeze out everything it can get its hands on until there is nothing left. Witness the loss of many species of animals and birds that were hunted to extinction; the destruction of whole mountain tops, with the concomitant loss of pristine valleys below, in search of cheap energy.

We must get away from our rampant consumerism and our ideas of disposability. I am afraid we have been fed a false bill of goods concerning the use of plastic in our daily living. The use of plastic packaging is fed by a very powerful industry lobby. This industry uses virgin plastic but tells us we can recycle it, so all is well. Except it isn’t.

When the city said it could not pick up our recyclables due to staffing shortages, the bugs piled up at collection centers, and then piled up at the landfill facility. Recycling isn’t as easy as it seems. The market for recycled plastic can be tricky, and sometimes it is costly. Recycling plastic also consumes a great deal of energy. There are many small, impoverished countries and islands that can’t recycle, and so the spent plastic just piles up, higher and higher. Perhaps you have heard of the monster swirl of plastic trash in the Pacific Ocean that is bigger in size than the state of Texas.

As stewards of what we have been given, what concrete steps can we take to help? Eventually, it will probably take a concerted effort to shift public policy away from the use of so much plastic. In the meantime, we must be cognizant of purchases, and ask if there are better alternatives. I have noticed many snacks now coming in large plastic tubs. I find that totally unnecessary. Since we have access to the Internet, we can find products that aren’t carried in local stores. (or we can ask stores to change what they do or do not carry.)

I have found some alternatives that you might consider for yourself. Instead of plastic toothbrushes, there are brushes made from bamboo. The wood is very smooth, and the brushes in a box come with different color bristles so everyone in the family can have a unique color. There is disposable cutlery and paper products made from plant and wood products, but there is a caution against the use of bioplastics. They aren’t the answer the industry claims. The best idea of all is to keep a set of inexpensive metal flatware, plates, and cups and just reuse them. Most households have dishwashers these days so I don’t think it would be a great burden.

I find the purchase of bottled water to be especially egregious. Many people carry their own refillable bottles, and I find that commendable, but we still a have a long way to go. Bottles of Gatorade are passed out at every sports game in which our youngsters participate. I know the peer pressure is great for parents and children alike, but maybe better alternatives can be found. It would be an excellent teaching moment as well.

There is one other idea for the conscious consumer. There are many thrift stores and flea markets around that carry many household items. Instead of buying new, see if there is something at the second-hand shops that would work. Check Face-

Continuing the spiritual journey

Seek the Lord

By E. Jane Rutter

Driving across the bridge to work this morning, I glance up to admire the shafts of light gleaming through the cloudy skies. From there, my eyes follow a flock of birds swirling about this way and that, their leader seemingly undecided whether to head south for the winter or to revel in the onset of fall weather. It’s comforting to feel God’s presence in the sun’s rays and dancing birds. Looking at the traffic behind the steering wheel of my secure little Nissan nest, it is harder to recognize God’s face in the throng of commuters beside me. We all appear dazed, trapped in our own thoughts and cares.

On auto-pilot, some of us will arrive at work with no memory of the path that got us to our parking spots! Like the Israelites emerging from the desert where they wandered lost for 40 years, we hesitate when opening our car doors, not quite prepared to meet the day in front of us.

Isaiah was addressing these weary and disgruntled Israelites ready to enter the Promised Land when he advised them to “Seek the Lord while He may be found” and to “call on Him while He is near. (Is. 55:6)

For they, like we do, had forgotten where they came from. They - hopefully unlike us - were bitterly complaining about their leaders, worshiping idols and sinning left and right. They needed Isaiah’s loving admonition to repent and “turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving”. (Is. 55:7)

Isaiah’s advice is just as relevant to us today, reminding us that God’s saving grace is wide open to us here and now. We simply need to seek God our Father and follow His path of light and love to Paradise.

It’s our choice: follow the saving path or chart a course derived from our own hubs. It’s no accident that Isaiah, after assuring us of God’s merciful nature, also reminds of us of our smallness: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts”. (Is. 55:8-9) God’s plan is so immense that we aren’t capable of understanding it all. Rather, He invites us to trust in His love, follow where He guides us and serve others in the name of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

It’s not always easy. The apostle Paul longed to be reunited with Christ in heaven, but submitted to a life of service and leadership that he was called to in this life.

He accepted his unique role in establishing and evangelizing Christianity throughout the Gentile communities. He accepted that the people needed him present as their spiritual leader, counselor, and coach. Paul willingly died a martyr’s death to realize the promise of heaven.

Like Isaiah before him, Paul advised the early followers of Christ to keep to the heavenly path, to “Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ”. (Philip. 1:27)

Christ gave His life as a sign of our worthiness. Christ, the least on earth, servant, slave, and criminal hung on a cross, is our model of love, humility, self-sacrifice, generosity, kindness, forgiveness and peace.

Following His path throughout our short time on earth, we will join the angels and saints in His glorious kingdom.
Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Bazaar

Peanut Brittle

The Sacred Heart Bazaar committee will be accepting orders for bags of peanut brittle now through Nov. 15 for delivery in early December. To place an order please contact Barbara Kingsley, 573-443-7054 or, Pat Andrews, 573-875-5610, or Doris Crites 573-474-6596 (leave message). You can also email Doris at dorcee1938@aol.com

Gift Baskets:
There will be 6 Wine and Cheese Baskets for sale at $30 each

Craft Items:
View craft items for sale on Sacred Heart’s Facebook page

Pick up pre-order Brittle:
You can pick up your peanut brittle and view and buy hand crafted items two weekends in December. Saturday Dec. 5 & 12 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
And Sunday Dec. 6 and 13 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Activity Building

Raffle Tickets:
This year we are mailing out 9 tickets instead of the usual 6. You can purchase all 9 tickets for just $15.

Raffle Drawing:
December 15
Not open to the Public
Do not need to be present to Win
Parish Council

By Ron Meyer, Parish Council President

The meeting began with an opening prayer from Ron. The minutes were approved without further revisions.

Ron reported that the Knights of Columbus were going to hold a drive-through fish fry on October 10th. It will be held at Tolton High School. Several advertisements will be made with the various media outlets along with announcements at all of the parishes. In addition, the KOC will be sponsoring their annual Tootsie Roll campaign at the same time.

Ron attended a meeting at the diocese regarding the Better Together program. All the parishes that submitted a discernment report were represented in Jefferson City or at five other remote sites. The parish representatives discussed and responded to a working document prepared by the diocese regarding a three-year pastoral planning plan. In October the Bishop will meet with all the parish priests to review the feedback from this meeting. The Bishop will then send a letter to each parish prior to Advent that will set the guidelines and foundation for each parish’s three-year plan.

The excavation for the overhead electrical lines has been completed. This allows us to pour the foundation for the columbarium. The city will shortly actually move the lines. Also, a contract has been awarded to PCE for all the concrete work for the columbarium and memorial garden. This includes the columbarium foundation, sidewalks to make the columbarium assessable, the retaining wall and fencing and a privacy wall next to the parking lot south of the church. PCE said that they would be able to begin very shortly. There was also discussion regarding fund raising efforts after this work began. Also, a contract has been awarded to re-plat the two church lots. This will take several months but is required in order to build an overhead shelter.

There was further discussion regarding security for the campus, especially the office. Additional information will be obtained and this item will be addressed again at the next meeting.

On-line enrollment was open for PSR. Materials for classes were received on September 15 and will soon be distributed to the families. There is a need for catechists for the 2021/2022 school year. Monetary donations for the PSR program are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

The meeting ended with the Our Father.

Fr. Francis and St. Francis wear their masks to help mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus.

Our Home

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book Marketplace, Craig’s List, Freecycle, and other similar online sites for things you are looking for. Maybe this seems like fighting a dragon with a toothpick, but we have to take those first steps. Make it a family project.

Spiritual Journey

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And so I pray: Dear Lord, grant me wisdom to recognize your plan for my life, courage to follow where you lead, and humility to serve in your name.
Parish Celebrations

Aida Grace Gregory, daughter of Matthew Steven Gregory and Nicole Anne (Kurszewski) Gregory, was born in Columbia, MO on April 29, 2020. She was baptized at Sacred Heart on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Her godparents are Mark Sabatinelli, Jr. and Jessica Smith. Pictured are mom Nikki holding Aida, dad Matt and big sister Milly.

Daleyza Nicole Gutierrez Everly, daughter of Luis David Gutierrez and Jessica Nicole Gutierrez, was born in Columbia, MO on May 21, 2019. She was baptized at Sacred Heart on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Pictured in front are godparents Erika Gutierrez and Mario Gutierrez, dad Luis holding Daleyza and mom Jessica. In back are Tereasa and Daniel Gutierrez.

(Right) Angel Arthur Arellano Menez, born in Columbia, MO on February 26, 2014, and Jade Ruby Arellano Menez, born in Columbia, Mo on September 20, 2010, are the children of Elpidio Arellano Lara and Rosa Menez Paredes. They were baptized at Sacred Heart at the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Pictured in front are Angel and Jade. In back are parents Elpidio and Rosa, godparents Andres Perez Menez and Evelia Rea Vraga, and Fr. Francis Doyle.
Wit and Wisdom
from G. K. Chesterton

“The Socialist State gives all power to the government; and therefore cuts much deeper than any other government, in practice, the chasm between the governor and the governed. In every society there is the public official and the private citizen. But the number of things that the public official can do to the private citizen is increased and not diminished by the collectivist change. In short there cannot admittedly be political equality, even if there is economic equality. Even if we have abolished aristocracy and plutocracy, there can still be bureaucracy; and perhaps a particularly bullying bureaucracy.” – New Witness, Dec. 23, 1921

“Socialism is not impossible. Only intolerable.” – G. K.’s Weekly, June 30, 1928

Mission Statement

The mission of Heart of the Matter is to be a communication tool for Sacred Heart Parish. It is our goal to inform, to instruct, to evangelize, and at times, to amuse readers. We rely on God’s grace and on the efforts of many volunteers to fulfill this mission. Heart of the Matter is published monthly by Sacred Heart Church, Columbia, MO.

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