



HOLY CROSS HERALD

Fr. Anthony Ernst, Pastor
Fr. Sudhakar Bhastati, Parochial Vicar

Date August 2015

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Dear Friends,

I hope all of you have enjoyed the summer. It's time to get back to school! The Catholic School's Office always has a theme for the new school year. This year's theme is, **Christ, the Cornerstone of Catholic Schools**. This reminds us that Christ is the reason for our schools. We are very blessed to have Catholic schools in each of our three parishes. All three of our schools are experiencing growth in numbers this year, which means the future is bright in our parishes.

Several weeks ago I was asked to give a presentation to the principals of the Catholic schools in our diocese. My main topic was centered on the theme of the year – Christ, the Cornerstone. We reflected on the great blessing of having Catholic schools and how fortunate we are to share our faith in the classroom each day. The principals shared different ways in which their schools can transmit the faith to our young people. As we discussed this, the conversation kept going back to the importance of our families. While we all agree that Catholic schools are a huge part of our parishes, the first and most important “schools” are the homes of our children.

Let me share something really interesting I recently read. There was a study done which attempted to identify the leading factors why teens continue the practice of the faith into their adult life. The study listed about twenty factors. Look at the top four:

- #4 regularly praying together as a family;**
- #3 engaging in acts of service together as a family;**
- #2 children speaking with their fathers about faith and values; and**
- #1 children speaking with their mothers about faith and values.**



Isn't that interesting. The top four factors that most effectively contribute to children being formed in the faith and remaining in the faith have to do with family life. This is why our Church has always and will always teach that parents are first and foremost in shaping their children's faith lives. So, as important as our Catholic schools and Religious Education programs are, our parents and our family lives are most critical when it comes to being formed in the faith. May we never forget this or take for granted the significance of our families. I challenge all of our families to consider if they are meeting those top four criteria. We all want our children to grow up and become faithful Christians to transform this world. The most effective way to do this is clear – make Christ the Cornerstone of your home and family.

As we begin this new academic year, please join me in praying for all those who are involved in the education and formation of our youth, especially all parents, that they will be great teachers and models by the way in which they live their lives. May this truly be a blessed year filled with God's grace and peace.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family...pray for us. God Bless,

Fr. Tony

PARISH OFFICE NEWS

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest Holy Cross members. If you get the chance to greet these people at church, use the opportunity to show them true Christian fellowship, and tell them how much we appreciate them coming into our church family.

✠ **Bobbie and Marilyn (Kiesel) Sokeland**

✠ **Cale and Katherine Russler. They have 3 children, Kayla, Kinsey and Pete.**

✠ **Jacqueline (Weber) Lamey**

✠ **Scott & Angie Reavis**

✠ **William & Amanda Moore. They have 2 children, Killian & Ariaenna .**

MASS INTENTION POLICY

According to Church (Canon) Law, each Mass is to be offered for a **single** intention. A single intention may include the following:

- Husband & Wife
- Parent & Child
- An Individual intention for the family such as "The (name) Family" if you have multiple deceased family members
- An individual organization such as "Deceased Members of Knights of St. John"

We must limit to 3 intentions per year (one weekend & 2 weekday). We can send extra Mass intentions to other parishes, retired priests, or to missions. Monetary donations received at funerals—We can retain up to 10 Mass intentions at our parish.

Additional money received for Masses can either be kept by the family for future intentions or sent away to other priests as listed above.

Any donations received at funerals that are NOT designated for Masses can be applied as a memorial gift to the parish.

WEBSITES

We are working hard to keep the Parish and School websites current and informative. If you have any information you want to see on the website, contact Peg Hall at hallfamily@ieee.org

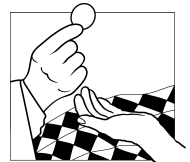
Our website pages are:

Parish: www.holycrossparish.info

School: www.holycrossparish.info/holy-cross-school

HOME COMMUNION

Eucharistic Ministers take Communion to the homebound on Friday mornings. If you have had a recent surgery, a hospital stay, or are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office by Thursday afternoon.



SAVE THE DATES FOR CHICKEN DINNERS

October 4

February 7

March 6

April 3

Please keep these dates in mind and be ready to help with these great moneymakers for our parish!

BAPTISM PREP CLASS

All first time parents must attend a Baptismal Class prior to their baby being baptized. Godparents are welcome to attend also. You are encouraged to attend this class before the baby is born. Next class dates will be on September 14, 2015, & December 14, 2015.



Prayer Chain—Please Pray for the Sick & Suffering

To add someone to the prayer chain, please contact Phyllis Schmits at 753-3858 or call the parish Office at 753-3548. Please contact the parish office at 753-3548 if you or a family member is admitted to the hospital or nursing home, or if you would like to receive the anointing of the sick so that we may notify Fr. Tony or Fr. Sudhakar

SOME THOUGHTS BY FR. Sudhakar

SUCCESS AND FAILURE

Time just keeps going; it doesn't wait for anyone. While we are enjoying the achievements of last scholastic year through the summer, the time for new scholastic year is already at hand. Parents are in hurry to prepare children to send to schools and in turn children are also getting ready to go to school. I just asked a few children, "Are you ready to come to school?" The answers were: not really, kind of, we want few more holidays, no-not at all. Then I just told them ask Fr. Tony to extend the holidays. They just laughed. Anyhow, time doesn't wait for anyone. We need to do things on time. I thought it would be good to share some of my collections with you as you plan and set new goals for this scholastic year.



There is an old proverb, "Well began is half done." It was actually referred to as a proverb by Aristotle, who died 322 B.C. The mistake lies in the beginning; as the proverb says, 'Well begun is half done,' so an error at the beginning, though quite small, bears the same ratio to the errors in the other parts. In other words, if you do something well at the beginning, you are halfway to a successful completion. However, there is also Korean old saying that 'If you stop in the middle, it is no better than not doing it.' This does not give any meaning in beginning, but the meaning appear when we totally finish and reach the end. It says if we determined to attempt, we should be responsible till the end comes out. Thomas Edison tried two thousand different materials in search of a filament for the light bulb. When none worked satisfactorily, his assistant complained, "All our work is in vain. We have learned nothing." Thomas Edison replied very confidently, "Oh, we have come a long way and we have learned a lot. We now know that there are two thousand elements which we cannot use to make a good light bulb."

If you learn from your mistakes then you are intelligent. But if you learn from someone's mistakes, then you are a Genius. Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines practiced daily and failure is nothing more than a small few errors repeated daily.

How true the above lines are! Success or failure takes root in our minds. When we don't practice discipline in life, we don't build enough confidence to attempt new and challenging tasks which are important and matters in life. Our confidence depends on what we think of ourselves and whether we believe in ourselves. We are all born with exceptional qualities, but only a few really realize their true potentials and the others just lead an average life.

Success is a fruit which everyone wants to eat but it is not found everywhere and no one can achieve it without serious efforts. Those who want to succeed will find a way, those who don't will find an excuse! Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure. When you are successful your well-wishers know who you are? When you are unsuccessful you know who your well-wishers are?

If you don't take some risks, you won't get the chance to succeed. The more you try, the greater your chance of succeeding. Never get discouraged. Every wrong attempt is another step forward. People that make no mistakes usually don't make anything. Make up your mind not merely to overcome a thousand obstacles, but to win in spite of a thousand defeats. Your mistakes are stepping stones to success and your installment payments to victory. Also remember a ship is always safe at shore, but it is not built for it.

I wish you all the blessings of God! Fr. Sudhakar

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL NEWS

John Hollis, Principal

Welcome back to tradition-rich Holy Cross Catholic School for the 2015-16 school year!

As summer vacation begins to wind down, we begin to prepare for another wonderful school year. All of our staff is returning with the addition of a couple of changes. Mrs. Megan Campbell will be working as an aide at Holy Cross as well as our preschool teacher at the Crusader Academy. Mrs. Lisa Powers as our new cafeteria helper. We also want to welcome Mrs. Rebekah Holden as our new resource teacher. She is replacing Mrs. Erica Springer who was recently hired for a teaching position in Evansville. We thank Erica for her years of dedication to Holy Cross School!



I'm looking forward to seeing all the children on the first day of school. I always enjoy seeing all the excited faces, new shoes and backpacks, and watching the children participate in Mass.

SEMINARIANS & RELIGIOUS LIFE

As our seminarians and religious life continue to discern a religious vocation, they would certainly welcome your prayers and notes of encouragement. Notes of encouragement can be sent to:

JOHN PFISTER



John Pfister (Holy Cross)
St. Meinrad School of Theology
200 Hill Drive Street
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
jpfister@evdio.org

John will be returning to St. Meinrad in August for another year of formation. This summer has been busy for John as he completes his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) assignment at Deaconess. Please continue to pray for John as he continues his journey.

DEACON TYLER TENBARGE



Deacon Tyler Tenbarge
(Sts. Peter & Paul)
St. Meinrad School of Theology
200 Hill Drive Street
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
trtenbarga@evdio.org

This summer I was assigned to Resurrection Parish on Evansville's West Side. The first few weeks were largely spent hanging out with the K-8th grade kids at Resurrection School. It was a blast! The majority of the summer, I followed Father Phil Kreilein around, helping out with Masses, weddings, funerals and baptisms, and preaching homilies at the parish. My summer at Resurrection wrapped up in early August, and I'm headed back to Saint Meinrad for my final year of seminary formation before ordination June 11, 2016 at Saint Benedict Cathedral.....*Deacon Tyler*
Please continue to pray for Tyler as he continues his journey.

NOVICE JON BLAIZE

Novice Jon Blaize
(Sts. Peter & Paul)
St. Meinrad Archabbey
100 Hill Drive Street
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
jblaize@saintmeinrad.edu



Novice Jon reports that everything is still going very well for him during his novitiate year. He is enrolled in classes for the fall and is busy working, especially with music. Please continue to pray for Jon as he continues his journey.

SAVE THE DATES

April 9, 2016—Diaconate Ordination (John Pfister)
June 11, 2016—Priesthood Ordination (Deacon Tyler Tenbarge)

CANDIDATE BRIAN WARD

Brian has been in Stockbridge, MA this summer as he continued his postulancy formation period where he has been associated more closely with the Marian community, its work, prayer, and community lifestyle. This time has allowed Brian to become more acquainted with the Marian way of life.

Brian Ward (Holy Cross)
Marian Scholasticate
3885 Harewood Rd NE
Washington, DC 20017.



Brian will soon be heading to Washington DC to take the next step in his journey by becoming a Novice. His novitiate year is the most important stage of formation and he will be at the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, DC. During this year, the spiritual foundation is laid, upon which the rest of the novice's religious life as a Marian will be built. Please continue to pray for Brian as he continues his journey.

Pictured:
Brian Ward on August 14, 2014 entering the postulancy with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception during morning prayer at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA.



CHURCH RENOVATION RECAP By Steve Hall

Now that the Church Renovation project is complete, it is worthwhile to recap the entire project. Few people realize the extent of items that were accomplished in almost every aspect of the church building. The table below lists all the items that were completed.

The project is completely paid for thanks to the extreme generosity of Holy Cross Parishioners. Total cost of the project was \$314,177.80. \$301,802.07 was received from 173 Parishioner families (100% of all pledges were fully paid – amazing!); \$5,250 was received from non-Parishioners; Journeymen donated \$1000. Additionally, pew sales have brought in \$6,500, and there was a \$30 refund from Wal-Mart. Total income was \$314,582.07.

A huge THANK YOU to all parishioners who unselfishly donated countless hours of their time, their amazing talents, and financial resources to ensure a completely successful project!

Church Renovation Completed Tasks	
<u>Sacristies</u> Cabinets replaced and added new marble tops Ceiling tile replaced New ceiling installed in hallway behind altar	<u>Confessionals</u> Painted and new trim New kneelers Recovered chairs New lights
<u>Floors</u> All floors stripped and grinded to original state Waxed and buffed	<u>Lighting</u> New track lighting added All new LED bulbs added Directional lighting on altars
<u>Doors</u> All interior and exterior doors replaced Automatic opener on main entrance	<u>Sound System</u> 4 new speakers added New on/off switch in north sacristy
<u>Sanctuary</u> North sacristy wall filled in with new stone and door installed Sanctuary floor raised and terrazzo installed Marble Wall and trim installed behind sanctuary Back wall replaced with new wood Added new upholstered chairs	<u>Miscellaneous</u> Architectural fees New pews Scroll for crucifix Kneelers refinished at Divine Mercy statue New bookracks at west entrance doors Ambo mounted into new sanctuary floor Wood replaced above side altars and balcony
<u>Vestibule</u> New ceiling and lighting New cabinets	

ST. MARIA GORETTI YOUTH NEWS *By: Bryan Macke*

For this newsletter edition I'm going to focus on two events from this summer. Both capture this main point in our SMG mission statement: *"Spiritual, service and social events are offered to help the youth within our Catholic community strengthen their relationship with Christ and His Church."*



From July 1st thru the 3rd we put on our first retreat. It was a retreat for HS boys held on the tranquil grounds at St. Bernard. We had 10 boys attend, and many adult men that volunteered to share their time and love. It went so well that before it was over the boys were already planning to do it again next summer! To keep the retreat a special experience for those that attend, which is common for all retreats that I know of, I won't go into all the details about it. But I'd love to give you an idea of what took place, and how it affected these young men.

First, this was not a typical retreat, but the boys definitely "retreated" from their normal busy lives to spend time with the Lord and each other. Abe Kiesel, who attended the retreat said, "the retreat was a great little get away from the busy summer. We grew closer to God and each other while having a really good time." We tried to keep in mind to have a variety of spiritual, service and social activities throughout the retreat. We had a pretty jammed packed schedule full of crazy games, service projects for our local community, and spiritual exercises such as Mass, guest speakers, and faith sharing. We played "water volleyball," which is basically just a normal game of outdoor volleyball. The twist is that during the game there is an adult with a hose, spraying whoever is hitting the ball! It was quite refreshing with the hot sun beaming down. We grilled burgers and brats for both suppers (thank you Dewig Meats for your donation!) The boys made one breakfast on their own which was really good despite what some might think about teenage boys in the kitchen. We helped two local elderly folks with yard work, such as pulling weeds, putting down weed block and mulch. Right when we were about to be at the first house it started to pour down....for a second we considered waiting or going to an indoor job, but recalling this was a young "men's" retreat we decided to "man-up" and just go for it. If any neighbors saw us they probably thought we were nuts (which may not be completely incorrect). One of the best parts in my opinion was a bit of silent time set aside for introspection and just to be with the Lord (can't really say much more than that). Overall, it was a great 48 hours, comprehensive to our youth ministry's mission, filling these boys with good fun, good fellowship, and time to deepen their relationship with the Good Lord!

From July 12 – 17 a group of 14 youth and 6 adults journeyed to Toppa Joppa (literally on top of Joppa Mountain) in the impoverished region northeastern TN. We joined Glenmary Home Missioners in helping the people there with home repairs and to share in the love of God with each other! In the picture, Lindsey Field and Morgan Reed (left to right), helped install windows for a lady in extreme need of home repairs. Her home was without water plumbing, electric, and windows (yet with openings to the elements). It was truly a difficult situation to even imagine, especially here in America.



SMG YOUTH CONTINUED.....

Our entire group (adults included) gained a much deeper appreciation for the simple things in life. Every night we reflected on our experiences, and the recurring theme was appreciation of the little things. Not just indoor plumbing, windows and electricity, but also parents that love and support us, the value of home chores, reaching out to someone in need, etc. Other jobs included sealing a wood siding home and various types of work for a local children's group home called Kingswood (also a school). At Kingswood, we sorted a massive amount of donations, provided grounds keeping tasks, and took time to just get to know and share Christ's love with the youth that live there. On Kingswood's website it states: *"Kingswood is a place of healing. Needy, displaced, troubled and abandoned children come to Kingswood and find shelter. It provides children a Christian home-like environment where every effort is made to develop in each child a personal faith in God, in himself, and in his fellowman."* It was a powerful experience to be with the kids there. The darkness of this world and the light of Christ were both evident. I believe experiences like this help fan the flame of hope and love in our hearts, strengthening our wills to reach out to others and giving us purpose in our lives. There was a local college student volunteering there as well for the entire summer. At the end of the week, in a conversation with him, he told me that his dad was in rehab for the past year and a half for manufacturing, selling, and using drugs. He said that's why he was at Kingswood, to help kids that have gone through similar difficulties and troubled pasts. Ultimately, we were there for the same reason, to be witnesses of Christ's light to the world. *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world."* James 1:27

Our mission to Toppa Joppa was an awesome experience for our youth, and for our adult volunteers. (pictured is the group of young adults) This would not have been possible without your help! Thank you all so much that supported us with your gifts of prayer and donations. I truly believe lives were changed, both the people we served and our group of volunteers. (pictured all the young adults that attended the mission trip with a view of the Smokey Mountains)



- Watch the bulletin for details on upcoming events. And as always, if you would like to be a part of any youth programs/events I would be very happy to chat and work with you! Contact Bryan at 664-7992 or bmacke@evdio.org.
- **Upcoming Events:**
- All are welcome! Watch the bulletin for upcoming events or check out the following:
- Join our Facebook group: "St. Maria Goretti Catholic Youth Ministry"
- website: smgyouth.com

EVANGELIZATION By Wanda Englert

“Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.” 1 Peter 3:15

The New Evangelization calls each of us to believe and proclaim the good news of the gospel. And what is that core good news? It is the “Truth” that Jesus Christ is alive and has risen from the dead! His death and resurrection has conquered sin and death bringing salvation to all people. This gift of salvation is free and need not be earned, but simply by having faith in Jesus Christ.

As Evangelizers of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are to live as Christ calls us to live, which is to love one another. To do this well, we need to be able to give witness of our personal experiences of the presence of Christ in our own lives. We must be open to our own call of conversion and conviction as Catholics.

We all have gifts which are meant to be used in service to our community as Evangelizers. So, how can we have confidence as Evangelizers? There are many resources available to help you grow in your Catholic faith. Below is a list of books for anyone who has common questions about the Catholic Church.

1. The Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. Compendium of the Catechism
3. Where is That in the Bible? – Patrick Madrid
4. Where is That in Tradition? – Patrick Madrid
5. Surprised by Truth – Patrick Madrid
6. Catholicism: Now I Get It! – Claire Furia Smith
7. Rediscovering Catholicism – Matthew Kelly
8. Catholicism for Dummies – Fr. John Trigilio

These books can be purchased at most Catholic book stores like the Cornerstone Gift Shop in Evansville, The Abby Press Book Store in St. Meinrad or on line from many reputable Catholic web-sites such as Ignatius Press www.ignatius.com or EWTN catalog www.ewtnreligiouscatalog.com

There are also many CD's in the vestibule of our Church that are wonderful for those long commutes, if you do not like to read.

Evangelization must start with each and every person strengthening their own faith in Jesus Christ and sharing the love of Christ to anyone seeking the truth with confidence.



STEWARDSHIP By Stepahine Stoll

The gifts of our time, talent and treasure are precious resources, not created by us, but given to us by our loving Father, who asks us as stewards to use them wisely and generously in bringing others to Him. Sharing a portion of our time, talent and treasure is a way to share Jesus Christ, our ultimate gift, with those who do not know Him. (The Call to Stewardship – CDOW)

Stewardship of time – Giving Time to God – investing in our prayer life:

God has given each of us the gift of time – 24 hours in a day, 168 hours in a week, 730 hours in a month and 8,760 hours in a year. How are we using this time to serve God?

Are we maintaining a proper balance of time for God, family, work, church and self?

Have you considered that our use of our time should be to refresh ourselves so that we are able to serve better?

It is good to periodically ask ourselves the question, “How is this use of time helping me grow holy?”

Spend 10 minutes in prayer, read daily readings (USCCB), learn about the saints.

Stewardship of talent-*Sharing our Talent-* participating in the life of our parish and community:

When we hear talent we usually think about the talents that we have to share. Have you considered that good stewards also cultivate the talents of others? Sometimes it takes a personal invitation.

Before we can share our talents we must recognize and receive them.

Ask the Lord which of the talents he has given you and how does he want you to use them today.

Stewardship of treasure – *Offering our Treasure* - is a faith response:

A gift from the heart. It is out of our need to give not giving to a need.

All of us have different levels of material resources, but we are called to return in thanksgiving a proportionate gift, each in a measure we have been blessed with.

Donate a dish to the Bereavement team, make a meal for someone in need, buy Scrip cards, donate clothes or other materials to a worthy person or cause.

From the Office of Stewardship Catholic Diocese of Wichita

RCIA

Please continue making your invitations to the inquiry sessions. The start-date has been changed to August 23 at 6 pm. These sessions are informal and for anyone interested in joining or just learning more about Catholicism. If you have questions or wish to attend, please call Monica Weber at 812-753-4833 or the Parish office at 812-753-3548.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION By: Larua Goedde

Religious Education Classes -Faith formation is a life-long activity. In Baptizing your child into the Catholic Faith, you accept the responsibility of bringing your child up in the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. Please join us as we come together to help strengthen the faith of your children.

Parents are invited to the opening of classes on September 2 at 6:30 p.m. We will begin with prayer & a short video. Show your children that you support them and encourage them by beginning the Religious Ed school year with them. We will then have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Students will spend a short time before the Blessed Sacrament and then dismiss to their classes. Parents are encouraged to stay for Adoration until it is time for the students to be released at 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Rosary -The rosary will be prayed beginning at 6:15 on Wednesday evenings before Religious Ed classes each week. Parents and parishioners are invited to join us for this time of prayer.

Sign-up -It's not too late to sign up for Preschool & K-12 Religious Education Classes.

Please go to one of the parish websites for registration forms: www.holycrossparish.info or www.stspeterandpaul.net or contact the parish office. Classes begin Sept. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sts. Peter & Paul campus. Pre-school classes begin Sept. 20.

Catechists - We are still looking for Sunday morning pre-school teachers. If you would like to help during the 8:45 Mass at Holy Cross or the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul, please call us.

Catechetical Sunday will be held on September 20 at the 8:45 Mass at Holy Cross, and at 10:30 a.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul. All catechists are invited to join us for a blessing for the Religious Ed year.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process designed to form and inform inquirers who fall into three categories:

1. The un-baptized person
2. The person baptized into a faith tradition other than Catholic
3. The baptized Catholic who was neither confirmed nor reared as a Catholic.

The climax of the process comes when those who choose to do so are confirmed and baptized (if necessary) in the Catholic Church.

Each inquirer chooses a sponsor. This sponsor is not to be confused with a baptismal or confirmation sponsor. The RCIA sponsor is a practicing Catholic, usually a member of this parish, who goes through the sessions and rites (ceremonies) of the process with the inquirer, serving as a friend and mentor.

The RCIA is not a program or a class, but a sacramental formation process that prepares individuals and communities for a particular way of life as Catholic Christians. Conversion is at the heart of that way of life. Conversion is a turning around, an about-face; it is the change that happens when we allow God to love us enough that God reforms us.

Conversion is a continuing process throughout our lives. If you know of someone who would like to join the church or is just wanting to know more about their Catholic Faith, please have them contact our office for more information. We are all called to Evangelize, is there someone that is waiting for that personal invitation...maybe your personal invitation?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION continued....

The Cursillo Movement, approaches evangelization as a very natural act of being Christlike within each of our daily activities. While most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult. The Cursillo Movement provides a method and a technique to provide each of us with the tools, the mentality, the strength, and the support to make this natural type of evangelization possible. The Cursillo Movement can assist each of us in developing a deeper understanding of what it means to be fully Catholic by being fully Christian. If you'd like to make a Cursillo or be a sponsor, please contact Laura Goedde at 812-768-6457 or go to www.evansvillecursillo.com for more information. Dates for upcoming Cursillos are: Mens' weekend – October 8-11 and Women's – November 5-8.

Laura Goedde, CRE lgoedde@evdio.org
 Stephanie Stoll, Asst. to CRE [sstoll@evdio.org](mailto:ssstoll@evdio.org)
 Liz Hirsch, Sacramental Coordinator

Mark your Calendars

August 30 – Celebration of Unity at St. James – Mass at 3 p.m. followed by dinner/speaker
 September 2 – K-12 Religious Ed Classes Begin at 6:30 p.m.
 September 13 – Catholic Scripture Study Kick-off meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Sts. P & P Cafeteria
 September 14 – Baptism class – Holy Cross at 6:30 p.m.
 September 20- Preschool Religious Ed Classes Begin
 September 20 - Catechetical Sunday - HC at 8:45 a.m. and Sts. P & P at 10:30 a.m.
 We are here to help you in any way we can to ensure that you and your children receive the formation you need to grow in their faith. We invite parents to become an active part of their children's Catholic formation by volunteering or just coming by to visit the classes. Enroll in the adult formation classes and be that model for your children to encourage their continued growth and deepen your spiritual life too!

ENDOWMENTS UPDATE

2015 Distribution Made available to Holy Cross parish. Holy Cross Parish has several permanent endowments in place to serve the current and long-term needs of our parish. This year, \$26,478 has been made available in total distributions from these endowments.

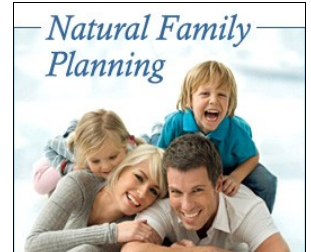
ENDOWMENT NAME	12/31/2014 BALANCE	AVAILABLE DISTRIBUTION	12/31/2013 BALANCE
HC Rel. Education	\$75,263	\$3,003	\$69,590
HC School(Karen Georges)	153,610	6,313	148,759
HC Holy Name Society/Athletics	25,453	976	22,053
HC School Transportation Fund	10,655	434	10,012
Jay Burger Memorial	119,248	4,882	114,787
Dr. Michael & DeAnn Green Fund	11,000	414	9,280
HC Parish	232,206	9,427	216,874
Fr. Tony Ernst Vocational Scholarship	20,356	774	18,009
Andrea Kay Bullock Memorial	7,024	255	5,380

Anyone can add to an existing endowment at any time and in any amount. For more info, contact Catholic Foundation at 424-553!

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Lori and I have decided to let couples share their experiences with NFP. We feel this is a powerful way to promote the Church's teachings. Each quarter we will share a couple's story. If you are willing to give your witness, please contact us. Thank you for your witness! The following is submitted by Emily and Chris Cooper.

I still remember the tears of joy that rolled down my face on the day of our wedding as my husband, Christopher, and I stated our vows to one another. One of the things that we said "I will" to was the question, "Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?" One of the reasons this particular vow really meant a lot to me was that I knew that night when my husband and I made love for the first time, we were going to be in our peak fertile time of the month and there was a chance we may get pregnant.



During the months leading up to our wedding, we had spent time in marriage preparation learning about Natural Family Planning. It didn't take too long for us to decide this was the family planning method we were going to use. We realized that if this was the family planning method that the Church supported, then we knew it was the one that would bring us the most happiness, help foster the strongest marriage possible, and lead to the most fulfilling sex life.

When our wedding was a few weeks away, I was getting very comfortable charting my fertility signs. Then one night I decided to project out toward our wedding night and see what part of our fertility cycle we would be in. I was a bit shocked when I realized my peak fertile time would start on the day of our wedding and last a good portion of the honeymoon! Christopher and I then realized we were going to have to make the decision whether we were going to be open to life on the night of our wedding or postpone uniting together for a few days. We prayed about it in adoration together. Later on that evening, Christopher told me that he felt like God was telling him, "Trust in Me! How much more obvious of a sign do you want me to give you?!"

I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders knowing that we were going to put our fertility in God's hands on our wedding night. It turns out, it was not in God's plan for us to conceive a child that month, but we remained open to life and Conceived a few months later and now have a beautiful 8 month old daughter. That discernment leading up to our wedding prepared us for the lifetime of discernment that we will get to do as a couple every month when we will have to take to prayer whether God is calling us to be open to life that month or not.



We encourage you to pray as a couple about whether God is calling you to use Natural Family Planning in your marriage. It is one of the many great treasures of the Catholic Church! Get started today by emailing Terri Ziliak, tziliak@evdio.org, or Lori Spindler, lspindler3360@gmail.com or visit nfp@uscbb.org to learn more about Natural Family Planning. God Bless!

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE By: Ann Minnis

THANK YOU to our Outreach Committee for a donation for Pro-Life work.

To our many parishioners who helped staff the Right to Life booths at the Sommerfest & Fair; entered babies in the "Beautiful Baby Contests"; drove RTL floats in the Fort Branch & Sommerfest Parades, appeared in the Mother's Day & Father's Day Ads; and supported respect-life efforts in so many ways!.

To the editor of the South Gibson Star-Times, Alden Heuring, for the beautiful feature story on Jerry and Martha Schmitt. And to Tess Rumble who attended the National Right to Life Convention in New Orleans in July.

COMING EVENTS:

Sept. 18 and 19—GOLDEN HERITAGE FESTIVAL —on Princeton Sq. Call Beth Hauger 386-1237 to volunteer at booth.

October 4, Sun., 12:30 – LIFE CHAIN – Come to Lloyd and Green River Rd for rally and materials.

October 8, Thurs., -- RESPECT LIFE CELEBRATION—5:30pm Mass at Nativity Catholic Church with Bishop Thompson. Registration required for Catered Dinner. There is no cost; however, suggested offering is \$10/person. Keynote address (on human trafficking and immigration) by Archbishop Wenski of Miami. Call Ann Minnis 768-6768 to register or for more information. See the flier on our bulletin board at church.

?Oct. 7-- "40 DAYS FOR LIFE"—Sts. Peter and Paul's tentative date. Look for sign-up sheet in back of church late in Sept. Please volunteer to walk for an hour to pray at the pro-abortion Planned Parenthood Clinic at Evansville. You may call Mary Jane Thompson 453-9943 for more information. The "40 Days for Life" extends from **Sept. 23—Nov. 1. Internationally, 40 Days For Life** has succeeded in shutting down **60 abortion facilities**, has saved at least **10,331 babies**, **118 abortion workers** have quit their jobs and walked away from the abortion industry, and thousands of women have been spared the suffering and trauma that comes with the decision to abort one's own child. Linda Sept. 30?

Oct. 17, Sat, 9:00—10:00am —"CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENTS" —(rain date: Oct. 24) We will need individuals and groups—especially strong young workers-- to erect the crosses at Sly Elpers' field at Hwy 41 and I-64. Call Jim Helfrich 768-6313 or Joe Goedde 768-6537 for details. Watch the bulletin for further details or changes.

Nov. 3, Tues., 4:00—6:30—SOUP SUPPER to benefit Right to Life of Gibson County—sponsored by Sts. Peter & Paul Pro-Life Committee in cafeteria. Chicken noodle & chili soups plus desserts. Everybody come! Yum!

Right of Life Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 at 7:30 pm at 115 N. Vine, Haubstadt at Ann Minnis's home.

?!What is all this about Planned Parenthood, abortion, and their sale of body parts?!

Planned Parenthood gets over \$500 million a year from taxpayers. They shouldn't get one more dime. The organization has been caught: • covering up [statutory rape](#), • [double-billing](#) taxpayers, • aiding and abetting [sex traffickers](#), • scheduling [sex-selective abortions](#), • and accepting money to [abort African American](#) children.

And now they have been caught [selling off the body parts of aborted babies piece by piece](#). In the last few weeks, at least 4 videos have been released showing a top Planned Parenthood doctor arranging for the sale of body parts from unborn babies Planned Parenthood killed in abortions; another Planned Parenthood doctor caught talking about how she wanted to sell so many aborted babies that she could afford to buy her own Lamborghini; yet another P.P. abortionist caught arranging for the sale of aborted baby body parts as she and another staffer picked through the parts of a baby victimized by an abortion. Planned Parenthood must be held accountable for its callous disregard of the worth and dignity of human life!

P.P. is exploiting women, lying to women about what happens to their babies when they "donate for research" the remains of their children. The videos and the words from P.P. representatives reveal that they crush above and below the desired fetal organs or even allow the birth of intact babies to allow their sale! We know unborn babies can feel pain at least by 20 weeks. What they are doing is horrible, regardless of the age of the unborn baby. A civilized society cannot tolerate this behavior and flaunting of the law. Call & write your Senators & Congressman and State Representatives to Vote to defund Planned Parenthood! See LifeNews.com; sba-list.org; nchla.org, and usccb.org for more information.

***Cardinal Sean O'Malley (archbishop of Boston and chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), "Planned Parenthood's Work Reflects 'Throwaway Culture' Decried by Pope Francis."**

Holy Cross Catholic Church
305 E. Walnut Street
Fort Branch, IN 47648

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Celebration of Unity RSVP Form

Please mail, drop in collection basket, bring to church office, or email to lgoedde@evdio.org by Aug 23, 2015

Name _____ Number of Adults _____

Number of Children _____ Ages: _____

Will your children attend babysitting during the talks? _____

Sign-up sheets for desserts will be in the back of church 2 weeks prior to the event if you would like to donate.

The “Celebration of Unity” will be held at St. James beginning with Mass at 3 p.m. on August 30.

Please remember to turn your reservation in as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you there!