PAXCHRISTINEWS Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie April 2018

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FOR CREATION

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. -Gerard Manley Hopkins

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses. Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am

Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow

Wednesdays 6:00pm Thursdays 8:30am Fridays 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 3:30-4:30pm (Lent)

Mission Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community, in company with God, and guided by the Spirit of Vatican II, welcomes all as leaders in faith for service to the world.

Vision Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community will be a community guided by a cooperative spirit that supports growth in faith and calls for each member to engage in active and generous service to each other, our community and the greater world.

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Before I Forget by Fr. Bill Murtaugh

Fran Heitzman and Bridging





















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BEFORE IFORGET...



Fr. Bill Murtaugh Pastor

THE FUTURE BELONGS

TO THOSE WHO GIVE THE

NEXT GENERATION HOPE.

TEILHARD DE CHARDIN

we are hearing it for the first time or we have heard it all

OUR CHRISTIAN faith is not a series of propositions or a body of knowledge to be assimilated. Christianity is not learned the same way as calculus or Shakespeare's plays might be learned in an academic course. It can be misleading even to speak of learning "the basics" of the Christian faith, because it is not a subject matter to be mastered as much as a story to be told and a life to be lived. First we hear the story and then we are invited to take our part in the story.

It's an old story. It is the strange and awe-inspiring story of God's interaction with the world we live in. This story may not be new, but it renews us and gives us hope in 2018, whether

> If the story of God's dealings with the world were a story that had been followed from the very beginning, then naturally it begin with creation. But this is not the case. people who wrote the creation stories were not eyewitnesses. In fact, the creation accounts were not even the first parts of the Bible to be written. No one was assigned to cover the story of creation until after the people of Israel had witnessed the

before. So we do not tire of it

any more than we can tire of

the words, "I love you," which,

of course, is just the message

that this story brings. Every

Sunday we read from this story

and reflect on how we fit into it.

We can be grateful that we have

the best story around, a story

that is both worthy of our trust

Where does the story begin? We

might assume that any telling

of the Christian story would

begin with the creation of the

world. After all, the first words

of the Bible are devoted to

accounts of creation, and many

of the creeds of Christianity

begin with affirmations about

God as Creator. What better

place to begin?

and is endlessly interesting.

astonishing ways in which God had dealt with them.

The Hebrews' initial convictions about God were not the result of philosophical musings about the origin of the universe. Rather, their faith came from their encounters with God later in their history. **The story begins** where God called the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and entered an everlasting covenant with them. Only then did the people of the story begin to ask what this mighty and mysterious God was up to before the Exodus.

Only after experiencing and telling the remarkable story of God's covenant with God's people was their imagination drawn to the creation of the world. By the time Genesis was written, the stories had already been told for generations throughout the countries of the Middle East. Not only that, there are two distinct stories of creation in Genesis. Even a quick reading of Genesis 1:1-2:3, and Genesis 2:4-24 reveals the difference. The first account has God creating in six days, while the second account made the heavens and earth in one day of extravagant activity. It is interesting to note that the first account's progression is strikingly similar to the order found in evolution, while the second account is far less sophisticated and probably represents an earlier tradition. Adam and Eve do not appear in the first account.

Two distinct stories of creation found back to back. If these stories were intended to be read as history, as is sometimes argued, this would certainly not be the case. The reason the compilers of Genesis were not troubled by the contradictions of the two creation stories is that they did not mean for them to be read as history. The writers were interested in other matters: they were most interested in "who" was active in creation and what that says about us.

Both creation stories agree that God is the "who" behind creation. The world and everything in and beyond it are not the result of a random series of events. Rather, they are the creation of a loving God who was active from the beginning and is at work still. Like any great work of art, we believe that the world is a reflection of its Creator. And despite the cruelties of nature and the occasional cruelties of humankind, God declares this creation good.

The implications that flow from these affirmations are many and powerful. We are not the masters of our fate—the captains of our souls—as much as we might like to believe. Instead, we are mere creatures, radically dependent

on the Creator God at every turn. If the Creator would ever stop creating, the creation would also end. To say that God created us is to affirm that we are not gods ourselves. If we are to discover how to order our lives, we must look beyond ourselves. We may have power to end life, but God has the authority to do so. We may think of ourselves as masters of creation, but we are mere stewards who are accountable to God.

If everything that exists came to be by mere chance, we must be content to have our lives tossed about by similarly purposeless winds. But if everything we are and everything we see is a part of a good creator, then we must work for good in the world in partnership with the One who created it and declared it good. The order and purpose of the universe may sometimes be hidden or temporarily thwarted, but we cannot give up on creation, even that part of creation we think of as ourselves, because the Creator of it all has not given up.

Pope Francis has made the health of the environment, God's creation, a priority. As we find our place in "the story," are we concerned about God's creation? As Pope Francis writes in *On Care for Our Common Home*: "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is **NOT** an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian existence."

Is God, is nature, trying to get our attention? As Teilhard de Chardin wrote: "The future belongs to those who give the next generation hope." We honor and respect God as we care for creation.

Enjoy the beauty of spring.







FRAN WAS RECYCLING WAS COOL!

FRAN HEITZMAN'S roots at Pax Christi run deep. One could say that they're even deeper than the roots of the four ash trees that Fran planted on the west side of the church years ago. Fran, who at one time owned a landscaping business, heard that a local bank had four ash trees they were going to rip out. Because he just couldn't see those trees go to waste, Fran asked the bank if he could have them, went ahead and removed the trees, and planted them on Pax Christi's grounds. People who know Fran know that this is how he operates: He sees that someone has something that they don't want anymore, he gives it to someone who does, and he just does it because it makes sense.

Although Fran has been with Pax Christi from its very beginnings, there may be a few people who haven't heard of him. If you're a parishioner who hasn't heard of Fran, maybe you've heard about Bridging—the organization he started. Or, if you listen to local radio, you've maybe heard an advertisement for one of the organization's more prominent fundraising events—Bedrace for Bridging. Bridging has successfully served 90,000 Twin Cities households by providing everything a family needs to transition them from homelessness to a home. And, it all started with Fran at Pax Christi.

When Fran says that he has been with Pax Christi from the beginning, he truly means the beginning. The Bobcat from his landscape business was used to move the stone that is part of the church. He remembers well those initial phases of the church's construction, and recalls the time when a couple of contractors from out of town

were working on the interior of the church. It was the middle of winter, and Fran found out that the men planned to spend the night sleeping on the church floor. Fran thought the men should sleep in a bed, and so he opened his home to the men. The men not only had a bed to sleep in for a few nights, but also hot meals, and even lunches to take with them in the morning. Fran and his wife Jeanne wanted the men to be comfortable and have what they needed so they could successfully do their jobs the next day. Years later, Fran would apply a similar philosophy at Bridging. Bridging gives each family every household item that they need to comfortably get started, successfully run a household, and do it with dignity. Bridging is not just beds, it's also linens, sofas, lamps, kitchen tables, chairs, dishes, utensils, and even small electrical appliances. Bridging will even move these items for the family if that's what they need.

Before starting Bridging, Fran was a business person and entrepreneur, and early in his career ran a dry-cleaning business and then a landscape business. In the 1980s he worked part-time as Pax Christi's custodian. He remembers those years of employment at Pax Christi very fondly and says that those were some of the best years of his life. His fondness for Pax Christi is reflected in the mementos that he keeps, including a program for the church's 1985 dedication of the Shrine of St. Francis that Fran built. He also keeps a birthday card and Thanksgiving Day card from Pax Christi's first pastor, Father Tim Power. The birthday card still makes Fran laugh, and in the Thanksgiving Day card, Father Tim acknowledges Fran's work and influence at the church.

While Father Tim welcomed Fran's many contributions to the Pax Christi community, he foresaw the logistical challenge of Fran's budding ministry which involved distributing unwanted household items. It started when a Pax Christi parishioner wanted to give a crib to the church's nursery. Fran told her that the nursery wasn't in need of a crib, but that he would find a home for it. Fran reached out to a social service agency to find a place for the crib and that was it; if he could find a home for a crib, he could find a home for other unwanted items. Fran's idea started to take root—if some people have things that they don't need, why not give them to people who do? Initially Fran used Pax Christi as a temporary resting point for some of the items. After Father Tim saw the church's interior becoming crowded with the many items, Father Tim realized that Fran's new ministry was too big and too important to stay within the confines of Pax Christi. Thanks to Fr. Tim, he saw it was time to take this ministry to the next level outside of Pax Christi, expand the outreach to serve those in need throughout the Twin Cities, and in 1987 Bridging found a new home and began to build for the future.

When Fran started this endeavor, he didn't realize what he was doing was a ministry—or even what a ministry was—until a fellow parishioner used the term to describe what Fran was doing. So how does a church ministry grow into a not-for-profit with 31 employees, 6,000 volunteers, and two locations that annually serves thousands? Is it leadership? When asked if he had always been a leader, Fran modestly shrugged his shoulders and said, "I always just sort of saw what needed to be done and did it." He had experience as a business person, which he thinks helped him get Bridging started, but attributes a great deal of Bridging's success to his willingness to ask for things. Fran says, "If you don't ask, you don't get." Diana Dalsin, Bridging's Manager of Community Relations, whole-heartedly agrees. Diana says that while the Twin Cities isn't the poorest community, Bridging is able to help an unusually large number of people because of the generosity of community members including corporations, individuals, and other non-profits. They attribute their success to collaborating with a large number of corporations and partner organizations like Pax Christi Catholic Community. Recognizing how successful Bridging is at its mission, these partners are motivated to work hand-in-hand to ensure Bridging's continued success.

When asked if he had any advice for others starting a ministry, Fran said, "Don't try to do too much." He said that focusing on a very specific need is best because it keeps it simple and you're more likely to be successful. Even though there were a few bumps along the way, Fran was never afraid of failure. He felt there was no point in being afraid, saying, "Because God won't let it fail." At age 93, Fran goes to work each day because he loves hearing the stories of the people he helps, and the people that they in turn help. Fran said, "It's like a rock being thrown in the water—it creates ripples." The people helped by Bridging go on to do great things and positively influence the lives of others. And when asked if Fran had any other message for his fellow-parishioners, it was this:









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BRIDGING

WE FURNISH HOMES WITH HOPE

WHAT BRIDGING DOES

Bridging partners with 150 agencies across the Twin Cities seven-county area to provide individuals and families with everything they need to start a household. The Bridging website outlines how each year, qualified agencies refer nearly 4,500 families with severely limited resources to Bridging. The agencies range from county assistance programs, faith-based organizations, shelters, emergency assistance, mental health services, veteran and disability programs, and immigrant/refugee services. Because the families are already screened, Bridging can focus on their sole mission—to improve lives by providing quality furniture and household goods to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. Referring agencies determine the household needs and schedule the appointment.

Bridging collaborates with organizations on the giving side as well. Pax Christi Catholic Community is one of many organizations that participates in special drives and events to collect household items or raise money for daily operations. Bridging also uses outreach programs to educate partner organizations on how Bridging serves families. In addition to offering warehouse tours so that others can see Bridging in action, they will also go off-site to speak at partner events, or will attend local community or volunteer fairs.



Written by Karin Poellinger, Pax Christi Staff Writer and Technical Editor



GIVE US YOUR STUFF!

On average, the value donated to each family for an essential home set up equals \$1,800 in thrift store valued merchandise. Annually, this amounts to \$6.9 million in household goods, or about 14 semi-loads per week. This means Bridging needs a lot of stuff—your stuff. Donations are always needed and it's not unusual for inventories of items to run low, especially in the winter months.

Because Bridging wants every client's experience to be dignified from the moment they arrive at the warehouse to the moment their home is furnished with hope, here are some things to keep in mind if you want to donate:

- Bridging accepts gently used and new items, free of rips, stains, and/or pet hair.
- All items must be clean, fully functioning, and in good working condition.
- Out of respect for the dignity of their clients, they reserve the right to refuse items that do not meet their quality standard.



READY TO DONATE?

Bridging accepts items at both their Bloomington and Roseville warehouses.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00am – 6:00pm

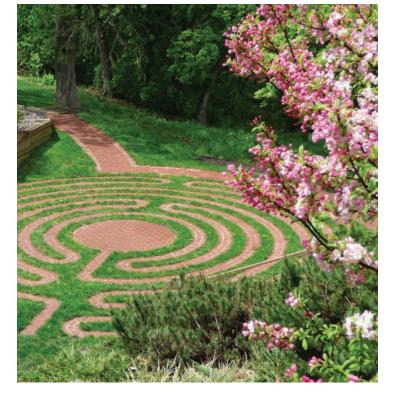
Friday – Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Sunday: Closed

For those interested, there's also a fee-based pickup service that can be scheduled through their website. This service is especially handy for larger items. When you donate, you're not just helping families in need, you're also being a good steward of the Earth. Bridging saves over 10 million pounds from the landfill each year.

Visit the Bridging website at www.bridging.org. There you'll find more information about donations, volunteering, and best of all, stories of hope.





CARING FOR CREATION

IN 2015, Pope Francis wrote his encyclical entitled: *Laudato Si, On Care for our Common Home.*

In reading *Laudato Si*, I realized that climate change isn't just about science, it's also about our personal value and religious beliefs.

Pope Francis reminds us that we have an obligation to the poor and future generations when he says, "twenty percent of the world's population consumes resources at a rate that robs the poor and our future generations of what they need to survive."

Caring for our common home involves everything around us, not just the weather. It also includes animals, plants, and our brothers and sisters all over our planet.

There are positive signs that people and businesses are paying attention and doing their part to protect our common home. They are making substantial pledges to improve the environment, and organizations are tracking their progress.

DID YOU KNOW?...

- Wind power in Texas has helped produce record breaking amounts of energy for their state.
- The International Energy Agency recently announced that by 2020, 26 percent of the world's energy will be generated by renewable sources, and renewables will overtake the use of coal by 2030.
- In a cost saving move, a Kentucky coal mine museum has gone solar.

This is all great news!

Pax Christi is doing its part in protecting our common home and caring for creation. Here are a few of the changes of which we can be proud: Over 300 lights throughout the building have been converted to LED. The HVAC system has been upgraded which means that our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning provide us with a thermal comfort system. We have also installed an energy managing system. A solar garden is in the works. We host zero-waste events with organic composting.

Not only are we making improvements inside our Church, we continue to improve our campus. We have added two beehives, pollinator wildflower gardens and, with the help of the Girl Scouts, bat houses were added to our landscape. We also host yearly cleanups for removal of buckthorn and other invasive plants.

Near the St. Francis Shrine we worked on erosion control to remove silt and pollution from surface water runoff. We've added nomow grass and are also reducing the amount of salt usage in snow conditions.

Here are a few ideas you might want to consider in your own home to help protect our common home:

- Be consistent with recycling in your home.
- Forget plastic water bottles and get yourself a reusable water bottle.
- When planting a garden, stay away from neonicotinoids and pesticide treatments. If you are near water, keep grass clippings and fertilizers out of it.

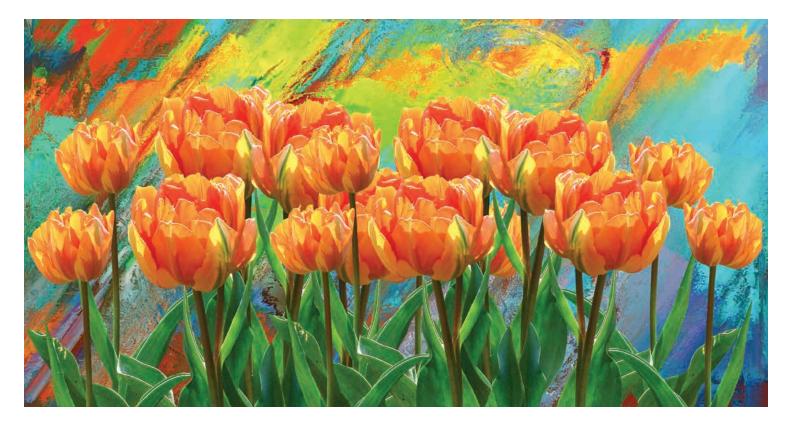
You may also be interested in joining our Environmental Challenge Ministry. It meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

If you want to learn about programs at Pax Christi or programs happening in the area, check out the Environmental Challenge Ministry on Flocknote.

April 22 is Earth Day. GET OUTSIDE AND CELEBRATE!

Written by Peg Musegades, Pax Christi Environmental Challenge Ministry

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PRAISED BE YOU, MY LORD!

A SPRING GARDEN BLESSING

BELIEVE it or not, it's almost that time of year when we will start preparing our gardens to grow fruits, vegetables, flowers, and (whether we like it or not) even weeds! And what better way to mark the occasion than by using a simple ritual to ask God's blessing on our efforts. Feel free to modify this prayer experience or use it as inspiration for your own unique creation!

Bring the members of your household together in your garden on a sunny day, or incorporate this ritual into a springtime celebration or garden party with friends. If you have seeds or starter plants, be sure to have them nearby for this prayer experience, along with some of your tools and a watering can if possible.

OPENING SONG/PRAYER

Begin by singing "Canticle of the Sun" or another song with creation themes. You can also recite the prayer below, excerpted from a prayer written by St. Francis of Assisi:

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor.
Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious, and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious, and pure.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night.

And he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9 (The Parable of the Sower)

Consider singing a verse of the song between each individual blessing. For each blessing, either hold the items being blessed or stand near them.

A BLESSING FOR SEEDS AND STARTER PLANTS

God of abundance,

You were born into this world as a baby—
So small and yet with so much potential.
Bless these seeds and starter plants.
As they grow, give them strong leaves and even stronger roots.
May the fruits of our labor bring beauty and sustenance.

May the fruits of our labor bring beauty and sustenance. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A BLESSING FOR SOIL

God of all that is,
You formed humanity from the dust.
Bless this soil,
a home for our labors
and a tapestry displaying your bounty.
May the soil be fertile and hospitable to new life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A BLESSING FOR TOOLS

God of labor,

Amen.

Your hands knew the carpenter's work.
You give us tools to ease our tired bodies and aid us in the work of our hands.
Bless these tools.
May they make our efforts more efficient a

May they make our efforts more efficient and productive, and may we recognize them as gifts for our labor. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A BLESSING FOR WATER

God of new life,

You give us water to quench our thirst,

to cleanse us,

to sustain us for your service.

Bless this water.

May it refresh weary leaves and bring vitality to our harvest.

May we always be good stewards of this precious gift.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A BLESSING FOR THOSE WHO WORK THE GARDEN

God of the Incarnation.

We are co-creators with you,

bringing forth newness of life from our efforts.

Bless the work of our hands.

May we be ever grateful for the movement of our bodies

and the desire to do good work.

May our labor reveal the joy of a job well done.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A BLESSING FOR WEEDS

God of surprises,

You show us that life persists,

often in the unlikeliest of places.

Bless the weeds that will grow here.

Even as we remove them,

may they remind us that tenacity and persistence

Lead to growth and newness of life.

May we in turn recommit ourselves

to the patient endurance of our Gospel mission.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Consider ending with this version of the Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

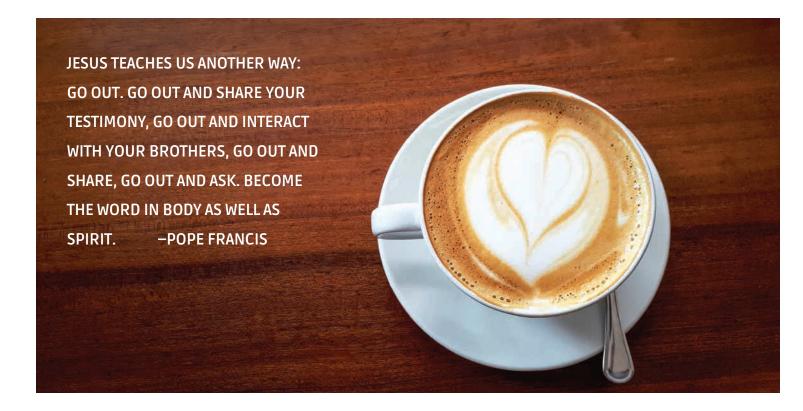
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Written by Jessie Johnson, Youth Formation Minister



ENJOY A CUP OF DISCIPLESHIP TODAY

I OPTED to treat myself to a cup of coffee after a good dental checkup. (I know, I know, the irony!) Anyway, I decided to dash through the drive thru, and the cars already in line required me to wait in the parking lot to enter the queue. My blinker was blinking and as I idled, happily listening to the radio, visions of my tasty hot beverage treat danced in my head. When suddenly, all happy thoughts were dashed by a minivan who zipped through the parking lot, ignored me and my blinker, and squeezed into the drive thru lane, effectively blocking any thru traffic and, more importantly sneaking ahead of me in line. My shock turned quickly into anger at this obvious faux pas and my attitude changed from happy, to miffed, to extreme irritation. The line of cars moved forward and I followed Ms. Spot Stealer and fumed. I ordered my coffee and trailed Ms. Budge In-Line as she proceeded to the pay window. I watched for her to acknowledge and apologize with a little wave or a shrug, but there was no remorse emitted, just the exhaust of her minivan clouding my emotions. Finally, it was my turn to pay and the gal at the window smiled as she said, "Your coffee was paid for by the woman ahead of you." I sat slack-jawed as I was unable to get my comeuppance as the supremely aggrieved "budgee." Feeling the need to have some justification I tattled, "Well, she snuck into line ahead of me, so I guess I will pay for the person behind me." The gal at the window smiled and replied, "She thought you might do that, so she paid for that car also and I have no more orders, so you will

just have to accept the free coffee today." How could the actions of one person make me go from happy to snappy to feeling quite sappy in such a short period of time? We make our plans, then... life happens. We wait in the drive thru line and someone takes our spot. This woman drove ahead of me, then what could she do? She couldn't back up. She made a mistake so she paid for my coffee. I had the right to initially be irritated, but then what? The next step is all mine to make. If I carry that anger around with me all day, what does that prove? Discipleship isn't just for the BIG things in our lives, but in the response we make to the everyday occurrences and/or irritations. How well am I living my faith out loud in my actions?

It's much easier to be Christian disciples at church, surrounded by other believers, and living as Jesus calls us to live. However, if we are truly living as **DISCIPLES ON A MISSION**, then we should not be as worried about our pew partners at Pax Christi, but more so about the person we race to beat to the merge on the highway? Is our discipleship showing when we avert our eyes from the homeless person we encounter on our way to the office? What part of the mission and vision of Pax Christi do we portray in our actions in business, with our family, or with the strangers we encounter? We may stumble, and we may mess up, but the call is to go out and serve—today and every day.

Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development

ENGAGEMENT = RELATIONSHIP + ACTION

NOW THAT the Member Engagement Steering Committee is meeting with liaisons from the parish ministry councils, it has reaffirmed the principles of hospitality by adding to its mission statement:

The Member Engagement Steering Committee will collaborate with all councils in their planning and implementing strategies to engage members in parish life, as it relates to our three principles of Christian Hospitality: welcome and invite; accept and include; and share, love, grow.

We are asked occasionally, "What is this engagement idea about? Why do we need to increase engagement?" Over the last year, we have explored both the different concepts of hospitality and the idea of member engagement. Another way of looking at this can be seen in this formula: **ENGAGEMENT = RELATIONSHIP + ACTION**.

The relationship is first, our faith in God, and second, our connections with other members of this parish. The action is whatever invitation, event, or strategy encourages and instigates a member's participation toward deeper faith and a stronger community. We are Easter people, and our calling, our mission, is action (participation). Vatican II clearly spelled out that mission for all of us, as well as our connections to the community outside the parish and out to the world. When a parish has higher levels of engagement, more members are participating, relationships are stronger, and each of us grows more. Like many things in life, engagement is either increasing or decreasing—it never stays the same. Members in a parish with a low level of engagement have fewer opportunities to connect and to grow in their faith journey.

In each issue of this magazine are articles by and about Pax Christi members participating, inviting, accepting, sharing, and growing in their faith journeys. They serve on ministry councils, as Eucharistic ministers, as catechists, and in many other areas. They are young and old, and from very different backgrounds. But all come together as engaged members of Pax Christi.

In an earlier article (June '17), we encouraged readers to reflect on the Pax Christi value statement on hospitality with several questions. Let's revisit those questions and further enhance them.

Do you feel invited and welcomed at Pax Christi? How? Who invites you? To what? Is it just for worship? Are you invited and welcomed to one or more of the very many ways there are to participate and contribute to this community?

Are you accepted and included? How? When? Are you encouraged to utilize your strengths for the betterment of this community?

How do you share, love, grow? Are you encouraged and motivated to do so? This is about sharing your gifts, particularly talent and time. When you share, do you feel the love flowing between yourself and others? Do you take time to reflect on your spiritual growth?

How do you participate at Pax Christi? With well over 125 activities/ events, how do you connect?

What relationships do you have with other members of Pax Christi? Borrowing from (and apologizing to) Shakespeare's Henry V, "We few, we happy few, we band of sisters and brothers; for who today sheds tears and sweat with me shall be my sister and brother."

And finally, what relationship do you have with God? Are you growing in your faith? Is your journey headed where you want it to go?

The Easter season, with the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, is a perfect time to answer these questions.

If you have questions about engagement at Pax Christi, contact Dave Putrich, Chair of the Member Engagement Steering Committee, dputrich@comcast.net, or Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship & Development, mkennedy@paxchristi.com or 952-405-7220.



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SEEING THE WORLD WITH SACRAMENTAL LENSES

SACRAMENTS propel us to see God in everyday life. St. Augustine defines sacrament as the "visible sign of an invisible grace." Grace, the unconditional love God freely gives us, is poured forth in the seven sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. God also graces us in the ordinary, sacramental moments of everyday life. Sacraments are not chained to the church building! The ritual often begins inside the church—and continues when we leave.

The sacraments come alive in us! We embody the sacraments, as does the world around us. We can come to recognize and embrace this reality by putting on our "sacramental lenses" to see the world with a "sacramental vision." Having a sacramental vision means I am allowing God's grace, God's love that was poured out on me in the ritual celebration, to influence how I engage the world. It's the lens through which I see myself, other people, nature, and all else as reflective of the divine.

Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest and prolific author, once wrote, "The earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars." The divine is everywhere! We bring ordinary elements like fire, oil, and water into the sanctuary to bless and anoint. But consider what life would be like if we put on our sacramental lenses and saw these elements as sacred all along.



At baptism, we are given a lit candle and told to "receive the light of Christ." Imagine if the flames of a campfire or kitchen stove also reflected the light Christ brings into the world.



At confirmation, the bishop places his hands on the candidate's head and anoints him or her with oil. "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit," prays the bishop. Sacred oil brings the gift of peace in the Spirit. Have you ever felt peace while using essential oils or cooking with oil?



Through the waters of baptism, we are welcomed into the Christian family. Think about all the ways you use water—to drink, bathe, swim, cook—and how that water can also be a source of life.

Look for God's grace in the ordinary. Elements as simple as fire, oil, and water —used in the ritual celebrations of the sacraments—also pour out into the whole world. There are divine altars all over the place! All we need to do is put on our sacramental lenses in order to see them.

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in prayer as they prepare to receive the sacrament! **Confirmation will take place on Saturday,**May 5, 10:00am at the Basilica of Saint Mary's. All are welcome to attend.

Written by Jessie Bazan, Youth Formation Minister



COME TO THE TABLE!



THE SACRAMENT of the Eucharist began thousands of years ago when Jesus ate a meal with His closest friends on the evening before He died.

They shared conversation, prayer, stories, and felt the true presence of Christ's love. At the Last Supper, Jesus instructed his followers to:

"Do this in memory of me." Weekly we gather together as a faith community to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist.

Over 60 children and their families will receive this very special and important sacrament. Throughout our preparation process we will learn together, share scripture stories, pray together, and participate in a retreat experience together. It is a very special time for our community to embrace these wonderful children and reflect on receiving the Eucharist for the first time in our own lives. Perhaps we remember what we wore, or the message from our priest, or the sounds and taste of the experience. Perhaps we remember the celebration gathering.



Our fifth graders offered their words of wisdom to the younger children. One wrote:

Dear Second-Grader.

Congratulations on your First Communion! You are just about to enter a huge part of your life that will change who you are as a person and what you do as a child of God. Just remember not to worry and that God will help you with everything you do. Don't be nervous, everything turns out great as long as you believe and trust in God. I felt so welcome when I got my First Communion. Now every time I go to church, I get to experience that feeling all over again.

–Good Luck, Your fifth-grade friend.

We believe worshipping together brings our spiritual selves to life and offers us food for the journey. We know that God longs for the whole family to gather around the table. In the Eucharist we realize that we are all one in God. We hold our children and their families in our prayers as they willingly and eagerly COME TO THE TABLE for the first time.

Celebrations will take place the weekends of April 28/29 and May 5/6.

Written by Renee Dignan, Youth Formation Minister 16 WHAT'S GOING ON AT PAX CHRISTI APRIL 2018 WHAT'S GOING ON AT PAX CHRISTI APRIL 2018

READINGS FOR APRIL

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2018

Sunday:

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2018

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2018

Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48 Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29 Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and

21ab/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2018

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29/1 Jn 3:1-2/

Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29, 2018

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8 Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

PARISHIONER NEWS

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Drake Charles Gallagher 2/4/2018
Leo Langsdorf Burke 2/11/2018
Finnegan Charles Erickson 2/11/2018
Laraina Aldea Rodrigues 2/11/2018
Maximus Iden Rodrigues 2/11/2018
Sampson Alexander Struebig 2/14/2018

FEBRUARY FUNERALS

Joanne Koehn2/8/2018Kristin A. Koeppl2/24/2018Michael Linden Myers2/26/2018Peggy Therese O'Brien Schley2/28/2018

FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

Michael and Susan Becker Curtis & Mary Ellen Connaughty Nelson and Sheila Fernandes

Coral Kari

Amelia Lerbakken
Patty and James Moran
Judith Vermeulen
John and Natalie Weiler
Connie Williams
Joseph Zasadzinski







Fr. Marc visits with parishioners at "First Friday Coffee and Conversation." First Friday begins with Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and pastries in the Chief Joseph room on the first Friday of each month. The event is sponsored by the Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond. All are welcome!



BOOMERS & BEYOND

PAX CHRISTI SENIOR MINISTRY

Sign-up at www.paxchristi.com/boomers to receive info on upcoming events.

Upcoming events include:

April 3: Chair Yoga – Spring session begins
 April 6: First Friday Coffee and Conversation
 April 19: Feed My Starving Children – Chanhassen

May 8: Annual Boomer Retreat



MINISTRIES OF SUPPORT:

COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE Third Thursday of each month 3:00–4:30pm

The listening circle provides a safe place for reflection and meaningful conversation for those who find themselves at a crossroad in life, such as loss, caregiving responsibilities, mental illness, grief, chronic illness, or any life transition.

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION

Pax Christi partners with the Southwest Grief Coalition to provide support and education for those who are grieving. Three series are offered each year, hosted by local churches. Each series consists of a light meal, a speaker exploring some dimension of grief, and facilitated small groups specific to particular losses. Information on upcoming sessions can be found on our website.

ON-SITE 12-STEP SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous, Saturday Sisters AA for Women, Al-Anon/ Prairie Peace, and Overeaters Anonymous. These support groups each meet weekly to offer listening, guidance, and hope for those working to overcome a specific addiction interfering with their lives.

RESOURCES

Written resources on prayer, grief, relationships, illness, aging, education/support opportunities, and more are available in the racks at the rear of the worship space and at the kiosk inside the main entrance. Offerings include *Living Faith*, a booklet of Catholic devotions, and *CareNotes*, informative and inspirational pamphlets on a wide variety of topics.

For additional information visit www.paxchristi.com/careandsupportministry.

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APRIL

JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

FOSTERING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: THE FOOD GROUP

Sunday, April 15, 12:30pm, Room 212

Our April speaker comes to us from The Food Group, formerly known as the Emergency Foodshelf Network. Working in the spirit of partnership, the Food Group changes lives with the distribution of healthy food to over 200 food shelves. Learn about those communities most in need, and how The Food Group's equity work is fundamental to their mission to fight hunger and nourish the community.

PARISHIONERS' ART EXHIBIT

APRIL 15-May 13

Celebrate with your fellow parishioners as they share their artistic gifts in our 10th year of the Pax Christi Parishioners' Art Exhibit, entitled "New Life: The Birth of Spring." This year's exhibit, presented by the Pax Christi Art Committee, will be available for viewing in the Pacem in Terris Gallery in the MLK Jr., Room 247 near door #3. Please plan to join us for the opening reception on Sunday, April 15, 10:00am to 1:00pm. Enjoy viewing incredible artwork, talk with the featured artists, and enjoy complimentary refreshments. The exhibit is also open for viewing during normal building hours except during reserved room use. *Parishioner art shown below by Jean Allen*.



A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our announcements brief. Please visit us online at www.paxchristi. com for additional information and details. If an event indicates RSVP, you may register/signup online at www.paxchrisi.com/eventregistration. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP DAY

Sunday, April 22, 12:30–4:00pm, Lunch in Room 212 RSVP

All parishioners are invited to join us for an Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up Day on Sunday, April 22! Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch in Room 212 after the 11:00am Mass, then we'll carpool to the clean-up site on Flying Cloud Drive around 1:00pm. High-visibility vests and garbage bags will be provided, but be sure to bring your own work gloves and a water bottle. Individuals and families are welcome, but children must be at least 11 years old to participate, and youth under 18 who are attending without a parent will need to complete a permission form.

MAKE PLANS NOW

BOOMERS AND BEYOND SPRING RETREAT

Thursday, May 8, 9:00am, \$15 RSVP

The annual Spring Retreat will be hosted by St. Edward's Church in Bloomington. The morning starts with Mass at 9:00am followed by coffee and rolls. The retreat leader will be Beryl Schewe, Director of Pastoral Care at Our Lady of Grace Church, and author of the book, *Habits of Resilience*. Luncheon will be served at the conclusion of the retreat. Questions? Contact Donna Murphy, 952-944-2861, or Anne Kieser, Boomer and Beyond Chairperson, 952-946-9984. Register online with a credit card or drop off payment with Maria Miller in the parish office by April 24.

SOULCOLLAGE® – OPEN CARD MAKING SESSION Tuesday, May 8, 6:30–8:30pm RSVP

In SoulCollage®, we see how the inner parts of our personality, our life roles, and our interests are named and imaged on individual cards. The objective is to bring more awareness to our lives to realize personal growth and transformation. A short review of the SoulCollage® process will be offered to those new to SoulCollage®. There will be an optional freewill offering for materials. For questions or more information contact Lynn Schelitzche, Director of Faith Formation, lschelitzche@paxchristi.com. Register online.

SR HIGH SERVICE/JUSTICE TRIP

Week of June 24–30, Chicago, IL, Fee of \$250 RSVP

High school students, are you ready to make 2018 the best summer of your life? Sign up for the 2018 Summer Service and Justice Immersion Trip with Young Neighbors in Action! Meet teens from across the country, immerse yourself in learning service and justice, and get ready to be inspired to change the world. We will spend the week working with local service agencies, learning about Catholic Social Teaching, and brainstorming ways to put our faith into practice back home. Registration is open—register today!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

The Fee is \$55 per child or \$110 per family through April 30; \$75 per child, no family maximum beginning May 1.

Calling all campers! **Disciples on a Mission** is our theme for Bible Camp 2018. We will explore faith-filled Scripture stories brought to life by our fabulous drama team. We will sing and move to upbeat Christian music. We will make new friends by playing games and making crafts together. Outreach is a huge part of our camp experience. We will be making wonderful projects for our friends in local nursing homes and in the YouthLink organization. Our middle school and high school friends are invited to participate as camp crew leaders, craft leaders, nursery helpers, game leaders, or on our drama team. Adults – we need you! Come be a part of camp! No experience is necessary. If you love your faith, we welcome you. We do require that volunteers complete the essential three requirements for promoting a safe environment, as indicated on our online registration form. Don't miss the BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER! Registration is open—register today!

DRAMA CAMP

Rehearsal week is July 9–13, 9:00am–4:00pm There is no fee for this fabulous opportunity

Bible Camp Drama Team needs you! Come share your 'acting' talents! No prior experience is necessary. Our fabulous team is open to those in 6th grade and older. The group meets for a rehearsal week of team-building, outreach opportunities, and learning our scripture stories. These awesome youth break open the Word of God through music and movement for the younger campers. Girls and boys are welcome to join. Registration is open—register today!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE CAMP

July 23-27, 8:30am-4:00pm RSVP

The Fee is \$150 per youth through April 30; \$175 per youth beginning May 1.

Will you be a sixth, seventh, or eighth-grader this fall? You are invited to be part of Pax Christi's Middle School Service Camp! Join PaxConnex for a week of service and fun at Pax Christi and in our local community. Mornings will be spent at local organizations serving those in need. Service sites may include People Reaching Out to People (PROP), Feed My Starving Children, and Senior Community Services. Youth also have the option of serving as crew leaders at Vacation Bible Camp. During the afternoons we will spend time having fun with games, movies, and trips to Grand Slam, Cascade Bay, and Valleyfair! Fee includes lunch each day, transportation to all off-campus locations, admission to all afternoon activity sites, and a t-shirt. Registration is open—register today!



APRIL

See pages 18–19 for details or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 EASTER SUNDAY	2 BUILDING CLOSED	3 BAPTISM CLASS	4 YOUNG ADULT	5 DISCERNMENT	FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION	7
ENOTERCONDIC	NO MASS	DATE FIGURE CENTRO	DISCERNMENT	INFO NIGHT		
8	CAST INTO THE DEEP ADULT FORMATION	DISCERNMENT INFO NIGHT	MOMS ROCK FAITH FORMATION	12 CENTERING PRAYER	13	NEW MEMBER 14 SIGN-UP WEEKEND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY SHOWCASE
NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND 15 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY SHOWCASE PARISHIONER ART EXHIBIT OPENS FAITH FORMATION	16	17 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	18 FAITH FORMATION	COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE	20	21
22 SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER	23	24	25 MOMS ROCK	26 CENTERING PRAYER	27	28
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY FAITH FORMATION		MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE	FAITH FORMATION			FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION
FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION FAITH FORMATION	30	1	2	3	FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION	FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION





PASTOR

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Marc Paveglio 952-405-7219

DEACONS

Al Schroeder 952-405-7205 Terry Beer 952-405-7231 Charles Bobertz 952-405-7239

PARISH DIRECTOR

Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

PARISH FINANCIAL MANAGER

Sue Fier 952-405-7202

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Maria Miller 952-405-7217 Andrea Ward 952-405-7207 Sally Bergum 952-405-7229

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

FAITH FORMATION

Director	Lynn Schelitzche	952-405-7230
Youth Minister	Jessie Johnson	952-405-7210
Youth Minister	Jessie Bazan	952-405-7213
Preschool through Grade 5	Reneé Dignan	952-405-7212

JUSTICE Justice Coordinator

OPERATIONS		
Director	Ken Reineccius	952-405-7250
Building Services	Terry Lee	952-405-7233
Building Services	Todd Nelson	952-405-7233

Joan Howe-Pullis

952-405-7247

CARE AND SUPPORT MINISTRY

Director	Jean Thoresen	952-405-7211
Care Ministry Specialist	Mary Ann Callahan	952-405-7227
Care Ministry Coordinator	Reneé Reardon	952-405-7200

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Mary Kennedy Director 952-405-7220 Nursery and Hospitality Coord. Janell McBeain 952-405-7242

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Director	Donna Kasbohm	952-405-7240
Liturgy and Funeral Coord.	Joan Howe-Pullis	952-405-7247
Teen Choir	Angie O'Brien	952-405-7243

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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PARISH TRUSTEES

Shari Steffen Bruce Koehn

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Sandy Towey, Chair



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MINISTRY SHOWCASE WFFKFND

April 14/15 following all Masses

We are **DISCIPLES ON A MISSION**, and sharing our gifts generously is how we live our stewardship response to Christ's call. Pax Christi highlights a different ministry area in our Monthly Ministry Showcase. Focusing on a single program area helps us share the story of Pax Christi from the shared minister's perspective. We encourage you to check out this month's Ministry Showcase and learn more about the lives we touch through our gifts shared in our ministries. Visit the Ministry Showcase and see if there is a ministry need that matches your gifts.

PAX CHRISTI'S MINISTRY SHOWCASE

APRIL'S MINISTRY SHOWCASE FEATURES **STEWARDSHIP**.

Calling all **Disciples on a Mission**: Have you checked out Pax Christi's online form to share your talents? **SERVE** is the quickest way to share your interest in a ministry or activity at Pax Christi.

From finding out more information about the ministries of this community to listing a particular gift or skill that you have in Pax Christi's Gift Inventory, **SERVE** is a one-stop shop for getting more involved in the life of this community.

Members of the Stewardship Council will be on hand to help you learn how to use this online tool. You will be shown how the tool can help you identify the immediate needs of the parish and share your time where it is needed most.

