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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 4:00-4:30pm

The Pax Christi News is printed monthly by the Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie. We accept unsolicited manuscripts and photos from parishioners but reserve the right to edit and publish such material at our discretion. Email submissions, photos, and/or questions to Melissa Nault, Communication Arts Director, mnault@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.

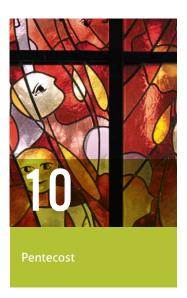




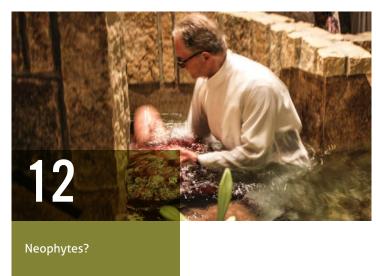
A Safe Place to Tell Your Story

Our History





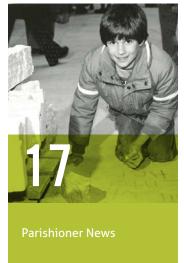




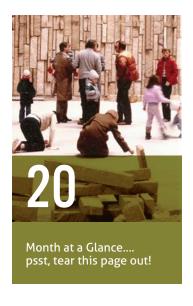














BEFORE I FORGET...



Fr. Bill Murtaugh Pastor

"I SEE NO BACKWARD
VOYAGE ACROSS THE
SEA OF TIME; I WILL
EVER PRESS FORWARD.
I BELIEVE THAT GOD
INTENDS THE PRESENT
TO BE BETTER THAN THE
PAST, AND THE FUTURE
TO BE BETTER
THAN THE PRESENT."

-ARCHBISHOP JOHN IRELAND.

FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF ST. PAUL

Every afternoon, a son of a famous rabbi would arrive home from school, put his school books on the dining room table, and leave the house through the back door. The young boy would head for the wooded area behind the house. He would spend about 30 minutes - give or take - every day after school in these woods. After a few weeks, the rabbi grew concerned. "Is my son up to mischief?" he wondered. So he decided to ask his son about his daily outings in the woods.

"Tell me, my son," he asked one afternoon after his son returned from his time in the woods, "why do you spend each afternoon in the woods? What are you doing out there?" "Father," the boy replied, "don't worry. I go out to the woods every day. It is my special place, because there I can talk to God." "Oh," the father said, visibly relieved. "I am glad to hear it. But you, the son of a rabbi, should know that God is the same everywhere." "Yes, father. I know that God is the same everywhere. But I am not."

The boy knew something about spaces. There are two spaces in our lives. In the one there is busyness, constant activity, getting things done, and most likely, a fair amount of stress. In this space we have our "to-do lists," our cell phones, our schedules, our appointments;

we are watching the time. We're often in a hurry. Be it work, school, exercise, sitting in our cars, we're on the go, working, studying, getting something done, going someplace.

But there is another space. This space is for stopping, for quiet, for meditation, contemplation, reflection, prayer. In this space is quiet listening, music, awe, wonder, beauty, friendship, a time to feed our spirits. Like the rabbi's son, we may find this space in nature, in the quiet of our homes, just being still. We find this space, hopefully, where we gather together as the Catholic Christian Community of Pax Christi

For 35 years people of all ages have gathered together at Pax Christi for Sunday Eucharist and to celebrate important moments their lives: baptisms, weddings, First Communions, Confirmations, funerals for loved ones, Anointing of the Sick, and to reconcile with the God of Mercy. Our vocation as a Christian Community is not to be "among" people but "with" people. God's work always begins with listening, not only to our Sacred Scriptures, but to the stories of our community members. As a community we are called to support and care for our sisters and brothers.

For 35 years Pax Christi has provided members and visitors the opportunity to stop and pay attention to what is of real value in our lives. This sacred space releases us from the demand to be human-doers and allows us to be human beings. Our community Eucharist is the place where we can remove ourselves from the pressing demands and issues of the day. Here we can be centered, calm, rejuvenated.

One of the best things about our 35 year history is the hospitality we offer to one another, to our guests, and all who stumble in throughout the week seeking help and comfort in their brokenness and pain. The community has and continues to welcome everyone as they would welcome God. Our Sacred Scripture regards hospitality as an essential virtue. The rule of hospitality helps us welcome the visitor without suspicion. Hospitality opens the door to friendship and relationships — a wise principle, indeed!

As followers of the Risen Christ in the western suburbs, we are called to be hospitable: that is, to be open to others when they come into our lives. Not just to put up with them but to be open to their life stories. This openness should spring from our commitment to Jesus







and the Gospel. It leads to a deeper relationship with Christ. As Pope Francis said in an interview with some Jesuit magazines, "The church has a home for **ALL**. Not just a small chapel of select people." That is what Pax Christi has been like since it began on Day One.

As we express our gratitude for 35 years as a faith community, I would like to acknowledge Fr. Tim Power, founding pastor, and all those who planted the seeds for Pax Christi's growth over the years.

Archbishop Oscar Romero used this prayer which tells us we should be sensible in how we expect to grow:

"We plant seeds that will one day grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise... we cannot do everything and



1) Summer 1982, a site was selected from over twenty considered. 2) An architect was selected, and an Executive Building Committee was formed to begin the process of building a new home. 3) Fr. Tim and Archbishop Roach at groundbreaking celebration weekend, May 14/15, 1983. 4) Construction of 12100 Pioneer Trail begins. 5) Sod going in. 6) Our new home! Who can forget the shake shingle roof?



there is a sense of liberation at realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well... we may never see the end result but that's the difference between a master builder and a worker- we are the workers not master builders; ministers not messiahs; we are prophets of a future not our own."

Entrust the past to God; entrust the present to God's love; entrust the future to God's providence. —St. Augustine

Please join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, as we give thanks on this anniversary of Pax Christi!



PAX CHRISTI IS A SAFE PLACE TO TELL YOUR STORY...

AND SO IT BEGAN 35 YEARS AGO, at the urging of a duo of determined women, Diana Pauling and Mary Beth Buckman, who had dared to dream, and along the way, forged a community of believers into what is now PAX CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. A message was sent to charter members of this community, we still have 104 active households hailing from the first year, asking for memories of the first 35 years of Pax Christi. We reminded them how founding pastor Fr. Tim Power repeatedly shared that "Pax Christi is a safe place to tell your story," and the stories and memories came flooding in to help us remember the early times, the growing years, and how we got to where we are today. Following are some of the memories shared; other stories will be featured on our website or in story/photo boards at the ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THE WEEKEND OF MAY 14-15.

Shari Steffen: One favorite story about the beginnings of Pax Christi, whether true or apocryphal, revolves around getting the approval from the Archdiocese for the new parish. As the story goes, Archbishop Roach told the people who were interested in beginning the new parish that he needed some indication of how many Catholics actually lived in what he considered was pretty much wide open undeveloped land south of Hopkins and stretching west between Bush Lake in Bloomington and Lake Ann in Chanhassen. Those cities had Catholic parishes that had already been in existence for a number of years, some for decades. So the future Pax Christi members went knocking on doors in West Bloomington and Eden Prairie to develop a census of Catholics. When the information was presented back to the Archbishop, as the story has lived on, his comment was: 'It seems there is a Catholic behind every corn stalk out there.' And after a previous rejection of the idea, approval for Pax Christi was finally given thanks to our nose counters.

June 20/21, 1981: The first Masses of Pax Christi Catholic Community were celebrated at 5:00pm at Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, 9:00am at the Radisson South in Bloomington, and 11:00am at Eden Prairie High School.

Mary Beth Buckman: There was a lot of time spent getting the word out to the community and I remember being thrilled when I saw the van from Friendship Village roll up to the Radisson for that first Mass and I realized, that although they were missed in the advance notice, they heard the news, and were excited about the new parish too! Fr. Tim's "Travelling Sanctifying Show" had begun...



Cory Miller: About all I recall is trying to remember where to be at what time to attend Mass. If I missed it, then I'd have to go to St. Edward's in Bloomington.

Jane and James Nissen: My family has been members of Pax Christi right from the first Mass on that Saturday night. It was held at the Lutheran Church. There was so much excitement in the air! Who is our priest? What will he be like? How many people will we have? I remember feeling sorry for Fr. Tim those first few years because he had to travel from the Lutheran Church on Saturday night to the Radisson Hotel and the Middle School for Masses on Sunday morning.

Joan Donahue: When we were in the Radisson, we held Mass on the second floor. Unfortunately, the swimming pool was right below us. So we heard Mass amongst the screams and laughter.....to say the least, we tried to be as solemn as we could, but that didn't always work.

Gwen and Larry Lawrence: In the days when we would move from location to location, one place we met was the Community of the Cross Lutheran Church. Fr. Power would carry the wine in his car and one time it was so cold that the wine froze. That's a memory that we laughed about for years.

August 3, 1982: Pax Christi moves to the Braemar Business Center, signing a two-year lease at \$2,100 per month, with four free months.

Mike Meyers: Later, we got the warehouse location and that was nice and snug. We sure got to know a lot of people quickly in the Warehouse Days. I had a good friend who told me that they were going to build a church and he needed me to volunteer to collect pledges. So Fr. Tim told everyone to stay home one Sunday afternoon and wait for the volunteers. The volunteers visited every house on the parish list that afternoon. I myself visited 21 homes and all but one of them answered the door right away and they all knew why I was there. In fact, the third home I went to told me that the house across the street was not on the list, but they wanted a visit, so I went and visited them and got a pledge from them, too. Everyone was excited about the new building and they all wanted to help.

Judy Vessey: One visit to a service and we knew that this was the parish we wanted to be a part of. Father Tim welcomed us and even came to our home to baptize our daughter. Shortly thereafter, I joined the new Baptism Team and would visit parents to talk with them about the sacrament of Baptism and how to prepare for a service in their home. We've been at Pax Christi all this time because of its welcoming and loving atmosphere through the years.

Linda Dalsin: I had given birth to our third daughter Rebecca in July 1981. Now it was time to have her baptized. With no building to have it in, Fr. Tim was doing them in homes. Because the weather was nice, he suggested we have it in our back yard! It was wonderful, and so meaningful! The next day, I was cleaning up and came upon the punch bowl he used, still full of holy water. The thought of pouring it down the drain seemed so wrong! So I called the parish office and asked Mary Mueller, our parish administrator, what to do with it. She said she would ask Fr. Tim and call me back. A few moments later the phone rang. When I answered, Fr. Tim said "You have to drink it"! Then laughing as only he can, he told me pour it in the ground. But for a few short moments this convert actually believed him!









1) Friendship Village residents arrive for Mass. 2) Mass is held at "the warehouse". 3) New member registration day. 4) First annual Halloween Social. 5) The Loaves and Fishes Ministry got an early start. 6) First bell structure at main entrance.

May 12-13, 1984: Mass of Dedication with Archbishop John Roach and all parish celebration of the new church building.

Harry and Sue Gillham: Once our eldest was to light the candles on the altar and the paper on the lower end of the candle caught on fire. Our son threw the candle in the air, my husband jumped over the pews fearing the entire altar would go up in flames. He was able to get ahold of the candle and put out the flame, but there was a scorch burn left on the altar cloth. Also, both boys were again serving together and got into a shoving match as to which one was going to carry the most bowls to the altar. It did not get into a rolling fist fight, but darned near.

Pat Sinko: It was a snowy Easter Sunday and members of the youth choir were scheduled to sing at the Easter Sunrise Service at Staring Lake. Dale O'Brien was directing the music and about six or seven youth showed up. The guys were dressed in their snowmobile suits and boots while the girls had on Easter dresses and open-toed shoes. All the parents laughed to themselves, and I think Dale O'Brien and Fr. Tim had a hard time keeping their laughter contained. The poor girls froze. We still laugh about that Easter Sunday to this day.

Georgi Walsh: Pax Christi has been a gift to my family and I will always feel grateful for the friendships formed and the support we felt through the years especially through John's illness and death. Whenever I enter the Church I feel as though I've come home; there isn't another Church where I have this feeling.



Kathy Huberty: From the beginning, generous people stepped forward to share their time, talent, and money. Fr. Tim Power and lay leadership established parish value statements. From day one, Pax Christi flung open the doors of 'Welcome to All:' inclusivity, mercy, hospitality, systemic change, justice, and lay men and women preachers. Pax Christi was thirty five years ahead of Pope Francis! Pax Christi has been like a tent, continuing to stretch out a little further to embrace everyone right where they are in their own spiritual journey. Pax Christi continually expanded my own horizons and viewpoints by challenging me to look at things in a new way.

And the stories and memories continue as Pax Christi carries on from that initial dream for a Catholic church in Eden Prairie to today's 3,500 household community. Happy 35th Anniversary Pax Christi!

Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.

FROM THE BEGINNING...

When our parish was being founded I was still living here and working at the UofM. I remember a conversation that I had with Fr. Tim Power, with whom I had served on the Priests' Senate for several years. I asked him why a Latin name was chosen for the parish. It seemed so "unprogressive!" He said that many people wanted to name the parish St. Francis of Assisi. But Tim wanted gender equality, so he said it should be Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. But that was too much of a mouthful for many people. So they settled on Pax Christi, the name of the international Catholic peace organization. Certainly a fitting name given the spirit that would permeate this parish.

It was a time when there was deep recession in our country and war and violence in many parts of the world. The tension of the Cold War existed as symbolized in the Berlin Wall. For us to counter this we would first have to change our hearts and be the peace that we wanted to bring to others. As Pope Paul VI said at the United Nations: "If you want peace, work for justice!" So that has been a guiding principle for Pax Christi over these past 35 years. This

was made concrete when the Executive Committee of the parish decided to donate the first parish collection to charity. That was July 29, 1981, and the collection amounted to \$2,791.00.

However, it caught some parishioners by surprise. As one parishioner recalled: I remember our first real Mass as a parish. We probably put more money in the collection plate than we should have, but building this church was so important for our community. At the end of Mass Fr. Tim announced, 'As a new church it is tradition to donate our first collection to the poor. So that is what we will do with all the money we collected today.' At first I was in shock and then just laughed out loud with joy. Of course this is what we stand for! —Virginia Otternes

As much as times have changed and we have as well, the founding spirit that created this parish is still strong. Each year we support schools and various ministries and projects with our justice grants. Special collections show great love for those facing hardship. But it is not only with money that we help, for many parishioners volunteer in so many different ways. Giving credence to the words: **CHARITY GIVES, BUT JUSTICE CHANGES!**



CROSSING PATHS IN OUR HISTORY

The story behind the processional cross carried into each Mass celebrated at Pax Christi dates back to our early days when we were one of two new large congregations to put down roots in Eden Prairie. St. Andrew Lutheran Church was founded five years before Pax Christi. Pastor Rod Anderson at St. Andrew warmly welcomed Fr. Tim Power and the Pax Christi flock which was meeting at various sites around the city for the first few years. As the friendship between the two leaders deepened, Pastor Rod and Fr. Tim began alternating writing an inspirational article for each week's edition of the Eden Prairie News. Pastor Rod remembers fondly that he was among the congregation at the first Mass in the new Pax Christi building.

A few years later as St. Andrew was approaching their tenth anniversary, Fr. Tim and the Pax Christi parishioners decided they would like to give some gift of commemoration to the St. Andrew congregation. Fr. Tim found a depiction of the last supper at Celebration Designs, a St. Paul store owned by former Minnesota first lady Gretchen Quie. The sculpture, first done in high relief in clay and then cast in bronze, was created by Brian Leo, a local artist living in Richfield. This sculpture became the anniversary gift that Pax Christi gave to St. Andrew to become part of the permanent collection there.

A few years later at the time of Pax Christi's tenth anniversary, Pastor Rod and the St. Andrew congregation determined they would like to do something similar for Pax Christi. After consultation, it was determined that the perfect gift would be a new moveable crucifix which could be displayed near the entrance and used as a processional cross when needed. Jean Morman Unsworth was chosen as the artist for this project. Here is her description of the work: "As I work on carving this figure of Christ, I am trying to achieve the tension of suffering and oblation in the low-relief forms. The bent head with the symbolic crown will show this, as will the pull of the arms and hands. The crown will be a metaphor of violence of people to people, a particular thorn for the redemptive act of Christ." Jean, now at age 90, still travels widely (China in the past few months) and maintains her presence on Facebook.

In donating the funds to make our processional cross possible, Pastor Rod enclosed a note, parts of which are quoted here:

Dear Father Tim and Friends in Pax Christi Community,

The whole congregation of St. Andrew Church joins me in celebrating with you the 10th anniversary of your community's wonderful ministry! What a blessing God has made you in our community and region! ... We recall fondly the generous gift you gave our church, the sculpture of the Last Supper, celebrating the unity we feel with you in Christ!

Love in Christ, Pastor Rod Anderson and St. Andrew

When you have an opportunity, take a close look at the processional cross — both back and front. The portrayals on the back bring to mind various symbols of our faith and practice. On the front of the cross the low relief of the body of the crucified Christ has a contemporary, yet hauntingly ancient aspect to it. It seems most appropriate that some of the holiest days we share with our neighboring church are celebrated in the two art works depicting Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Celebrating our 35th anniversary this spring and St. Andrew's 40th anniversary this coming November, we reflect again on our unity together in Christ. Written by Shari Steffen, Pax Christi parishioner and trustee.



PENTECOST: ITISALL GIFT!



As we conclude our fifty days of Easter, our readings for the celebration of Pentecost invite us to consider what Raymond E. Brown has called the "once-and-coming Spirit". He reminds us that as we reflect on the early Christian community (back then and even now in the history of Pax Christi) we are also prompted to realize and to affirm the ever-coming and present Spirit in the lives of contemporary believers and in the activities of the church today — and yes, in our very own lives.

To help us in this ongoing reception of new life, the Spirit offers an abundance of gifts to each of us and works within us to accomplish great things. In the words of *The Gifts*, written by Paul Page:

Wisdom, the gift of insight: seeing all in truth and light. Wisdom, a gift most pure: O fill us, O Spirit, come.

Understanding is a special gift that opens hearts and forgives. Understanding listens carefully and accepts all with tender care.

Knowledge, the gift of truth: beholding all in faith and love. Knowledge, the gift to comprehend all the marvels of the universe.

Judgment, the gift of good sense: knowing how to make a choice. Weighing all decisions carefully. Right judgment, a gift of grace.

Reverence, a deep respect for God; loving all the works of God; cherishing all life around us, created by the Spirit's power.

Courage, the gift of strength: doing right in spite of fear. Courage, the gift of faithfulness, knowing that the Lord our God is near.

Wonder, awe, and full amazement: with this gift we honor God, knowing that the Spirit dwells in us, O Spirit, come. —© World Library Publications, Inc.

What a Well of Gifting to draw from as we move into the ordinary time of daily life and learning.

Pope Francis reminds us that "in the church each one of us finds what is needed to believe, to live as Christians, to become holy, and to journey to every place and through every age" *General Audience, October 9, 2013.*

May the peace of Christ be with you! Written by Donna Kasbohm, Director of Music and Liturgy.

ALLISON BOISVERT – AN EXTRAORDINARY ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Allison Boisvert, former Director of Social Justice, was a wonderful friend, teacher and mentor for many of us at Pax Christi. Allison died on June 28, 2015, after a four-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

On May 15, Pax Christi will dedicate a peace pole in her memory as part of the Pentecost celebration.

Allison was raised in Grand Portage, MN, and had a turbulent upbringing. As a teenager, she ran away from home, experimented with drugs, and spent some time in jail. As a Native American, she was on the receiving end of racism and bigotry. As a young woman, she had three children, and after their father left, she worked two or three jobs to make ends meet. At 28, Allison earned her GED. She went on to get an entry-level case manager job with Catholic Charities and eventually worked her way up to lead the housing and emergency services division. She lived and worked with great passion and purpose. In 2010, Allison was one of the first recipients of Catholic Charities' "Keep the Dream Alive" award, in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

All those life experiences helped form her approach to social justice. She knew what it really was like to be subject to racism, generational poverty, drug abuse, and homelessness. This affected how she approached social justice work.

Allison retired from Catholic Charities, but she did not enjoy "retirement". Father Patrick Kennedy talked her into coming to Pax Christi as Director of Social Justice. A position in a suburban parish was unusual for her and she wondered how it would work out. It turned out to be a wonderful experience for those of us who worked with her and also a wonderful experience for her. She was a mentor who spoke with authority based on work experience and life experience. Those of us who were fortunate enough to participate in "Just Faith" learned a lot from her.

She was an amazing person to be around. You could see Jesus in her. Not the Jesus in pictures with folded hands and a halo, but the human, rough, and radical Jesus who was a tireless advocate for the poor, social justice, and peace. Allison had a sharp wit and sense of humor. She was fiercely honest, but also very compassionate.

Allison also had a passion for making art. She made many of her own colorful clothes, lovely jewelry, and beautiful greeting cards.

Cancer could affect her body but it never subdued her spirit. She remained active. She got involved in Pathways Health Crisis Resource Center, was a very active member in the Pancreatic Support group at Virginia Piper Institute, learned meditation, worked on a book



about poverty, and helped with the Just Faith program at Pax Christi. She loved to read and, after her eyesight failed, she loved to listen to others read to her. Allison's favorite books dealt with the beauty and peace found in nature.

Many of us loved Allison and she affected more people here at Pax Christi than she realized. She enriched our lives and we miss her loving presence and her wisdom. We wanted to memorialize her in some way at Pax Christi. The peace pole is a wonderful way to do that. Allison's lifelong efforts to build bridges between people and to promote social justice made her an extraordinary peacemaker.

Written by Doug Mertz, Pax Christi parishioner.

I WILL NEVER FORGET
SITTING IN THE LIVING
ROOM WITH MY
CHILDREN BURNING
PULLED APART
FURNITURE WE FOUND
IN ALLEYS FOR HEAT AND
LIGHT. I WILL NEVER
FORGET THE LOOKS ON
THEIR FACES WHEN I
TRIED TO MAKE IT INTO
AN ADVENTURE PICNIC.

-ALLISON BOISVERT, 2007 SPEECH TO USCCE



DO YOU WANT TO BRING A NEOPHYTE TO YOUR TABLE?

If you attended our Easter Vigil, you witnessed our new Catholic Christian adults celebrate their Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. If you didn't attend our Easter Vigil, you may have seen the bios and photographs of those in our RCIA process on the wall of the gathering space at the back of our worship space, or in the March issue of Pax Christi Magazine. Now that they have been initiated, they have entered a year as neophytes.

During this stage, the neophytes: 1) reflect on their experience of the Easter Vigil, 2) enter more deeply into the meaning of the Sacraments, 3) participate in the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion rite, and 4) explore the question: what skills, experiences, relationships and understandings do I as a neophyte need in my life now that I am initiated, in order to live as a disciple.

These four experiences are interwoven, the guiding principle being that it all begins and ends with discipleship. The experience of the sacraments of initiation is key to living as a disciple. It is also important, as disciples, to get the most we can out of the second half of Sunday Mass. Sharing the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the same enthusiasm and receptivity that we've brought to the Liturgy of the Word is a discipleship skill. Another part of growth in discipleship is relationship with Jesus. The period is a precious time to discover and enjoy that intimacy that will sustain the neophytes for the rest of their lives.

Strengthening community relationships as full participants is part of the growth as a disciple, too. The foundation for community and mission was laid well in the RCIA process. It is time to affirm it and take it a step further. The RCIA process is not a one-way street that shapes only those in the process into a disciple. It's a mutual formation in the life of Christ that changes both the catechumen and the parish. That mutual relationship occurs when a neophyte can share his/her experience of transformation with others, exactly what the catechumenate taught him/her to do and what all the baptized are called to do. I invite you to give them the opportunity to share their experience. Please contact me about inviting a neophyte, along with his/her sponsor or significant other, to your table at your home and/or your church community. Enjoy welcoming them into the community at coffee, dessert, or dinner. Another option is to invite them to attend Mass with you and discuss afterwards in our fellowship space with refreshments. I can provide some guiding questions, if desired. To choose someone whose story you would like to hear, open the "BULLETIN" page of paxchristi.com and view the March 2016 issue of the PaxChristiNews magazine. Check out the photos and bios in my article, Get Acquainted with Our Catholic Newbies. Then give me a call at 952-405-7320 and let me know who you would like to invite to attend your home table or church Table.

Written by Lynn Schelitzche, Director of Faith Formation.



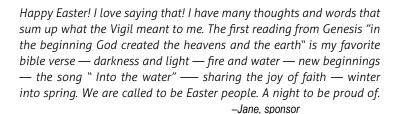
I thought it was wonderful how the community of RCIA participants and sponsors got to know each other so well. When we were all getting baptized and/or confirmed, we were genuinely happy for everyone because we'd gone through the process together. I think that sense of community made the Easter Vigil that much more special! —Alyssa



The Easter Vigil Mass was beautiful and moving. Being a part of RCIA this year has allowed me the opportunity to deepen my faith and understanding of the Catholic Church. I am eternally grateful to Pax Christi, the group, and the leaders for this opportunity. —Corey



My experience with Pax Christi was an excellent journey of my faith. From my experiences through group sessions and Easter week, I could not have been happier with the love and compassion I felt from not only my fellow candidates, but from everyone in the Pax Christi Community. I am truly grateful to be joining such a wonderful and faith-driven community. —Eric







I thought the ceremony was beautiful and I appreciate the support everyone showed for the entire RCIA group. –Tierra

THE HIDDEN BENEFITS OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth ministry and faith formation for teenagers at Pax Christi has taken many forms in the past 35 years! In the early years, groups met in the homes of parishioners (this would come back as a trend from time to time). Later, high school youth would meet on Sunday nights in the various spaces that housed the Pax Christi community, while other grades met on a different night of the week—there simply wasn't enough space to hold all of Pax Christi's children and youth in the same place at the same time! The style and the curriculum of youth ministry and faith formation for high school ranged from conventional to experimental, but it has always been done with the goal of forming young people to be disciples who can make a difference in the world.

Today Pax Christi's faith formation/youth ministry for teenagers combines the best of what we have learned about passing faith on to young people and the charisms of Pax Christi. Faith Interest Connectors (FIC) are short-term, small groups that explore faith through the lens of a particular interest, such as cooking, basketball, nature, science, anything we can dream up! What makes this form of ministry so powerful is that it does not rely on a single youth minister, curriculum, or entertainment model. FICs are effective tools for passing on faith because they involve adults who are willing to share their gifts and passions with youth; FICs model Christian discipleship; youth are encouraged to explore and dream about their own vocations in life!

Over the past two and a half years of FICs, we've made an important discovery: FICs aren't just for teens! Yes, FICs are the faith formation program for middle school and high school youth at Pax Christi. But FICs are just as significant, if not more so, in the faith formation of the adults involved! Many adult leaders have said to me that their involvement with the FICs has made them more confident in their faith. "I've been more confident to share my faith with co-workers and friends. People like hearing about what we're doing at Pax Christi." "I'm more open not to share about faith because I'm connecting it to something I love." The study of discipleship and catechesis has made them more excited to talk about what they are doing at Pax Christi with co-workers and friends. Some have even invited others to come to Pax Christi for the first time because of a conversation initiated by an FIC topic.



Fr. Tim Power and some senior high youth - circa 1983.

Most interesting to me was that many leaders expressed a sense of peace that is sustained by their involvement in the FIC program. One leader said, "There was a lack of peace [in myself] - that my weekly expression of something I'm passionate about and sharing it with other people opened up a space for that peace to come to me. Doing a hobby is supposed to improve your life somehow, right? Well, sharing that hobby with others in the context of God is like turning on all four burners and you just start cooking!" Other leaders has similar experiences,

"I don't worry so much when bad things happen."

"I sense more peace in myself, I've been able to let go of control."

"I see everything is integrated – my faith, my work, my vocation."

"I'm more open to the Spirit working through me."

What's going on here? Youth and adults are exploring faith together. Real community is being formed through healthy, positive relationships. Youth and adults are discovering meaning and purpose in their passions and interests. And discipleship is becoming concrete, immediate, and real for all those involved in the FIC experience.

Are you interested in being a part of the Faith Interest Connectors at Pax Christi? Visit www.paxchristi.com/fic or contact Peter Bierer, Youth Formation Minister, 952-405-7210, or pbierer@paxchristi.com.

FAITH FORMATION, FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FOR 2016–2017 HAS BEGUN!

WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM/FFREGISTRATION

WE, THE FAITH FORMATION TEAM of Pax Christi Catholic Community, unite in partnership with parents and guardians as you guide your children in the process of becoming faith-filled, loving Catholic Christians. Faith Formation is both catechesis (education) and formation (spiritual nurturing). Pax Christi's programs excel in the religious instruction and spiritual formation of our youth. The application and re-enforcement parents and guardians do at home increases this formation to its greatest level.

Our role at Pax Christi is to support, assist, and encourage you as you role model a Catholic Christian lifestyle for your family by your love and example. To this end, we offer several approaches: Sunday Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word for ages 4 through 4th grade, Sunday and Wednesday programs for all ages, preparation programs for sacraments, special needs materials for sacrament preparation and faith formation, home taught program where parents and guardians are given lesson plans to formally instruct their children at home in-lieu of other offerings, summer programs, mission trips, and RCIA for adults inquiring into becoming Catholic.

We invite you to register now so that you may receive the Early Bird Discount, which is available through June 1, 2016. Descriptions of our programs are available online at www.paxchristi.com. Those preparing for sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation must be registered in our faith formation program or attend a Catholic school. Register online with a credit card, download a registration form, or pick one up in the parish office and return with a check. Please contact the faith formation office, 952-405-7230, if you have questions.

Written by Lynn Schelitzche, Director of Faith Formation.

TWELVE BASKETS BABY CARE DRIVE

Imagine being single and pregnant or poor and having trouble feeding the children you already have. For women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy, they have one place they can go for help. At Tapestry Pregnancy and Family Resource Center in south Minneapolis, they will find a welcoming and supportive place where they are treated with dignity and life-affirming support. They receive resources that will help them have a healthy and successful future. They

fit the program to the clients individual circumstances. They receive top-notch prenatal care, child care education, rental assistance, and baby supplies.

This is where Pax Christi gets involved. Twelve Baskets will have its annual Baby Care Drive on Mothers' Day weekend, May 7/8. What better weekend to celebrate mothers and babies. We will be collecting baby care items like diapers — their greatest need — baby wipes and new clothing. Starting April

23 there will be flyers at all the doors with a more complete list of items. There will be red bins at doors 1 and 3 to receive your donations. The mothers in need will be very thankful that there are people like you who care. We also give items to Holy Rosary and Health Partners Crisis Pregnancy program. Helping these women is one way we can be pro-life.

Written by Judy Olmsted, Pax Christi parishioner.



35TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US FOR PAX CHRISTI'S CELEBRATION WEEKEND - MAY 14/15!

SATURDAY, MAY 14

RunWalkPray5K: 9:00am \$20 for first participant, \$10 for each additional within a family. Proceeds go to our Giving Garden (Crops for PROP)

Pancake Breakfast: 9:30-10:30am

SUNDAY, MAY 15

9:00am and 5:00pm Mass: We Celebrate Pentecost at all the Masses and celebrate our 35 years of giving to Pax Christi!

11:00am Mass: We will celebrate Pentecost, our volunteers, and a special blessing and installation of the Peace Pole on the grounds.

Following the 11:00am Mass, from 12:15–3:00pm, join us in Nazareth Hall and the North Parking Lot area for food and fun celebrating Pax Christi's 35th Anniversary!

There will be video musings and photographic memories of Pax Christi, along with your own stories shared in the community celebration!





FUNERAL HOSPITALITY PHONE CALLER

Our parish community provides funeral hospitality meals after 50+ funerals per year. Hundreds of volunteers come together for this ministry as a way to support grieving families. Callers are needed for our phone chain as we mobilize volunteers to provide food and service for a funeral hospitality meal. Willingness to contact volunteers via phone is needed as well as the ability to work on short notice. The time commitment is approximately four hours per funeral. If interested or have questions, please call Mary Ann Callahan, 952-405-2227.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP HELP NEEDED JULY 25-29

We need your help in a variety of ways listed below:

- Scripture stories are shared daily by our fabulous youth drama team. They break open the Word of God through music and movement as well. Youth grades six and older are invited to be a drama team
- Fun, Christian music is at the heart of our camp, and each family receives a CD. Our wonderful music team leads us in prayer and praise as we lift our voices to God in song. We're always looking for song leaders to join our team. Rehearsals take place through out the summer.
- Our dedicated snack team brings our stories to life through food, which is sure to be a hit with the kids. Help as many days as you are able to help prepare and deliver the snacks.
- Our awesome craft team helps prepare and lead the campers in five different crafts. If you like to paint and create, this one's for you. Some of the preparation takes place before the week of camp and can be done at home or sitting by the lake. We will also need help with decorations.
- Games are a hit every year and offer a variety of movement and time to release some energy. Senior high youth and adults are welcome to help lead these activities.

VBC Questions? Contact Reneé Dignan, Camp Director, rdignan@paxchristi.com.

PARISHIONER NEWS

MARCH BAPTISMS

James Anthony Mezzenga

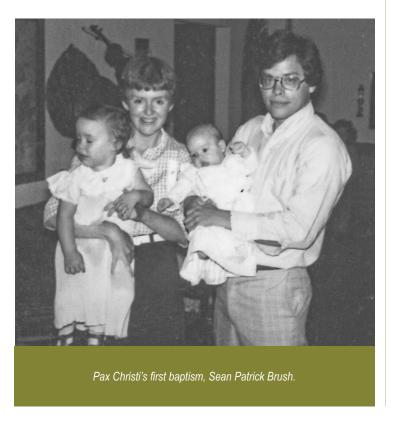
3/12/2016

MARCH FUNERALS

Patricia F. Esterley 3/19/2016 Claire Elizabeth Strawman 3/19/2016 David Leo Benolkin 3/22/2016

MARCH NEW MEMBERS

Dan and Tracy Bitonti
Jessica Blair
Mark and Christen Everly
Michael and Aprilynn Hartung
Randy and Lynda Hesse
Tim Keating
John and Susan Lenczewski
Mark Lenczewski and Erica Milton
Nick and Bernice Loscheider
Florence Roberts
Marietha Shete





READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1, 2016

Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Jn 15:26--16:4a

Tuesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-14/Jn 16:12-15 Thursday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-7/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10/Jn 16:23b-28

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 2016

Sunday: 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-36/Jn 17:11b-19 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-8/Jn 15:9-17

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15, 2016

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34/Rom 8:8-17

Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-11, 23/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-11/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-20/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12 Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-3, 8/Mk 10:13-16

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 22, 2016

Sunday: Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-9/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15 Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9-10/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1-4/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2-5/Mk 10:46-52
Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13/Ps 149:1-6, 9/Mk 11:11-26
Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/Ps 63:2-6/Mk 11:27-33

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 29, 2016

Sunday: Gn 14:18-20/Ps 110:1-4/1 Cor 11:23-26/Lk 9:11b-17

Monday: 2 Pt 1:2-7/Ps 91:1-2, 14-16/Mk 12:1-12

Tuesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/ls 12:2-6/Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Ps 123:1-2/Mk 12:18-27 Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Mk 12:28-34 Friday: Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-6/Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7 Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8/Ps 71:8-9, 14-17, 22/Lk 2:41-51

MAY

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION: SPRING SCHEDULE

Mondays, 5:30-7:30pm through May 23 at Pax Christi

The Southwest Grief Coalition is a partnership of five local churches working together to provide support and education for those who are grieving. A seven-week spring series, *Living and Growing Through Loss*, continues through May 23, hosted here at Pax Christi. The evening will include a light meal, followed by speaker, and then small group supportive sessions specific to your type of loss. If you or someone you know has suffered the death of a loved one, you are invited to participate. There is no cost to attend. For more information visit www.paxchristi.com/bereavementministry.

LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS SESSION STARTS SOON!

Wednesdays, May 4 - June 8, 6:30-8:00pm, Fee is \$17 RSVP

Are you a list maker? Do you make friends while standing in the checkout line? Do you always strive to make sure everyone is included in the fun? Are you the one who is always early, or the one who has likes to cram a few more tasks in before you call it a day? Do you love to learn? Are you a planner or the person that dreams big dreams? None of us are all of these things, but each of these traits are gifts that when developed, can help us be the best possible person God calls us to be, in our work, personal relationships, and in our faith journey. Perhaps it's time for you to find out what talents/strengths you bring to the table. Join the over 1,200 people who have taken the Living Your Strengths assessment and classes through Pax Christi. The small group sessions run for six weeks. Participants will receive a copy of the Living Your Strengths book, a journal, a code for online talent assessment, and will work with others in a small group environment with a certified facilitator to maximize talents and discover one's individual calling. Please register online or contact Mary Kennedy, mkennedy@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7220.

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.

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP

Thursday, May 5, 3:00-4:30pm

This group meets monthly and provides an opportunity for anyone with mental health concerns to both give and receive support. If you would like to make a deeper connection with God and oneself, and to be exposed to tools which might help make one's life more manageable, you are welcome to join this group. The group meets on the first Thursday of every month from 3:00-4:30pm. Questions? Contact Jean Thoresen, Dir. Of Pastoral Care, 952-405-7211.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, May 6, Beginning with Mass at 8:30am

Come and join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and rolls 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!

TWELVE BASKETS ANNUAL BABY SHOWER DRIVE

Weekend of May 7/8

Baby items are needed for the Twelve Baskets annual Baby Shower Drive on Mother's Day Weekend. Bring joy to new mothers in need by donating new clothing (newborn to 5T), diapers and wipes, blankets, bottles and more – diapers (newborn to size 5) are especially needed. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

BOOMERS AND BEYOND ANNUAL RETREAT

Tuesday, May 10, 9:00am-1:00pm at St. Edward's Church RSVP

The retreat will feature two spiritual directors presenting the theme "Grand Presence." "My children don't go to church anymore and my grandchildren aren't being raised in the faith. What can I do?" We will explore the ways this struggle can inspire our own spiritual growth and the ways we can continue modeling faith for our families. Boomer members can enjoy this event free as part of your annual membership. Non-members are encouraged to attend for a fee of \$15 per person. The day will begin with Mass followed by coffee and rolls and the retreat. Lunch will follow at the conclusion of the retreat. Both members and nonmembers must register by Monday, May 2, either online or by calling the RSVP line, 952-405-7251.

4TH ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K

Saturday, May 14, 9:00am RSVP

This parish-wide event will benefit the Pax Christi Giving Garden (Crops for PROP) and build community among Pax Christi families and the greater Eden Prairie neighborhood. All are welcome! Our goal is 250 participants, so we need you to join in the fun. Register online by visiting www.paxchristi.com/5k. The fee is \$20 for the first entrant, \$10 for each additional participant within a household (includes t-shirt and pancake breakfast).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAX CHRISTI – 35 YEARS OF GIVING!

Pentecost Weekend, May 14/15

Mark your calendar and make sure you join us as we celebrate 35 years of giving! The weekend will include our annual 5K and Pancake Breakfast, a Pentecost Mass with special blessing of the new Peace Pole and our volunteers, video musings, photo memories, food and fun! Additional details on page 16.

MAKE PLANS NOW

YOUTH IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY SUMMER CAMP

June 12–25 at St. John's University, Fee is \$450 RSVP

YTM is more than a two week long summer camp; it's an opportunity to build community with Catholic youth from all over the upper Midwest, develop leadership skills, grow in faith, and discover God's plan for your life! YTM incorporates service projects, engaging classes with college theologians, and all best camp experiences like canoeing, hiking, volleyball, and even a No Talent Show! For more information about YTM and to sign up, go to www.ytm-sju.org. Pax Christi offers a scholarship to any parish youth who wish to attend the camp. Contact Peter Bierer for more information.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP: AGE 3-6TH GRADE

July 25–29, 9:00am–12:00pm, July 30 Celebration, 5:00pm RSVP

Complete details in right panel.

PAXCONNEX: FOR THOSE ENTERING 7TH-9TH GRADE

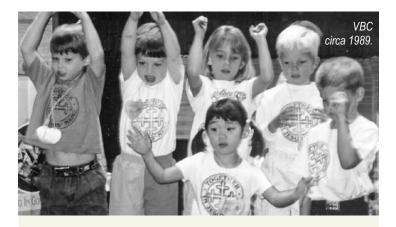
July 25-29, 9:00am-4:00pm, July 30 Celebration, 5:00pm RSVP

Each day will be fun and faith filled! In the mornings, youth will participate in a variety of activities from drama team, Bible School assistant leaders, nursery assistants, and on-site and off-site service activities. Our afternoons will be focused on activities and games that teach leadership skills, peer ministry skills, and team/community building — all while having a blast! Register online now. Additional details online at www.paxchristi.com/paxconnex.

ITALY: THE LAND OF THE SAINTS WITH FR HERB HAYEK

October 25-November 4, 2016 RSVP

Join Fr. Herb Hayek as he travels to Italy, The Land of the Saints: Francis and Dominic, Clare, and Catherine. To learn more about this special pilgrimage, visit *magitravelinc.com*, click Italy, and then click the Learn More button below the trip dates. You may view the daily itinerary, hotel accommodations, pricing, and more. You may also register online. Please contact Magi Travel, 952-949-0065, with any questions.



COME SHARE THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!

Bible Camp 2016 is the week of July 25–29, 9:00am–12:00pm! Our week concludes with 5:00pm Mass on Saturday evening, July 30, and includes dinner and entertainment! Children ages three–6th grade are invited to participate. Invite your friends as you do not have to be Pax Christi members to attend.

Come for faith and stay for fun and friendships! Our stories and activities reflect the Year of Mercy and include the power of forgiveness, love, and helping others.

We are proud to develop our own curriculum, which includes age appropriate activities for our toddlers and preschoolers. We sing together, pray together, do service and outreach, participate in wacky games, and enjoy a daily craft and snack.

JOIN THE FUN! Volunteers are needed as crew leaders, snack leaders, craft leaders, game leaders, and musicians. Parents, grandparents, college kids, empty nesters — all are welcome to join our camp experience. Training and all materials are provided. We will also need help with our decorations several weeks before camp begins.

If you're grade six and older, we would love to have you involved with our drama team. This wonderful group is the heart-beat of our camp and brings our Incredible scripture stories to life. Registration information for this outstanding experience is online at www.paxchristi.com.

Registration and further information about Bible Camp and the volunteer opportunities are also online at www.paxchristi.com/biblecamp.

Questions? Contact Renee Dignan, Camp Director, rdignan@paxchristi.com.

MAY

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	CHAIR YOGA	LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT NIGHT	ANGEL HOUR	SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP	FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE	BABY SHOWER DRIVE
FAITH FORMATION	SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION	BAPTISM PREP CLASS	LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
BABY SHOWER DRIVE	CHAIR YOGA	BOOMERS RETREAT DAY				35TH ANNIVERSARY WKNI RUNWALKPRAY5K NAME TAG WEEKEND
	SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION		LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS			NEW MEMBER WKND
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
5TH ANNIVERSARY WKND NAME TAG WEEKEND	CHAIR YOGA		ANGEL HOUR			
NEW MEMBER WKND	SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION	LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	CHAIR YOGA		ANGEL HOUR			
	SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION		LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS			
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY MASS	31	1	2	3	4
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SR ASSOCIATE PASTOR SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTACT

Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P. 952-405-7219

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Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

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Anne Swenson 952-405-7202

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Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

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May 14–15! Register now for the 4th annual

PAX CHRISTI器 RunWalkPray5K

Saturday, May 14, 9:00am

This parish-wide event will benefit the Pax Christi Giving Garden (Crops for PROP) and build community among Pax Christi families and the greater Eden Prairie neighborhood. All are welcome – bring someone along who is not a member! Our goal is 250 participants, so we need you to join in the fun. Register online by visiting www.paxchristi.com/5k. The fee is \$20 for the first entrant, \$10 for each additional participant within a household (includes t-shirt and pancake breakfast).

\$20 for the first entrant, \$10 for each additional participant within a household.

Just One of the Highlights of Pax Christi's 35th Anniversary



Complete details and course map at www.paxchristi.com/5k

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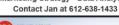
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