



# PAXCHRISTI NEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie May 2017

## NEW LIFE BURSTING THROUGH!

It is as if God removed our old, sinful, mutated DNA... Pages 4-6



# PAX CHRISTI

*Catholic Community*

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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.  
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Weekday Masses  
Mondays 8:30am  
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow  
Wednesdays 6:00pm  
Thursdays 8:30am  
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Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

**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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# SPRINGTIME FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE



**Fr. Marc Paveglia**  
Parochial Vicar

JUST AS A PLANT  
NEEDS SEVERAL BASIC  
ELEMENTS TO GROW  
AND FLOURISH,  
SO DO OUR SOULS.

**IN SECOND** grade, Mrs. Kerlik arranged our science experiments with incentives. You could only do one experiment at a time. The first few projects were simple, but, with each successive completion, the experiments got more complex and more rewarding. I was so excited when I could finally begin the “Little Seed — Big Power” experiment. Everyone in second grade knew that *this experiment was way cool*. Maybe you did this in school, too?

First I took a clear plastic cup and put dirt inside. Then I added some water. After that, I planted the tiny seed about an inch below the surface. Finally, I poured plaster over the soil. It hardened into a perfectly shaped gray disc. Over the next few days we watched the seed

put forth a tiny, whitish green tentacle within the transparent container. But what kind of hope did this seed have? Wouldn't this plant merely shrivel up and die, surprised by its own entrapment beneath a stone sarcophagus?

One morning our class filed into the classroom and beheld quite the surprise —the plaster was cracked! The sprout had smashed through. Life had won. *No wonder this experiment is way cool*. When mom and dad asked, “What happened at school today?” we all shared this story. It turns out that germinating seeds have tremendous power inside them.

Plants are amazing creatures, and they contain many lessons. It's no wonder that so many of Jesus' teachings refer to them. His parables, lessons, and deeds featured such plants as the mustard seed, the lily, the mulberry tree, the vine, the wheat and the darnel, the grape, the peapod, and the fig tree — to name a few. He even spoke about yeast. One of his most famous parables is about a seed and the four kinds of soil into which it can fall. Lastly, of course, Jesus was crucified on the wood of a tree and was resurrected in a garden.

The growth of a plant has long been a classic illustration of the spiritual life. As spring comes

into full view this year, nature testifies to us that the life and growth we see in creation is meant to be mirrored in our souls. Saint Francis understood this deeply. Recently our Holy Father, Pope Francis, asked us to consider this marvelous saint in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. In his exhortation to care for our common home, Sister Earth, he wrote:

*...Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. “Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker” (Wis 13:5); indeed, “his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world” (Rom 1:20). For this reason, Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty (§12).*

Just as a plant needs several basic elements to grow and flourish, so do our souls. What kind of ingredients does the Christian spiritual life require, and what can “the book of nature” teach us?





## THE SEED

A seed's DNA contains all the genetic material it needs to one day be fully transformed into its full adult life. The immensity and the beauty of a mighty redwood is contained primordially in tiny molecules coiled inside the redwood seed, waiting to be activated. In the same way, the Christian life begins as a seed. When we are baptized, God implants within us the seed of eternal life. This life is the life of Jesus Christ himself. To speak metaphorically, it is as if God removed our old, sinful, mutated DNA, and replaced it with a healthy strand, the "spiritual DNA" of His son. All the gifts and virtues that the Holy Spirit desires us to have are infused within us, waiting to be released. This humble beginning is entirely a gift from God. We cannot earn this new life. It is totally grace that saves us, even though we are called to respond to His gift by deeper and deeper faith as we move through life.

## THE SOIL

A seed quickly puts out roots. It needs to be anchored in the earth and draw nourishment from its surroundings. If the seed is not buried deep enough, it will wither and die. Some plants can only survive in certain kinds of soil, with the proper chemical balance to



sustain them. In a similar way, we also need to be anchored and nourished by the right soil in our spiritual life. As Catholic Christians, we sink our roots deep into the fertile ground of truth. We receive the truth first of all in Jesus Christ, who is himself truth incarnate. The truth of Christ is guarded and transmitted throughout history by His Church. Jesus said to his apostles, the first bishops, "whoever hears you, hears me" (Lk 10:16).

The teaching of the Church's magisterium anchors us firmly in the truth so that we will not wither or be uprooted by false teachings, no matter how fashionable or popular they may be. The Church's most challenging teachings — especially regarding sexuality, greed vs. generosity, and love of our enemies — remain true throughout time, since they set

us free to love like Christ. When we remain in the teaching of the Church, we remain in the word of the Lord who said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:31-32).

## WATER

Water is life. Many plants, such as cacti, have adapted amazing ways of collecting and storing water in extreme conditions. But one way or another, every plant needs it from the ground or from the air. For our thirsty spiritual lives, the sacraments refresh us with God's holiness, love, and grace. The sacraments are encounters with Jesus. Each time we partake of one of the seven sacraments, the life of Christ cleanses us, heals us, draws us close to Him, and sends us forth on a life-giving stream to serve one another.

**IF YOU ABIDE IN MY  
WORD, YOU ARE TRULY  
MY DISCIPLES, AND YOU  
WILL KNOW THE TRUTH,  
AND THE TRUTH WILL  
SET YOU FREE.**

**—JOHN 8:31–32**

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.

OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES  
 FLOURISH WHEN  
 THEY ARE LIVED IN  
 FRIENDSHIP – WITH  
 COMPANIONS. WE NEED  
 EACH OTHER AND WE  
 BLESS EACH OTHER.



Each of the sacraments has a particular moment of its celebration: a person receives the Blessed Sacrament, another is reconciled in the Sacrament of Mercy, a child is baptized, a couple speaks their wedding vows. The event happens and finishes. Yet the grace of these moments is meant to *be continually lived in*. A person is meant to *live from and within* the sacraments. It is like the difference between being splashed by a bucket of water and a kayaking adventure. The splash is over and done; the water is gone. But the kayak is carried and propelled by the water to its destination. It is an entire journey. The kayaker “lives” in the water and fulfills his purpose there. He lets it carry him. In the same way, the sacraments’ gifts of forgiveness, healing, nourishing, uniting, blessing, strengthening, and serving another person in love are streams that carry us through life to God—the eternal fountain of all love.

### THE SUN

The light of the sun enables photosynthesis, an amazing process by which a plant feeds itself. Every little leaf and shoot is a solar panel designed by the lab of nature. Plants receive sunlight in a daily rhythm and sometimes intermittently. For the Christian spiritual life, prayer is the sunlight that feeds us. Just as earth’s fiery orb rises and sets each day, the disciple of Jesus needs daily time spent in prayer to absorb the rays of his warmth. As Catholics, we have a rich heritage of prayer that is inexhaustible. Perhaps this spring is a great season to try something new in your prayer life, like letting some new leaves turn toward the sunbeam.

### THE GARDEN

Even though many plants and flowers sprout up in solitary places, humans have quite a fondness for bringing them together in a garden. We love to bring order and art to lower creation. In fact, God invited our first parents to tend and keep the Garden of Eden as co-creators with him (Gen 2:15). Biologists and gardeners tell us about the benefits of companion planting. By increasing the diversity of plant species within a field or garden, all the plants can benefit from decreased pests, higher yields, and better pollination. In our spiritual lives, too, we live within the “garden of the Church.” God brings us together into this garden, all of us the same but all of us a little different. We belong to Him, the master gardener, and to each other. Our spiritual lives flourish when they are lived in friendship – with companions. We need each other, and we bless each other.

### THE FRUIT

Finally there is the fruit. Every organism that exists is alive because its parent was fruitful. When we go looking for fruit on a barren tree, we go away sad (Mt 12:33). When we come across a tree that is bearing an enormous harvest of fruit, we are happy and say, “What an excellent tree!” Our spiritual lives are ultimately meant to bear fruit for the kingdom of God. We do not live for ourselves. Christ’s life within us—the seed—is meant to grow into the fruits of love, service, compassion, generosity, purity, holiness, and self-mastery (Gal 5:22-23). To be an excellent human being is to be spiritually fruitful. This is our vocation. This is our call. May the power of the Holy Spirit bring about in all of us a spiritual springtime as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ!

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**EACH YEAR** at Pax Christi a lovely tradition occurs around Mother's Day. It is the Twelve Basket drive for babies, and it will be occurring again this year the weekend of **May 13/14**. Showering babies in need is an incredible way to honor all mothers for the gift of life. It supports women who have chosen to bring new life into this world. Each year parishioners are incredibly generous. There are always stacks of diapers and wipes, new clothing, hygiene products, formula, blankets, and handmade gifts. This drive, along with all of the Twelve Basket Ministry drives, gives families incredible opportunities to make a difference. It creates the possibility for great family conversations that can help shape and mold young lives. I say that because of my own experiences of this with my grandsons.

I am one of the fortunate ones who is able to see how women and babies benefit from your generosity. I work in a unique program called Healthy Beginnings at Health Partners. I have been there for almost 23 years. I am now semi-retired and choose to stay involved because I am passionate about this work.

The diagnosis of a pregnancy and the prospect of a new life is not always good news. An unexpected pregnancy in a life of a woman/family that is struggling can be difficult at best. My heart is often heavy as I listen to the life stories

of pregnant women. These stories are really chronicles of lives that have been touched and affected by issues such as substance abuse, neglect, abandonment, violence, PTSD, homelessness, mental illness, histories of torture, escape from war-torn countries, and all too often complete lack of support. Whenever I think that I have heard the most difficult story ever, another more difficult one emerges.

Pregnancy is an opportunity for change, and many women do an amazing job of remaking their lives. Thankfully, we have many programs in the Twin Cities that reach out to pregnant women and offer support. Besides the Healthy Beginnings Program, three other agencies also benefit from the baby drive. They are Holy Rosary, Southwest Options for Women in Hopkins, and Tandem in southwest Minneapolis. Women who engage in services with these agencies learn that they are not in this alone. They discover programs and mentors who can assist and support them.

Women who are unable to obtain what they need for their babies frequently feel like they have failed them. These feelings can surface before they have even begun to parent. When I suggest ideas to solve that problem and I can jump start the solution with a bag of donated items, they are astounded. I wish you could see their tear-stained but ecstatic faces. Or hear them say that they cannot believe that someone who does not even know them cared enough to shop or to knit for their baby. These donations give them hope and the knowledge that someone cares. These baby supplies solve concrete problems, such as the box of diapers given to a mom who had none and was using rags and plastic bags from the grocery store!

Last week I had a visit from a mom who was in our program when she was pregnant years

ago. She came to tell me that she is graduating from college in May. She will start graduate school in the fall. Her 4-year old is thriving. She is working for a nonprofit organization that helps women, and she is substance-free. Her life is 360 degrees different than it was when she was pregnant. She was a recipient of this drive. The beautiful blanket she received is her daughter's constant companion. She could not stop talking about that blanket! She came to give me a hug and tell me that all of this mattered in her life. This is only one story. There are hundreds more, but there are only so many words that will fit on one page. I hope this gives you a glimpse into the impact you have on the lives of so many. I, for one, will be forever grateful. Thank you for caring, and for sharing, and for making a difference.

*Written by Carol Seifert,  
Twelve Baskets Ministry.*





# THE LORD IS WITH YOU,



## Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

The month of May is a special time set aside in the liturgical calendar to honor Mary, our Blessed Mother. We are first introduced to Mary in the opening chapter of Luke where we learn that the angel Gabriel has come to her tiny village to deliver a message from God. "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). Her faithful response, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38), has become for us a model of prayer. She said YES to God and totally surrenders to God's will. This act of surrendering is a profound step in faith, yet not one that will erase all fear and apprehension for her future. The unknowns of pregnancy can be scary enough, but Mary is a teenage girl and lives in a society which rejects unwed mothers. These commanding words — *The Lord is With You* — would have brought her much needed consolation and reassurance as she undoubtedly faces judgment from her neighbors and the weight of the profound calling she has just received.

Mary models discipleship for us. Amid her fear, she trusted deep in her heart that nothing will be impossible with God. She accepted the Lord's invitation to be with her in the most intimate way possible, life within her. I often look to Mary when I am in search of wisdom, courage, or an extra dose of faith. This year, for the month of May, I've decided to meditate on these powerful words — *The Lord is With You*. We all have those days, maybe even months, when life brings us challenges. We get overwhelmed with the demands of life, second guess our decisions, and worry how we are perceived by others. I know I do, so I've decided to let these five simple words rest on me and guide me as I interact with family and friends, and go about my day-to-day tasks. My yes invited me into a relationship with God, and these words remind me of God's presence within and around me. Mary has modeled for us what entrusting our lives to God looks like, and I invite you to ponder these five words as well. *The Lord is With You*. What do these words mean for your life?



Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.



It is during Mary's visit with Elizabeth that we hear the words, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). Both Mary and Elizabeth are pregnant with child and are in awe of the work of the Holy Spirit. Mary, in her youth, and Elizabeth, in her old age, wondered, "How can this be?" Mary asks the angel Gabriel for clarification of what is being asked of her. She learns that she will bear the Son of God. Sr. Mary Catherine Nolan writes, "The medieval Dominican mystic and preacher, Meister Eckhart, taught that Mary conceived the Word of God in her heart before she conceived him in her body. He further preached that all the grace that was in Mary is also in us, and we must all be mothers of God, meaning we are called to bring Christ into the world. Pondering God's blessings as Mary did leads us to share in her happiness." This May we can ask Mary to birth in us a loving heart and clarity for our own calling. We can learn from Mary how to trust God's plan for us as we bring it to fruition.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of death.



We call on Mary to intercede for us, her children. During our Lenten journey here at Pax Christi, we brought our intentions to Mary, Undoer of Knots, through a ritual of writing our prayers on ribbons and tying them to the healing wall. As we begin to remove these ribbons, we thank Mary for her intercession and know that these prayers were carried to the heart of God. Now we ponder together, as a community of faith, the fruits of these prayers. We wait, and we listen. We surrender our intentions with confidence knowing nothing will be impossible with God.

Creator God, we honor Mary as the Mother of God. Guide us as we follow her example and entrust our lives to you.

Amen

Written by Jean Thoresen,  
Director of Pastoral Care.







# BRINGING NEW LIFE TO SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE



**IN GARDENING** season, members of the Pax Christi Giving Garden Ministry plant, tend, and harvest organic vegetables to deliver to the PROP food shelf. Opportunities to share in this ministry are flexible; gardeners may come to help as often as they like on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30–7:30pm May through September.

For five years, Pax Christi has planted a vegetable garden on church grounds to grow fresh produce to donate to the PROP community food shelf. Its name, the Pax Christi Giving Garden, reflects its mission and sole purpose of growing food to give to those in need. Expanding the food shelf fare to include just-picked "first fruits" is a beautiful way express our deep love and concern for our neighbors.

Each year the Giving Garden donates 1,200+ pounds of organic tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, potatoes, cabbage, peppers, peas, carrots, and more to help PROP provide fresh foods to Eden Prairie and Chanhassen-area families.

Giving Garden ministers help in many ways to make the giving garden a community effort, from helping to plan and prepare for the garden in April, plant seeds and seedlings in mid to late May, weed, water, pick and deliver vegetables to PROP from June to September. Regular work times are Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30–7:30pm with vegetable deliveries made the following mornings. Many volunteers are a part of the effort, some giving their time every week and some more occasionally.

If you would like to help in the garden, please contact volunteer garden coordinator Mary Beth Schleif, [schleif@aol.com](mailto:schleif@aol.com), or 952-947-5955.





*They're all rushing  
to get their cool shirt!  
Register NOW so you get one too!*



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SATURDAY, MAY 20 WE CELEBRATE THE FIFTH ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K



**THIS COMMUNITY-WIDE** celebration started as a way to get members and friends out and about in the neighborhood surrounding Pax Christi and run, walk, and pray our way around our campus or on the prayer labyrinth. Proceeds from the RunWalkPray5k support the Giving Garden, Pax Christi's community garden, located on the west side of our grounds. It supplies pound after pound of fresh produce to the PROP Food Shelf over the summer months. Individuals and teams of shared ministers from Pax Christi assist in the planning, planting, weeding, watering, and eventually harvesting of a cornucopia of vegetables.\*

The RunWalkPray5k starts at 9:00am and is a true 5K, run or walked on an open course. Dogs on leashes and strollers are welcome. The pancake breakfast will start immediately after. In the event we experience inclement weather, we will enjoy pancakes and share tales of how well we would have run, jogged, or walked to the delight of all in attendance. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in this fun event.

Sign up online on the Pax Christi event registration page. Cost for the event is \$20 for an individual and \$10 for additional members from the same household. The fee includes a RunWalkPray5k t-shirt, admission to the pancake breakfast, and the remainder supports our Giving Garden.

If you are interested in assisting with the RunWalkPray5k, contact Laurie Hanscom, [hanscom22@comcast.net](mailto:hanscom22@comcast.net).

**\*NOTE:** If helping in the Giving Garden sounds like a good fit for your green thumb, additional information can be found on page 10. To learn more and/or assist with one of our teams this spring and summer, contact parishioner Mary Beth Schleif at [Schleif@aol.com](mailto:Schleif@aol.com).

OUT OF CLUTTER...  
 FIND SIMPLICITY.  
 FROM DISCORD...FIND  
 HARMONY. IN THE  
 MIDDLE OF DIFFICULTY  
 LIES OPPORTUNITY.  
 —ALBERT EINSTEIN



## REMODELING AND SIMPLIFYING OUR LIVES AS STEWARDS

**IT WAS TIME** for one more home improvement project: the laundry/workshop/furnace room called out for flooring, paint, and more. Tackling this project, my husband and I once again reverted to our toolboxes of skills and talents of who does what in a successful home improvement project. Over 36 years of married life, we have learned, after some painful experiences, a set of maxims that need to be followed. I paint; he does not paint — ever. He measures; I place the wallpaper. He needs a list, and I need to follow said list. If it is not on the list, the work is not approved. We cannot begin until the workspace is devoid of all, and he means all, detritus. Something along the lines of a clean workspace is a happy one.

You learn a lot about life and your partner when you embark on a project together — how does one like to plan; is there a plan; what happens when you run out money, ideas, resources, and where is the trust line, and when can and cannot it be crossed. For almost every project we have tackled, there has been some sort of change that occurred somewhere along the way. Something did not fit the way we planned, something major was left out of consideration, or we got a better idea. The plan we started with veered off in a new, and often, better direction. One of the best things about remodeling is that once the dust settles and the paint dries, you enjoy a cleaner, clearer, more efficient space. Perhaps clearing out the clutter gives one's heart and soul some freedom to breathe and room to roam. We also discovered that the clean lines of the newly remodeled area left us not wanting to return to old ways and clutter it up again.

Living simply and removing the clutter from our lives is a goal many search for, yet few manage to attain. It is so much easier to just shove the flotsam and jetsam of our lives into a closet, shut the door, and forget about it. Unfortunately, when we least expect it, the door

opens, and all of the problems we thought we had removed from our existence rain down upon us. We discover it would have been much simpler to fix the problem in the first place than to deal with the mess it made when we least needed to address the situation. Hindsight is always 20/20.

Living a remodeled existence in one's home is one thing, but how can our members live more simply, with less clutter when it comes to Pax Christi? One way is finding the right fit in your worship life by attending the Mass that speaks most to you, for each of our Mass times has a different group of regulars and speaks to different needs. Opening up your toolbox of skills/talents and finding a way to use your God-given gifts to help others is another way to remodel your life. According to Kahlil Gibran: *You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.* What interests and talents would you like to share? When it comes to financial support, our members can simplify in many ways. Making a pledge each year in the Annual Stewardship Renewal is incredibly helpful as it lets us plan our budget so we know what we can expect going forward each year. How about changing your giving to Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)? Authorizing your donations to come electronically on a regular basis is easy and safe for our members. For the parish, electronic giving cuts down on staff time, is more accurate with less paperwork, and electronic giving occurs regularly, no matter if members are away on vacation or not. Currently over one-third of Pax Christi's general fund donations are received electronically. Consider simplifying your giving by trying out an electronic gift to Pax Christi. Consider how you are called to renovate your life and how Pax Christi can be of assistance.

*Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.*



# PAX CHRISTI'S PRINCIPLE OF CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

**THIS IS THE SECOND** in a series of three articles addressing the Three Principles of Hospitality, identified as part of Member Engagement Initiative. The first article in the April Issue referenced *Welcome and Invite*.

**ACCEPT AND INCLUDE:** We receive strangers as a gift and without judgement. We are called to revere what is sacred in every person who comes to us and we appreciate who each person is today.

This was many years ago. A young mother who thought she was inclusive in her actions and thought she taught her children the values of inclusion was faced with a dilemma. She was a greeter at a new parish church and encountered a family of a mother, father, and son, all of whom were deaf. She wanted to approach and welcome them to the new church, but being embarrassed that she did not "speak" sign language, she wondered what to do and how to approach and welcome them. So she simply smiled and nodded but did not approach or engage them. When she realized during the Mass that this family did not even have the benefit of full participation with a signing interpreter for the service, she began to feel guilty. It bothered her all week. So the next week she decided that she would approach them

and did with a series of poor sign gestures and some lip reading. Much to her surprise, they seemed to welcome her awkward attempts without judgment. Thus a real process of engagement and openness began, despite the barriers to communication.

Last month in this magazine, we started to speak about the principles of Christian hospitality, especially those principles surrounding *Welcome and Invite*. This month we would like to talk about going that next step in our engagement journey to *Accept and Include*.

How do we open our hearts to those who are different from us — those with whom we might think we have nothing in common? How do we overcome our own embarrassment at not being sure how to approach those who we think are different from ourselves since we probably have not experienced their life or their culture, their behaviors, or perhaps even their beliefs? In a relationship, we find our common threads.

In Matthew 25:37, we remember the words: "Lord, when was it that we saw you?" Of course Jesus' answer was that you DID see Him: "Amen, I say to you, what you did for these the least of my sisters and brothers, you did to me."

The Mission of Pax Christi invites us to be "leaders in faith for service to the world." So, too, our Vision Statement calls us to 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."

Perhaps these are more than really nice statements of Vision and Mission and more a *call to action* to participate in accepting those with whom we may not have a lot in common, including those inside our parish community and outside that community who are different from ourselves. In

Christian hospitality, to accept is to receive with approval or favor, and to include is to embrace, involve, or to take in.

To accept and include may mean to take down some of my own barriers, whether that be some preconceived idea I may have about my own shortcomings when including someone else or fear that our differences far outweigh our commonalities. An open heart will mean that we can see the Lord in each person we encounter, and then the greater gift, we include him or her in our circle, our life, and our community in some meaningful way.

*Written by Mary Beth Buckman,  
Member Engagement Steering  
Committee.*



# VACATIONERS, FAMILIES WITH SUMMER CABINS, SNOW BIRDS... COULD YOU HELP?

**How would you like to help Pax Christi save money  
by a simple Email or phone call?**

**SO, HERE'S THE GIST:** Every month the United States Post Office ends up returning over 30 copies of the monthly magazine, *PaxChristiNews*, to the parish and fines us for this. What's up? Since the monthly magazine is sent non-profit rate, the post office will not forward it, but instead sends it back to the parish and charges us 58cents for every copy.

How can you help? If you plan on being out of town and notify the post office to forward your mail, also contact Maria Miller in the parish office, 952-405-7217, or mmiller@paxchristi.com, and she can do a temporary address change for the magazine. Or, you can have the magazine stopped until you are back in town. You always have the option to view it each month online on our "Media" page. If none of this applies to you, then sit back with your *PaxChristiNews* and enjoy the glorious days of summer.

*Written by Liz Georgioff, Pax Christi parishioner.*



## FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

**FOR ALMOST** two years I've been a volunteer with Families Moving Forward on behalf of Pax Christi. This is enough time for me to have met a dozen or so families who are in the middle of experiencing homelessness. I've read board books to their toddlers, played Uno with their tweens, and pushed their preschoolers on the swings. I've wished each one of them well, from the bottom of my heart, as we said good-bye. Upon the return to my own house I've prayed for each one by name.

These experiences help me address the question: What does homelessness really look like? News coverage and data-driven reports fail to depict the humanness of the situation. Homelessness, I now know, often looks like toys and clothes piled into large white trash bags stored in church closets until a permanent address is secured. It looks like resilient parents trying to do their best for their kids, who comprise 35% of Minnesota's homeless population, half age 5 or under (Wilder Foundation, 2016). For me, volunteering with Families Moving Forward is an opportunity to connect in very human ways with people in a time of significant need for them.

Families Moving Forward is a longstanding program of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. There are two locations: North Minneapolis and Chaska. We volunteers from Pax Christi serve at the Chaska location. Families Moving Forward operates during the day hours by hosting a small number of families with children at a central Program Center, and then various local congregations host the families overnight for one week each. Our Program Center is at Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian church. Pax Christi volunteers run the Program Center for one day per month (every fourth Sunday). We open the building in the morning to welcome the families back from whichever congregation hosted them the night before, and close up in the afternoon when the bus comes to take them to their next congregational destination. In between those times we chat, we play with kids, we make sure there is laundry detergent and diapers, we share snacks in the Program Center kitchen, we give the families space to watch TV or nap or shower. The volunteer job is light but rewarding. We act as a small but needed piece of the puzzle for families experiencing homelessness in our shared community.

More volunteers to this worthwhile ministry are needed! If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, please contact me at pata0006@umn.edu. Volunteer shifts are four hours each, on the fourth Sundays, based on your own choice of scheduling.

*Written by Tina Kruse, Pax Christi parishioner.*





# DOING OUR PART: PAX CHRISTI ADOPTS A HIGHWAY!

**IF YOU** pay close attention as you're driving down Flying Cloud Drive, you may notice a familiar name in a new place — a small blue and white sign bearing the words, "Pax Christi Catholic Community." Look even closer, and you'll see why: Pax Christi's youth ministry and the Justice Council have collaboratively "adopted" the 1.5 mile section of County Road 61 between Anderson Lakes Parkway and West 78<sup>th</sup> Street!

Adopt-a-Highway signs are seen every day along roads and highways in our communities and across the country...but what does it actually mean for Pax Christi to adopt a highway?

**IT'S SIMPLE:** Hennepin County provides us with trash bags, high-visibility vests, and orientation materials. Then, just twice per year, Pax Christi sends out volunteers to pick up trash along the side of the road.

Once we've done our clean-up, we leave the filled trash bags in a few piles along the road and give the folks at Hennepin County a call. We go on our merry way, and the folks from the county come and remove the bags for us. Who knew it could be so easy?

Adopting a highway fits perfectly with Pax Christi's vision statement which "calls for each member to engage in active and generous service to each other, our community, and the greater world." By doing our small part to care for the environment here in our local Eden Prairie community, we encourage and inspire others to take small steps to care for the environments in which they live. Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Adopting a highway helps us put this principle into action by joining with other churches, organizations, families, and

businesses across the country to ensure that the natural world just beyond the edges of our roadways is beautiful and safe for all God's creatures.

Join us for our first ever Adopt-a-Highway clean-up day on **Sunday, May 21**. After the 11:00am Mass we will begin with a potluck lunch in the Mahatma Gandhi Room (212) before carpooling to our clean-up location. The amount of time it will take to clean up our 1.5 mile stretch of road will largely depend on how many people come, but for now the plan is to meet back at Pax Christi around 5:00pm for ice cream treats. Families, including children and teens 11 years of age or older, are encouraged to attend! Sign up today on the Events page at [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration).

Questions? Contact Jessie Johnson at [jjohnson@paxchristi.com](mailto:jjohnson@paxchristi.com) or 952-405-7210.

**"WE MUST NOT THINK THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD. THEY BENEFIT SOCIETY, OFTEN UNBEKNOWN TO US, FOR THEY CALL FORTH A GOODNESS WHICH, ALBEIT UNSEEN, INEVITABLY TENDS TO SPREAD."**  
—POPE FRANCIS, LAUDATO SI'

Something's  
coming...

#whatsyourthing



## PARISHIONER NEWS

### MARCH BAPTISMS

Morgan Adeline Bork 3/26/2017  
Sonya Marie Goswami 3/26/2017

### MARCH FUNERALS

Scott Evers 3/11/2017  
Agnes (Ad) Marquardt 3/18/2017  
June V. Nelson 3/21/2017

### MARCH NEW MEMBERS

Richard Burke  
Barbara Conn  
Erin Holley  
Rob and Shanna Nunn  
Kelly and Connie Plourde  
Brett Schelitzche and Rebecca Case  
David Volenec  
Jocelyn Wolney



#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 7, 2017

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10  
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Jn 10:11-18  
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-7/Jn 10:22-30  
Wednesday: Acts 12:24--13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Jn 12:44-50  
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27/Jn 13:16-20  
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-11ab/Jn 14:1-6  
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 14:7-14

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 14, 2017

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12  
Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26  
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a  
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8  
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11  
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-10, 12/Jn 15:12-17  
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 21, 2017

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/  
Jn 14:15-21  
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b/Jn 15:26--16:4a  
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11  
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-14/Jn 16:12-15  
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 16:16-20  
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 28, 2017

Sunday: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a  
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab /Jn 16:29-33  
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a  
Wednesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/  
Lk 1:39-56  
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26  
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19  
Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4-5, 7/Jn 21:20-25



## BOOMERS ANNUAL RETREAT

**Monday, May 8, Beginning with Mass at 8:30am at Pax Christi**

BOOMERS AND BEYOND invites all seniors of the parish to our annual end-of-the year retreat, co-sponsored with the Young at Heart senior group at the Church of St. Edward. Retreat begins with Mass at 8:30am, followed by a light breakfast, presentation, and lunch will follow in the Hall of Martyrs. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Jacquelyne Witter, well known retreat leader, speaker, educator, and spiritual director. She has chosen to address us on the topic of *We Are an Easter People and Alleluia Is Our Song! As Christians we are called to be filled with joy and to share that joy with everyone we meet. Pope Francis, in his writing *The Joy of the Gospel*, reminds us of this call and invitation. So what does this look like in 'real life'? We will consider what joy is and the difference it makes in our own lives and in the lives of the people around us.*

Fee for this event is covered for those who are Boomers and Beyond members. Those who are not members may enjoy this special event for a fee of \$15 per person with reservation and payment in advance.

Pre-registration is required for both members and non-members by Tuesday, May 2. Register at [www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration](http://www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration) or by calling the RSVP line at 952-405-7251.

## MAY

### SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP

**Wednesday, May 3, 3:00–4:30pm**

The Spirituality and Mental Wellness group will not be meeting over the summer months. The last meeting for this year will be on Wednesday, May 3. **PLEASE NOTE DAY/DATE CHANGE.**

### FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

**Friday, May 5, beginning with Mass at 8:30am**

Join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and pastries in the Chief Joseph room. Please stay and join us at 9:30am as we plan out a variety of fun events for next year. New ideas are welcome! The event is sponsored by the Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond.

### MEMOIR WRITING WITH JIM KOEPKE

**Wednesday, May 10, 6:30–8:30pm, Room 212, No Fee RSVP**

Come and learn how to write the "Times of Your Life." Local author Jim Koepke will discuss why write memoirs, how to record one's life history, and specifics about how to structure and organize memoir writing. Bring paper and a pen. There will be time for questions following the presentation.

### ANNUAL BABY SHOWER DRIVE

**Weekend of May 13/14, Sponsored by Twelve Baskets Ministry**

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) and formula are especially needed. Donations benefit Tandem, Holy Rosary Parish, Healthy Beginnings, and Southwest Options for Women. Additional information on page 7. Thank you in advance for your generosity!







### INTRODUCTION TO SOULCOLLAGE®

**Wednesday, May 17, 6:30–8:30pm, Room 212; \$5 FOR MATERIALS RSVP**

You will learn about the SoulCollage® process, make cards, and learn ways to use your cards for counsel and inspiration with this fun and insightful style of journaling. This workshop will reveal the power of images and how they reflect your inner wisdom. Honor the unique aspects of your personality with each card you make and discover how your cards can help you tap your intuitive knowledge and fuel your spirituality. No artistic or SoulCollage® experience necessary. Facilitated by Lynn Schelitzche, MA, Faith Formation Director, and SoulCollage® facilitator. Material fee will be collected at the door.

### CAREGIVER SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

**THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH: May 18, 1:00–2:30pm**

**PLEASE NOTE** the group will not meet during the summer months of June, July, and August.

### BRUSHES WITH KINDNESS – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**Help is Needed — May 18–20 RSVP**

Pax Christi's 35th Anniversary social justice projects will continue with three days of work in Habitat for Humanity's *A Brush With Kindness* program. On May 18–20, Pax Christi volunteers will help refurbish a low-income family home in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. We will need 15 energetic volunteers for each day of work, plus additional volunteers to transport food and provide additional support. Register online today!

### 5TH ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K

**Saturday, May 20, 9:00am RSVP**

Additional information on page 11.

### MAY MINISTRY SHOWCASE: LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Weekend of May 20/21 in the Dorothy Day Social Hall**

Additional details on back cover.

### MEMORIAL DAY MASS

**Monday, May 29, 9:00am**

Please join us for Memorial Day Mass. On Monday, May 29, the parish office will be CLOSED for business in observance of the holiday and the building will close following Mass. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

## MAKE PLANS NOW

### VACATION BIBLE CAMP WEEK — REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

**Week of July 24–28, 9:00am–12:00pm, Ages 3 years – 6TH grade RSVP**

What Would Jesus DO? Our theme for this year's Bible Camp allows our campers and volunteers to explore fun and outreach as we spread the love of Jesus throughout our world. This year we will be sharing our craft creations with local care centers, YouthLink, PROP, and the CAP agency. Our campers and hundreds of volunteers will experience the joy of Christmas in July, the first miracle performed by Jesus, the calming of the stressful "seas" in our lives, and the first "happy meal." We welcome ages three to 100 to participate. Register your children and grandchildren, and then volunteer and grow in your own faith as your children grow in theirs.

### 2017 SUMMER SERVICE AND JUSTICE TRIP

**June 25–July 1, Detroit, MI; \$500 (Register with \$50 deposit) RSVP**

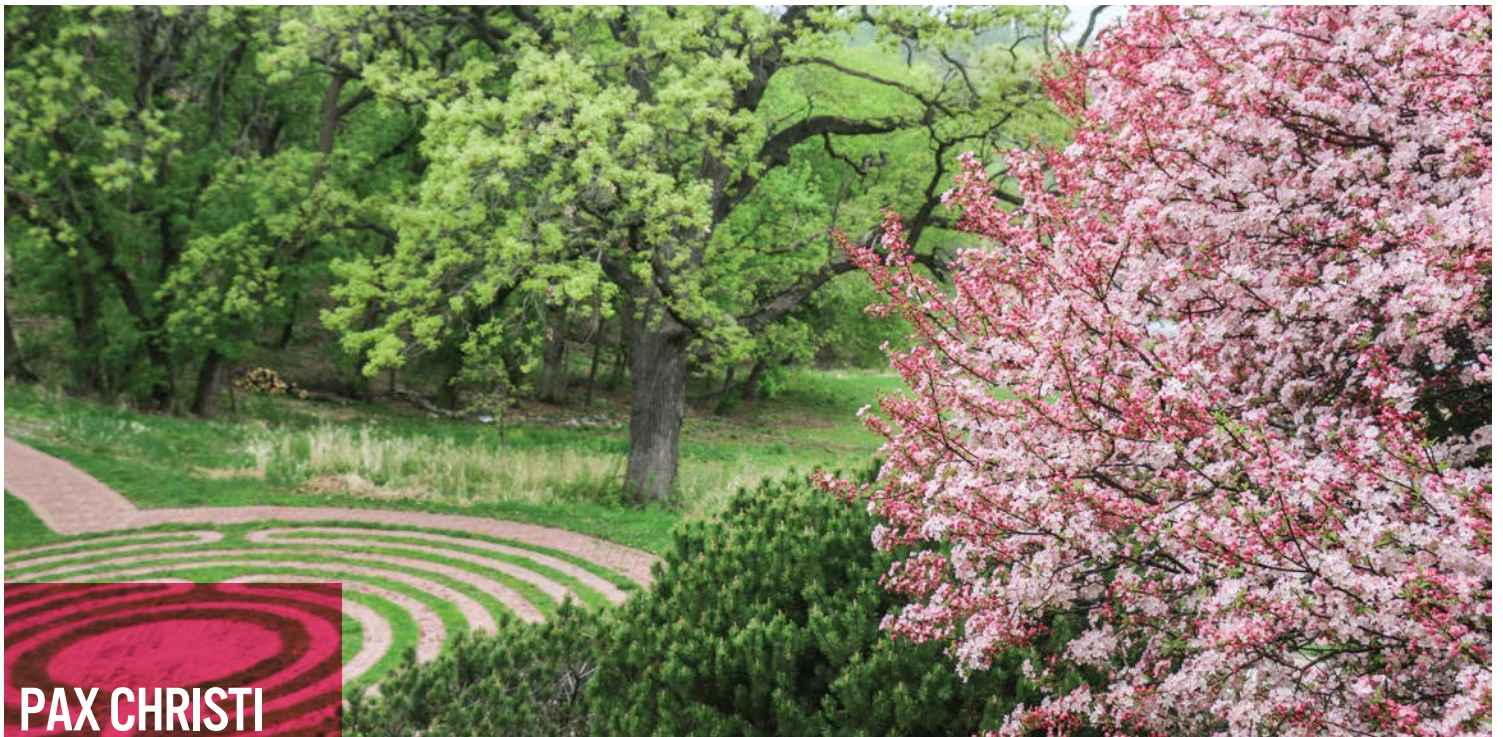
Teens in grades 9–12, you are invited to join the 2017 Summer Service and Justice Trip (AKA Mission Trip) to Detroit, MI. Work in Detroit's inner city service with agencies and organizations that are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people in need, meet other Catholic teens from across the country, and be inspired to live a life of justice and service! Each summer Pax Christi sends a group of teens and adults to Young Neighbors in Action, and each summer they return energized and changed for the better! Do something BIG this summer and join the group to serve in Detroit! Questions? Contact Jessie Johnson, Pax Christi's Sr. High Youth Formation Minister, [jjohnson@paxchristi.com](mailto:jjohnson@paxchristi.com). Registration is now open at [paxchristi.com](http://paxchristi.com)!

# MAY

See pages 18–19 for details  
or visit us online at [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 VIRTUS TRAINING BAPTISM PREP CLASS	3	4 SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP NEW LEADERS COMMITMENT NIGHT	5 FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL	6
7	8 BOOMERS RETREAT	9	10 MEMOIR WRITING	11	12	13 BABY SHOWER DRIVE
14 MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER DRIVE	15	16 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	17 INTRODUCTION TO SOULCOLLAGE	18 CAREGIVER SUPPORT GRP. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: BRUSHES WITH KINDNESS WORK DAYS	19	20 RUNWALKPRAYSK NEW MEMBER SIGNUP WEEKEND MINISTRY SHOWCASE
21 NEW MEMBER SIGNUP WEEKEND MINISTRY SHOWCASE ADOPT A HIGHWAY WORK DAY	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY MASS PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	30	31	1	2	3





**PAX CHRISTI  
CONTACTS**

**PASTOR**

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Fr. Marc Pavaglio 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** *Editor*

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

**FAITH FORMATION**

Director	Lynn Schelitzche	952-405-7230
Senior High	Jessie Johnson	952-405-7210
Preschool through Grade 6	Reneé Dignan	952-405-7212

**JUSTICE**

Justice Coordinator	Joan Howe-Pullis	952-405-7247
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**OPERATIONS**

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

**PASTORAL CARE**

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

**STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

Director	Mary Kennedy	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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Jane Schmitz, Parish Director  
Mary Beth Buckman  
Mike Kennedy  
Mary Lillicrap  
John Mortier  
John O'Connor  
Joan Paré  
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Joe Stich, Chair  
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# MINISTRY SHOWCASE WEEKEND

**May 20/21  
 following all Masses**

How are You Called to Serve? Your gifts can be put to great use at Pax Christi Catholic Community when you participate in our Monthly Ministry Showcase. This program year of 2016–2017 we are changing it a bit, and in lieu of one large Ministry Fair showing all the 110 ministries available for participation by members of Pax Christi, we will be focusing on a different program area each month. By highlighting a single program area, we can focus on telling the story of Pax Christi and what we do from the perspective of the individual ministry areas.

## PAX CHRISTI'S MINISTRY SHOWCASE

### MAY'S MINISTRY SHOWCASE IS LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

The purpose of the Lay Leadership Development Council is to support that part of Pax Christi's Mission that states " ... welcomes all as leaders in faith for service to the world." The Lay Leadership Development Council does this by affirming, cultivating, and strengthening lay leaders in our faith community. Our programs include the Discernment Process to identify lay leaders for councils and ministries. We also envision and offer support services to determine the best ways that lay leaders can support our faith journey. We oversee the Lay Leadership Grants, which are designed to cultivate creative concepts in the areas of lay ministry. Come to our ministry table on May 20 and 21 to learn more about how you can be a part of keeping Pax Christi a model of a Vatican II parish.

