



WORDS AND WORKS

quarterly newsletter for Holy Infant Parish
Ballwin, MO

Words Cannot Express our heartfelt “Thank You!”

By Kris Mispagel

In 1964, Sr. Rosario left her home in Ireland and traveled to Ballwin. Eighteen years later, Sr. Laurentia joined her. They left their homes to bring Jesus into our homes. They left their families and in turn, strengthened ours. Together, they taught our children, prayed for our sick, became staples in our community and, in the process, became our friends. How do we even begin to thank the two people who have done so much for so many?

Holy Infant School invited Cardinal Timothy Dolan to celebrate Mass on May 6, 2016. In attendance were past and present Holy

Infant priests, students, teachers, parents, and friends. The Mass was truly a celebration, complete with song, Irish dancing, and hand bells. After Mass, the school children hosted a parade. Each grade represented something St. Louis related, such as the St. Louis Zoo, or something that the Sisters love, such as the St. Louis Cardinals and the Blues. Later, a luncheon was held for teachers and staff. There were lots of stories, lots of laughs and even a few tears.

Then the Parish School of Religion (P.S.R.) stu-

dents, faculty and staff celebrated the Sisters on May 16. After the year-end liturgy, an Irish “Hooley” was held in the Upper Cafeteria. This party, complete with Irish music, dance, and plenty of fun, was a great way to celebrate Sr. Rosario and Sr. Laurentia’s years as catechists. It is ru-

mored that Sr. Laurentia and Patricia Foley even did an Irish jig!

On June 12, the Holy Infant parish community gathered to thank the Sisters and bid them farewell. As the celebrant, Fr. Stanger stressed the “positive impact the Sisters of Mercy have made on our community.” The liturgy was truly a joyous occasion filled with song!

Past Holy Infant P.S.R. and Holy Infant School students acted as instrumentalists and cantors and Sr. Laurentia’s nephew sang two amazing songs. To close Mass, an Irish blessing was sung by the choir and the entire congregation. At the reception following the Mass, many gathered to express their thanks and good wishes towards the Sisters.

The common bond in all three of these celebrations is the Eucharist. No celebration is complete without first praising and thanking God for our



photo submitted by Adam Meesey

Left to right - Sr. Rosario, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Sr. Laurentia.

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blessings. The Sisters are thankful for so many things. "I thank God for so many wonderful years among wonderful people," explains Sr. Rosario. "I am so blessed. My heart is overflowing with gratitude to all of you." Sr. Laurentia adds, "I love you and thank you for your good wishes, generosity and friendship."

The Sisters are truly thankful for their time here, but there are many things that they will miss. Both Sisters agree that they will miss "the wonderful people of Holy Infant parish." Sr. Laurentia admits that she will miss "our dedicated and fun-loving priests, our bright and lively children, blue skies (a scarce commodity in Ireland), our beloved Cardinals and [her] garden!" Sr. Rosario adds that she will miss all the fun activities such as "riding on the Ferris Wheel at the parish festival, Saturday Night Bingo, Irish Dancing, McNamara's Band, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade."

The Sisters have made many wonderful memories during their time at Holy Infant. Both say one of those memories is celebrating the children's liturgies. Sr. Rosario adds that she has "enjoyed the rich liturgical life both in the parish and the school. [The parish has] been

blessed with wonderful priests, deacons and committed parishioners." Sr. Laurentia recalls that working in the classroom made her days "fulfilling and happy. Looking back [she] can honestly say there was not a day that [she] did not look forward to going to school."

The Sisters' new home will look very different from Ballwin. Sr. Laurentia will live in Navan, County

Meath in the same convent where she went to high school, entered the religious life, and taught for eleven years. Sr. Laurentia has come full circle! Sr. Rosario will live in Kells, County Meath, a town she has "only ridden through a couple of times." But, Sr. Rosario's wishes have been granted. She explains, "on returning to Ireland, I had two wishes, that there

would be a chapel in the convent and that I could walk to the parish church. There is a lovely chapel in the convent and the backyard of the convent backs up to the backyard of the church."

Thank you Sr. Laurentia and Sr. Rosario. Thank you for your time, your dedication, and your faithful service. Thank you for your wisdom, your patience, and your love. Please keep us in your prayers, and know that you will be in our prayers too.



By Kris Mispagel

FAITH DIRECT: eGIVING MADE EASY!

What do over 500 Holy Infant Parish families have in common? They use eGiving through Faith Direct! Faith Direct has proven to be the most cost effective way for Holy Infant to receive your generous donations. This method of contribution has provided Holy Infant Parish with a convenient and consistent cash flow which enables our parish to run more efficiently.

Faith Direct has multiple advantages!

- It's simple: Signing up is easy, and you can manage your giving online or with a quick phone call! Faith Direct can also provide you with cards to place in the offertory basket as a visible sign of your giving.
- It saves time: No more worries about writing a check each week or finding envelopes every Sunday morning. Plus, with new bank fees for check usage, you might save some money too!
- It's good stewardship: Your electronic gifts make accounting more efficient and helps us use less paper. Plus, it lets our parish receive the donations our ministries depend on even when you can't join us for Mass.

To sign up or to get more information, visit www.faithdirect.net or call 1 (866) 507-8757 and use our parish code MO31.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

OLD AND NEW TRADITION HERE AT HOLY INFANT

By Kathie Hanneke



photo submitted by Gene Hanneke

monstrance. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) solemnly approved and recommended the procession on the feast of Corpus Christi as a public profession of the Catholic faith in the Real Presence of Christ. Corpus Christi processions are still publicly held in many European, Slavic countries and in South America.

Many Holy Infant parishioners are happy to have the tradition here. Over 300 parishioners followed the beautiful handmade canopy, sheltering the priest holding the monstrance containing the Body of Christ, to the three altars set up at various places on

This tradition, in the second year at Holy Infant, echoes ancient processions held in Europe on the feast of Corpus Christi. In the early 1300's, after the early popes recognized the Real Presence of Jesus' Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament, the custom started of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in a procession through the town, after Mass, on the feast of Corpus Christi. People, decked in their Sunday best, would throw flower petals as they processed around the villages and countryside, showing their love and respect for Jesus' Body displayed in the



photo submitted by Gene Hanneke

the parish grounds. Students, some in First Communion clothes, tossed red and white rose petals before the priest. The Boy Scouts and Knights of Columbus, in full uniform, escorted the holy assembly. Parishioners sang lovely songs of devotion as they walked. Their journey ended with Benediction in church. The Men's Club and Knights of Columbus fed the hungry pilgrims afterwards in the cafeteria - a perfect end to a perfect evening!



photo submitted by Gene Hanneke

By Kathie Hanneke

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE

WAS A **HUGE** SUCCESS!!



The old adage, "one man's junk is another man's treasure" certainly was true at the recent Rummage Rampage. Many left the sale as happy owners of newly found treasures. Tired workers, young and old, were thrilled to see the once-filled

gym and lower cafeteria become empty again as most of the donated items found new homes. Anything remaining was given to the St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store located on Manchester Road near Weidman Road, and to Habitat for Humanity. Money collected will be used to benefit the parish.

Watch for more treasures at the next Rummage Rampage, June 2017!

By Pam Miller

ARE YOU TRAVELING OR GOING ON VACATION THIS SUMMER?

Check out these websites and apps to help locate a Mass at a nearby Catholic Church. These websites are your source for finding **Mass Times** in the United States and Internationally:

<http://www.thecatholicdirectory.com/>

<http://catholic-mass-times.com/>

Catholic Mass Times Church Directory app

Mass Times for Travel app

Catholic Mass Times app

Find a Mass app

Catholic Mass Locator app



"Of Babies and Buses"

By Father Tim Foy with Kathie Hanneke

January 22, 2016 was a defining moment for the prolife movement in the United States. The previous year brought intense scrutiny and long awaited media attention upon the questionable practices of Planned Parenthood, as a dozen undercover videos revealing the illegal sale of fetal tissue were publicly disclosed. It seemed that if there was ever to be a time to rise up and represent life it was going to be this past January. I was excited about my own plans to travel with the Holy Infant youth group and all was going along as expected – meaning the weather was supposed to be bad. But, I didn't expect it to be *Snowmageddon!* The Archdiocese of St. Louis knew better, and made a prudent call to cancel the youth pilgrimage. Bad forecast or not, I knew I needed to be 800 miles to the East.

Thankfully, while on a recent retreat, I had become fast friends with Father Giamello from Delaware. With the weekend already squared away for my absence, I booked a flight into Philadelphia and flew out to meet him. However, as the morning of the march began, and as we headed with one of his parishioners on the journey into Washington D.C., I received a text that my return flight had been canceled. There was not yet a snowflake to be seen.

Yet, with every detour there was always more encouragement. The "Verizon Center Mass" launched a small-but-mighty contingent enkindled by the Holy Spirit that defied even the warnings of burial by snow. While the march itself was much smaller in size, it was a hopeful and friendly bunch. Providentially, I was able to find the Missouri Right to Life group, and I marveled at their determination, but none of us realized that the witness of the March itself was just the beginning. This prolife trip which

had the greatest evidence to support its plea for the unborn, and yet which had been seemingly muffled by the winter, was not done as we boarded the buses to return.

We would have been happy to go straight home, but as we pulled into the landmark truck stop at Breezewood, Pennsylvania, the blizzard looked like it had other ideas. The question of what to do loomed large for the bus drivers and to a less dramatic extent to the passengers. I decided to buy a couple large bottles of water and some pretzels – a winning combination. Success! Our drivers had concluded it was safe enough to drive and we left. Perhaps they were right – we never felt imperiled,

but we only made it about 25 miles on the turnpike before we were locked into place behind dozens and dozens of stopped vehicles. No problem. Buses stopped. We ate. We laughed. We talked and slept. We woke up looking at the same beautiful roadside billboard for Ed's Steakhouse featuring

both steak *and* shrimp. Mouth-watering food. Still we had pretzels and as the hours ticked by and we moved not an inch, we got out and played a little in the two feet of snow. We had Mass on the bus with the help of Fr. Drew Burkemper who, from the nearest neighboring Missouri Bus, had shared with us his supplies. Somewhere nearby, a priest with a hardy group from Green Bay made national news for celebrating another Mass. But first they built an altar from snow along the roadside – *Green Bay style*.

The grace of God must have fallen with the frost, as people shared what they had and generally complained little. People did not seem worried. No one got sick. And the news captured the story – not only that we were stuck – but why we were there. Often



photo submitted by Father Foy

Father Foy enjoying the the two feet of snow along the highway.

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Words and Works is a quarterly publication of Holy Infant Parish, informing parishioners of events and activities of interest to the parish, with a further goal of fostering unity within the Church and drawing all together into a closer warmer Church family.

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photo submitted by Father Foy

the media seems sidetracked from covering much of the Pro-life March, but perhaps this time our own helplessness drew their attention. In a way, we were a perfect symbol for the unborn fetus that was silently trying to make its way to family. Around midnight we were "delivered" from our 25 hours of unplanned roadside recreation. A shower, a cot, and a beautiful Sunday Mass for the St. Louis crew were all found at the Red Cross Shelter formed out of Bedford High School. Thus we were far better protected, nurtured, cared for and heard than the voiceless that we sought to help.

In a year when the need for action was never more clear, and the weather for the march was never more inhibiting, a few pro-life buses discovered that grace is still made perfect in weakness.

PARISH ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE LIFE

By Kathie Hanneke

The Parish Pro-Life Committee offers many different opportunities to help mothers and fathers in difficult circumstances. The activities include many ongoing, annual and bi-annual events.

- **Holy Infant's Prayer Hour** is in front of Planned Parenthood, on Forest Park and Boyle, every second Saturday of the month. Anyone wishing to take a stand against abortion and funding Planned Parenthood with our tax dollars is welcome to come and pray silently or pray the Rosary with other parishioners. The hour is peaceful and prayerful.
- **Annual Birthright** shower to collect baby clothes and items, hosted by the Holy Infant Seniors is held in the Spring. These items are for the mothers who chose life and need our help. The items are given to an area Birthright office. Call Denis and Linda Thien, 636-225-9197, if you wish to donate new baby items to Birthright.
- Twice a year, in the Fall and Spring, Holy Infant takes part in the **40 Days for Life** campaign, which is an intensive effort to raise awareness, save lives, bring healing and lead our nation to repentance for the sin of abortion through prayer and fasting. Parishioners choose one hour to pray in front of Planned Parenthood at Forest Park and Boyle, on the day chosen by the parish. Contact Denis and Linda Thien for more information 636- 225-9197.
- Join the parish **Respect Life Committee**, which supports all forms of life, the unborn; pregnant women and the elderly. As part of the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Committee, this organization monitors political happenings, such as pending pro-life bills, political candidates' platforms on pro-life issues and changes in pro-life legislation. Contact Chuck Raymond, 314-974-6787, if you would like to get involved.

One's Journey to Living The Faith

By Mike Ulman with Pam Miller

Mike you say you sort of found your faith on your own, how did that happen? Finding faith at the age of 40 is an interesting process. Starting with the opportunity to involve myself without coaching or prodding from others allowed me to explore many different belief systems and seek the truth throughout. This journey started for me as a young adult. Living in New York City during my late 20's and early 30's, I would confront street preachers, debating them on their view of faith; read books about the origin of God, seeking an intellectual and logical reason to the question of His existence; and attend Episcopal services to acquaint myself with the Christian faith. The entire time I believe I was trying to disprove the existence of God and come to the conclusion that Jesus was simply a regular man and not the Son of God. There was a reason why I was seeking this information so diligently. It was because for a very long time in my life I knew there was a higher power guiding me and I felt a strong spiritual connection. I needed to find the origin of this feeling, and I was determined to either embrace it or find a logical way to dismiss it.

So this was primarily a "head" thing with you, rather than "heart"? I could say that my historical, Biblical, and Apologetic readings brought me to a faith in Jesus, but that would only be 10% of the story. The truth is that Jesus has been with me all of my life. Pushing me to investigate my faith and allowing me the opportunity to reach a conclusion Apologetic He knew was inevitable. It is a strong feeling that gives me chills to this day.

Where did those feelings take you next? I began attending Catholic Mass in 2005, but of course was not fully participating as an active Catholic. The feeling of missing out on the Eucharist was an unexpected one. I never thought I would yearn so strongly for something that I was not whole heartedly invested in. But none the less every Sunday I left Mass knowing that something was missing. This lead me back to the journey of faith discovery, this

time with a Christian perspective. During this time I dove deep into Apologetics, which led me to a strong conviction that Catholicism was the true religion of our Father. I began Rite of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.) and was baptized in 2014.

But why Catholic, wasn't that a big jump from where you had been? We are constantly growing in our understanding of our faith and what ultimately brought me to the Catholic Church was the opportunity to debate other Christians from many denominations. This gave me the confidence that I was speaking the truth because many times my peers would have misconstrued notions of what Catholics truly believe in, forcing me to research these ques-

tions and return with the truth. Questions about worshipping Saints, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Papal authority were key subjects that were commonly misunderstood, not only by non-Catholics but some Catholics as well, and defending these questions brought me deeper into my relationship with Jesus.

Sounds like a lot of work Mike, what's the point, why go through all of that? It may sound like a hard laborious task to seek faith in the way that I have explained; tak-

ing years of asking questions, reading countless books, and questioning individuals on their belief systems. While this has been a tough and long journey, I was reminded by fellow parishioner Cameron Bond, that seeking the truth is the easy part. Once you know the truth, living it every day is now the only option, and that is the ultimate challenge that God has placed before us.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Holy Infant Fall Festival ~ Held on Parish grounds!

Carnival rides, games, live music, karaoke, great food and lots of fun!!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2016 ~ 6:00 — 10:00 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016 ~ NOON — 10:00

Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday Obligation

Saturday: 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m.,
10:15 a.m. and noon

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. and
8 a.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

Please check the bulletin or
call the rectory to check
times for Holy Day Masses.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

24 hours, 7 days a week.
Enter the chapel through the
main lobby.

Holy Infant Church

627 Dennison Drive, Ballwin MO 63021-4898

Rectory: (636) 227-7440 FAX (636) 227-4548

Website: www.holyinfantballwin.org

Pastoral Staff

Father Edward J. Stanger Pastor

Father Thomas Vordtriede Associate Pastor

Father Timothy Foy Associate Pastor

Rectory Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Closed for lunch from noon -1 p.m.

Ministry to the Homebound

Please call the rectory if you are ill at home or in the hospital or
nursing facility and would like Communion brought to you. Volun-
teers also are available to help in other ways.

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