



# WORDS AND WORKS

quarterly newsletter for Holy Infant Parish  
Ballwin, MO

## **"Quo Vadis?" ~ "Where are you going?"**

By Pam Miller

Father Timothy Foy describes himself as an adventurer who loves to explore!

After graduating from De Smet Jesuit High School, Timothy earned a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Parks College at St. Louis University. He was commissioned into the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant and spent 11 months as a pilot trainee. Later, he would join the Boeing Company in Wichita, Kansas and work another eight months as a flight test engineer.

While studying at Parks College, Timothy began studying in the civilian pilot program and had a strong interest in flying, but in the process of filling his schedule he switched to engineering courses. He joined the ROTC program and had his eyes fixed on being a pilot for the United States Air Force.

Now, the vocation of the priesthood had also entered his heart at an early age, but it was not his top interest. "When I was about 10 years old, my mom mentioned to both my brother and I about her idea for one of us to be a priest. I always considered the vocation of the priesthood, but I wanted to do other things."

While studying at Parks College, Timothy was aware of a four day silent retreat based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. "Each January, I would acknowledge that this retreat was coming up. I was interested and intrigued by the possible opportunity, but never participated." Timothy shared that he didn't want to get involved with this

retreat because he was aware by participating, he might find God trying to rearrange his plans.

Shortly after graduation during his Air Force time, Timothy received a gift from his sister. "My sister gave me a book called '*Quo Vadis?*' (*Quo Vadis* is a Latin phrase meaning 'Where are you going?') A few months after reading this classic, a friend invited me to go on retreat. Ironically it was also called '*Quo Vadis?*'" He felt impelled to go and had even agreed to join his friend, but soon discovered that the purpose of the retreat was discernment to the priesthood. Despite a little anxiety, Timothy kept his word and agreed to see where God might be leading him. Timothy was not too surprised when, 30 minutes into the retreat, he felt the strong call that God was inviting him to the seminary and to the life of a priest.

Following the retreat he spent time continuing his discernment.

He took a long weekend away from his job at the Boeing Company and drove to Estes Park, Colorado. Hiking in the snow-covered mountains, Timothy felt confirmation in the solitude and peace of creation. He returned to his job at Boeing and shared with his boss that he would be entering the seminary. Since that time he has never looked back nor regretted one day of his new course.

"*Quo Vadis?*" ~ "Where are you going?" Father Foy now knows the answer. "Yes, I would say I was obstinate and stubborn in my journey, but God



(Continued on page 2)

("Quo Vadis?" ~ Continued from page 1)

is patient. He continued to call me and I am thankful this call led me to the priesthood. I think God can use our stories to the best of His benefit. Leading people to the wonders that Christ has for them and helping people follow the Gospel is the best thing that I can do. I am grateful for the life God has given me, for the things that I have been able to do and that I woke up in time and stopped pushing God away."

Father Foy enjoys anything outdoors: rock climbing, running, and hiking. He participates in the *Souls and Goals Soccer Cup*, a soccer match that he was instrumental in starting. This event is held annually during the National Vocation Awareness Week and dedicated to promoting vocations and prayer for the souls of priests who died within the year.

Outside the United States, Poland is Father Foy's favorite place to visit. He has traveled there a number of times; once for a personal vacation, another was a graduation gift with his family, a third visit focused on celebrating St John Paul's feast day. His latest trip, about a year and half ago, was a pilgrimage where he joined 1500 others walking 60 miles

from Kraków to Częstochowa.

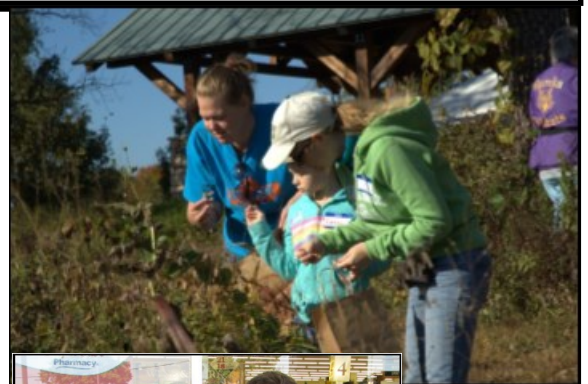
Among his favorite books are *The Great Divorce*, a work of theological fantasy by C. S. Lewis, in which he reflects on the Christian conception of Heaven and Hell and *The Everlasting Man*, a Christian apologetics book written by G. K. Chesterton.

Father Foy attended Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and earned dual degrees: a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology. He is the son of Tom and Diane Foy of Kirkwood. His older sister, Anne Marie, teaches at St. Louis University High School. His younger sister, Virginia, is studying to be a nurse. His brother, Steve, is an emergency room doctor, lives in Mountain View, California. He also has a little brother, Jay Len who is 5 years old. Father Foy said he visits his (local) family weekly.

Incidentally, Father Foy and Fr. Vordtriede met in the seminary on another vocation retreat in 2006 and they both began studies in the fall of that year. Today, they enjoy serving together at Holy Infant. We welcome Father Foy as Associate Pastor of Holy Infant Parish and ask for God's good blessing upon his ministry.

## Serve St. Louis—October 10, 2015

Holy Infant had over 300 participants!



(above) Collecting seeds which will be cleaned and prepared for prairie restoration at Shaw Nature Reserve.

(top left) Fr. Stanger kicked off the day with a group blessing in front of Holy Infant Church. (left) Making cards for veterans and people on Hospice. (right) Tootsie Roll drive in front of stores to benefit people with disabilities.





# HOLY INFANT CATHOLIC CHURCH

627 Dennison Drive • Ballwin, Missouri 63021 • (314) 636-227-7440

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December, 2015

Dear Parishioners,

Grace and peace to you and yours during this blessed season of Advent! Throughout this season, we anticipate the celebration of our parish feast day – when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, the Holy Infant.

We are delighted to have you as part of our parish family! We are truly blessed to have so many join us each week for Sunday Mass. It is such a crucial part of our spiritual growth that we gather weekly to celebrate the Lord's Supper!

On behalf of the parish, we offer a word of sympathy to all who may find these days to be painful. If you have buried a loved one or suffered some other loss, we know that the joy of the holidays can be mixed with heartache and pain. Please know that we care for you and will hold you and your loved ones in prayer throughout these days.


Our Mass schedule for Christmas is as follows:

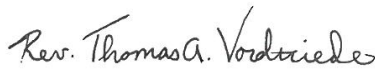
- Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 4:00 p.m., 4:10 p.m. (in the Parish Center/Gymnasium), 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 Midnight
- Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.


Our Mass schedule for New Year's Day, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God is as follows:

- Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

We pray that you and your family will have a joyful and memorable Christmas and a New Year that is filled with peace!

  
Rev. Edward J. Stanger  
Pastor

  
Rev. Thomas A. Vordtriede  
Associate Pastor

  
Rev. Timothy J. Foy  
Associate Pastor





By Deacon Dan Henke

## Origins of the Advent Wreath

The lighting of the Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. The actual origins of this tradition are uncertain, but by the Middle Ages, Christians in Germany were using Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. Although the Advent wreath did not spread beyond Germany until the 1930s, today this tradition can be found around the world.



The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful:

- The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying the everlasting life found in Christ.
- The circle of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, and the immortality of the soul. The seedpods, nuts and cones used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of resurrection, and fruits represent the nourishing fruitfulness of the Christian life.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The use of three violet candles and one rose candle comes from the Catholic liturgical calendar. The violet candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. This is the Sunday of rejoicing, because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, our preparation is now half over and we are close to Christmas.
- The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

## AND GOD BECAME MAN

If you go out in the country on a clear, moonless night and look up in the sky, you might see about 2,500 stars. If you're lucky enough to see the Milky Way, it has between 200 and 400 billion stars in it. The Milky Way is the galaxy we live in, but there are probably 200 billion galaxies in the universe. That's a lot of stars, and God made all of that.

All of us are made up of cells. An adult human being has approximately 100,000 billion cells in his or her body, all originating from a single cell at conception. Cells are made up of organelles which are made up of molecules which are made up of atoms. Atoms themselves are made up of even smaller subatomic particles. God made all of that too.

And all of the stars, cells, molecules, atoms, etc., are all subject to the forces of nature: gravity, electromagnetism, the strong force, and the weak force. And all of these exist in space and time. God made all of that as well.

Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Creator of the universe, who is God Himself, emptied Himself of His Divinity and became man, born of a virgin named Mary in a backwater town called Bethlehem, all to save our worthless hides.

Now that's something to celebrate! Merry Christmas!

By Fred L. Vilbig © 2015



# “Céad Míle Fáilte! One hundred thousand welcomes!”

By Kris Mispagel

There is a familiar face in a new role at Holy Infant School. In August 2015, Mrs. Becky McQuaide assumed the position of principal. She has taught sixth grade at Holy Infant School since the fall of 2001.

Mrs. McQuaide was extremely prepared for the role of principal at Holy Infant. She attended Holy Infant School from kindergarten to eighth grade, St. Joseph's Academy for high school, and University of Tulsa for her college and graduate work. She also participated in the Potential Leadership Program sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a program that allows teachers to get to know what it would be like to be a principal.

Being a graduate of Holy Infant, she knows what a unique place it is. “The community is so special,” explains Mrs. McQuaide. “The parish, the parents, the students are so amazing. I have so many happy memories of my time spent in school here. I also love the traditions that we have.” But, education is just part of what prepares a person for the job. She learned quite a bit from her many mentors. “As a teacher, my sixth grade teammates were my mentors. Sr. Laurentia, Mrs. MacPherson, and Mrs. Sullivan helped me to see things from many different angles and make good decisions for the good of the students. As a principal, Sr. Rosario is my mentor. She has experienced so much. There is nothing that she hasn't experienced already in some way or another.”

Mrs. McQuaide is married to her grade school sweetheart. No, she and her husband, Jim, didn't attend grade school together, they *taught* grade school together! Jim taught eighth grade Science at Holy Infant and Mrs. McQuaide, previously Miss Ronan, taught sixth grade English. They taught together three years prior to dating. Their first date is disputed. If you ask Mr. McQuaide, he will say that it was October 1, the day that Mrs. McQuaide asked him to the Cardinals game because she “had no one else to ask.” But Mrs. McQuaide will say their first date was October 13, the first time he asked her out. Either way, dating a fellow teacher was not easy. “When we first started dating, we

would go places that weren't in Ballwin,” explained Mrs. McQuaide. “We didn't want the families to know we were dating. We didn't want the added pressure.” Mr. McQuaide proposed to her the following February, the night of the Sixth Grade Play, and they were married the following December.



The McQuaide's have three children, Caroline (6), Lucy (5), and Will (4). Juggling career and family is difficult for anyone, but Mrs. McQuaide admits that she is extremely lucky. “I have the support of my husband, my parents, and my family.” You would think that it would be difficult taking off her principal hat at home. But, Mrs. McQuaide and her husband try their best “not to talk school at home.” She admits it is much easier now that Mr. McQuaide teaches at Kennedy Catholic High School.

Mrs. McQuaide didn't always want to be an educator. She began college as an accounting major. “I remember the day that I knew that accounting was not the career path for me. I went to the college counselor and took multiple interest inventories, all pointing me in the direction I knew all along, that I was meant to be a teacher.” She never views her job as “work” because “every day is a new day with new challenges.” When asked what the biggest challenge is for children today, Mrs. McQuaide admits it is managing technology. “It comes to us in so many forms and kids aren't mature enough to understand the consequences. We have to be the adults and help them make good choices.”

So, if you see Mrs. McQuaide in the halls of Holy Infant School, or the grounds of Holy Infant Parish, tell her, “Céad Míle Fáilte! One hundred thousand welcomes!” After all, she went to Holy Infant School and is well versed in Irish tradition!



*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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## A Quiet Christmas by Michael Gott

Adaptation by Mary Jane Zust

My heart longs for a quiet Christmas  
Far from the rushing bustling tide.  
Where peace of mind meets peace on earth  
I long to find a quiet Christmas.

Too much  
Too much to do  
Too little time to get it done  
Too fast  
My life goes by too fast.  
I'm on the fly and on the run.  
The gifts to buy, the cards to send.  
I'm lost in lists that never end.

Where's the joy?  
Where's the peace?

Slow down?  
I can't make the world slow down  
But I can slow my mind.  
I'll breathe,  
I don't have to run away I'll just breathe  
And leave those cares behind.  
No need for me to hide  
I have my own, my quiet place - inside.

There's the joy!  
There's the peace!

My heart longed for a quiet Christmas  
Far from the rushing bustling tide.  
And in that peaceful place—inside  
My heart found its quiet Christmas.

## *All are Welcome to a Parish Mission with Fr. Larry Richards!*

By Kathie Hanneke

Nationally renowned speaker **Fr. Larry Richards** makes **two promises** regarding his upcoming mission at Holy Infant: **"You will never be bored, and your life will be changed forever!"** The mission at Holy Infant will be held in church Feb. 22-25, 2016, 7:00-9:00 p.m. nightly. All are welcome and are encouraged to invite guests. Childcare will be available. Nightly themes include:

- Monday, Feb. 22: *God's love and the importance of prayer*
- Tuesday, Feb. 23: *Love of others and family* (Mass)
- Wednesday, Feb. 24: *Passion of Christ and repentance* (intense talk and individual confessions)
- Thursday, Feb. 25: *Eucharist and healing* (a healing service as part of Eucharistic Adoration)

Fr. Larry is a gifted and captivating preacher, retreat master and author. He speaks from experience as pastor of an inner city parish, a high school chaplain, a counselor and an evangelist. Fr. Larry has conducted hundreds of parish missions, conferences and retreats and is known to make real the love of God in his presentations. His inspirational talks are authentic and enthusiastic and have changed the hearts, minds and lives of millions worldwide.

Ordained in 1989, Fr. Larry currently is pastor of St.



Joseph Church/Bread of Life Community in Erie, Pennsylvania. He is founder of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through CDs, DVDs and books. Fr. Larry has written two books – *Be a Man: Becoming the Man God Created You to Be* and *Surrender!* and *The Life-Changing Power of Doing God's Will*.

Fr. Larry hosts two EWTN radio shows: *The Reason for Our Hope* and *Open Line*. He also hosts a nationwide radio show on Relevant Radio called *Changed Forever with Father Larry Richards*.

For more information about Fr. Larry, visit

[www.thereasonforourhope.org](http://www.thereasonforourhope.org).

For further information about Holy Infant's mission with Fr. Larry, contact Gene Bestgen

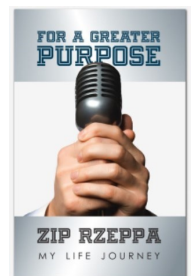
([bestgenstl@aol.com](mailto:bestgenstl@aol.com), (636-527-5385) or Patricia Foley, Director of Religious Education ([pfoley@holyninfantballwin.org](mailto:pfoley@holyninfantballwin.org) (636-227-0802, ext 3).



### **FAMOUS SPORTSCASTER AND AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT HOLY INFANT IN JANUARY**

**Zip Rzeppa will speak on his new bestseller,  
*FOR A GREATER PURPOSE***

by  
Kathie Hanneke



Come and hear the fascinating, yet true story, of how Zip Rzeppa has associated with famous celebrities such as Bill O'Reilly, Howard Stern and Joe Buck, all before ever becoming a sportscaster for a local TV station. Ever-filled with enthusiasm and passion for life, he excelled in sports, reporting and living life to the fullest. All of this changed after his encounter with the woman who showed him every moment matters.

Come and be spell-bound by his story of heartbreak and transformation. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 31st, 7:00-8:00pm** in the **Upper Cafeteria** of the school. **There is no charge** and his book, ***FOR A GREATER PURPOSE*** will be available at **no cost**. Donations to Mater Media will be gratefully accepted.



## 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](http://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.



Notice:  
Holy Infant Parish ~ Important  
Christmas News inside!



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