



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 15, Issue 1

Inside

- 2 Explaining Our Sacramental Worldview *How Ordinary Things Are Crucial in the Christian Life*
- 3 All Saints Eighth-Grade Class Preparing for Living Stations of the Cross
- 4 Closeness to Christ: *The Sacrament of Holy Orders*
- 6 Maria Isabel Garcia and the Parish Resource Library *"A Place to Grow in Your Faith"*

*Our Parish Newsletter:
Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.*

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

Where Are Our Priorities?

Dear Saints,

I hope that you are aware that we are completing and will continue to celebrate the holiest time of the year in our Church. Easter Sunday, April 1, is the high point of the year for us as Catholics. We will, of course, continue to celebrate this holy time until Pentecost Sunday, which is May 20 this year. That is correct — our Easter season continues until then.

St. Paul provided some sage advice. He said, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth” (Colossians 3:2). Regardless of your opinions on what happens after resurrection, we can agree that it will be something “above” this life. Paul might be asking us if we put God first in all things. Life can become very encumbered with possessions, money, power, and even our egos.

Our goal should be to put God at the top of our lists. If that is not what we do, we may need to adjust our priorities. If we have not moved in that direction during Lent or in the past, now is the time to do it. We must constantly strive to not allow earthly things to become our gods.

It was St. Gregory the Great who said, “God made us to be the gardeners of paradise.” Some stewardship people have maintained that God has given each of us a garden — and when we are judged, we only hear one question, “What have you done with the garden I gave you?”

What have we done? What are we doing? First, we must recognize and acknowledge that we are all gifted, admittedly in different and varied ways. Despite what we see as our gifts or how we measure them, we need to ensure that we are using them in ways that serve God and others — ways that show good discipleship and stewardship on our parts.



continued on back cover



ALL SAINTS

page 2

Explaining Our Sacramental Worldview *How Ordinary Things Are Crucial in the Christian Life*

Why does a parish need money? Perhaps the parish needs a new building, or must hire new staff members. Why might the parish need a new building or staff members? The parish may require a new Education Center, or need a talented new Music Director to further the mission of the parish. But what is the mission of the parish?

The parish mission is to locally perform the mission of the Church, which is to bring people into a living relationship with God and each other, through Jesus Christ. The parish staff, buildings, programs and money must all ultimately work toward this goal.

Various aspects of parish life may seem more directly connected to this mission than others. Sunday morning Mass obviously brings people into communion with each other and with God, as do many other parish ministries. But what might be regarded as the “ordinary” aspects — such as the Thursday night finance committee meeting, the new office computer system or new landscaping on church grounds — are also essential to the parish mission. We may think of these tasks merely as administrative, and having no connection to the spiritual elements of Catholicism.

However, this line of thought is thoroughly non-Catholic. Catholicism does not separate the temporal from the spiritual. It is no more unseemly to speak of money at Mass than it is to use water to baptize — or, for that matter, to speak of Christ as both human and divine. The Catholic worldview demonstrates that ordinary things are always conjoined with unseen realities. This is exactly

how the Sacraments of the Catholic Church work — the bodily conveying spiritual grace.

Indeed, a sagging parish budget or peeling paint in the church building aren’t simply administrative issues unrelated to the parish’s spiritual mission. The two may be distinguished, but they should never be divorced. The entire operation of the parish is of one piece — everything sacred *and* ordinary should be incorporated into a singular mission.

Of course, the same is true for our personal lives. An authentic Christian doesn’t compartmentalize his or her life into “time for God” and “time for me,” or even “God’s money” and “my money.” Instead, a Christian is always conscious that everything is under the umbrella of God’s providence. A Christian understands that he or she fits into an ultimate plan that transcends the workaday world, yet also includes it.

As strange as it may seem, things like time and money — and parish budgets, candles and missalettes — are rungs on the ladder to heaven. St. Thomas Aquinas disagreed with philosophers who thought that material things, and even our own bodies, were shackles on the soul. He instead believed that we are extremely fortunate to exist as embodied creatures, being able to see God in physical things like mountains, smiling faces and, of course, bread and wine.

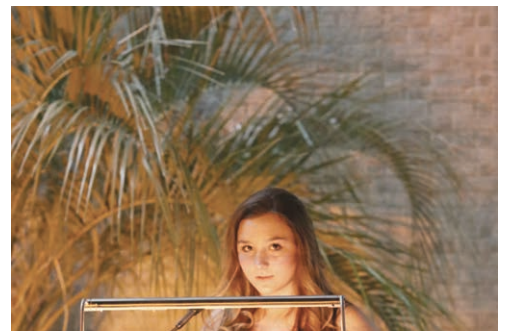
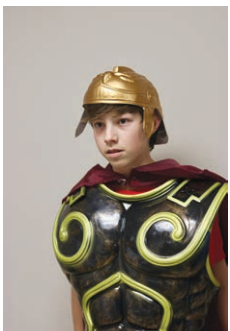
Catholics reject any notion of spirituality that excludes the material world. Instead, we believe that the same principle behind the Seven Sacraments — that God works through ordinary things — is applicable to our whole lives. So being conscious of how we spend our money and our time is, indeed, very Catholic.





All Saints Eighth-Grade Class Preparing for Living Stations of the Cross

This past month, our eighth-grade students at All Saints prepared for the solemn, yet powerful observance of Living Stations of the Cross.





Closeness to Christ: *The Sacrament of Holy Orders*

The seven holy sacraments of the Catholic Church were instituted by Jesus Himself and entrusted to our Church. Sacraments are visible signs and effective channels of the grace of God to those who receive them. The seven sacraments are often organized into three groups — the Sacraments of Initiation into the Church, consisting of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist (Communion); the Sacraments of Healing, including Penance (Confession) and Anointing of the Sick; and the Sacraments of Service — Holy Orders and Matrimony.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Jesus Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus, it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate" (1536).

It refers to being ordained, not to be confused with joining a religious order and taking vows. "Ordination" comes from the Latin word *ordinatio*, which means to incorporate someone into an order. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a man is incorporated into the priesthood of Christ at one of three levels — the episcopate (bishops), the priesthood, or the diaconate (deacons).

Rev. Mr. Stephen Ingram, a native of our All Saints Catholic Church, was ordained as a transitional deacon last year. On

Saturday, May 26, he will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Edward Burns at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

"I am awed by the idea that those receiving priestly orders are descended directly from Jesus Christ in terms of the Church," Deacon Ingram says. "I am also well aware that what I may do as a priest, it is really not me doing it, but Christ doing it through me. It is an immense honor to have that closeness to Christ."

Born in Austin in 1987, Stephen and his family moved to the Dallas area and

became members of All Saints Parish. Educated at Catholic schools from first grade through high school, Deacon Ingram inherited from his father a love for singing and the Knights of Columbus — his father was the Grand Knight. He is currently a third-degree Knight.

"I did not consider the priesthood when I graduated from high school, and went to college and completed an electrical engineering degree," he says. "I was involved with the Youth Ministry program at All Saints and began to explore more deeply my relationship with Christ. I began



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ALL SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SACRAMENTS *Holy Orders*

to spend more time at adoration. I heard God calling me and entered the seminary.

“After two years at Holy Trinity Seminary, the bishop sent me to Theological College in Washington D.C.,” he adds. “I came to the conclusion that I had been chosen by God, by the Church and, quite frankly, by the people of God. When I think of my calling, I find it very humbling.”

The Sacrament of Holy Orders can be validly conferred only on baptized men, following the example set by Jesus Christ and His Apostles, who chose only men as their successors and collaborators. A man cannot demand to be ordained — the Church has the authority to determine who is eligible to receive the sacrament.

“Through all this, I have seen God constantly at work in my life, through my friends and mentors, and especially through any difficulties I have faced,”

Deacon Ingram says. “It has become clear to me that God is always in control. God is apart from us in His Holiness, but He is always among us and a part of us in His love. I look forward to Holy Orders as a sign of that holiness and love. It will be a permanent source of strength in my life.”

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is administered by the laying on of hands. Only a bishop can validly ordain. The effect of the sacrament is to impart the Holy Spirit. The laity has a part in Christ’s priesthood, but in another way. The Office of the Bishop is above the priesthood, which in turn is above the diaconate. The priest has special powers of consecration. To the priesthood belongs the celebration of Holy Mass and the power of forgiving sins. People like Deacon Stephen Ingram offer us example, hope and leadership.



Deacon Stephen Ingram.

Stephen will celebrate his first Mass as an ordained priest – his “Mass of Thanksgiving” – on Sunday, May 27 at 5:00 pm at All Saints Catholic Church. We encourage you to celebrate this special Mass with Stephen and our All Saints Community. A reception honoring Stephen will be held in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Mass.

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— Deacon Stephen Ingram



ALL SAINTS

page 6

Maria Isabel Garcia and the



Maria Isabel Garcia (front row, center) with some of the library volunteers after the May 2017 luncheon



A parishioner reading to his granddaughter in the children's section of the library

Many All Saints parishioners might not be aware of an award-winning resource devoted to supporting them in their faith journeys.

“The Parish Resource Library is a place to read and get resources to grow in your faith,” says Maria Isabel Garcia. “It is a place to find a listening ear. Sometimes it is a place just to find peace.”

All Saints Parish Resource Library services the community by “developing and maintaining collections of educational, devotional, inspirational, recreational and reference materials to support the Catholic Faith life of its members.”

Last year, it received the Outstanding Congregational Library Award from the Church and Synagogue Library Association, which noted its hospitable environment, unique services and extensive hours.

“It is a community library for all ages and interests,” Maria says. “It offers regular resources and programs and has over 30 volunteers who help in all ways, from cataloguing and filing to reading stories to the children.”

The library began shortly after All Saints itself was founded, and Maria and her family were some of the original faith community members in 1976.

“It was so much fun to be part of All Saints from the beginning,” Maria says. “We got involved in Parish Adult Christian Enrichment, and they said they wanted to have a library. I took the idea and ran with it.”

Maria’s background was in electrical engineering, but she went to the University of North Texas to pursue a master’s in Library Science. She became the parish’s full-time librarian and also began a career as a librarian at Southern Methodist University, a position from which she recently retired after 21 years.

“The library has been a terrific vehicle for me to put my talents into,” Maria says. “I am a giver and very social. I’m Portuguese and believe in hospitality and love working with people.”

The library offers an extensive amount of resources searchable through an online catalog so that patrons can review their holdings from anywhere. It also offers regular programs including gatherings like a story hour, a book review club and the very popular Night at the Library.

“This series is about living the Catholic faith in different countries,” Maria says. “Recently, we had a night on Benin and Cameroon, two little countries in Africa. Parishioners from that area came and spoke, and I prepared food from those countries. We keep the recipes here.”



Parish Resource Library

"A Place to Grow in Your Faith"

The library's volunteers are members of St. Jerome Circle, named after the patron saint of librarians. The library keeps a policy and procedure manual that is used to train volunteers.

"We have a regular meeting and do social things together," Maria says. "I treat them to lunch at the end of each year to thank them. It really is a community within a community."

In 1993, Maria received the Outstanding Congregational Librarian Award from the Church and Synagogue Library Association. After the association recently disbanded, she spearheaded the ANGEL network, which is an interdenominational association geared toward the education of librarians in the area.

"I want us to stay together to mentor and help each other," Maria says. "We had a workshop here with four speakers a few weeks ago, and 22 librarians came. There is still a need."

Everyone is welcome to use the library and its resources and participate in its programs, even non-parishioners if they have a parishioner sponsor.

"Those who know about our library love it and use it again and again," Maria says.



Library volunteers working together

HOURS OF OPERATION

Sunday — 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and
4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Monday and Friday — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday — Closed
Tuesday and Thursday — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30
p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday — 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAM TIMES

Cafe' Morning — First Thursday /
after 9 a.m. Mass
Story Hour for 3-5-year-olds — Every Tuesday
at 10 a.m.
English Book Review — Second Wednesday
at 11 a.m.
St. Jerome Circle (Friends of the Library)
Meeting — Third Friday / After the 9 a.m. Mass
Night At The Library — Third Sunday /
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
PACE Book Table Sale — Third Sunday /
after all morning Masses

If you would like more information about All Saints Parish Resource Library, please visit the library's website at allsaintslibrary.follettdestiny.com, or reach out to Maria Isabel Garcia at the library at 972-778-0327 or on her cell at 214-603-1734.



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Weekend Liturgy:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m.,
11:00 a.m.*

LifeTeen Mass, 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Liturgy:

Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

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Where Are Our Priorities?

continued from front cover

Were you aware that the month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit in the Church? The term “spirit” translates from the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means “breath.” Truly, as Catholics, the Holy Spirit has been breathed into each of us, and is part of the garden we have received. Do we turn to Him? Do we rely on Him for strength? Do we even grant that He is part of our very being? We should. We need to, as St. Paul advised, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”

May God bless you in all you do, and strive to do!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonse Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator

