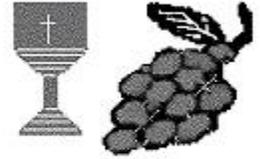


Taste the

NEW WINE



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A CARING COMMUNITY

SPRING 2015

JESUS AND HIS CHILDREN

by Carl Wirth

The story of Jesus and the Children may be found in three gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When His disciples tried to keep a group of children away from a tired Jesus, instead He welcomed them with open arms.

There are those moments when Jesus would be most pleased with us at Holy Family. As a parish, we do not have as many children as we used to. But, it seems that each week, either at Sunday Mass or during the week, we have many young people who come and help us make sandwiches for our Lunch Program, or who spend time helping in the Door Ministry.

In the last few weeks, confirmation candidates from St. Pius, St. Margaret Mary's, and from St. Patrick's in Elkhorn have come to join us in sandwich making. The kids from St. Pat's get a kick when I tell them I taught their Associate Pastor, Father Rodney Adams, in high school!

Just two weeks ago, two sets of sophomore women (21 on one day and 19 on the next) from Duschene Academy came on a Wednesday and

Thursday to help our ministries. Some made sandwiches, some put the lunches together, and others helped in our Door Ministry.

Again, I was made to feel old as I learned that I taught the mom of one of the girls 30 years ago as well as 3 uncles and an aunt! I will also note that the Duschene faculty and staff spent part of their faculty retreat day volunteering at these same ministries.

I almost forgot to mention that a group of girl scouts from St. Wenceslaus came to help and left a case of cookies for our weekday volunteers to munch on—Thanks girls!

And since we are all CHILDREN in the eyes of Jesus, we'll offer a big thank you to the Council of Catholic Women from St. Stephen the Martyr, who brought sandwich bags and monetary donations when they came to help with the Lunch Program. Of course, we include in our thanks all the individual families who come to help make sandwiches, often also donating sandwich bags or monetary support.

Over the next few weeks, five different groups from the St. Wenceslaus 8th grade social justice club will be coming to help—this is a strictly volunteer activity for these young people! On Palm Sunday, to finish a weekend of service projects, high school students from Skutt Catholic will come for Mass and stay to make sandwiches.

I began this article speaking of how Jesus welcomed the children into his arms to preface what I shared about all of our generous visitors. While they are here, I make a point of taking them upstairs and sharing with them the story about our statue of Jesus at the front of our worship space.

I ask them all to place their hands on Jesus's hands and remind them how Jesus's hands helped the poor and the forgotten. They now serve as Jesus's hands, because they too have taken the time to help the poor and the forgotten. Such is the call of Jesus as He seeks to surround Himself with all of us, His children.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy 5:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil 5:30 p.m.

Easter Mass 10:00 a.m.



OTOC Celebrating Community Fundraiser

Sat. April 25, 2015 6:00 - 9:30 pm at Hot Shops Art Center by Don Zebolsky

Appetizers - Cash Bar - Live Music - Silent Auction

The money raised at the OTOC fundraiser is used to support OTOC's efforts in the Omaha metro community.

Here are some ways you can support the OTOC fundraiser this year.

Buy tickets (for yourself, your friends, your family) - ticket cost is \$20

Invite others to buy tickets and attend the event with you

Donate an item to the Silent Auction

Ask business acquaintances or friends to consider donating an item - all who donate will be recognized at the event

Be a sponsor - make a monetary contribution to help offset the fundraiser expenses

Ask business acquaintances or friends to be a sponsor

Contact Mary Ann or Don Zebolsky (402-551-4252) for any questions about being a supporter of the OTOC fundraiser.

Mary Ann and Don will accept your silent auction donation to be transferred to Carol Beaty's car.

Music - Paul Serrato - jazz composer and pianist will be playing for us. A graduate of Creighton Prep, Paul had a successful career in New York City as a jazz musician. He moved back to his home town, Omaha a couple of years ago teaching ESL at Metro Community College.

OMAHA GIVES! MAY 20

Holy Family's Ministries to the Poor are participating in Omaha Gives! Omaha Gives! is a 24 hour online fundraising event led by the Omaha Community Foundation (OCF) to bring the community together to support local nonprofits through online fundraising. In 2015 the 24-hour donation period will begin May 20th at midnight and be open until the following midnight. The OCF has set up an online platform at www.omahagives24.org with searchable profiles of participating nonprofits and a leader-board on the day of the event. Holy Family has submitted a profile on the Omaha Gives! site.

OCF plans to offer matching money to be shared by all participating nonprofits receiving donations during Omaha Gives. The amount received will be based on each organization's overall percentage of funds raised the day of the event. In addition Omaha Steaks is donating \$1,000 each hour to a random donor. If you are up during the wee hours - 1, 2, or 3 AM there might be fewer donors and Holy Family would have a greater chance of being chosen.

To donate visit the website, www.omahagives24.org, select Holy Family from the list of 300 charities, and make a donation of \$10.00 or more, sometime during the 24 hours of Wednesday, May 20.

OTOC seeks support for the following:

LB 12. Suspends, not terminates, Medicaid coverage upon incarceration. This is important because many need mental as well as physical health care and reinstatement is easier than reapplying.

LB 268. Eliminates the death penalty.

LB 337. Expands energy conservation credits to multi-family dwellings and public institutions. This would be a good start to a response to the UNL study on Climate Change and would begin to help mitigate the adverse effects for Nebraska.

LB 472. The Medicaid Re-design Act would expand Medicaid for all in the gap.

LB 544. Community Gardens Act. It would fit right in with Land Banks. Vacant public land could be utilized to grow vegetables and other good things.

LB 592. Requires prison officials to evaluate inmates before their release to determine if they should be recommended for commitment to a mental health institution and notification of local law police before an inmate who is potentially mentally ill and dangerous is released. It also allocates an as-yet unspecified amount of money to improve mental health treatment and re-entry programs for inmates.

LB 598. Requires corrections to initiate a plan to reduce the use of solitary, issue quarterly reports on its use, and sets up a committee to ensure proper treatment of those in long-term segregation.

LB 623. Allows 'dreamers' who are in the United States through no fault of their own to have drivers' licenses. They are here legally under the federal Deferred Action program, and can obtain work permits. Nebraska is the only state that bars these young people from getting driver licenses.

To follow these bills in the Legislature, or to contact senators, visit the unicameral website:

<http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>.

From the Deacon's Desk

by Al Aulner

Winter is in its last stretch and spring is upon us, and for those who take the time to notice the wonder of the earth renewing itself, there comes an appreciation for new life, new growth, and new hope as the dormant gives way to the growing.

The Holy season of Lent is in its last stretch also. It's a good time to stop and think about the past few weeks and take notice of the time you have been able to spend in prayer with Jesus.

As a community we are on a trek that leads us through the passion of Christ and to the foot of the cross. Praise God, the foot of the Cross is not the end of the story, and we joyfully find ourselves at the empty tomb. The wonder, the joy, and the hope we have in the resurrection is all the more profound for those who not only went through Lent but entered into the Lenten season.

For those who found the time to reflect on the truths proclaimed in the gospel readings and who found time to ponder the great gift of mercy and grace that is Easter there is the reward of a greater appreciation of God's love for them.

The time of reflection gives way to the time of response. Out of our reflecting on the mercy and grace of God comes a response to what Jesus has done for us. Christ shows us the way to bring about the Kingdom of God. Christ sets us free from our sins and calls us to proclaim freedom from sins to others and to share the good news!

If the Lenten season has slipped you by and you have not been able to spend some time with Jesus, it's not too late. There is still time to enter the season and experience the mercy and love God wants to give you. Take the time to walk with Jesus, even to the cross. Then there will be much rejoicing at the empty tomb.

Lenten Ramblings of the Soul

by Barb Sawatzki

Things of my soul do not abound in rules or obligated church attendance. Insights rarely come about through prayers that have been memorized, or rote confession. My soul, instead, does tend to thrive by joining me to other souls—a personal connection to the God who loves and guides me that I find in others through the sharing of our stories. Many times this means that I let go of trivial annoyances and embrace the other's oddities.

To see God is to see myself.
To seek God is to seek connection,
knowing I am not alone. When the
God in me finds the God in you—
together we embrace...and change the world.

My God is a versatile God, fulfilling
each day's needs—comforter to sooth
my own perceived offenses and rejections.
Some days I want a God who will transform
the world from war and violence to one
of peaceful love, and then my Lord
does let me know that peace and love are rooted
in forgiveness that begin with me.

If today I choose to rant and rave
about the circumstances of my life
or sulk and whine because I did not get
my way, the universe will thus provide.
And if I choose to concentrate on what
is good and what is gift, giving thanks
instead of angst, the universe will thus
respond. I would be wise to choose the latter.

I welcome the serenity of senior
years—more quiet time to ruminate
a life well-lived, though not fulfilled—completely.
If all were perfect, what would be the need
to reach beyond myself, beyond my own
desires? God pushes from behind when ere
my spirit lags; God pulls me forward when
the past would drag me back. But I am most
delighted when we journey side by side.
God walks with me and talks with me and shares
my tears and joys. And God exults in my
accomplishments. What would my days be like
without this constant and consistent friend!

Collecting Memories

by Barb Sawatzky

While clearing out the rectory of Holy Family Church in order to prepare for some renovation, the ancient parish china has been resurrected. Though it has not been used in many years and a few pieces are missing, it still holds many memories and retains its enchanting beauty.

Many of us have memories of it being used for special occasions at Holy Family, but no one can recall exactly how the parish obtained it. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has information to share with us about this beautiful china.

The china is Noritake from occupied Japan. The pattern is roses on a white background with gold trim. There are twelve place settings, each containing the following: large, medium, and small plate; cup and saucer; soup bowl and fruit bowl. There are also these extra pieces: large and small platter, gravy boat with attached saucer, cream and sugar bowls, large serving bowl, large covered soup tureen.

After much discussion and discernment, we have decided to use the china to raise much needed funds for the parish, thus allowing as many people as possible to add one or more pieces to your own collectibles.

If you are interested in donating money to Holy Family Parish in exchange for any of this china, please contact Barb Sawatzki (402) 556-7564. And if you have stories to share, please do so, and we will publish them in an upcoming issue of New Wine.



EASTER IN OUR LIVES

The Beauty of Spring

Soft wind brushing carefully

Around leafy branches

Baby sprouts

Breaking through

The ravages of Winter

Colorful birds

Singing a welcome

All to help in the celebration

Of our risen Lord

by Lucille Saunders



A Social Justice Behavior

by Beth Ferlong

There are many ways of practicing social justice in one's life. One way is to evaluate one's regular monthly expenditures and spend the money at minority owned businesses versus other businesses. My recent attention to this idea resulted from a monthly evening forum at Big Mama's restaurant.

Ms. Patricia Barron (who prefers being called Big Mama) hosted the event in which Mr. Dell Gines facilitated a video of Hayti with small group discussion and large group report-out. Hayti was an economically vibrant community of Black Americans in Durham, North Carolina in the early 1900s.

An outcome of the large group discussion was a suggestion of the difference we could make in Omaha by reforming how the dominant Caucasian population spends and could spend their money. The array of positive indicators for minority populations could be changed with support of their businesses; such indicators range from economic well-being to improved health status.

There is a list of 109 current minority Chamber of Commerce members. Follow this path on the Omaha Chamber of Commerce web home page—Members link, Business Directory (a link on the left side), and, on the next page, mark the box for Minority Owned businesses. Minority includes Black, Hispanic, Asian, and women; there are few Black businesses listed.

A Chamber employee informed me that 80% of the Omaha workforce is covered by the Chamber; 85% of small businesses belong to the Chamber. For a small business of 5 or fewer employees, the cost is \$400 annually to belong, possibly a barrier for some small businesses.

I advocate for you to consider eating sometimes at Big Mama's and to further that Black-owned business. It is located on the previous campus of the Nebraska

School for the Deaf, immediately east of Holy Name church.

Further, Big Mama is positively atypical in that she "walks the walk" and employs felons. She hosts the Hungry Club Forum on the first Wednesday of the month from 12:00-1:00; there are always guest speakers who address issues of North Omaha.

Further, she plans to continue hosting evening sessions of education and small group dialogue like the one noted above. When you are in the restaurant, you will see pictures of the many national television shows on which she has been featured.

I also advocate for you to purchase some groceries from Daddy's Neighborhood Market at Radial Highway and 48th Street, another Black-owned business. That owner has made an intentional practice of partnering with local farmers for their meat, dairy, and fruit and vegetable products. I am quoting an activist friend who is working toward decreasing global poverty via his work with the RESULTS organization: "Daddy's is a neighborhood and regional treasure that is committed to outstanding locally grown foods and meats."

Social Justice. Catholic Social Teaching. Racism in the United States...and Omaha. We are aware of the segregated churches in which we practice our weekly liturgies and the circles and networks of friends, colleagues, and acquaintances who are "like us"—circles and networks which, most often, do not include those who are of different ethnic backgrounds.

Further, we may practice habits in which we stay in comfort zones versus intentionally seeking out experiences that may stretch us. Consider helping to break that pattern of de facto segregation by giving financial support to Black-owned businesses.

SEASONS OF GRACE

by Pat Sullivan

from the archives

Somehow, as I grow older, the seasons of change seem more deeply felt. There isn't a great deal of change in summer. What has begun in the spring simply matures. But the other three seasons are full of turbulence, of "rites of passage" through which pass all living things, willing or not. Autumn brings aging, ripening, then decline. Winter freezes what life remains, turning all into withered whiteness.

Late into this season, in concert with all Christians all over the earth, we stir from our inward hibernation to join with others in another Lenten journey. Like frozen roots reaching out to tangle with those of the next cold tree, we grasp a neighbor's hand to give and to draw what life we find between us. It is a time more suited for huddling by a friendly fire than for reaching out, but the spark of life remaining must somehow be renewed and instinctively we sense that it cannot be renewed alone.

For the last several years, it has occurred to me to thank God that I live in a place which experiences all the seasons, but especially winter. Once, long ago, I lived for a year in a place which had little seasonal variance, so there was little change; there was no autumn color eruption, no winter whiteness. All of nature just seemed to look about the same, feel about the same, all year. It was rather dull, actually.

But here we have winter, without which the miracle of spring cannot happen! How fitting that we begin Lent in winter, that we pass through the ashes of death in winter, but then end it all with the glory of new life on Easter, as spring begins to thaw the cold earth and push up the tiny green shoots through the brown stubble of winter's

Continued on cover page

Seasons of Grace - continued from p. 5

remains. A crocus opens its petals to the sun as we open our arms to the Risen Jesus and to the forever-life He offers us. How fitting that Resurrection should happen in spring! How could it not?

Spring is the season of possibilities. It is the season of hope. It is the season of new life - new life of body and spirit. It is the season of love, and what greater love could we imagine and celebrate than the love of our God made real to us in human incarnation, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, who accepted death, and who then conquered death in his triumphant rising on the third day?

To us he left the promise of our own resurrections to come, a promise that makes all the new-life ecstasy of

spring but a dim, misty metaphor for the astounding reality of the life we already possess within us which somehow will go on forever. I don't know how this will happen, I don't know what kind of life it will be, nor do I have any idea of what form it will take. There are so many questions: Will I be with people I loved on earth? Will I even know them or they me? Will I still be me? Suddenly, even thoughts of eternal life can be a little scary, or maybe a lot.

But I don't need to face them alone. There is One who once felt those same uncertainties as he felt his own body dying, but who indeed found that new life and came back to show his friends! Now he is with me, extending his hand, inviting me to join the dance into the light. Oh! I see! It is for this that Lent has prepared me. Now it is Easter, and my hand, trembling, reaches out and touches Love.

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