

Taste the

# NEW WINE



---

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A CARING COMMUNITY

WINTER 2017

---

## *Holy Family Ministries Continue to Serve Those in Need*

by Al Aulner

I'm happy to say that in 2017 the Ministries at Holy family were able to stay in operation and continue to serve the poor in Northeast Omaha. Because of the gifts of our friends and supporters hundreds of people were touched and basic needs met.

I would like to pass along a few round numbers so you can get a sense of the work that is being done through the various ministries. The Food Re-distribution Program collected and re-distributed over 200,000 lbs. of grocery items, including bread, pastries, produce, meat, canned goods, and boxed goods. Most of these items would have been thrown in the dumpster if not for the effort made to save them and redirect them to the tables of needy families or to the various homeless shelters. A special thanks is sent out to the Knights of Columbus, Columban Council 6192 who faithfully support this ministry every year with volunteer drivers and financial support.

Over 70,000 sack lunches were distributed thanks to everyone involved in the Sack Lunch Program. That's a lot of lunchmeat, bread, cookies, crackers, chips, drinks, and case upon case of mayonnaise. It's thousands of lunch bags and sandwich bags. It's a lot of helping hands and hundreds of hours of preparation. We are especially grateful to all the various donors who continually support this program as well as the Food Bank for the Heartland, and

Bakers Supermarkets where most of our product is purchased.

The Door Ministry assisted dozens of families with funds for utilities, non-narcotic prescriptions and rent. Over \$10,000 was distributed for those needs. In addition, hundreds of the area homeless were able to get free clothing, including new socks and underwear, coats, jackets, hats, gloves, toiletries, and when available, a sweet treat.

Families in need and the elderly were able to access the pantry, and many received a special basket for Easter and Thanksgiving and will receive another basket in time for Christmas.

The Sock and Underwear Program was handed over to the St. Vincent de Paul Society this year, but the volunteers from Holy Family still participated by mentoring the St. Vincent de Paul team for their inaugural year.

\$20,000 in vouchers was distributed to families with school age children, thanks to the working partnership between the Omaha World Herald Goodfellows, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Holy Family Parish Door Ministry.

A special thanks needs to go out to Mary Our Queen Parish, and the Knights of Columbus, St. Charles Borromeo, Council 14077. Both continually support the Door Ministry whenever called upon.

We also need to extend special thanks and congratulations to Mr.

Jack Kelly. Jack has been the Door Ministry Aide for that last several years and retired in June. Jack did a great job while he was with us, and he still stops by on to occasion to volunteer for special projects. We wish you well Jack!

*The Nebraska Criminal Justice Review* continues to be a one of a kind publication dedicated to the issue of criminal justice in the State of Nebraska. Mel Beckman and his committee continue to dedicate themselves to publishing a quality product that brings needed information to those involved in the criminal justices system, including inmates, the families of inmates, and those who have been victims of crime.

We hope that in the coming year the support given in time, talent, and treasure will be enough to meet the needs of those who come to our door. If you would like to participate in one of our ministries please contact us at [holyfamily.oma@archomaha.org](mailto:holyfamily.oma@archomaha.org) or by phone at: 402-345-1062.

If you wish to make a donation you may do so at our website [www.holyfamilyomaha.org](http://www.holyfamilyomaha.org) and simply click on the **donate** button. Donations may also be sent to Holy Family Church - 1715 IZARD ST. Omaha, NE.68102. If you wish your donation to support a particular ministry please indicate so on your check or with a note.

Everyone involved in our ministries wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

# We have Just Begun the Fight

by Julia Brecht  
Parish President

Anyone who knows Holy Family knows that we are a small, aging parish. But there are so many more adjectives that can be used to describe who we are – community, accepting, generous, welcoming, selfless, talented, active, loving, justice-seeking, innovative, caring, and loyal.

I've been attending Holy Family for nearly two years and all of these wonderful adjectives were clear upon entering the church for the first time. Our community is unique and special. We welcome homeless individuals and incarcerated men to celebrate the Eucharist with us. We

feed the hungry five days a week. We have programs to give clothing and financial assistance to those in need. We know each other's names and stories. This community practices all the Catholic beliefs and values that I hold. (Anyone else have a strong connection to Matthew 25:37-40?)

That is why it is so important that we revive this parish. In order to do just that, our former president, Mel Beckman, has started the Planning Committee. This committee is open to anyone in the parish and is meant for brainstorming and rejuvenating

our lovely little church.

Since our first meeting this past July, we have sent out Holy Family brochures, hosted two ice cream socials, began a search for a social media volunteer to create an online presence, and we have a few other events in the pipeline. Our church is worth every second spent planning and every cent spent sharing who we are.

One adjective not listed above is that we are fighters. Everyone who has been to Holy Family knows what an extraordinary community it is. We will not give it up without fighting.



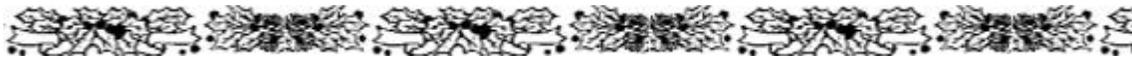
## From the Holy Family Finance Chair

by Bob Gronstal

Blessings this Christmas Season! Our Parish is small but for me, Holy Family is a precious prayer community. As I reflect on my life, as I frequently do at Christmas, I remember all of my blessings. I have been a member of Holy Family Parish since January of 1972. For 45 years this Parish has been my prayer community. My children were baptized and raised here. My second child, Ricky, was buried here. I remember the love and support the Community showered on Marianne and me after we lost our son. In 1988 I became finance chair because of the persistence of Pat Tuttle. I was fearful that if I became finance chair I would be stuck with that job forever. And I was right. What I did not expect was how rewarding it was to be finance chair – to see the many sacrifices so many have made to make Holy Family work. I love this Parish even though we struggle financially. I love this parish because of our commitment to the poor and underserved in our society. I love Holy Family because of the care we have for each other. I love Holy Family because of the warm welcome we extend to visitors. Even though we struggle financially, we have many gifts that we share with each other and with those in need. Merry Christmas to Holy Family, Visitors, and Friends!



# From the Deacon's Desk



by Al Aulner

Greetings to everyone at this beginning of a new Church Year. The season of Advent offers Christians an opportunity to reflect on the past, both long past and recent. We give praise to God for the many blessings he has given us, we repent for the times we have sinned and not humbled ourselves to His will, and we anticipate with hope for what is to come.

As I look back on this past year, I recognize that once again this community and the ministries that are connected to it received many gifts and graces. I am grateful for the opportunity to witness the good things that God has given and the wonderful people He continues to bring together in the parish and through the ministries.

I would like to thank everyone who has participated in keeping both the parish and the ministries going. It takes many faithful participants, giving in various ways, and supporting the many needs to ensure that the door

may be answered when someone in need knocks.

We have many financial donors who share their blessings with us on a regular basis. Those recurring donations form the financial foundation that we count on and build on.

The dedicated volunteers in each program continue to provide hands to do the work. The Sack Lunch Program, the Door Ministry, the Food Re-distribution Program, and the *Nebraska Criminal Justice Review* would not be able to continue without the many men and women who volunteer on a regular basis.

In watching the volunteers, I see people who are not only doing the work that needs to be done, but they are also bringing God's love to each other and to the people who are served at Holy Family.

Sadly, this past year four of our volunteers in the Sack Lunch Program passed away: Jean Flannery, Pat Tuttle,

"Bombay John" Relix, and Arnie Jacobson. We remember them and give thanks for the time they spent with us; they are missed.

So a new year begins; the cycle repeats, and we do not know what the new year will bring. A measure of hope should always be present when looking forward. After all, why look forward at all if there is no hope.

Advent invites us to look forward with great hope. It is a season of hope, flowing from our faith; a faith in Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of His promises.

Regardless of what the future holds in this temporal world, it is an eternal future in Christ that Advent announces and orientates us toward. St. Paul tells us in his first letter to the Corinthians: eye has not seen, nor ear heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him."

## *OTOC REPORT – November 2017*

by Don Zebolsky

**OTOC held a Delegates Congress,** Organizing Together for One Community, on Nov. 13, 2017 at St. Pius X. Over 200 attended. Five members of Holy Family were among them. Delegates reviewed why and how we organize, and began to develop a vision to grow and become more diverse. Organizations will next meet to discuss their plans on Mon., Feb. 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm at 1st United Methodist Church, 70th & Cass, Omaha. Come and share ideas.

**Immigrants on TPS** (Temporary Protective Status), 300,000 total, are allowed to stay in the U.S. because conditions are life-threatening should they return. The largest in number, 200,000, are from El Salvador. Their continued status is now threatened. Most have lived here for decades, work, contribute to our economy, raised families. Children are citizens. To deport them now would be cruel. OTOC asks us to contact our members of Congress.

Ask them to urge the President and the Department of Homeland Security to renew TPS status.

**OTOC is responding to climate change** by encouraging Congress to adopt a carbon fee and dividend plan. Consider this important action too.

**Sarita Penka** of St. Leo's and OTOC's Mental Health Action Team testified before the City Council in favor of two resolutions: (1) allow mental health providers to initiate EPS (Emergency Protective Status); and (2) allow EPS patients to be transported to other states if no beds are available in state. Both resolutions passed the City Council.

**OTOC has action groups** on mental health care, environment and sustainability, medicaid reform and fair tax policy, housing and revitalization, immigration and refugees, and predatory lending.. Visit <http://www.otoc.org> for more information.



# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:



Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day

5:30 p.m.  
10:00 a.m.

## TASTE THE NEW WINE

Editor	Jim Johnson
Team Members	Al Aulner Julia Brecht Bob Gronstal Don Zebolsky



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 296  
Omaha, NE.

