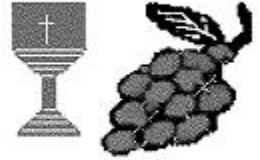


Taste the

NEW WINE



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A CARING COMMUNITY

Fall, 2014

Celebrating Twenty-six Wonderful Years of Service: Deacon Ralph and Ruth Ann Hueser

by Linda Ohri

Holy Family parishioners gathered on Sunday, August 3rd, to celebrate the 26 year tenure of service by Deacon Ralph Hueser and his wife Ruth Ann to our parish as well as the wider Omaha community. Deacon Ralph was named as Holy Family Parish Administrator in 1988, and has served faithfully until his retirement, due to declining health, in August, 2014.

Our gathering began with a short prayer service, followed by a delicious meal catered by Patricia's Catering. (As an interesting aside, Pat Regan, the chef, is a neighbor of Ralph and Ruth Ann's and her parents were married at Holy Family! We highly recommend PatriciaCatering.com on a purely unsolicited basis!)

Many current and graduate Holy Family members attended to honor Ralph and Ruth Ann. We were also honored to have many couples from Bellevue St. Mary's Knights of Columbus, as well as other volunteers of our ministries join us.

The Knights have been partners with the parish for many years in conducting the Food Redistribution program that was started by Ralph soon after he joined Holy Family.

Ralph and Ruth Ann's family was also well represented by his daughter

Debbie and son Dave and their families who live in the area. Thanks to Debbie for sharing in the planning and details of the celebration!

Ralph has contributed in more ways than can be described to the spiritual community of Holy Family, as well as to our many ministries. He has worked with and supported the Door Ministry, the Food Redistribution Program, the Lunch Program, the *Criminal Justice Review* publication, and many other nameless parish and community services. Beyond our local area, largely through Ralph's actions, Holy Family has helped to support the Catholic Worker House ministry of Richard Flamer in Chiapas, Mexico.

Ralph has our unending gratitude for all of his many contributions, and most of all for the wonderful man of God that he is.

Ruth Ann has also served the parish faithfully throughout these 26 years. She has served on many committees, most consistently on the Coordinating Committee, Holy family's parish council. She has always been Ralph's unfailing supporter and advocate. Most importantly, Ruth Ann has offered her own kind, compassionate, and always direct perspective on what we are called to do as a Christian community.

We managed to get photos of most of those attending our retirement celebration and have shared these pictures with Ralph and Ruth Ann in a Memory Book. A smaller copy of the photo book will also be available in the Gathering Room.

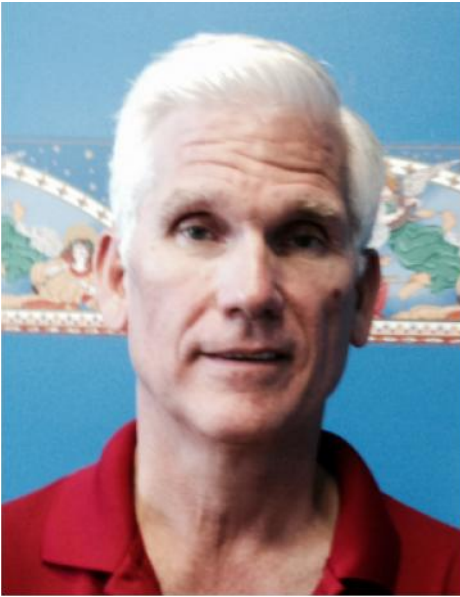
Those attending the gathering also completed short memory notes that we presented to Ralph in an engraved glass pitcher, proclaiming him our "Hero." We hope viewing these photos and messages will help them, and all of us, to keep each other in our prayers, and keep our memories of good times fresh in our hearts.

Ruth Ann and Ralph are continuing as part of our Holy Family community. We treasure their presence among us, and our love and prayers will always be with them.



Deacon's Corner

By Al Aulner



Life brings many changes and so with the retirement of Deacon Ralph change comes again. There is change for Deacon Ralph and Ruth Ann in retirement, there is change for all of you in getting to know a new deacon, and there is change for me and my wife Terri in a new assignment. I know that I follow a good and generous servant of God in Deacon Ralph, and with God's help I will do my best to work with you all and carry on the ministry that Deacon Ralph and so many others undertook.

I will give you a quick snapshot of who I am and how have come to be at Holy Family. I was born and raised in Hastings NE. and I am the third oldest of eleven children. I left Hastings in 1976 when I joined the United States Air Force in hopes to see a bit more of the world. After basic training I was promptly assigned to Offutt AFB; so much for seeing more of the world.

Being stationed in Bellevue was a blessing in disguise as it is where I met my wife to be Terri while roller skating at Skateland in Bellevue. We were married in

November of 1980 and Terri entered the Catholic Church at the following Easter Vigil.

After my Air Force enlistment completing, I flew as an instructor and charter pilot for Omaha Aviation thru 1982. In late 1982 I was recruited by the Federal Aviation Administration to become an Air Traffic Controller. I spent the following 30 years in Air Traffic before retiring in 2012.

Terri and I have raised five fantastic children, three girls and two boys. We have been parishioners at Holy Ghost Catholic Church since early 1983, and all of our children attended Holy Ghost grade school followed by Gross Catholic High School. We have college graduates from Creighton University, University of Nebraska Omaha, and Hawaii Pacific University. We have four grandchildren, all boys. One of our little grandsons, Dominic, is with Jesus as he passed away when he was 4 months old this past January.

Terri and I have been involved with various ministries for the past 33 years. We were very involved in the Family Life Ministry working with families to help them live out their Catholic faith through their family life. We coordinated family retreats and other family social events. We were youth group leaders for several years and assisted in conducting youth retreats including at least one Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat.

We were active in the Marriage Encounter and Engaged Encounter ministries, Natural Family Planning ministry, and the Renew program. We have also led several Bible studies and prayer groups over the years. Terri and I have been EMHCs, and Lectors for many years, and in the fall of 1999 we made our Christians

Encounter Christ (CEC) weekend.

I believe it was my CEC experience that put me on the path to the diaconate. I was invited by my pastor and one of our parish deacons to consider the diaconate, and in 2002 I entered formation.

Terri and I made that three year journey together. I was ordained in 2005. Terri is also a certified Catechist and has instructed children in their faith formation classes for several years. Together Terri and I assist in preparing couples for marriage through the FOCUS survey and help coordinate their wedding liturgies.

In August of 2013, I was asked to be Coordinator for Jail and Prison Ministry for the Archdiocese. I work with the volunteers and the staff of corrections facilities to coordinate the Jail and Prison Ministry that takes place in them.

In July of this year I accepted an invitation to assume the duties of administering Holy Family parish. I have been warmly welcomed here, and I appreciate the helpful attitude shown by everyone. In the last six weeks I have witnessed the great works of charity that occur here and have seen people living out Christian charity in the manner that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked us to do.

With a new deacon change of some kind is inevitable. New challenges and new opportunities will present themselves and the needs of the community will vary as well. I look forward to working with everyone to meet the ministerial needs of this community and those of the surrounding community. Please keep me and my wife Terri in your prayers as we are keeping this community in ours.

The Peace of Jesus be with you always.

Holy Family Sock and Underwear Program

Made Possible by Goodfellows and Partnership with Target

By Barb Sawatzki

The doors were about to open on Holy Family's back to school program for 2014, with a vast array of changes.

Tables were set, but not with the usual stacks of little girls' anklets and panties, and piles of boys' underwear and socks—volunteers barely visible standing behind these stacks and piles. This year's tables displayed seated volunteers dispensing vouchers to be redeemed at Target stores. Each child was allotted up to \$20.00 toward the purchase of children's socks and underwear.

Outside the building, more volunteers were at the ready to explain our new procedure to waiting parents and guardians, then guide them through the door in a timely manner to have their I.D.'s checked.

Port-a-potty rentals were nowhere to be seen and bottled water was unnecessary to quench the thirst of those who in previous years might spend hours waiting in line on a hot summer day. This year lines moved quickly through the building—five to ten minutes per person. We also had collected many children's books throughout the year, enough for each child to receive one on the way out the door.

Strong bodies were not needed to carry up boxes and boxes of socks and underwear that had been stored for weeks in the basement of the church, as in previous years. Instead the product waited at Target stores for those who came to our giveaway. And this year they could choose for themselves, rather than receive what someone else had purchased.

We asked each volunteer to fill out an evaluation form, with their ideas of what worked well and what

might be done differently. With a new program, we knew that changes would be inevitable, and that volunteers are the best judges of how to make things run smoothly. There were some good suggestions for change that will be incorporated in next year's program.

Here are some of the volunteers' comments:

The logistical, very timely flow of people is absolutely respectful of all.... The free books for children were a pleasant surprise.... The identification process worked well at my table.... Very well run; enjoyed working with the volun-

teers; will help again if asked.... Very smooth; lots of help...well organized, good instructions, if in doubt—always assistance available.

I heard comments on the day I worked that the program ran so smoothly that at times it was somewhat boring, compared to the chaos of previous years. But those at my table thought these few slow times presented the opportunity for volunteers to get to know one another.

As for the overall evaluation, we will not have that ready until the final stats come from Target; we will report on this in the next issue of *New Wine*.

Endings and Beginnings, September, 2014

By Don Zebolsky

Here, in the middle of September, I like to reflect on endings and beginnings. In July I ended my second tenure as President of Holy Family's Coordinating Committee. My thanks go to all for the privilege of helping in this way. Welcome the new presidents—Glenda and Larry Davis and Eric Wilkerson and Carl Worth, the new Presidents-elect.

Ralph Hueser resigned as Parish Administrator. His brain tumor renders him unable to do all the many, many things he had been doing. Thanks and blessings to Ralph and Ruth Ann. Welcome Deacon Al Aulner and Terri to Holy Family to carry on Ralph's work.

Our 22 year-old grandson Joe came to stay with us this summer. It was good to get to know him a little bit, and a challenge to live with a youngster again. He helped us some in the garden here at Elmwood Tower. He just returned to Florida.

In June Mary Ann and I went to the Great Smoky Mountain National

Park in Tennessee. Mary Ann attended a class in fiber collage at Arrowmount in Gatlinburg. I tagged along, shared a dorm room with her, and planned my own retreat.

I studied *The New Spiritual Exercises in the Spirit of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin* by Louis M. Savary. I did a lot of journaling as part of this study, and walked daily in the amazing forest. Gazing upward into the branches of large hemlock trees was one of my favorite things.

True to Ignatius, but with the advantage of insights about the cosmos and evolution from Teilhard, we can seek to find God in everyone and in everything. All have the Spirit!

Moments of reflection bring us awareness and wonder. Perhaps you know Teilhard's vision that evolution continues in the noosphere to when Love will unite us all.

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I appreciate my life, and sharing and growing with Mary Ann, anew this autumn.

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