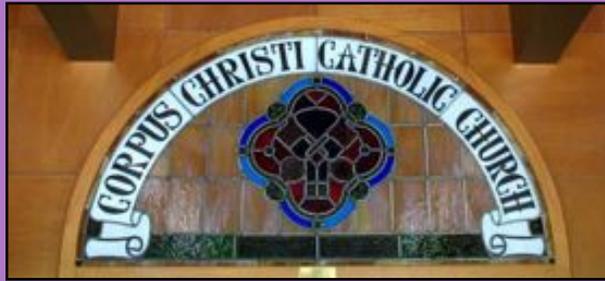


CC Connections



Volume IV



March 2017



Number 1

Young adults share parish mission work

For Dana Guilette, 24, becoming an adult meant something you might not expect—the chance to go to Nicaragua and visit Corpus Christi’s “twin” community there, on the slopes of Mombacho volcano, near Granada.

“I’d been on one Life Teen mission, but this was a chance to be with adults and to travel outside our country where there is some real poverty as well as a whole different culture,” Dana said of her first trip there last year.

Last month, Dana once again traveled with 11 others to the communities ministered to by the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart at their Casa de Retiros El Tepeyac. There, they prayed and played with the native people, and



Blaine Guilette, Dana Guilette, Samantha Lardinois and Joanne Guilette.

helped dig the foundation for a home for a multiple-handicapped teen and his sister who cares for him.

Dana said it was fun to see the translator and the people in the community they met last year, and to be remembered by them.

“We started forming relationships last year, and they grew stronger this year” she said.

It was also gratifying to see for herself that lasting differences are made in subtle ways through these mission trips.

“Last year we noticed that there was a lot of trash lying around in the school yard, and we helped them clean it up,” Dana said. “This year, it was still clean. They had continued what we started.”

Another plus for Dana was sharing this trip with her mother, Joanne Guilette, her uncle Blaine Guilette, and her cousin, Samantha Lardinois.

Traveling to Nicaragua this year for the first time was Dylan Abeyta, 22. His motivation, he said, was his friend Adam LaLuzerne, who lost his life in a drowning accident this past year.

“Adam was dedicated to serving others less fortunate,” Dylan said. “He did it here, he did it on Life Teen mission trips, and in college he led week-long nationwide trips.”

The best part of this mission trip for Dylan was the chance to help begin work on the home for Chipito and his sister. Chipito is 15 but looks 8. His mother died when he was 3, and the father isn’t around. An older sister cares for him and now, thanks to outside help, they will have their own concrete-block home to live in.

The Corpus Christi group dug the foundations, swinging picks and wielding shovels and using muscles that don’t normally get used. A week after

they left Nicaragua, another group arrived to start laying the blocks.

Dylan said what he didn’t expect from the trip was the cultural immersion provided so that real relationships can be built

between Corpus Christi and the people of the Tepeyac region. A professor from Nicaragua gave them an

overview of the country’s history and its culture, and he learned to appreciate how difficult life has been for many of them.

Both Dana and Dylan now have first-hand knowledge that the new evangelization might mean prayer and preaching, but it also means laughter, play, and hard physical labor. It means, to paraphrase the words of Cursillo, making friends, being friends, and sharing those friends with Christ.

(Others on this trip were Cortney Curran, Jilene Dudzinski, Sarah Gavin, Jill Kolodziej, John Kolodziej, Jilene Kuklinski and Diane Zirbel.)



Dylan Abeyta with two children from the Nicaraguan community.

Parish Council Notes

As we begin our Lenten journey of 40 days, many of us will spend more time in prayer as we look to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. In as much as other sacrificial giving is encouraged, we as Catholics are called to repent of sin and renew our faith commitment through introspective time during these 40 days.

Lent is also a special time for doing good works and many parishioners have already demonstrated this over these past months that Fr. Carl has been away. Many have



Meet your trustees

Name: Brian Woods

Age: 56

Employer: CFO for Jim Olson Motors

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stepped up to enable our parish to maintain programs and continue plans for upcoming events. We are very grateful for our parish staff and program directors who have done an outstanding job coordinating activities and maintaining parish operations over these past few months. As parishioners of Corpus Christi parish, we are blessed to have these very talented people handling day to day operations as we await Father Carl's return.

Lent provides us an opportunity to take time to deepen our relationship with Christ. It is a special time of penance, prayer, and good works in support of his church! May your Lenten journey include prayers for our Pastor and parish along with an offering of "good works" as we come together to spread the good news of Christ!

See you at Mass.

Bill Sauvé
Pastoral council president

Mail call for Fr. Carl

If you're going to write a note to Fr. Carl while he's away, why not make it a family affair?

In addition to your own letter, give the kids a sheet of paper and ask them to say hi to him, draw him a picture, tell him what they've been doing, how school is going, etc. Children's notes are always smile-bringers.



Fr. Carl, who has begun a treatment program for alcohol addiction, recently dropped a note to the parish which was printed in the bulletin in January. He said that after his two-week evaluation period, it was determined he should

continue with a treatment program.

"I fully agree," he wrote, "as I want to be well for myself, my priesthood and you. Although I will be gone for a time, which will be difficult and sad for me, I know

in my heart it is the right thing to do. Know that you are in my daily prayers and I humbly ask for you to pray for me."

Do add some special prayers for Fr. Carl to your daily prayer schedule, and keep those cards and letters flowing to him. He may not be able to respond, but they will be appreciated. His address is:



Fr. Carl Schmitt
c/o Guest House
1601 Joslyn Rd.
Lake Orion, MI 48360



Connecting with CC Life

What's new?

The kitchen has a new **convection oven**. Russ Cross of Buildings and Grounds said "we have been plagued lately with the need for new kitchen equipment." Luckily, this equipment has waited until old age to give out.

Changes in the **funeral ministry** have opened up the volunteer slots to all members of the parish, rather than limiting it to members of St. Ann's Society, as was done in the past. That means men and students, when available, can also help set up, serve and clean up. All food will now be purchased, but Tress Barta will continue to call volunteers to bring desserts. It's always a favorite table! Call Tress if you're interested: 743-0018.



Want to put something in the collection basket during Mass, even though you've donated electronically? It has been suggested that you **offer your "life"** to God by writing down spiritual and corporal works of mercy you've performed during the week, slip them in an envelope and drop that into the collection basket. What we offer to God at Mass doesn't have to be exclusively monetary. No need to sign your name. God knows your handwriting.



We now have a **defibrillator** in the back of the church for emergencies. It was paid for from last year's corned beef and cabbage dinner, and from a memorial donation in Adam LaLuzerne's name by his parents.

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the **active-shooter seminar** presented recently by the police department, it may be offered again to include safety information for the school. Council president Bill Sauvé said it had a lot of impact since it included tapings of phone calls made during the shootings at Columbine. The seminar addressed ways to stay safe if a shooter should enter the church during Mass.

In Fr. Carl's absence, the monthly **Holy Hour** has been suspended. However, during Lent, "**The Light is On**" will continue weekly as usual, after the 5:05 p.m. Mass Thursday, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for private confession, and ending with Benediction. If you haven't been to confession in a while, or have been away from the church for a while, we welcome you to use this opportunity to come home and be involved again.



Parish-family fun & food

The annual **corned beef and cabbage dinner** to celebrate St. Patrick's Day will be on March 18 this year, one day after the feast day. And this year, it won't coincide with any other community dinners.

Time: 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Price: \$15 in advance, \$16 at the door, \$7 for children ages 6-12
Takeout available.



Tickets: To be sold at the Masses the weekends of March 4-5 and 11-12, at the parish office, or the night of the event.

Entertainment: Sugar on the Floor

Dan Klein, who owns Scofield House, will again prepare the corned beef. Other entrees include roast pork, cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots, applesauce, home made dinner rolls and ice cream. It's all you can eat, so bring your appetites and dine with your parish family!

Welcome Fr. Ron

In the absence of Fr. Carl, Fr. Ron Columbo has assumed the position of temporary administrator, at the diocese's request.

"I can't initiate anything new, I'm just here to allow things to carry on smoothly," he explained.

He meets regularly with parish staff, attends the parish council and other meetings, writes checks, and handles some sacramental duties. Fr. Ron shares weekday Masses with Fr. Tony, who also does the funerals.

Fr. Ron is a "senior" priest who retired in 2014 at age 68 because of health issues, and moved to Sturgeon Bay. He's a son of the parish who attended the then Corpus Christi School through grade 8, and then went on to a seminary high school.

Now, he helps out occasionally at Door County parishes, and has a good time feeding peanuts to the crows, blue jays and squirrels who visit his Orchard Estates apartment. He also likes to read and go fishing.



Want to celebrate? Take your pick

While we're all looking forward eagerly to winter's departure and the arrival of spring, the Church's liturgy at this time of year is rich and full and guaranteed to keep you distracted from dingy snow piles and icy sidewalks.

Lent has just begun. If you lined up in church on Ash Wednesday to "get your ashes," or even if you, it's a good time to think about what those ashes really mean. If life is short and we eventually return to dust, let's make friends with the Jesus who promised a life beyond that dust if we will only love him and do as he has taught us.



Giving up things for Lent, doing extra works of mercy, adding prayer time to our schedules, giving alms, fasting and abstaining where the Church has required it, are all basic Lenten activities. But don't think of any of it as drudgery. Think of it as throwing open the windows, airing out your soul, breathing deeply of that fresh new life shared with Jesus and other Catholics who are on the same road as we are.

Watch the bulletin (available online at www.ccparrish.net) for prayer opportunities at our local parishes, special Lenten practices like Stations of the Cross or soup suppers, fish dinners or special speakers. Attend a weekday Mass here or one of the other area Catholic parishes. Pick up a Catholic Relief Services "rice bowl" from the back of church and try some of the delicious, simple, meatless recipes from Third World countries. Since they cost less, the money you save is put in the rice bowl and turned in at the end of Lent, where it will be used to help people locally and worldwide. Learn about the rice bowl tradition here: <http://www.csricebowl.org/about>

And don't forget about the special feasts. **St. Joseph**, Husband of Mary, is usually on March 19, but this year, since the 19th falls on a Sunday (which always takes precedence) it will be celebrated on the 20th. It also happens to be the first day of spring. Wives, it's a good day to celebrate your own husbands and all they do for your family. Husbands, how about some flowers for your wife? And the whole family can say a special prayer to that Holy Family who showed us how following God's will is done.

That same week, March 25, is the feast of the **Annunciation of the Lord**, when Mary learned she would be mother to Jesus. Notice that the Church placed this day exactly nine months before the feast of Jesus' birth. It's a good day to talk about the rights of unborn children, and to pray that all pregnant women will respect the life growing within them.

April is when Lent comes to a head, with **Psalm Sunday** on the 9th and **Holy Week** following, and **Easter** on the 16th. If you've never attended the Easter Triduum--Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday--you've missed the high drama and ceremony with chant,

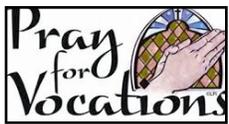
Connecting with the liturgy

fire, blessing of water, processions, dark beginnings and bright endings. It's the story of our Christian family history, starting with the creation story in Genesis and moving to the fulfillment of God's promises with the resurrection of Jesus. Did you know that those three days are considered one, continuing celebration? This year, try to make all three.

The Sunday after Easter, the 23rd, is **Mercy Sunday**. Watch the bulletin for special celebrations here or one of the other parishes, to celebrate Jesus' revelations to St. Faustina. Learn how to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All you need is a rosary and a few short prayers. To learn more about this devotion, Google "Divine Mercy Sunday."

May 7 is **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. Everyone knows we need more priests, and Jesus himself told us we should pray for that intention.

(*Matthew* 9:37-38) This means that parents should offer religious vocations as an alternative



to their children when discussing their futures. What a beautiful example it would be if parents prayed for more vocations before or after the family meal. And remember that religious vocations include vowed sisters and brothers, too. To celebrate this day, visit <http://www.gbdioc.org/vocations/diocesan-priesthood/our-seminarians.html> and read about our diocese's current seminarians. Their stories are very touching.

Jesus very last day on earth was the day he **ascended to heaven**, 40 days after Easter, this year on March 25. It is a holy day of obligation when Catholics are required to attend Mass.

However, most dioceses, including Green Bay, have transferred the feast to the following Sunday (the 28th this year) so that more people will be able to hear the Scripture readings for that feast. Holy days should be festive days for the whole family. Visit <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=458> to read about various ethnic traditions for this day.



So you see, there's really no reason for winter doldrums. Just check out the liturgical calendar.

Did you know...?

The gathering space in church, which we often call the **vestibule**, is also called the **narthex**, a Greek word that means "giant funnel." It's the place between the outside doors and the inner doors leading to the worship space. It's where baptisms, funerals and weddings begin, where lines are formed for processions and where parish notices are displayed.

In the early Church, the narthex was a waiting area for unbaptized individuals and penitents not allowed inside the worship space and not allowed to participate in all or part of the Mass. Those restrictions have been relaxed.

In the narthex, we should mentally discard our secular ways before Mass, knowing that we are about to enter holy ground and that our attitude, body language and even our attire reflect the sacredness therein.--From "Our Sunday Visitor"



CC Camera Connections



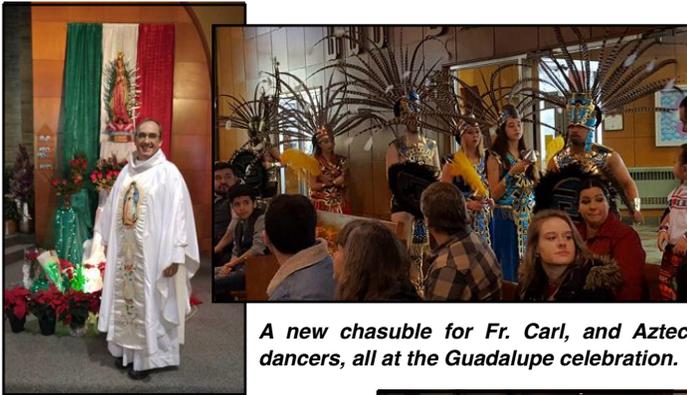
Parents Anna & Matt Pribyl (left) and sponsors Laura Lynch & Mike Pribyl gather with Fr. Carl to baptize Isaac during Mass.



The Christmas sanctuary looking beautiful.



Bishop David Ricken enjoys Confirmation photos.



A new chasuble for Fr. Carl, and Aztec dancers, all at the Guadalupe celebration.



The ladies of St. Ann's Society enjoy their annual Christmas dinner.



The February trip to Nicaragua: the Life Teen core (Dylan Abeyta, Jill Kolodziej, Sarah Gavin, Diane Zirbel, Blaine Guilette); Dana Guilette & Samantha Lardinois with a little friend; and more of the "merry missionaries."

Ask Fr. Carl

(In Fr. Carl's absence, Fr. Tony Birdsall will answer this issue's question.)

Q: Were the stations of the cross in our church once in the old church, and where were they from?



A: They were not in the original Corpus Christi Church on Maple Street. Ernest Dombrowe, a local professional woodcarver, was responsible for carving our 14 stations, the statues of Mary and Joseph, the large crucifix behind the altar, and also the head of Christ hanging above the west entrance. In 2004, Eugene Jacobs, a present member of the parish, cleaned and re-stained the 14 stations to match the pews. Needless to say, the carvings in our present church are very unique, and it would be interesting to place a value on them today. Nearly all churches and chapels have the stations of the cross, which is a devotion most especially found during Lent.

(If you have a question for Fr. Carl Schmitt, email him at frcarl@ccparish.net, or mail it to 25 N. Elgin, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.)

Fr. Carl Schmitt

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