

CC Connections



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Fr. Carl reflects on needing, finding help

No one is happier to have Fr. Carl back at Corpus Christi than Fr. Carl himself.

But although he had to deal with sometimes severe homesickness while he was at Guest House for treatment of alcohol addiction, he said he always knew it was something he had to do in order to be the priest he was called to be.

"If I hadn't gone away, I believe my ministry would have been affected in a negative way," he said. "I had sensed the joy being lost in my ministry."

Fr. Carl said that handling a busy schedule--and life itself--is much more easily done "when you have joy and peace in your heart," something that his addiction was taking from him. However, he went to Guest House with a sense of hope. He believes that admitting he had a problem and deciding to ask for help is what ultimately prepared him to be open to the help that was available there.

Fr. Carl said that no one asks for critical illnesses--like diabetes--but once you accept that "it is what it is," you also accept the treatment that's necessary. Coming to that realization is a blessing.

What also helped, to Fr. Carl's surprise, was standing before the congregation at every Mass before he left, and explaining why he was going.

"It was very difficult to do, but after the Masses, the compassion I saw in the eyes of the people as they greeted me, was very humbling." He also knew, by that and by the hundreds of cards and

letters he received, that he had the total support of his parishes.

Some of those letters also made him realize that what he was going through, and what he learned from the process, could be beneficial not only to himself, but also to his parish family.

"I got a letter from a mother who thanked me for the courage to tell people I needed help, and said that it gave her and her husband the platform for talking with their kids about dealing frankly with problems," he said.

Part of Fr. Carl's treatment involved learning about addictive behaviors, and he said he believes it has given him more empathy and compassion toward people who are struggling with similar issues. In that sense, his own struggles have proven to be a blessing for his ministry.

"It has given me another level of understanding of others," he said.

Also helping in his decision to go away for a while was his faith in the parish staff, and in the diocese's efforts to provide coverage for all the sacramental needs. He speaks with pleasure of the good comments he received from diocesan representatives about the health and vitality of Corpus Christi.

Just as alcoholism is a progressive disease, getting worse as the months and years roll by without some kind of intervention, so is recovery a progression. It means, Fr. Carl said, that he has to develop a pattern and a plan for his daily life that will be healthy in all ways. That includes adequate rest, proper nutrition, time for prayer, time

for his AA meetings, and regular contact with his sponsor.

"That's part of the reason why the time at Guest House was so long," he said. "I was there long enough to get through the critical times--30 days, 60 days, 90 days--before a recovery pattern could be developed."

Now that he's home, he has prioritized the things in his life so that recovery can continue. First on his list are his sacramental duties--Mass, baptisms, weddings, anointings. But second is whatever he needs for recovery.

"Recovery really has to be first, but of course the sacramental duties are why I'm here," he said. "But now I'll say no to scheduling meetings if they interfere with my getting to AA, or that keep me from having time for lunch or supper." He said at this point, he attends three AA meetings a week, in various places, sometimes more.

He's also taking care not to add too many things back into his schedule in these first critical weeks home.

"The Tuesday and Thursday afternoon Masses, for instance," he said. "Those will wait until I'm sure I have a good balance in my life. By July 1, I hope to have a schedule that works."

Fr. Carl admits that his time away, though beneficial, is something he's glad is over and that he doesn't want to have to repeat. But it served its purpose.

"Asking for help is the best decision I've ever made," he said. "Best for myself, and best for others."

Parish Council Notes

As we enter the busy summer months, many visitors will be worshipping with us. How you greet them and make them feel welcome is most important as we gather together for the Eucharistic celebration.

Many of our new parishioners have commented that they have joined our parish based upon a positive experience they had with our parishioners. From a genuine “good morning/afternoon” as they walk into the church to a greeting prior to the beginning of Mass, these seemingly small gestures go a long way to making our parish a warm and inviting place to worship.



Your pastoral council will be reviewing additional opportunities to welcome visitors in the coming months. But we need your help because YOU have that first opportunity to welcome all who have

chosen to worship at Corpus Christi Parish. Your interaction with that visitor will set the tone for future participation within our parish! Just remember that old adage: “Your first impression is a lasting impression.”



We are called through our faith to go out and spread the good news of Christ and welcome all who come to share in the Eucharistic celebration and parish activities. Let’s remember to offer a word of welcome and offer an act of kindness as we make our place of worship a home for all!

See you at Mass.

Bill Sauvé
Pastoral council president

Who IS that woman?

That might be the question you’re asking when you see someone with a camera popping up during Mass, at parish dinners and festivals and during other kinds of parish events.

For those of you who don’t know her, this is a belated introduction to Monica Sawyn, who has been editing this newsletter since it began three years ago.



Although she is retired as a newspaper reporter, she still likes to chronicle things, and says she’s never without a camera, just in case something interesting comes along.

So, when she’s in the middle of the aisle at the May crowning, or aiming at your table at the Fall Festival, she’s just doing her job and enjoying every minute of it.

Monica and her husband

George--you see him playing guitar at Mass occasionally--have lived in Sturgeon Bay for seven years. Monica is a “cradle Catholic” and the product of 12 years of Catholic schools, has been a Benedictine oblate since 1977, and although she has

learned to say “no” to over involvement, she’s still very active in the doings at Corpus Christi. Why?

“Because the parish is my family, and who doesn’t like to spend time with their family?” she says.

So, when you see Monica and her camera. just smile pretty.

Advice from a saint

“Be a Catholic: When you kneel before an altar, do it in such a way that others may be able to recognize that you know before whom you kneel.”

Connecting with CC Life

What's new?

Fr. Carl is back! While he was at Guest House for a few months, he received a record number of cards and letters, but now he's back home for good and can enjoy visiting with people in person. His extra duties at other parishes have ended, so he can concentrate on being a pastor here at Corpus Christi and at Holy Name of Mary in Maplewood. Welcome home, Father.

Enjoy a good liturgy? The worship committee works behind the scenes on all our parish's liturgical celebrations, but they could use a few more members. If you'd like to be considered, call the parish office 743-4716.

Walk for a Cause, held in May, had 62 registered walkers, 46 of whom were repeats. They raised just over \$2,000 for the Go Bo Foundation. Next year, the money will be donated to the scholarship fund that exists in Adam LaLuzerne's name. Whether Walk for a Cause continues at Corpus Christi depends on participation in the 2018 walk, so make a mental reservation now.



Installation of new playground equipment for St. John Bosco School students will begin around June 12. The playground will be dedicated on Sept. 8, with the Fall Festival the next day. More information in the next

newsletter.

Brochures are now available about our new Fr. Tony Birdsall Prayer and Reflection Garden. They include information for purchasing memorials, as well as what can be found in the garden. The brochures have been distributed to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, among many other places. Don't be surprised if you see visitors' cars in the parking lot!

The March St. Patrick's Day dinner served over 200 meals, which was a nice increase over last year, and earned \$2,800 for the parish. Of that, \$400 will go to help pay for the new defibrillator, and the balance to purchasing a new convection oven for the kitchen.

The rectory got a redo while Fr. Carl was away, with new carpets, painting, and a new dishwasher, among other things. St. Ann's Society has agreed to pay for the dishwasher.



The stonework sign in front of the church was damaged by a snow plow this past winter, and was removed. Discussion continues about what kind of replacement will go up, and exactly where it will be. At least some of the old materials, donated by a member of the parish years ago, will be saved and used in the new sign.

Bishop Ricken comes to Corpus Christi

It's not often the bishop comes to Corpus Christi, unless it's for confirmation. But on May 12, Bishop David Ricken arrived to celebrate the St. John Bosco School Mass, and stayed long enough to tour the school and the prayer and reflection garden.

"It's the first time I ever



remember a bishop doing the school Mass," first-grade teacher Lisa Mueller said.

The bishop was amazed by a lot of things: how well the kindergartners read the readings



and petitions, how well behaved the student body was, the beauty and peace in the garden--and the fact that the youth are involved in maintenance, earning a share of the memorial donations for their projects.

Bishop Ricken visited each classroom, talked with the students for a few minutes and gave them all a blessing. He said a special prayer for the graduating 8th-graders, and was "hooked" when the art class

showed him the animated films they've done with their new technology.

We hope you come visit again, Bishop Ricken!



Want to celebrate? Take your pick

This year, summer and June begin with three big feasts that can be part of a family celebration.

The first one is already past--Pentecost. It's the birthday of the Church, because that's the day the Holy Spirit gave the apostles some much-needed courage, as well as the other gifts they'd need, and sent them to spread the good news.

You've heard the good news, and if you've been confirmed, you've received the fullness of the Holy Spirit and his gifts, as well as the same commission to evangelize that good news. It's not too late to reflect--alone, or with your spouse or children--about whether you've made ways to share the joy of the Gospel with those around you. In other words, how do you live your faith, in public and in private, that makes others want to share that faith?



June 11 is the feast of the Holy Trinity, that mystery that we express every time we make the sign of the cross, but which we'll never totally understand here on earth.

To counteract the Arian heresy, which denied the fullness of divinity to the Son, a special Mass text in honor of the Holy Trinity was introduced and incorporated in the Roman liturgical books. A special feast to the Trinity became increasingly popular in Europe. In the 13th century the orders of the Benedictines and Cistercians adopted the annual celebration of the feast. It was kept on different Sundays in different places, until in 1334 Pope John XXII accepted the festival into the official calendar of the Western Church and ordered that it should be held everywhere on the Sunday after Pentecost.



Making the sign of the cross was practiced from the earliest centuries, but it originally meant using three fingers to trace a cross on one's forehead. The prayer that goes with it wasn't used until the 5th century. Centuries ago, architecture made use of many, and sometimes strange, symbols to indicate the Trinity, like three animals (hares, stags, birds) in a circle, or three interlocked rings, or a candle with three flames. Some churches display an architectural number symbolism in honor of the Trinity. One of the most remarkable examples of this kind is the Holy Trinity Church of Stadl-Paura, Austria, built in 1722. It has three aisles,

Connecting with the liturgy

three towers, three doors, three windows on either side, three altars, three bells, and three rows of pews.

Challenge your children to find things that come in threes--like clover leaves--and encourage them to make the sign of the cross before they leave home, start a project, do their homework, or say their prayers. Do it yourself, too!

For us here at Corpus Christi, June 18 is our feast day, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says "the Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself."

Those of you with Belgian ancestry might like to know that the feast of Corpus Christi owes a rather large debt to St. Juliana, a nun of Liege, Belgium, who

was led to start a celebration of the Mass around AD 1230. In 1264 Pope Urban IV commanded that the feast be observed universally. Urban's death impeded the spread of the feast, but by the 14th century, the feast became universally celebrated in the West.

This is a good time to ask yourself and your children whether you receive the Eucharist merely out of habit, or with devotion, with proper preparation, and when you've been to confession if you need to deal with serious sin.



Paying attention to these three feasts now, thinking and talking about what they mean in your Catholic life, could very well set the tone for your faith life as summer marches on. Remember, we never take a vacation from God.

Did you know...?

The nave is the part of the church where the laity prays and worships. The word comes from the Latin "navis," meaning ship. We, the people of God, are regarded as the passengers on a ship destined for heaven.

We now have pews or chairs in the nave, but for over 1,000 years, churches did not have seats for the congregation; they mostly stood or knelt during Mass--AND they were separated by gender, men usually on the right side and women on the left.

Pews or benches became popular in the 13th century, but they were an expensive addition so the cost of installation was passed on to the parishioners. Pews were purchased or rented by the laity and often regarded as the property of a particular person or family. This idea persisted for centuries, and many seniors can remember their families paying "pew rent," long after the need for it, although no one "owns" a pew any more.--From "Our Sunday Visitor"



CC Camera Connections



St. Ann's Society



Above, Linda Walczak, Kay Corcoran, Char Schinktgen, Leslie Cross, Jean Klansky and Dianne Zirbel at the CCW Vicariate VII meeting at Ss. Peter & Paul. Right, Monica Sawyn, Joanne Guilette, Linda Walczak, Leslie Cross and Terie Johnson at the DCCW convention in Green Bay.



Young girls bring up flowers for the May Crowning of our Blessed Mother.



Fr. Ron Columbo on Holy Thursday



A table full of diners enjoy the St. Patrick's Day dinner as well as the music from Sugar on the Floor.

Below, On Holy Thursday, Bette Sternard, JoAnn Karempelis and Tina Lauder-Boucher present the oils brought from the Chrism Mass.



Glen Pieschek leads the procession for the transfer of the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday.

Lucas Stenzel & Liam Herbst help themselves to desserts and Fr. Carl slices pizza at the Life Teen/Edge end-of-year celebration.



Parent Theresa Schmelzer teaches the St. John Bosco first-graders how to make "slime" with water and corn starch. What fun on a warm spring day!



Ask Fr. Carl



Q: Father, how are you able to have wine or the Blood of Christ now that you are recovering from alcohol addiction?

A: I have been granted the permission to use what is called "mustum" for Mass. Mustum is fresh juice from grapes preserved by suspending its fermentation. This wine is only reserved for me as the rest of the congregation is given regular altar wine.

(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.)

Corpus Christi Congregation

25 N. Elgin Ave.
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-2963



Contact Us

Parish office:

office@ccparish.net
743-4716

Fr. Carl Schmitt:

frcarl@ccparish.net

Parish Council

Bill Sauvé, president

bill24@charter.net

Adult Faith Formation:

Penny Biwer

pbiwer@hotmail.com

Bereavement Ministry:

Contact the office

office@ccparish.net

Bldg & Grnds:

Mark Tlachac

mltlachac@gmail.com

Music Ministry:

Brian Fogarty

bffogarty@gmail.com

Edge & Life Teen:

Sarah Gavin

stgavin25@gmail.com

Genesis: (Grades 1-5):

Penny Biwer

pbiwer@hotmail.com

Extra-Ordinary

Ministers of Eucharist:

Stephanie Reinhardt

746-9279

bsreinhardt@bcglobal.net

Fellowship:

Brenda Pairlero

bmarie@alumni.nmu.edu

Funeral Luncheons:

Joanne Guilette

495-0516

Funeral Volunteers:

Terie Johnson

tpjohnson8@gmail.com

Greeters:

Bette Sternard

bettes50@charter.net

Lectors:

Dianne Zirbel

743-2260

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Monica Sawyn

pixwords47@gmail.com

Script:

Tina Stawicki

tstawicki@charter.net

Servers:

Amy Fogarty

amyfogarty@yahoo.com

St. Ann's Society:

Terie Johnson, president

tpjohnson8@gmail.com

Ushers:

Steve Partyka

party1160@att.net

Worship Committee:

Fr. Carl Schmitt

frcarl@ccparish.net

Health&Wellness Min.

Lynda Ciganik

cletuspunkrocker@gmail.com

Technology committee:

Judy Laessig

jlae126@gmail.com

CC Connections:

Monica Sawyn, editor

pixwords47@gmail.com

743-6479

Care Ministry

Patti Hovde

phovde@charter.net

Special Events

Steering Committee

Bill Sauvé

bill24@charter.net

Knights of Columbus

Steve Partyka

party1160@att.net

St. John Bosco School

Vickie Dassler, principal

vickie.dassler@johnboscoschool.org

[chool.org](http://johnboscoschool.org)