



Holy Cross Connections

Holy Tuesday 2010



Fr. Jerry's sister-in-law, Carol, left, and his sister Mary Jane and brother in-law, David Cope are seen during his Jubilee Mass on Dec. 19, 2009.

Every year, on the Tuesday of Holy Week, the Diocese of Columbus gathers in St. Joseph Cathedral to bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Chrism. These oils are used throughout the year in all the parishes:

- **To protect**, support and strengthen the catechumens during their times of trial and decision as they journey toward their Baptism.
- **To heal** the physically, emotionally and spiritually ill with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- **To consecrate** persons serving in Church Ministries through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. This Chrism is also used in the dedication of churches.

Also, during this Chrism Mass, the Bishop invites all the Priests to renew their commitment to priestly service by answering "I DO" to each of these questions:

- Are you resolved **to unite** yourselves more closely to Christ and to become more like Him by joyfully sacrificing your own pleasure and ambition to bring His peace and love to your brothers and sisters?
- Are you resolved to **be faithful** ministers of the mysteries of God, to celebrate the Eucharist and the other liturgical services with sincere devotion ?
- Are you resolved **to imitate** Jesus Christ, the head and shepherd of the Christian Faith, without thinking of your own profit, solely for the well-being of the people you were sent to serve?

As I thank God for the countless and priceless gifts given me during the 40+ years of priesthood, I humbly ask you to pray for me and for all priests. Our parish is especially thankful for the gift of Deacon Dan Dury, son of our parish, as we look forward to his Priestly Ordination May 29. May God bless Deacon Dan and all ordained clergy as we celebrate this Year of the Priest.

Please come and pray at Holy Cross during our observance of Holy Week:

Holy Thursday, 6:00p.m., **Good Friday**, 2:00p.m. and **Holy Saturday**, 8:30p.m.

May our Good God bless you and your loved ones with new life this Easter and always!

Sincerely in Christ, Father Jerry Stluka, Pastor

Entering the Stretch Run By Deacon Dan Dury

As ordination to the sacred priesthood nears my nerves have grown more excited and anticipation is palpable. To think that God has called me, an unworthy servant, is beyond comprehension. But Our Lord shows us in the Gospels, that He often chooses the weak and the least among us. I thank God for the honor to be able to serve Him and His Church.

I cannot wait to one day offer the

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to make Christ's Body and Blood truly present upon the altar. I cannot wait to hear the confessions of contrite children of God and bring them healing through absolution. I cannot wait to anoint the sick and dying to bring them strength and consolation when they are in the most trying of times. To sum it up: I cannot wait to serve God and His people. As St. John

Vianney, the patron of priests, once said, "The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you."

Thank you for all your support and continued prayers.

In Christ, Deacon Dan Dury



Sunday School Update By Debi Matthews

Our program has expanded this year to include students in grades K-7. An additional classroom on the third floor was prepared to accommodate an enrollment of 18 students.

Mary Ann Scholl continues to invite her kindergarten and first grade to "Come and see." Assisting her are Melissa Boyer and Toni O'Reilly.

For All Saint's Day, Helen Meers provided our students with patron saint holy cards. The children were delighted and awed by this kindness.

In December we said good-bye to Bridgid Davis, who worked with our

sixth grade students in religious studies and also helped train our new altar servers: Tyler Huston, Blake Kelly, and Katie Tripp. Diane Huston has graciously volunteered to instruct the sixth grade for the duration of the school year. Parishioners who generously help with instruction from time to time include Barbara Deitch, Ann Reinhardt, and Pat Tuttle.

Sacramental preparation is the focus for our second and third graders. Rhonda Kelly and her students have been busy preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Her son Brooks, along with the three students listed below, received this sign of God's love

on Sunday, Feb. 21. Lindsey Beckner, Cydney O'Reilly, and Brynner Rice are preparing to receive First Communion on Sunday, May 16 at the nine o'clock Mass. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers during this joy-filled time.

Congratulations to Bernadette Miller DeGuzman, daughter of Christopher and Teresa DeGuzman, who received First Communion on Sunday, February 21, at the nine o'clock Mass. Bernadette, a home-schooled second grader, was prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist by her family. May God bless her as she grows in wisdom and grace.



RCIA

Susan Sloan, seen on the left, is a nurse who works at Doctors Hospital, in the Risk Management department.

She would like to thank her good friends, Ray and Eileen Kiersh, who invited her to Christmas Eve Mass last year which helped start her journey. Her sponsor, Eileen, is seen on the right.

News from Africa

Bridgid Davis our faithful 9:00 a.m. Mass server and catechist aide, is spending six months near Durban, South Africa, serving in an orphanage and helping mothers-to-be. Here's an update from Bridgid:

Hello My Holy Cross Family,

I miss you all terribly! I am doing great though! The weather is beautiful and the people are so kind!

I have been working in the office and at the Pregnancy Centres, and also at the Creche which is basically a day care for babies-6 yrs old. The conditions are so poor, but the children are happy as can be! I will keep sending updates! Your prayers are greatly appreciated! Love, Bridgid



We usually title this part of the newsletter “Behind the Scenes,” but this issue will focus on Kelly Doman, who plays the organ and directs the choir from “above” in the choir loft.

A native of the Pittsburgh area; Kelly was raised in a musical family. She says that her older sister took piano lessons and “when I was five, I begged and begged and begged and begged - and so I started taking piano lessons.” She progressed so well that she was able to play more difficult piano pieces, at age 14, than her dad could, at age 33. Then when she went off to study music at Indiana University, of PA, her dad suggested that she might take some organ lessons. He said that it would be a good skill to have and she might be able to substitute here and there. By the time she graduated, she came to enjoy the organ so much that she ended up earning her Masters Degree, from the University of Florida, in Sacred Music.

When talking about her early spiritual life Kelly mentions that even though her father, who was raised Catholic and her mother, a Pentecostal, decided to compromise and become Presbyterians; her dad stayed true to his Catholic roots.

“We went to church every week, it didn’t matter what was going on.” He was very faithful – watching his example of getting up at 5:30 every morning to do devotions before the day began - and we weren’t ‘Sunday only Christians’ either – we really lived it at home,” she said.

Her vocational/spiritual path went from her first job, with a Methodist church, in Indiana, PA, during college, and then to an Episcopal church, which was closer to campus. When she went to Florida for grad school, her job was with a Lutheran church. Kelly continued performing and directing in Lutheran churches next in New Jersey, then Maryland.

She said that “once I left that job I was at loose ends; so I started going to church with my husband Gabe, who happens to be Catholic.” “I really enjoyed the Mass,” she said, “that church was very welcoming – very warm – and that Holy Week was really something special, and at the end of that, I stunned him when I said you know I’d like to learn a little bit more – I’d like to do the RCIA classes.” She was pregnant with their first child at that time and did not want her children to be raised in a divided home.

“Just sing – sing it with gusto...”

Kelly Doman

Kelly completed her RCIA work, was Initiated into the Church, and by the time Gabe’s job brought them to Columbus, they had a family of three boys: Paul, Jeffrey and Stephen.

After doing some substitute work around town she and Gabe decided that the time was right for her to get back to the full time work that she loved and as Kelly says “all of a sudden an email lands in my inbox from Paul Thornock, from over at the Cathedral, letting me know that the Holy Cross job was open, and that the pastor was wonderful, the church was very warm, the place was beautiful as could be, and it wasn’t a high stress job.” That happened about 10 months ago.

Kelly says that what’s important here, at Holy Cross is to “make sure



that the music enhances and enriches the liturgy. That’s why we’re here.” She chooses the music for the Sunday Masses about a month in advance. “The first thing I do is read the lessons – I look at some of the resource books that I have – If it’s 1st John 12, verse 5-6, I see if there a hymn based on that, and if not, I can take the main idea of the lesson – it might be Love of Neighbor – sometimes it’s a lot easier than others to find a particular hymn that jells with the lessons. That’s my main goal,” she said.

Kelly’s pleased with the growth of the choir, which now stands at about 15. “I’ve had to buy more choir hymnals and we’ve had to go downstairs and get more chairs – I think that they appreciate my perspective – we are subservient to the liturgy, and what’s going on,” she said.

In regard to the congregation in the pews Kelly encourages all to “Just sing – sing it with gusto, and if it’s a wrong note, between here and heaven, it gets filtered.”

Kelly’s love of the Hymnal goes beyond the music. She says that the words themselves are poetry. “I have a folder at home, with all of my favorites, and on a bad day I open it up, and not even sitting at the piano, read them or hum them in my head.”

So now you know that Kelly Doman’s journey from New Castle, PA to Holy Cross Church has had more movements than a symphony, but in the end, the result has been sweet music.

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FYI – You can view back issues of Connections at www.holycrosscatholic.com.

Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor
Sister Patricia A. Pieper, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

Confessions

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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