



Holy Cross Connections

Come Holy Spirit! By Father Jerry Stluka



Easter changed the world, the Apostles and all of us.

During this Easter-Pentecost season I have been reflecting on several aspects of the central mysteries of our faith: the death/resurrection of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Sacred Scriptures compare the energy and power of the Holy Spirit to that of wind and fire. We have certainly seen this kind of power in the fires, tornados and hurricanes of recent months and years. In the midst of horrible loss of life and property people reached out to meet the spiritual and physical needs of each other---a tremendous outpouring of the life and love of the Holy Spirit.

In the scripture readings of this season we have heard about the awesome change that those first disciples experienced. Their fear gave way to faith. Their apprehension and doubt changed to confidence, courage and clarity as they preached the Gospel with bold and joyful hearts. No longer were sacrifice and suffering to be avoided at all cost but were to be regarded as a privilege and opportunity when endured with Christ's redemptive suffering on the cross. In fact, the cross, once regarded as a symbol of utter defeat, becomes the throne of our victorious King.

How frequently I read or hear the expression: "He (she) fought with courage but lost his(her) battle with cancer." Our faith, on the other hand assures us that Jesus Christ has won the ultimate victory of life over death: "Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the savior of the world." "By dying you destroyed our death. By rising you restored our life."

With the feast of Pentecost we are entrusted with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit who breathes the new life of the risen Christ into our hearts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the lord.

These seven gifts of the Holy Spirit manifest themselves in the twelve fruits of eternal glory: charity, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self control, chastity, patience and goodness.

Throughout our lives, as members of the pilgrim church, we are being formed by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ.

Each of the seven sacraments nurtures and strengthens these Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit as we grow closer to God and to each other in the Body of Christ.

During this Easter-Pentecost season our parish has celebrated four first communions and one confirmation. We look forward to several more confirmations in the Fall. May God bless us all as we set the world on fire with the powerful gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Intro by Sr. Anne Keenan

One dark, gloomy Monday morning in March as I approached the office rectory I heard my name being called. Looking over my shoulder I saw a car with an Ontario license plate and inside were three passengers, one of whom I recognized, Fr. Ugo, North American superior of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. I would soon find out that the other two passengers would be the new resident priests at Holy Cross Rectory, Fathers Jose and Ramon, also members of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception congregation. Since that first encounter I have found Father Jose and Father Ramon to be persons with fascinating backgrounds, great wit and compassion who daily bring laughter and light into our offices at Holy Cross. Here are their stories.



Fr. Ramon Owera

Fr. Ramon M. Owera is originally from the Philippines. He was born on May 29, 1964. He belongs to a family of seven (five boys and two girls). He entered

the seminary of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) in 1989 after he had graduated from college and with four years of employment. He made his first profession of vows in Rome on September 22, 1991 and that of perpetual vows on September 28, 1997. After his ordination on May 30, 1998, he was assigned as a vocation director of his religious order for two years. In June of 2000 to September 2005 he was assigned to the seminary as a novice master, formator and superior.

In October of 2005, he was assigned to St. Paul, Minnesota as a hospital chaplain. On weekends he was also extending help to the parishes in celebrating Eucharist. On other days he was also taking care of the spiritual needs of the Filipino communities in St. Paul and Minneapolis. On September 28, 2005, he was transferred to the Italian parish of the Immaculate Conception in Woodbridge, Canada. This parish is mainly an Italian speaking community whose parishioners are Italian immigrants. In this parish, he was also taking care of the spiritual needs of the Filipino communities from the parish as well as of the nearby parishes. Finally, on March 7, 2011, Fr. Ramon was transferred to Holy Cross Church as his residence while doing ministry in Mt. Carmel East & West, and St. Anne's Catholic hospitals.



Fr. Jose Manickathan

Fr. Jose Manickathan was born on the 28th of July 1974 at Cheranalloor, Kerala, India, to Mr. & Mrs. Xavier Manickathan. After completing his elementary and high school studies, he joined the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception (CFIC) in June 1992 at Kottayam where he started the formation. At Bangalore he did the Novitiate and made his first profession on 8th December 1996, and went to Andhra Pradesh for the philosophical studies. At Perinthalmanna in Kerala he did his regency helping in the School for the mentally retarded children. After that he went to Bangalore for Theological studies. Completing his theological studies, he was ordained a priest on 11th June 2006.

Soon after the ordination he went to Italy and later went to Lourdes, France, where he was serving as Chaplain in the Sanctuary of Our Lady. He was there for two years. From Lourdes, he was transferred to the North American Delegation in January 2010. For one year he was an Associate Pastor in the Epiphany of our Lord Church at Toronto in Canada. He came to Columbus on 7th March 2011 and resides at Holy Cross Church. He works as a Chaplain in St. Ann's Hospital and Mount Carmel East and West.

Holy Week 2011



Right: Fr. Jerry blesses parishioners holding palm on Palm Sunday.



Parishioners process on Palm Sunday.



Fr. Jerry washes feet on Holy Thursday.



Ray Kiersh carries the oil of the sick on Holy Thursday.



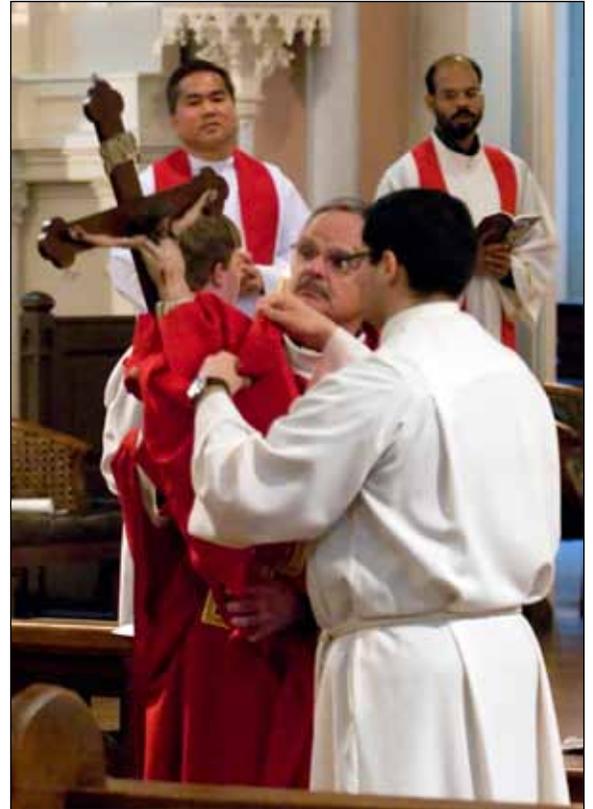
Addie Davis carries the oil of the catechumens.



Trish Tripp carries the sacred chrism.

Right: Fr. Jerry unveils the Cross for veneration on Good Friday.

Fr. Joseph Martinkowski venerates the Cross on Good Friday.



A small baby is illuminated by the mother's candle at the Easter Vigil.



Jim Kraus holds his candle during the Easter Vigil.

Celebrating Seven Years of Holy Cross Parish School of Religion

by Debi Matthews

The seventh year of the Holy Cross Parish School of Religion ended on Sunday, May 1st. This year 22 children were enrolled from ages 4 to 13. It was the first year for The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd which was beautifully received by the children, parents, catechists and the entire parish who donated precious gifts of time and treasure. Three children prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist which they received on May 14 and 15. Congratulations to Matthew Federer, Aidan O'Reilly, Justin Tripp and their families. Annamarie DeGuzman also made her first communion with her class at St. James the Less school.

In August, the Sunday School will hold its annual

picnic at Blacklick Woods. This is a fun event for children as well as adults. On September 11, the children in 6th grade and older will begin 10 weeks of intensive preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 19 at Corpus Christi Parish. From this collaboration among Holy Cross, Corpus Christi, and St. Ladislav parishes, a youth program for 6th -12th graders will emerge.

Finally, on Sunday, October 2, Holy Cross PSR will welcome children ages 3-6 (Pre-K through Kindergarten) into the Level I Atrium (classroom). Children ages 6-9 (1st-3rd grade) will move into Level II and children ages 9+ (4th grade+) will move into the new Level III Atrium. Look for details in the bulletin.



Debi Matthews and Fr. Jerry are seen with First Holy Communicants, from left: Aidan O'Reilly, Justin Tripp and Matthew Federer.

Parish Life



In the name of the Father...Fr. Jerry baptizes little Tanner Michael as Megan and Jason Rush look on.



Hail Holy Queen...From left: Justin Tripp, Matthew Federer, and Aiden O'Reilly are shown during the May crowning.

Behind The Scenes

By Jack Kustron

When newcomers first attend Mass at Holy Cross some think that the bald man in the pure white alb is a priest, or monk or maybe a deacon.

We know him as John Feher, a dedicated and loyal sacristan and server.

John was born in Lorain, Ohio and first became a member of our parish when Msgr. Berendt was pastor. He served at first on week-days before becoming full-time, when Fr. Jerry arrived. In addition to Daily and Sunday Mass, John also serves during weddings and funerals.

When asked what his daily routine is, he said "During the week, I arrive at the church

at 9:30 and shut the alarm off. I unlock the doors, then get Fr. Jerry's chalice ready and everything ready for Mass." By everything he means filling the cruets with water and wine, lighting the candles, turning on the sound system, making sure that the proper liturgical colors for the chalice veil and the tabernacle are selected

and readies the sacred books. One other thing that John does – with precision – is turning on the church lights. On those rare occasions when John is absent, it's easy to tell because invariably some of the lights are left dark. Of course, following Mass he performs these tasks in the reverse order.

John sees himself as a loyal guy and says that "I love Holy Cross

– Holy Cross is my home."

Fr. Dan Dury said this about John, "I remember walking into the

church one day to offer Mass in private and John was kneeling on the hardwood floor praying the rosary. This was a moving example of his deep and profound faith. He humbly serves at the altar of God." And Fr. Jerry states "John is an exemplary parishioner. His gift of time, prayer and dedicated service is truly an inspiration."



**"I love Holy Cross
– Holy Cross is my
home." –**

John Feher

John has made many friends over the years but the bottom line is that he's in service to the Lord. He said that he has dedicated his life to God and the Blessed Mother.

One last thing to say about John is that he rings the altar bell with great vigor during the elevation of the Host and Cup and he serves our parish with that same vigor.



Have a hotdog with Joe!

Parish Potluck – Friday June 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Eat, Drink and be Merry!

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www.holycrosscatholic.com

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

Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor
Sister Anne Keenan, OP, Pastoral Associate
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

Liturgy Schedule

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

Confessions

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

Holy Cross Connections

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