

A quarterly publication of
the Saint Stephen Cathedral
parish



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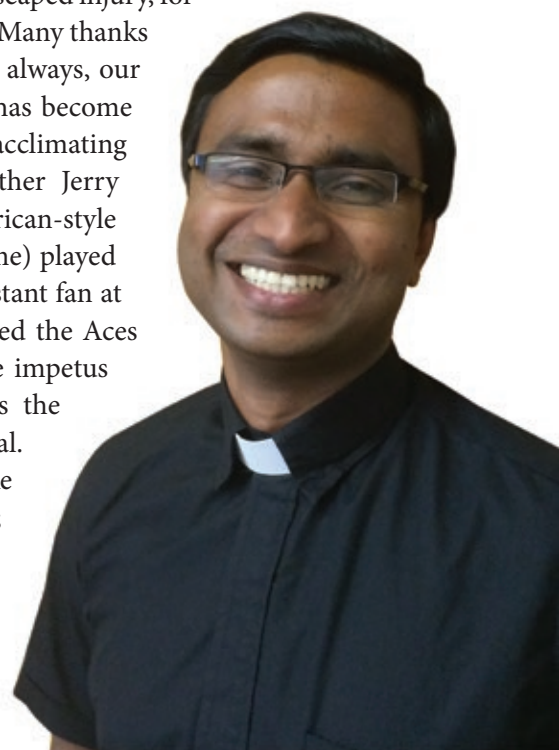
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and more!

Welcome, Father Sinoj Pynadath, HGN

Father Sinoj Pynadath joined our Pastoral Team this summer and we are pleased to have him as our Parochial Vicar. Many of our parishioners have already met Father Sinoj, but if you haven't, please be sure to introduce yourself. He is a member of the order Heralds of Good News and was assigned to our Diocese by his Bishop. Owensboro was his first trip away from his home country of India! Born in 1983, Father Sinoj is the youngest of five children. He was ordained on January 6, 2008, for the Saint Paul Province of the Missionary Society of Heralds of Good News. During the past ten years, he mostly worked with seminarians in different stages of formation and also completed his Licentiate in Philosophy and Masters in Social Work (Counseling). Many of his family members and home parish members in Kerala were affected by the recent historical flooding in that region. Our Saint Stephen parish family raised over \$10,000 to relieve the suffering of the flooding victims. Though their homes and possessions were damaged, Father Sinoj's family members escaped injury, for which he (and all of us!) are very grateful. Many thanks to our parishioners for their kindness; as always, our parish is so very generous! Father Sinoj has become very involved in our parish and is quickly acclimating to life in America (and Kentucky). Father Jerry "dragged" Father Sinoj to his first American-style football game when OCHS (0-2 at the time) played OHS (2-0 at the time). He became an instant fan at the game, which was a thriller. He cheered the Aces on to victory and later claimed to be the impetus for their success! Every week he visits the homebound and those in the hospital. Father welcomes anyone who would like to help with the Ministry to Homebound; the volunteers gather on Friday mornings and spend 2-3 hours visiting and taking Communion to those who are

(Continued on next page)



Welcome, Father Sinoj Pynadath, HGN

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homebound. Can you help? Give Father a call! In August, he accompanied our Youth Minister, Crissy Stevenson, on the Kayak/Canoe Trip and had a great time with the parents and students. He was surprised by a birthday cake and enjoyed the singing of “Happy Birthday” at our annual Ice Cream Social. When a youth group from Michigan visited and provided service work at Blessed Sacrament Chapel recently, he joined Mark Heinz, Jeff Payne, and the youth to beautify the BSC grounds in preparation for their 70th Anniversary. The weather was hot for the yard work and trimming hedges, but he pitched right in! A few weeks ago, Father Sinoj spent time helping to prepare the ingredients for this year’s delicious batch of burgoo, specifically spending several hours deboning meat! Whatever tasks he embraces, he does so with a spirit of joy. He is a wonderful addition to our Pastoral Team, and we are grateful for his presence.

Welcome, Father Sinoj!



Our Renovation is Underway!

By Fr. Jerry Riney

A drive down Locust Street, or on 7th Street toward Locust Street, will provide you with a view of the renovation underway at Saint Stephen Cathedral. Changes have been taking place since August when demolition of the front porch and steps began. Since then, progress continues to be made each week.

If you have ever owned or maintained a home, you know that the passage of years, exposure to the elements, and wear and tear from frequent use can result in deterioration of structures and the need for repair or replacement. Our Cathedral building, now 92 years old, is no exception! Structural engineers who examined the Cathedral porch and steps in June of 2017 felt reasonably confident that the structure would remain safe for a few years, but recommended that renovation not be delayed. In order to make the safety of our parishioners and visitors a priority and to be responsible caretakers of our historic and beautiful Cathedral, planning began for the restoration of the front porch and steps.

A committee was formed in the fall of 2017 to plan a campaign (called Keeping Safe & Secure) to raise funds, and parishioners were asked to pray for this project and to prayerfully discern a financial pledge. Also included in the project scope were plans for improvement of parish campus security for the benefit of our parishioners, staff, and visitors. Because of the generosity of 259 parish families and several benefactors, along with generous assistance from Bishop Medley and the Diocese of Owensboro for up to \$150,000, our goal of raising \$550,000 in pledges has been surpassed with pledges of just over \$584,000. Of that amount, approximately \$220,800 in pledges remains to be paid. On behalf of Father Sinoj Pynadath and the members of the Keeping Safe & Secure Campaign Committee, thank you for your support and for fulfilling your pledges!



The demolition of the porch revealed the original set of stairs, constructed in the 1920s. That was quite a sight to see, and several people commented that they remember treading on those stairs, which descended directly from the front doors toward Locust Street. The porch and north/south facing stairs were constructed in the 1950s.

Be assured that the Cathedral remains OPEN during this renovation. Your understanding and patience are greatly appreciated as we experience slight inconveniences during these few months; the results will be worth the wait! We look forward to having a hospitable, safe, and sturdy porch including updated lighting and railings as well as heating elements which will reduce ice and snow. In addition, a Diocesan Coat of Arms will grace the porch front facing 7th Street—what a lovely and fitting feature for the Cathedral.

As a reminder, the front entrances to the Cathedral are

closed, but both side entrances and the elevator entrance are OPEN. The downstairs restrooms are closed during renovation but the “Bridal Suite” restrooms (inside the Community Center) are open. For your convenience, we are pleased to have an extra restroom facility, located near the church ramp entrance. They are handicap-accessible, climate-controlled, and equipped with lights and running water. The facility is convenient not only for weekend Masses but also for diocesan liturgies, Arts at the Cathedral concerts, and weddings, and other events.

The members of Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish have always had a special love for their church, taking great pride in its stature as the Mother Church of the Diocese. Because of your continued prayers and generosity, we can be sure that we are serving as grateful stewards for Saint Stephen Cathedral--a place of welcome and worship today and for generations to come. The legacy continues.



Dedication Anniversary Celebration

By Donna Tarantino

On Saturday, September 15, our parish community celebrated the 92nd anniversary of the dedication of our church's Locust Street location. The original faith community of Saint Stephen began in the 1820s with Mass being celebrated in the homes of the faithful by Father Robert Abel. Construction began on the first Saint Stephen Church in 1833 at Second and Cedar Streets, then known as Mulberry Street. The cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1925 and the building was dedicated on September 6, 1926. In December of 1937 the Holy See announced the appointment of the Most Reverend Francis R. Cotton as Bishop and pastor of a new diocese in Western Kentucky. Saint Stephen Church was designated as the new Diocesan Cathedral, and on March 6, 1938, Bishop Cotton was installed as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro.

As we celebrate 92 years, we give thanks for the beauty and history of our Cathedral. More importantly, we celebrate the living faith of thousands of Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish members through the years. Throughout the decades and into the present, the faithful have entered through our doors to worship and to celebrate baptisms, confirmations, and marriages and welcome new Catholics

into our faith. Together we have witnessed the anointing of the sick and shared in the grieving at funerals of loved ones; we have offered our prayers to the Lord as a community and in the silence of our hearts. This is our parish home, our parish family! Saint Stephen Cathedral continues to be an active, vibrant faith community and proudly serves as the Mother Church for the Diocese. We welcome parishioners and visitors alike for numerous diocesan and parish events throughout the year. We carry on the honor and tradition of serving as grateful and responsible caretakers of the Cathedral for ourselves and the faithful who will follow in our footsteps.

After the 5:00 pm Mass, celebrated by Bishop Medley, dinner was served in our Community Center with more than 225 people in attendance. The dinner featured delicious burgoo and BBQ chicken cooked by our own parish cooking teams, wonderful side dishes from Moonlite BBQ, and a variety of tasty desserts provided by our parishioners. Prizes were drawn for our annual parish raffle, and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. Let us look forward to another year as we pray together, learn together, and serve together!



Donna Tarantino, Pat Baker, Brigitte Whittinghill, Kathryn Wimsatt prepare and decorate jars of our delicious burgoo for the homebound of our parish who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the fruits of our annual dedication anniversary celebration.



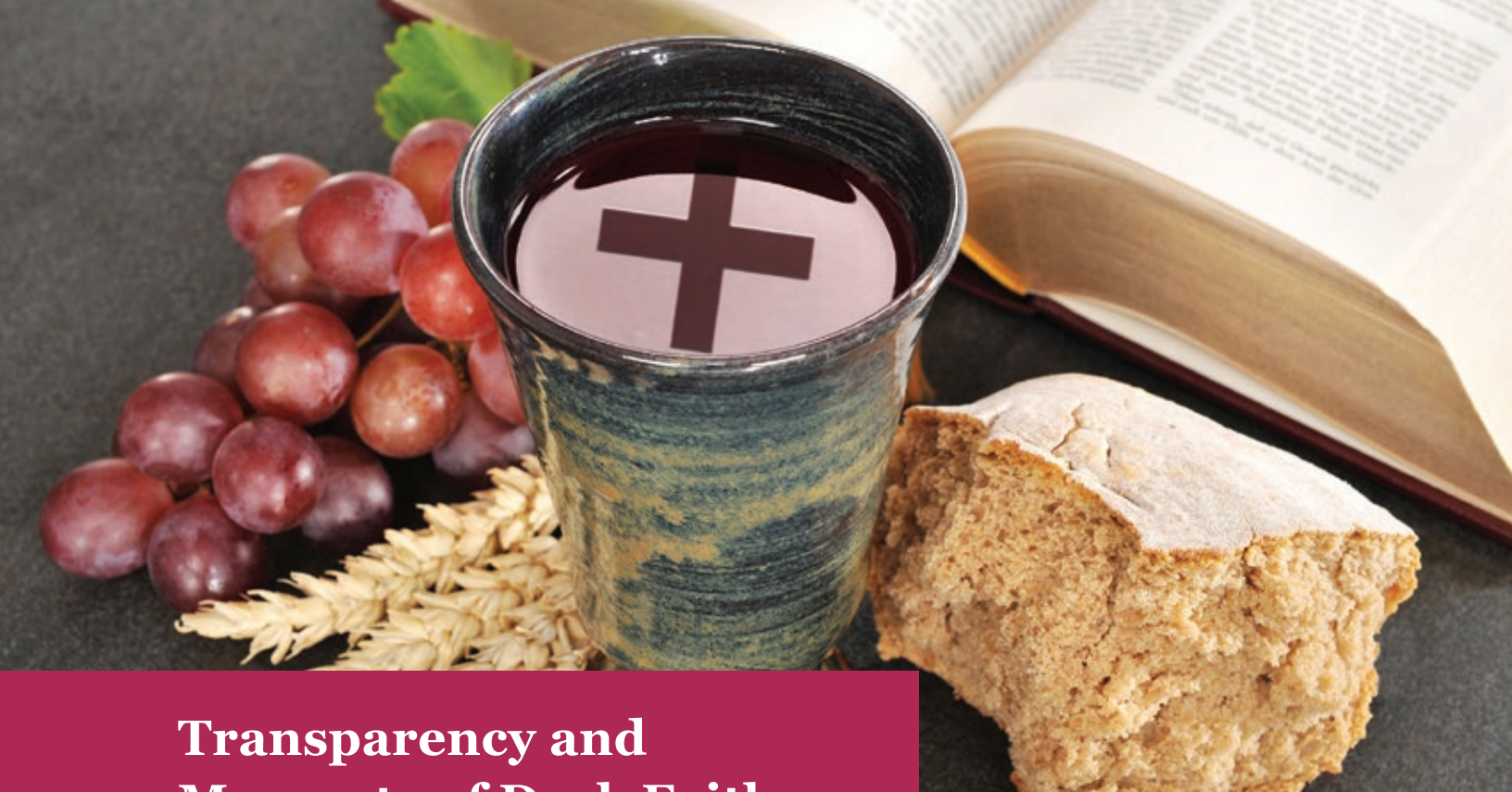
The Kurtz siblings enjoy their time together.



Sharlene Hatfield, Linda & Steve Ranburger



Glenn Thompson, Burgoo Master!



Transparency and Moments of Dark Faith

By Fr. Jerry Riney

Our Catholic Church is going through what Saint John of the Cross might call a “dark night of the soul”. To me it feels like the scab has been knocked off the 2002 clergy sexual abuse crisis which exploded in our Church in the Diocese of Boston.

In the wake of the recent Pennsylvania report of clergy sexual abuse of minors over a 70-year period in six dioceses, coupled with the revelations of sexual abuse of Cardinal McCarrick, who has resigned in shame and disgrace, our faith has been shaken. We want to trust our leadership, and yet that trust has been betrayed by coverups by bishops and priests alike.

Hopefully, you read the letter of August 16, 2018 in our bulletin and on our website from Bishop William Medley talking about how “sin is real.” On Wednesday, September 5, Bishop Medley invited the priests of the Diocese to a meeting to discuss this scandalous situation. Almost every priest in the Diocese was present, expressing a myriad of emotions, including anger, sadness, embarrassment,

dismay. Bishop Medley assured us, to the best of his ability, the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is being followed in the Diocese of Owensboro. As soon as the Diocese receives a credible allegation, our local police are notified, and our active Review Board, composed of competent laity and one priest, is convened to look into the matter thoroughly. We have discovered that even when nothing criminal is discovered by our civil authorities, the Review Board can recommend to the bishop that a priest be suspended from active ministry. The Church has a higher standard than does our civic community.

During Respect Life month of October, Bishop Medley planned listening sessions throughout the Diocese. Many, many concerned Catholics were actively engaged in those listening sessions.

Several of you have phoned, emailed, or texted me about your deep frustration with this scandal. I have also dialogued openly with our Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council, our Pastoral

Around the Parish

Team, and other parishioners. I am open to listen, though there is no defense. I am as disheartened and ashamed as you are! If you need or want to talk, contact me or Fr. Sinoj.

We have an undeniable responsibility to care for and protect the vulnerable in our society. Our first concern must always be the victim. Painful as these revelations are, the victims' courage calls the Church to contrition, reconciliation, and healing.

It is still Christ's Church, as much as we mess it up! Christ must be at the center of our personal lives, our families, our Church community. Christ will have the final say. All of us—cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, laypeople—will be judged by how we have dealt with sin and evil, how we have lived our lives, how we have allowed the gift of Eucharist to transform us.

To me it is hopeful that much emphasis in our Church today is on the role of the laity. Priests have certainly been “knocked off our pedestals” and are challenged to be humble, servant-leaders. I am grateful for all the lay people who make up this Church, who serve generously, who minister to the needy and the sick, the grieving and brokenhearted, the hungry and hurting. I am grateful to all those who make up this faith community of Saint Stephen, and to those who continue to believe in the “heart and the essence” of the Catholic Church, who continue to believe that Christ is not only present in the Eucharist, in the Body and Blood we humbly receive, but Christ is also present in the living Body of Christ, the Church, and is still working in the Church, as flawed and sinful as we are. May all of us allow the Eucharist to transform us!

Speaking of the “dark night of the soul” experience, Saint John of the Cross believes that it can also lead to purification. As we intentionally place Christ and his redeeming Love at the center of our lives, may this time of “darkness” be for us, and the entire universal Church, a time of action, transparency, and purification.



Father Jerry, Beni Howell, Donna Tarantino, Madison and James Wells, and Father Sinoj attended this year's Vocare event on September 14, 2018, a diocesan fundraiser for Vocations.



Mark Heinz, Jim Duffy, Rodney, Christy and Andrew Ellis, and Cole Howell at “Help Build Hope” at the Convention Center July 14th.



Katelyn and Taylor West, Wella and John Weafer, Haley Riney, and Aaron Carico completed the Spirit, Mind, Body Triathlon in Boonville, Indiana on June 23.

Catholic Kids Camp

Catholic Kids Camp (Vacation Bible School) at Saint Stephen Cathedral this past June provided an exciting experience of faith-filled fun for our younger (and some not so younger) parishioners. Based upon a theme focusing on the Holy Trinity and featuring Saint Patrick, the children played games, ate snacks, made crafts, and sang songs building their understanding of our worship of One God who has revealed Himself to us in three divine persons.



While on retreat at Saint Meinrad, 6th graders Travis Weafer, Vince Carrico, Michael Lyon, Luke Reffitt, and Calvin Padgett stopped to visit with Corey Bruns.

Meet Crissy Stevenson

By Suzanne Padgett

We welcomed Crissy Stevenson to our Saint Stephen family in August as our new Youth Minister. Originally from Princeton, Kentucky, where her mom and sister still live, Crissy graduated from Brescia University in 2009 with a degree in Pastoral Ministry. While still in school, Saint Mary Magdalene hired her on a part-time basis, so she has been in Owensboro for a number of years. She has nine years of youth ministry experience.

When asked what her vision for our youth group is, she stated, “It’s very simple. I want the kids to be in a relationship with Jesus.” She stated that once the kids have that relationship, they’ll have a desire to learn all about the faith. To help the youth of our parish into that relationship, she is getting to know each of the kids and determine where they are currently. This is going to take her some time, because there are 155 youth aged fifth to twelfth grade! Crissy is currently planning some fun events with our youth group and also is going into the schools and playing with kids at recess and talking with them at lunchtime.

Crissy is a health and fitness nut. She played softball in high school, which gave her a love for sports and exercise. She enjoys running and all things outdoorsy! She loves hiking, especially near water and mountains. Crissy has a love for music and concerts. Karaoke is one of her favorite pastimes, so don’t be surprised if the youth house starts rocking some Sunday night! She also enjoys travelling and is always open to new experiences. She is a Mexican food junkie and shoe fanatic and her favorite color is sparkles.

Please be sure to give Crissy a warm Saint Stephen welcome if you haven’t already! We’re so glad you’re here Crissy!

Youth Group Canoe Trip on August 11th



Parish Celebrations



Amelia Rose Kamuf, daughter of Kyle and Erin, was baptized July 15, 2018.



Congratulations to Katie Bouchard, our Miss Kentucky 2018



Molly Ann Bickett, daughter of Jordan and Megan, was baptized June 17, 2018.



Nora Rose Riney, firstborn of Christopher and Rachel Riney and granddaughter of Ed and Mary Rose Riney, was baptized on August 26, 2018.

Preschool News

By Pam Weafer

PLEASE JOIN US! Cathedral Preschool currently is running several fundraisers.

Raffle tickets are being sold for a variety of sporting events and other great prizes! Prizes include tickets to U.K. men's basketball games, U.K. vs Middle Tennessee football tickets, Notre Dame vs Florida State football tickets, University of Louisville men's football and basketball and many others. New this year in the raffle are season tickets for the UK men's basketball 2018-2019 season! We are also raffling a week's stay at a condo in Orlando, FL, during June of 2019.

The drawing for the raffle prizes will be held at our 2nd fundraiser, CASINO NIGHT! The Casino Night is on November 10 at Immaculate Parish Hall from 6:00p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The raffle drawings will be held throughout the evening. Casino Night will feature gaming tables, 50/50 pot, a fantastic silent auction, cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres for \$20.

Call the preschool office (270) 926-1652 or contact any Cathedral Preschool parent for raffle tickets or to reserve a spot at the Casino Night.



On Thursday, August 9, parishioners and guests enjoyed a presentation focused on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, "Rejoice and Be Glad," on the Call to Holiness. Our facilitator was former parishioner Lisa Gulino, D. Min., who is now serving as Pastoral Associate at Saint Agatha Parish in Milton, Massachusetts. What a great evening! Over 75 people attended for this opportunity to deepen their faith. Coincidentally, August 9 was also the 43rd Anniversary of Ordination for Father Jerry Riney, which we also celebrated that evening!



Congratulations to Eddie and Mary Ann O'Bryan, our parish recipients of the Sophia Award, presented on Sunday, September 9. The Diocese of Owensboro created the Sophia Award, which is an award to celebrate someone 65 and over from each parish who exemplifies stewardship in their life. Many thanks to Eddie and Mary Ann, who have served—and continue to serve--our parish so faithfully.



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Welcome New Parishioners

Greg and Ryann Blandford, children Izzy & H. P. (Harrison)
Preston and Anastasia Crist, daughter Lily
Colby and Michelle Grayson, son Landon
Steve and Jill Hyland, children Will, Mary Kelly, Ava, Ben & Julia
Anthony Johnson
Katelyn Orth
Zach Payne, children Julia & Max
Pamela Putz
Justin and Madeleine Reeves, son Beau
Layne and Lauren Rummage, Jr., children Jarren, Isaac & Everet
Gates and Angela Settle, sons Isaac & Ethan
Francis and Deborah Stallings
Joe and Becky Stewart
Bob and Lynn Stone, Jr.
Jim Sullivan
Mike and Katy Topp, children, Emma, Rachel, Logan, Langston, & Lucas
Jimmy and Lora Wellman, children Jakob and Luke



**Saint Stephen Cathedral
ornaments are available
for purchase in the Parish
Office any time M-F from
8:30 am to 4:30 pm.**