

A quarterly publication of the
Saint Stephen Cathedral parish



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and more!

Martin Ling, *Summer Seminarian*

Saint Stephen Cathedral was blessed to have seminarian Martin Ling assigned from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Martin ministered and worshipped with us for ten weeks until August 10th. He plays organ and guitar, having composed several hymns. Martin visited the hospital, nursing homes, and our homebound parishioners. And of course, he loves ice cream!

Martin told us, "My name is Ma Na Ling, but my baptismal name is Martin. So, I can be called Martin Ma Na Ling."

Martin's parents are Christopher Ling Ma Na and Elizabeth Khai Thang. He has seven siblings, three sisters and four brothers. Martin is second in line behind an older brother. "I knew that I wanted to become a priest since my childhood. It is because my father is a catechist. He has been teaching for years—even before I was born." Martin continued by sharing a moment from his childhood, "The parish priest came to our small village and said Mass and met with the parishioners. Mostly, my parents offered food for dinner in our home. Because of that I became familiar with the priests. So, it made me think of priesthood." He continued, "Then, I started praying to God to pass every exam." Martin wanted to do well so he could be accepted to the seminary. He began seminary on May 15, 2010.

(Continued on next page)



Martin Ling, Summer Seminarian

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Martin attended and studied in different seminaries for eight years in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). Before the end of the academic year in September of 2016, one of the priests made a phone call to Martin: "According to the suggestion of my bishop from Myanmar," he was asked to come to the United States of America. "After praying, I accepted [God's plan] to come to [America]." The Diocese of Owensboro needed two seminarians from Myanmar so they might serve the Burmese people at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green and St. Pius Tenth in Owensboro. "So, [myself] and Stephen Than [were] chosen to come here. All these things happened because of God's grace." Martin finished by saying, "I have never dreamed of being able to come here. I believe that God will guide me and help me in my vocation life. I try my best here. God willing, when I become a priest, I will serve God and the people of God in both America and Myanmar."



Small Groups

pursuing Jesus through relationships
doing LIFE together

By Rick Rhodes

Nobody is a whole chain; each person is a link. Take away one link, and the chain is broken. Cars are composed of numerous parts. Each one is connected to and dependent upon the other. Even if a tiny screw comes loose and falls out of the carburetor, it can bring the whole vehicle to a stop.

We all need each other. You need someone and someone needs YOU. Isolated islands we are NOT. To make this thing called life work, we have to lean and support, relate and respond, give and take, confess and forgive, reach out and embrace; especially in God's family where working together is God's Plan for survival. Since we are so different, love and acceptance are not optional luxuries. Neither are tolerance, understanding, or patience.

Since no one is a whole, self-sufficient, super-capable, all-powerful hotshot, let's not act like we are. Life is lonely enough without playing that silly role. Instead, let's link up and join a small group!

A Small Faith Group is a group of usually six to ten people that meet on a regular basis to discuss a common topic based upon Faith. Their mission is to lead people into a deeper relationship with each other, thereby transforming their lives to grow in relationship with Jesus. Meaningful relationships are one of the key ways that God leads people to Jesus and into the journey of continuing conversion. Let's join a small group!

You know JESUS was in a Small Group—just sayin'..

Contact Rick Rhodes for more Info
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Moving Mary

By Beni Howell

Our Parish has a long-standing tradition of honoring Mary every May with a Crowning Celebration. Everyone crowded into that small space between the rectory and the church to sing, pray, and honor our Heavenly Mother. Father Jerry and Jeff Payne, our Building and Grounds manager, decided it was time for Mary to have a new, larger space. We have moved the grotto to the north side of the church. We want to thank John and Sharon Bell for several years of gardening work at the old location and offer them our gratitude for helping with the move along with their three grandchildren, Caitlyn, Logan, and Nicholas Bell. Caitlyn attends Brescia University, and Logan and Nicholas are students at OCS. Logan and John helped in moving the heavy flagstone, and John cut, welded, and painted the old wrought iron trellis and made it into two, “new” trellises. Come by and welcome Mary to her new spot.

Photos by Elizabeth Barnstead and Beni Howell



First Communion

Back Row: Crissy Stevenson, Spencer Michael Howard, Dominic Matthew Weafer, Parker Lewis Green, Nolan Robert Hardesty, Fr. Jerry Riney
(not pictured Keegan Taylor Duncan)

Front Row: Allison Claire Warren, Sylvia Kate Payne, Betsy Ann Moore, Fiona Catherine Rykwalder

Vacation Bible School

By Crissy Stevenson

This summer, 53 children took a step back to the beginning. We mean the very beginning... as in, when God created the world. Children experienced Year 1 of a 7-year cycle that ultimately takes them through a majority of Scripture.

Students are broken into 12 different tribes of mixed age groups and named after the 12 Tribes of Israel. The mixed age group creates more of a 'family' setting where the older children can help younger ones as needed. Each night begins with singing and dancing and hearing about what they will experience while they are there. From there, they move to Tribe Time where they make bread and share God Sightings (where they have seen God that day).

After Tribe time, students rotate between three different stations. In Fun & Games, they are outside playing games that tie back to what they are learning that night. They visit the Marketplace where they complete crafts that reflect the themes from the week. There, they also get to eat dinner and the bread they had made earlier in the evening.

They visit a Bible Character. This year, they visited Adam in the Garden of Eden, Eve on the outside of the Garden of Eden (post Fall of Man), Noah in the Ark, and Nimrod in an empty ark. Nimrod was a key player in building the Tower of Babel. Each Bible Character tells their story in first person, so the children aren't hearing about these Bible characters, they are hearing from them!

Before closing out the night with more song and dance, children come together in Closing Tribe Time for a lesson that reflects back on the day. We learned about Creation, Sin, the Great Flood, and the Tower of Babel. Each day, everyone was reminded of one very important thing: You are created by a God who loves you, and that God is going to take care of you!



Aaron Carrico portraying Nimrod sharing the story of the Tower of Babel
Harper Mills, Shelby Pagan, Ellie Burshears, and Wesley Padgett



Children singing and dancing



Fun and Games



Deacon Richard Murphy sharing the story of Noah



Sr. Consolata Ojemeh and Gianna Reffitt making a Bird Feeder Craft



Ellie Burshears, Olivia Reffitt, Stella Padgett, & Shelby Pagan with adult leader Molly Harris making bread



Ice Cream Social

July 26, 2019



Ken Heichelbech



Linda Ivey



Kathleen Murphy, Deacon Richard and Sr. Jeannette



Hannah Bland, April Farmer, Donna Flaherty, and Susan Howard



The Fuchs Family



Happy Birthday Father Sinoj!



Mamie Farrish



Randy Clemens



Jacob Fischer and Seminarian Martin Ling



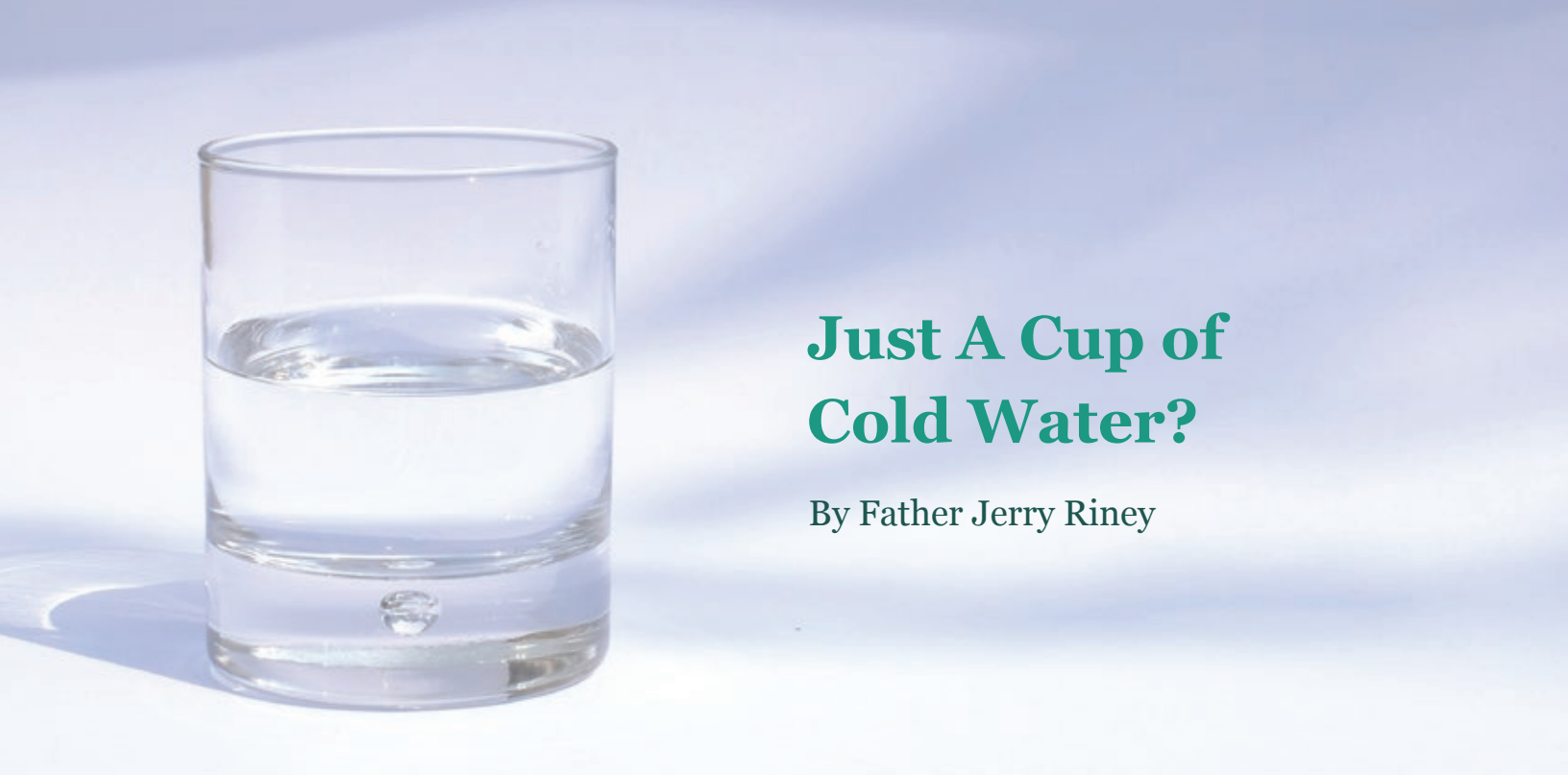
Samantha & Duncan Kaai



Richard Gruenewald



Rhonda Troutman with her granddaughter



Just A Cup of Cold Water?

By Father Jerry Riney

Recently, a Catholic young man shared with me that his non-Catholic girlfriend had introduced him to God and Jesus through a weekly Bible study/sharing group. He told me that he knew ABOUT God and Jesus but had never MET either of them in a personal way.

This made me wonder about conversion experiences. Have you had one? Do you know Jesus personally or is Jesus, our Redeemer, merely someone you know about, meet, and receive every Sunday in the Holy Eucharist, but does not change your life? Have you had an experience that has opened your eyes or caused you to change your way of thinking?

Could it possibly be that through twelve years of Catholic education or participating in Mass often, if not every weekend, one is not introduced to Jesus or His Father? Are we introducing our children to Jesus? Often, small gestures of thoughtfulness or mindfulness make a leaping difference!

Not long ago, traveling on an expressway, I pulled up to the toll booth to pay and was informed that the person in the vehicle in front of me had paid my toll fee! It was totally a random act of kindness! What a surprise! But more than that, I was inspired to treat strangers more kindly—to pass it on.

Another generous action that changed a chronically ill parishioner came from our St. Stephen Cathedral faith-community: someone visited this homebound person with food she had cooked and prepared. These two strangers

conversed longer than either had planned. This was the beginning of an unplanned, unpremeditated, unlikely friendship!

One evening, turning the front corner of our church building, I was startled by a Hispanic couple praying before our Mary Grotto. They had just moved into the neighborhood and asked me to bless their new house. I did. In doing so, I was astonished to discover that this family of seven lacked basic furniture, which I mentioned in passing to a parishioner who delivered a kitchen table and chairs later that week. The family was elated at the bighearted, openhanded gesture that expressed “Welcome to the neighborhood” and more! I see them at daily Mass often!

Not long ago, I phoned someone, asked how he was doing, mostly out of common courtesy. He responded: “Just trying to give a cup of water to my neighbor.” It impressed me, remembering that we had just read the challenging Scripture passage: “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these least ones...will certainly never lose his reward” (Matthew 10:42). That Scripture verse had sunk into this man’s heart and was transferred into initiative/behavior.

Are you and I aware of how thirsty people are? Have you introduced anyone to Jesus lately? Are we even conscious of how much the little things matter? Have you given a cup of water to someone this week?

The Carpenter's Apprentices

By Donna Duffy and Beni Howell

Photos by Donna Duffy



At the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis marked May 1st the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker by recounting the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth and was called “the carpenter’s son.” It is no surprise we have a couple of parishioners who want to follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph and Jesus: Larry Bishop and Jim Duffy.

Jim and Larry share so much besides a call to carpentry. They both began teaching at Owensboro Catholic High School in August of 1976. During Jim’s 21 years, he taught English, American Literature, Algebra, Latin, and Religion. Jim then became Principal at the OCS Middle School from 1990-2008. Larry taught World History and American History for 12 years at OCHS until he became the first Director of the Owensboro Catholic Consolidated Schools in July 1988. Larry finished his education career as Principal of Christ the King School in Madisonville from 1993 to 2011.

Larry’s interest in woodworking goes back probably 50 years, lots of magazines, books, TV shows, and finally a real workshop in about 1980. Jim’s interest in woodworking started in 1975 when he built his first picnic table. He discovered he took pride in being a Do-it-yourselfer (DIYer.) They love Norm Abrams and his shows on PBS, which include “This Old House” and the “Woodsmith Shop.” Jim and Larry’s first project together was a cherry, Shaker style, drop-leaf desk in 1983 that each made and currently use in their homes.

Jim’s first reaction to Fr. Jerry’s request for tables was, “I’m not sure; but if I can talk Larry into helping me, we can do it!” Larry said, “Oh, no. Not me.” He thought the biggest challenge would be matching the finish to the existing wood in the church. Jim and Larry chose oak to match the recently purchased choir chairs. They also decided to use a Shaker style design. There were not any ready-made plans that met their needs, so they designed their own. These tables are located by the ramp door and by the confessional — truly functional works of art.

Both guys bring different skills to their projects. As far as patience, they both agree it depends on the project and the day! Who has the final say when they disagree on how to resolve a problem? It is usually 50-50. Larry said, “When we have a dispute we yell at each other and go to our corners and cool off (with the help of Diet Coke/water and a couple of snack-size Reeses peanut butter cups) and return to work.” Larry is more confident with the lathe than Jim (probably due to those 12 legs on the living room tables early on!).

Jim describes Larry as easy going, determined, caring for others, and an easy smiler. Larry says Jim is always eager for a new project, is committed to seeing a project to completion, and does not hesitate to ask for help when he needs it. Larry views himself as adventurous, dedicated, and humble; that’s why they get along so well together. Larry and Jim are best buddies. Their 43-year long friendship has survived job changes, house moves, family tragedies, and it is still going strong. They attend trade shows together; they go shopping together (Woodcraft in Louisville, of course); and if they do not have an immediate project, they may sit and read woodworking magazines together.

Larry and Jim are loving husbands (Darylin and Donna, respectively), fathers, grandfathers, and for Larry, a great-grandfather. Let us celebrate these two fellow parishioners for sharing their time and talent.

God, may you give us work so that we may share our talents with others and know the dignity and satisfaction that you give us through our efforts. Give us patience while you open doors and wisdom to see your will. Keep our families in your care and provide for all our needs. Never let stress diminish our love for each other nor our work as part of your ministry. May we keep St. Joseph as our example for working for God’s Kingdom on earth. Amen.



Confirmation



Front Row (left to right): Ava Hyland, Ava Knoop, Tom Kurtz, Eva Ray, Lilian Pinkston
 2nd Row: Fr. Sinoj, Alexis Hatchett, Briley Breeden, Thomas Ashby, Drew Lanz, Christopher Lewis
 3rd Row: Crissy Stevenson, Abby Baughman, Grant Parson, Landon Reffitt, Fr. Jerry Riney, Lincoln Ferguson, Emily Calloway, Bishop Medley



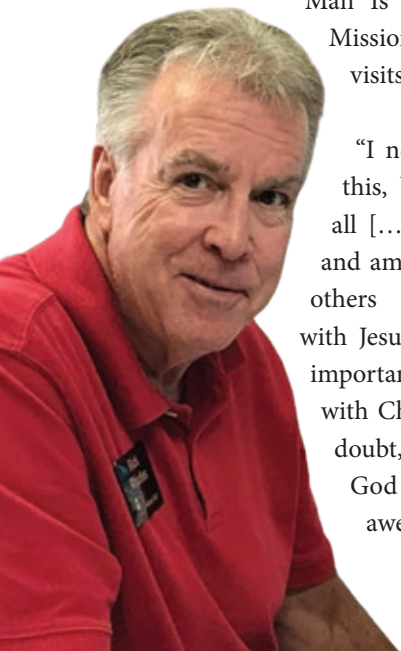
Welcome Director of Adult Ministry, Rick Rhodes!

Rick Rhodes, born and raised in Whitesville, graduated from Trinity High School in 1969 and married his high school sweetheart, Freda, in 1970. They are parents to three sons – Shawn, Cory, and Nathan – and grandparents to eight perfect grandchildren. Prior to her 28-year career at Chase Bank from which she retired in 2015, Freda was a stay-at-home mom for 15 years while Rick spent 30+ years in retail (20 as general manager at Mudd's Furniture).

In 2005, Rick was forced to go on disability after four back surgeries, three within three years. In 2006, Rick spent a month at the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Clinic at Cleveland Clinic. He says while there God performed a miracle resulting in his pain lessening significantly. Rick loved his job and retail career. He says, "I don't believe that God caused my back problems that resulted in me having to quit my retail job, but I believe God used that to get me where he wanted me."

In 2007, Rick joined the RCIA Team at Saints Joseph and Paul. He had been a part of the Team for several years in the late 80s and early 90s. In 2008, when the Director of Religious Education resigned, Rick was asked to lead the RCIA Journey of Faith. He then joined the staff full time as Outreach Coordinator, the beginning of his 12-year career in ministry at Saints Joseph & Paul. Rick now works three days a week at Saint Stephen Cathedral where he is Director of the RCIA Journey of Faith and Welcome Back; and Coordinator of Small Groups, That Man Is You, and the Tri-Parish Mission. He also makes hospital visits on Wednesdays.

"I never thought I would say this, but I don't miss retail at all [...] I love sharing my faith and am passionate about helping others grow their relationship with Jesus. There is nothing more important than our relationship with Christ. I know, without any doubt, that I am exactly where God wants me to be. It was an awesome career move."



Meet Hannah Bland, Director of Children's Ministry! *(in her own words)*

Hello! My name is Hannah Bland, and I have joined the Cathedral Pastoral Team as Director of Children's Ministry. My parents are Joe and Cathy Bland, and I have two older siblings, Chelsea and Seth. I grew up and went to school in Whitesville, where I attended St. Mary of the Woods Catholic School and graduated from Trinity High School in 2015. This past May, I graduated from Brescia University with a major in Theology and a minor in Philosophy.

I decided on a Theology major because I have always been incredibly interested in my Catholic faith. Religion was always my favorite subject in school; and my father taught religion at the high school, which made me more interested in the subject. Every summer during my college career, I worked at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center as a member of their summer staff. It was at Gasper I found I did not just have an interest in my faith, but a calling to ministry. Gasper truly changed my life in more ways than I can express. There I found I loved working with young people of all ages and bringing them closer to Christ.

With this calling in mind I wanted to learn more about youth ministry. Brescia offered an internship program for the fall semester of my senior year. I took this opportunity to experience on the job training with Crissy Stevenson, whom I have known for many years. Crissy had just made the move to Saint Stephen. The internship lasted only a semester, but I continued working with Crissy in the spring semester since I enjoyed the work we were doing. With graduation on the horizon, I started to look for job opportunities. Even though it was not youth ministry, I applied for the Faith Formation Leadership position at the Cathedral. I felt the Lord calling me to this job/ministry, and I am glad He did. This job gives me the opportunity to minister to children, parents, youth, and catechists. It has been an amazing experience thus far, and I cannot wait to continue guiding the children of the parish into closer relationship with Christ.





The First Days of (Pre)School

By Pam Weafer

On the first day of school there are always some nervous stomachs whether it be college, high school, middle school, elementary, and especially preschool. For some preschoolers, this will be the first time they have been away from moms and dads. Here at Cathedral Preschool we make every effort to make that transition as easy and comfortable as possible. We start with an Open House that parents attend with their child. The teachers assure little ones that they will take good care of them and all their needs while they are at school. The teachers will measure each one with a special measuring stick to see if they are “big enough” to go to school without mommy and daddy. Not everyone is, and we make a big deal if they are “big enough.” There are always a few tears that first day, but sometimes more of them are from the parents leaving their little angels for the first time. Preschoolers adjust quickly, realizing preschool is a safe and fun place to be and that someone will be back to pick them up soon. My advice for parents is that the quicker you make the separation, the easier it is on both your preschooler and you. Most of the time if a little one is crying they quit before you have even left the parking lot. Separation anxiety is hard on both the child and parent. There are some things to make that easier. Try putting a picture of yourself in their school bag. There are some great books to read together that may help. One of them is *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn. We try to make preschool so much fun that they cannot wait to get back. Hopefully they will develop a love for school that will last their entire school career.





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Kim Kratz, children Liv, Lee and Tay

Katelyn McCarthy

Aaron Overbeck

Jeff and Eva Stone

June O'Bryan Travers

Save the Date!

Tri-Parish Mission November 11-13