

A quarterly publication of the
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



Founder's Day
Celebration
Pages 4-5



VBS -
Tracking Mary
Page 9

the Parishioner

What's Inside

Confirmation Retreat
Page 2

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Page 3

First Annual Ice
Cream Social
Page 6

Be Not Afraid
Page 7

Mission Trip
Page 8

Youth Group Photos
Page 10

Celebrations
Page 11

and more!

Serving the Mission of Our Parish – the Parish Pastoral Council

By Donna Tarantino



**SSC Parish Pastoral Council Members enjoy a retreat day at the
Passionist Monastery. From left:**

*Back Row, L to R: Pat Serey, PPC Chair; Father Jerry Riney; Mark Heinz;
Nick Warren; David Hemingway; Russell Vaughn.*

*Middle Row, L to R: Kathryn Wimsatt; Donna Tarantino; Peggy Bellew;
Brenda Clark; Father Jamie Dennis, Donna Murphy.*

*Front Row, L to R: Margie Ebelhar, PPC Secretary; Kelsey Rhodes; LaWanna
Brand; Steven Roby; Samantha Kaai, PPC Vice Chair.*

On Saturday, August 19, the St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council gathered for a retreat day at the Passionist Monastery near Whitesville, KY. The retreat provided a wonderful opportunity for members to get acquainted, discover ways to better work together as servant leaders for our parish, and enrich their spiritual lives.

Lisa Gulino, Assistant Professor of Theology and Holder of the McRaith Chair in Pastoral Ministry at Brescia University, served as facilitator of the retreat. Lisa studied and compiled the results of the Clifton Strengths-Finder© assessment, which was completed in advance by council members. From those results, she guided the

(Continued on next page)

Confirmation Retreat

Serving the Mission of Our Parish

(Continued from page 1)

members through a program of enlightening discussions focusing on using their strengths to serve the mission of our parish, making connections between their gifts and spirituality, and serving in a spirituality of accompaniment.

Father Jerry, Father Jamie, and Pastoral Team members Donna Murphy and Donna Tarantino also participated and shared in the discussions of their individual strengths. Father Jerry thanked the members for their discernment to the Pastoral Council and for sharing their time to serve a three-year term and for offering their gifts to the service of the people of St. Stephen Cathedral. Margie Ebelhar continues her service as Council Secretary, and Father expressed appreciation of her excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.

We are also grateful for the time and talent of Lisa Gulino who, by the way, has recently joined our parish. Welcome, Lisa! We are happy to have you as a member of our parish family. Thanks, also, to the retreat center at the Passionist Monastery for their hospitality, wonderful facility, and delicious meals. What a beautiful and appropriate setting for retreats, whether for groups or individuals.

If you have not done so already, take a moment to say hello to our Parish Pastoral Council members. We look forward to a fruitful and blessed three-year term.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

By Donna Murphy

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was reintroduced to the Cathedral community in the spring of 2016. Women who were interested in using their craft skills to prepare these shawls gathered to share ideas of how to sustain this outreach. As the women brainstormed ideas of how to make this ministry work and become a lasting ministry in our parish, they explored a list of potential recipients. It was decided that there is a great need for shawls among us at the Cathedral. Obviously those with terminal illnesses would be offered a prayer shawl, Stephen Ministers can offer a shawl to their Care Receivers, Ministers of Care who visit our homebound parishioners could share a shawl, and our Ministers of Praise could utilize a prayer shawl while praying for our parish. These are just a few of the options available to us for distributing the prayer shawls.

Care for others and the love of craft-making have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. Each shawl crafter works on a shawl at their own leisure at home, but for those who would like to occasionally gather with others to work, there is also an option to gather in a space at the office for sharing ideas and skills. The crafter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Once several shawls are completed, they are presented to the whole parish community at Mass for a formal blessing before they are distributed.



Founder's Day

Photos by Rob Abney



Glenn Thompson headed our burgoo team: Jim Murphy, Tommy Grant, Bill McCarty, Tom Neal, Randy Kamuf, Carroll Howard, Benny Blandford, Matt Johnson, & Todd Johnson (Johnny Clayton, not pictured). Thanks to a job well done!

Todd Johnson ordered and picked up all the chickens and organized the cooking. Additional crew to be listed with a big thanks to Todd is Matt Johnson, Bill McCarty, Jimmy Murphy, Tom Neal and Luke Riney.

Celebration



Congratulations to Deacon Richard Murphy,
his wife Donna, and their family!

By Marianna Robinson

St. Stephen parishioners celebrated the 91st Anniversary of the Dedication of our current church building located on Locust Street. Mass began this festive occasion with Bishop Medley presiding. Our choir and the congregation joined together to raise their voices with several appropriate hymns for the celebration. Focusing on the beauty of our church, Bishop Medley referred to architects, artisans, and countless others who pooled their talents and resources to build this beautiful church, which eventually became the Cathedral of the Diocese of Owensboro 15 years later in 1937. This was simply St. Stephen Parish when this current building was finished in 1926. Bishop Medley compared our Cathedral structure to a beautiful shrine for prayer and praise to all who enter. In another application of the word "shrine," he suggested that as Catholics, we might consider creating a worship space right in our homes that reflects our love and appreciation for those who have gone before us who were instrumental with establishing the Church. A table display of the Bible, candles, statues of favorite saints, and family photos (vintage or otherwise) are a testimony to our gratitude for those who paved the way and contributed to the growth of our faith.

Following the Mass, parishioners moved to the Father John Vaughan Community Center where an inviting atmosphere was created by one of our own parishioners who used bright tablecloths and fall décor. Fr. Jerry was "master of ceremonies" for a delicious meal, a Kentucky buffet with barbecue chicken, burgoo, and vegetables in addition to a variety of desserts.

Last on the agenda there was a flurry of excitement in the air; happy, hopeful faces were everywhere. It was time for the big raffle drawings! Several months ago, our church leaders decided that in lieu of our traditional outdoor summer picnic fundraiser (the former Fall Festival), our parish would celebrate our patron saint and the Anniversary Dedication by hosting a meal and two great raffles. We were also blessed to celebrate the Ordination of lifelong parishioner Deacon Richard Murphy. Winners were eligible for one of three monetary prizes, as well as one of three vacation sites which included Hawaii, Snowshoe Mountain, and Cumberland Lake. A known traveler, Mary Helen Nash and husband Lloyd were on a tour of Canada that very evening. Her name was the second one drawn, awarding her \$1,000.00. (No doubt, Mary Helen is already planning another trip).



I Scream, You Scream... Happy Half Birthday, St. Stephen!

By Donna Tarantino



We didn't hear anyone screaming for ice cream, but adults and children alike seemed to thoroughly enjoy the sweet treats at our First Annual Ice Cream Social on June 26. Our parish hosted the social to celebrate our patron saint, since St. Stephen's feast day falls on December 26 while we are still celebrating Christmas (and as Father Jerry says, "Who can compete with Jesus?!").

Attendance for this first-ever event was great! Bishop Medley and more than 100 people came together to relax and enjoy ice cream, complete with plenty of delicious toppings. Parishioners Matt Layson and Amanda Melberg coordinated the social, which was decorated with festive, summery pinwheel centerpieces hand crafted by Amanda and her mom. Many thanks to Matt and Amanda for

their time and efforts! "Who was St. Stephen?" trivia fact sheets were available, and Father Jerry tested the guests' knowledge about the life of St. Stephen. (For example, do you know why St. Stephen is often shown holding a palm frond and stones?)

Summer is officially over, but we look forward to June 2018 and our 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social. Make plans to join us!

By the way, if you are a visitor to Cathedral Preschool or have a child enrolled there, you may see those colorful pinwheels again. We have passed them along to the preschool, where they'll brighten the walls and halls for the children, staff, and visitors.



Respect Life Reflection

Submitted by Fr. Jerry Riney

Used with permission. Copyright © 2017, USCCB, Washington, D.C.. All rights reserved.

When battered by life's storms, or immersed in a dense fog of suffering and uncertainty, we may feel alone and unequipped to handle the circumstances.

Yet with words that echo through thousands of years into the corners of our hearts, the Lord says to us, "Do not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10).

He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God.

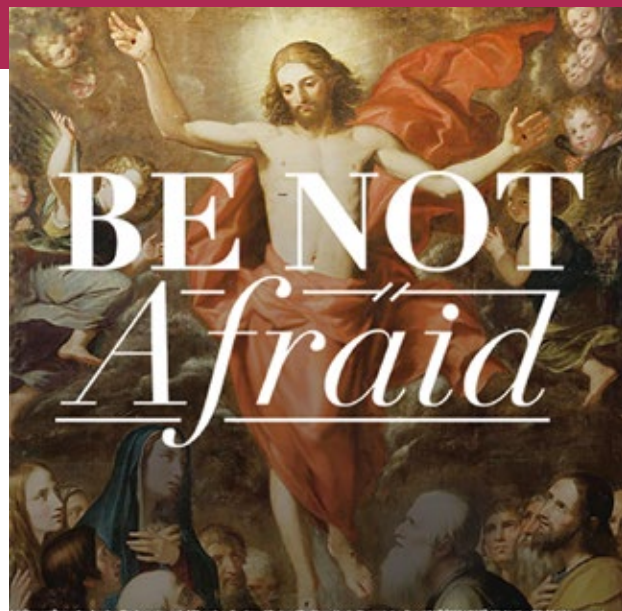
Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new.

He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go.

Go be my hands and feet to a world enslaved by fear. Go to the woman who is unexpectedly pregnant and fears the future. Go to your friend who fears reprisal at work because he takes a stand for the protection of human life. Go to your aging parent in failing health who fears being a burden. And go to others, too, for their support.

We don't need to have everything figured out. We can simply follow the guidance of Our Blessed Mother, the first disciple: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us.

"Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).



As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights that leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace.

Mission Trip

By Hannah Padgett

It has been over a month since my dad and I got the opportunity to go to the beautiful country of Nicaragua on a mission trip with Food for the Poor ministries. I had been begging him for years to take me on a mission trip, so when he finally set a date for this past summer I was so excited. I knew that something like this would change me, but I could have never imagined how drastic that change would be. I am insanely grateful to my dad for providing me with this amazing opportunity, and I could never thank him enough for what it has done for me.

Some of the work we did there was manual labor like digging the foundations for a new house and helping different communities with gardening, but my absolute favorite part was visiting the Angels of Hope orphanages. We went to two different all-girls homes and just got to spend time with them and play games. I have never met more grateful kids in all my life. The second our group arrived, I had two girls on either side of me holding my hand and proudly showing me around the orphanage. These girls had been abandoned by their parents and some had even been victims of abuse, but every single one of them constantly had the biggest smiles on their faces. I have never experienced so much happiness in my life than when I was with these kids. Even the children in the orphanages were better off than most of the other families we went to visit.

It had never really hit me how fortunate I am until I had the chance to see people that were so impoverished that they don't even have something as simple as clean water to drink. Visiting the people of Nicaragua definitely changed my outlook on life. No matter how little these people had, they always had lots of love to give to our group. We did not even speak the same language, yet I could just see how grateful these beautiful people were through their unlimited hugs and smiles. It was truly an amazing experience and one that I will never forget. I don't think I will ever go on another trip that will impact my life as much as this one did.



VBS - Tracking Mary



Youth Group



Sophia Award *Congratulations to Gene & Larry Lyon*



Celebrations



David & Babylyn Peters hold their newborn son, Sean Patrick, as Fr. Jerry pours the waters of new life which Baptism brings on June 18, 2017.



Margaret O'Bryan Mills, Sharlene Hatfield, & Patricia Howard at Welcome Sunday



Howard and Louise Brown celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary, September 1, 2017.



Newly installed Deacon Richard Murphy & family



The faith community welcomes newly baptized, Jane Ashtin Warren, daughter of James & Ashtin Warren on Father's Day!



Grant & Emily (Bouchard) Haire married on June 24, 2017.



Kally Renee McCarty's Baptism August 19, 2017
Parents: Brent and Holly McCarty
Godparents: Greg and Leah McCarty



610 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
OWENSBORO, KY
42301
PERMIT 900

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter Contributors

Writers

Deacon Dirck and
Chona Curry
Donna Murphy
Hannah Padgett
Marianna Robinson
Donna Tarantino

Photographers

Rob Abney
Corey Bruns

Proofreader

Haley Roby

Editor

Katie Pagan

Layout Designer

Taylor West

Community Gardens

By Deacon Dirck and Chona Curry

As for the history of the community garden at St Stephen Cathedral on the corner of Seventh and Cedar Street, I am unable to speak about it. As for the past 5 years, these gardens are slowly being transformed from raised gardens that were not being used by many individuals of the neighborhood. They were given out for personal planting but were often left unattended by the end of July or August yearly. When Father Jerry Riney arrived at St. Stephen, he suggested changes to the garden space which made it not only more appealing to the eye, but more productive for the whole community to receive its bountiful produce.

Now the gardens are cleaned out in the spring, planted and weeded through spring and summer, and pulled up in the fall. Several parishioners have been helpful in this process, yet more are needed who like working in the soil and getting a little dirty planting seeds, watering, and watching them become fruitful plants for our neighbors to enjoy. This year the produce was really good and parishioners and neighbors enjoyed the wonderful vegetables and fruits that were grown. This fall clean up weekend will include the cleaning of these raised and ground level gardens plus rebuilding the raised gardens with new wood boxes. So come out to assist in cleaning the parish grounds as well as the community gardens on Saturday, October 21st, at 8:00AM.



**Remember to bring a
bag of groceries for our
annual Thanksgiving
food drive!**