

Catholic Parishes of Old North Dayton (P.O.N.D.)

Life in the Pond

May, 2010
Volume 1, Issue 4

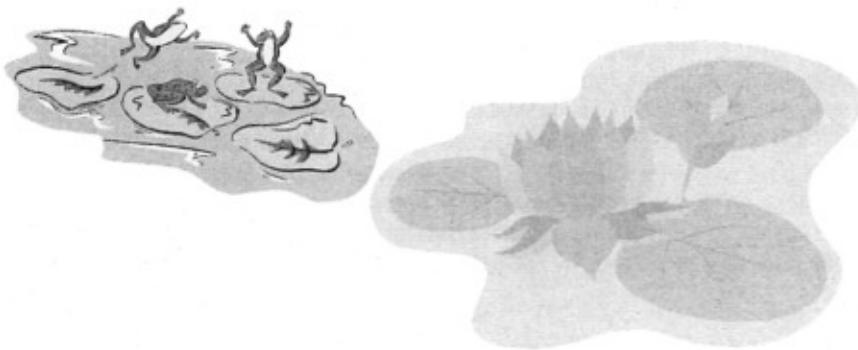
May-Jul Calendar of Events

- May 6- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- May 11, 18, 25- Movie Night
6:30, OLR
- May 11, 25- Cooking classes
6:30- 8:30, SS
- May 13- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- May 16- Women's Potluck
12:00, OLR Basement
- May 20- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- May 23- Pentecost Potluck & The
Spoon Man Presentation
12:00, OLR basement
- May 27- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
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- June 3- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- June 8- Cooking Class
6:30-8:30, SS
- June 8, 15, 22, 29- Movie Night
6:30, OLR
- June 10- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- June 17- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- June 24- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
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- July 1- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- July 8- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- July 15- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- July 22- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club
- July 29- Ballroom Dancing
7-8:30, Polish Club

LENTEN THANK YOU

Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped make our Lenten celebration wonderful! To all the groups and individuals who provided the delicious lunches, those who helped serve and clean up, donated for flowers, all who attended the events and helped in any way... you are greatly appreciated! Special thank you to Sue Papp who not only assisted with Sunday lunches, but who provided the fantastic Thursday breakfasts and made sure everyone had what they needed. And also to Red Pike, Rick Collin and anyone else who helped to clean the church prior to Easter. We truly have some special people!



EASTER VIGIL WELCOMES NEW CATHOLICS

Slightly different than past Easter Vigils—we welcome into the church four children from OLR School. Chelsey Zavacky was baptized and received her first Holy Communion and confirmation. Erik Vazquez, Angelica Vazquez and Zachary Carroll-Ashley received their first Holy Communion and confirmation. Please keep these children in your prayers as they continue their journey in our Catholic way of life.

On June 6 at Holy Cross we will also welcome into the Catholic Church the Wetzel family. David, Susan and Andrew have been attending Holy Cross for several months and have studied in preparation of the day they will be receiving their first Holy Communion and confirmation. We again ask your prayers for them as they choose to become Catholic.

Czeslaw Makiewicz, Parishioner of St. Adalbert Parish

Czeslaw was born Feb. 12, 1919 in Wazeliskzki, Poland (now Lithuania). He is the youngest of 5 children. His formal education began in 1926. He entered the Polish Air Force NCO School in 1935 and graduated in 1938 as a Radio Operator and Gunner. Czeslaw flew in a PZL37 and was part of a bomber squadron when they were shot down on Sept. 4, 1939. He sustained severe burns to both hands and face. With the aid of local residents, he eluded capture until he was arrested by the Gestapo on March 27, 1942. He was held in Czestochova as a political prisoner until April 16, 1943. He was then sent to Dachau for 4 days and was released from there to perform slave labor for German citizens. Czeslaw worked first as a gardener for Anton Aammer. He fell ill in July of 1943 and was hospitalized for 13 days. Shortly after release from the hospital he went to work for a farmer, Widal Billinger, in Zweckham, Bavaria, where he stayed until April 1944. He was then sent to a bigger farm owned by George Clauser in Daxelburg, Bavaria. The Clausers were anti-Hitler and "treated him like a son". American troops arrived on May 3, 1945, but Czeslaw remained with the Clausers until early 1946.

In May of 1945 Czeslaw met Martha Moerl. She was looking for work to earn money to get back home and was employed by the Schmidt family from Austria as a secretary and nanny. Czeslaw and Martha were married on June 2, 1946 in Traunstein, Bavaria. Martha had been reunited with her sister, Edith, the day before the wedding. Czeslaw and Martha lived in Vachendorf, Bavaria, until Martha was hospitalized with asthma in late 1946. Her father, Rudolf Moerl, came and took her home with him to Leihgestern to be with him and her mother, Katherine. At that time Martha was pregnant with their first child. Czeslaw remained in the Mannheim area where he was hired by the American Army as part of a labor company. The company guarded American facilities, such as the PX, motor pools, and barracks. After 3 months in Mannheim the labor company moved to Babenhausen, then to Russelheim, which is near Frankfurt. He was in Russelheim when his daughter, Hanka, was born on June 15, 1947. He worked for the labor company for 29 months. His last months with the company were spent in Munster where a large ammunition depot and motor pool existed. Part of the activity there was done by Germans dismantling bombs containing phosphorus, which was dangerous work.

At this time Czeslaw was a Sergeant of the Guard. He worked one 24 hour day and was off 4 days. This allowed him to go home to spend time with Martha and his children. A second daughter, Sylvia, was born on August 21, 1948, at home in Leihgestern. After the war, Czeslaw and Martha were officially designated as "displaced persons". They could not return to Poland and he knew there was no future for him in Germany. He was looking for a way to go to another country through the International Refugee Organization. He first tried to enter Italy where Poland's second corps was. However, the border was closed to further immigrants. He then looked to the USA. With the help of the National Catholic Welfare Organization, he and Martha appeared before the American Consulate in Wiesbaden. They received political and medical clearance to immigrate to the USA.

On May 18, 1949 Czeslaw, Martha, Hanka, and Sylvia embarked from the Bremenhafen port and headed for New York City. They arrived in New York on May 28, 1949 (not through Ellis Island) and left by train for Chicago where they transferred to a train headed for Norfolk, Nebraska. In Norfolk they were met at the station by Father Kaup who took them to Randolph, Nebraska where they arrived on May 30, 1949.

In Randolph Czeslaw worked on a farm and the family grew when Elizabeth was born on Dec. 7, 1950. In 1951 they moved to West Point, Nebraska where Czeslaw worked for Hugo, who owned a plumber and pipefitter company. Over the next 5 years he learned the trade. Around Easter, in 1956, he was encouraged to come to Dayton by his friend, Walter Burk, whom he met while working in the labor company in Munster. Walter told him there was much building going on in Dayton. He went to work for Hudson Plumbing for a week and the owner wanted him to stay, but due to his family situation it was not possible. The family now consisted of 6 children with the addition of Alice, Susan, and Mark.

In August of 1956 the owner of Hudson Plumbing sent Czeslaw a letter saying he had found a house for him and encouraged him to relocate. Czeslaw went to the plumber's union with an affidavit from the Hugo Company attesting to his experience in the field. The family moved to Dayton by train in October of 1956. The family was completed with the births of Timothy in 1959 and Andrew in 1962.

In the years that followed, Czeslaw worked for several different companies. He became an active member in the local of the Polish National Alliance. In 1972 he was awarded the rank of Second Lieutenant by the Polish Government. We are very glad Czeslaw, Martha, and their family have been a special part of our family here at St. Adalbert and with our 4 parishes. You have experienced so much in your lifetime and we are proud to have you as friends. May God bless you both with good health and happiness and many years with us and your family still to come.

Project Share

We are continuing to promote Project Share as a unique fundraiser for our school and parishes. You can check out the website www.rainbowhealthonline.com where you will discover videos, news articles, newsletters, and much more information on safe, effective, natural ways to improve



your health and protect our planet. At the same time you will learn how choices you make can also help our school and parishes. From this information site you can link to the Project Share sites for both the OLR School and the Catholic Parishes of Old North Dayton. Together we can make a wonderful difference. For additional information, contact Phyllis at 236-5378.

Church Repair

Whew! The plastering and painting are now finished. Our initial plans were to cover the visible water damaged areas. As we dug further, we discovered several neglected and hazardous areas which we quickly moved to the high priority list of repairs. Once the scaffolding was up, we also discovered the poor condition of the upper walls around the clerestory windows. A number of window sills had to be completely reconstructed, and the walls themselves completely re-plastered and painted.

Choosing the right colors for the walls turned out to be a project in itself. We discovered considerable variations in shades over different parts of the church, due to accumulated dirt and previous repairs to certain sections. But now everything is uniform, looking good and fresh.

Again, thank you all for your patience with the mess, dust, noise and inconvenience. We continue to move forward with our plans to repair the church and renovate the basement kitchen as funds permit. Your support and generosity has been what has enabled us and will continue to enable us, to improve our beautiful church. Please support our efforts.



SURPRISE FOR JUANITA EVERS

On Sunday, February 28 at the 11:00 Mass Father Roten escorted Juanita to the front of the altar to celebrate her 80th birthday, coming up on March 2. The choir sang Happy Birthday and two of the children from the Jobe family presented Juanita with roses and a lighted birthday cake. Needless to say, she was very pleased, and her party continued in the church basement after Mass. Juanita has worked at Our Lady of the Rosary Church since she was 16 years old. We thank her for years of dedication, service and friendship. Congratulations, Juanita!!



Shout Out to the Ladies!



Mark your calendars! We will be having a pot luck luncheon for the women who attended the women's retreat this past February. Ladies are encouraged to bring a friend who was unable to attend the retreat and we invite all other women of the four parishes to join us on **Sunday, May 16 after the 11:00 am Mass** in the OLR undercroft. Dr. Jane Steinhauser who led the retreat will be in attendance to follow up with participants and offer some great ideas for those who would like to continue with some type of ministry for women. Watch the bulletin for more info.

Fish Dinner and Family Night

OLR Hall was full of life Friday, March 5, with another Family Fun Night (at which everyone is a member of our family! All are welcome.) People from our four parishes enjoyed a delicious meal featuring the famous OLR Fish Fry fish, accompanied by fries, grilled cheese, salad, and dessert. Then out came the cards and games brought along from home. It was a great time for multiple generations to enjoy each other's company. Thanks goes to our sponsor, the Interparish Team. We look forward to more times like this in the future.



Sophie Speaks...



Hey guys! I found a really cool way to help out my fellow mammals and the best part is....it's free! The Animal Rescue Site has provided millions of bowls of food for animals in shelters and sanctuaries, courtesy of their sponsors. All you have to do is visit theanimalrescuesite.com and click on the place indicated by the arrow. As you visit the site you will notice several tabs along the top and sides of the page. These tabs offer wonderful stories, ways to take action, e-cards, gifts, and links to other great stuff. There is even help and support for you humans including breast cancer, hunger, children's health, literacy, and more. You may click once daily for each area you want to support. It doesn't cost you a cent to help make a difference. Please check it out.

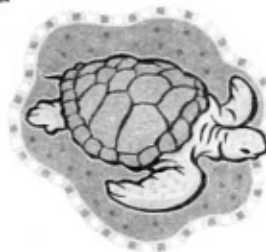


Love,
Sophie

The Spoon Man is Coming!

What did Jesus' disciples experience on Pentecost? Fellowship with each other and the risen Lord, joy, excitement, and a new perspective that turned their little band outward to embrace the whole world. Something like this is in store for our four-parish community this Pentecost, May 23, starting at noon in OLR Hall. Our potluck lunch will be visited by The Spoon Man. He's not the Holy Spirit, and you won't hear the sound of a rushing wind, but you will see tongues of fire and experience a new and joyful perspective.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, May 23, noon, at OLR's church basement.** Bring a dish to share with at least fifteen other people, and bring the people too! Let's celebrate together Pentecost, birthday of the Church. Watch the bulletin for more details.



Madri Gras Celebration!

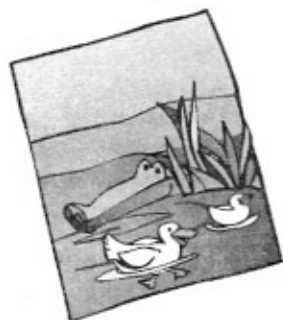
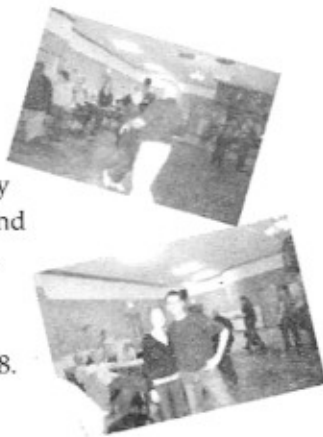
On Saturday, February 13th, our Interparish Team sponsored our 7th Annual Mardi Gras celebration. We had over 170 guests who enjoyed a dinner of fried chicken, jambalaya, parsley potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, cucumber salad, bread pudding, and donated ethnic cookies and pastries for dessert. We danced the night away to the music provided by Jim Bornhorst. As you can see from the pictures, a great time was had by all.



Announcement Time!

Ballroom Dance Classes

We are continuing our Ballroom Dancing classes at the Polish Club on Valley St., Thursday evenings from 7-8:30. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$1 for Jr. high, high school and college students. Join us for fun evenings, great exercise and meeting new friends. For more information, contact Phyllis at 236-5378.



Quilting Tickets

The Quilters of the "Parishes of Old North Dayton" warmly invite you to enter for a chance to win a beautiful red, white, and blue quilt. It is in a star like design, traditionally known as a log-cabin pattern. This handmade king size quilt would be a great keepsake for any family and could even be passed down for generations! Tickets are available now. Please call Paula Stibich at 236-0928 to purchase them. Tickets sell for \$1.00 per ticket, or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at the Four Parish Picnic in September this year!

Cooking Classes to Begin

We are hosting our Cooking Classes again this year at St. Stephen's Church Hall and we look forward to seeing you there. We begin at 6:30 pm and usually end about 8:00 to 8:30, depending upon the presentation and questions that follow. The cost is \$3.00 per person and you receive a copy of the recipe and also get to sample the item prepared.



The classes are on Tuesday evenings on the following dates: **April 27th, May 11th, May 25th, and June 8th**. Watch the bulletin for the presenters and for the food being prepared for each evening. Reservations are required the Friday before each class to allow time to plan for the number attending. Contact Lena at 233-3531 or Alice at 222-2933 to reserve your place.

Daytime Seniors Group

Saturday, May 1st

Mark your calendar for the Hollywood Casino trip. There is a \$20 bus fee. The bus leaves 9:30 am from OLR school grounds. Returns approximately 5:30pm. We have been invited to go with the OLR Boosters Group. Mail your \$20 per person in advance to OLR Boosters, Dan Fitzwater, 531 Lorella Ave. Dayton, Ohio 45404

Thursday, May 6th

Please meet at 1:00pm at Holy Cross church. We will be going to the Art Institute for a tour of a spectacular art exhibit. We will buy our lunch at the Art Institute restaurant. Any questions please call Elinor at 667-4568 or Phyllis at 236-5378.

Return address correction requested

Visit us at:
www.olrdayton.com

From the Pastor

In our last newsletter, February 2010, I talked about change. Some readers thought I was prepping them for some big news about to break. No. It was occasioned by some changes that had already happened. But, of course, we all know the times in which we live. I grew up at Ascension parish where my mother still attends. It's a large parish, is down to one priest, and since they didn't have a weekend helper priest who could commit on a regular basis they decided to drop a Mass from their schedule. Which one did they drop? The smallest, the one mom attends, at 7:00 am. I asked her how many attend the 7:00 am and she answered, "Oh, two hundred some."

So, yes, we know what's out there, and that it's headed our way. How soon? I've been telling people that our region with St. Peter will probably shed a full-time assigned priest within a year or two. The Priest Personnel Director of the Archdiocese recently confirmed that guess.

But enough about change. What I want to talk about today is continuity. What will remain the same, no matter what else happens? What can we count on? Well, let me talk about what I count on as I look into an uncertain future that will impact where I live, who I work with, and my responsibilities.

- 1) God. God remains the same. The same God Who called me through baptism, gave me a caring family, called me through ordination, gave me the encouragement of many good, faithful, and appreciative Catholic people—that same good God will still be at my side giving me what I need when I need it to do what He wants me to do. I can count on Him.
- 2) The Institutional Church. These days that is, in many mouths, an expression of contempt: "The Institutional Church". When we hear it we are supposed to think of hide-bound old clerics resisting the grace of God as they grind the faithful down under useless rules and obsolete traditions. To me, "Institutional Church" simply means the Church, the visible body of believers organized around the apostles to carry out the mission Christ gave us in this world. Those old clerics are successors to the apostles; the grace of God is the Holy Spirit enlivened in us through prayer, Scripture, and sacrament; the rules keep us from becoming a sloppy, sentimental, self-indulgent people of "whatever"; the traditions remind us who we are and who we belong to. The Catholic (universal) Institutional Church was instituted by Christ and, in spite of the flaws of its human members, it will stand until the end of time. Some find that to be a curse. I find it a great blessing.
- 3) The Catholic Faithful. Yes, people get upset when their Mass schedule is tampered with, or their parish declines, or their school seems threatened. But the great majority of Catholics I have known are able to look beyond the shifting incidentals of the ways we have carried out our mission and grasp the mission itself, and the One Who gives it to us—Jesus Christ, who suffered but rose again, nevermore to die. When I am asked how I manage to do four parishes, I ask what they mean. If the question is about the Mass schedule, my answer is: "Fr. Johann". If the question is about how I manage to care for four distinct faith communities, with all the buildings and finances and activities that go with it, my answer is: "The people. They've been great! They recognized the situation, saw what was needed, and have really come through. Without their willingness to work together and their creative initiative I'd be dead by now."

These three constants are reliable: God, the Institutional Church, and the Catholic Faithful. They uphold me now. They will uphold me in the future, whatever the future may bring.