

VOX POPULI

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Newsletter of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

OLA School Turns 60!

By Jo Ribordy-Christofferson

Happy Birthday to our very own OLA School! 2015 will mark the 60th anniversary of our parish's own Catholic grade school. The school opened in mid-October, 1955, with grades 6-8 and the spring of 1956 witnessed the celebration of the school's first graduating class of 31 students.

As part of our 60th Anniversary Celebration, we hope to welcome home and reconnect with students who have passed through the doors of our school during the last 60 years. To help make that dream a reality a group of volunteers is attempting to get current mailing and email addresses for the over 1500 alumni. **Father Paul** hopes to build a database so we can keep our community connected. Many former students have stepped forward to help find and verify information for their own graduating class.

Father Paul: *We are so proud that OLA Parish has maintained a school for so many years that has proudly served our community by providing quality and affordable Catholic education. Many students have gone through our school to achieve their dreams in life. We thought that with our 60th Anniversary coming up, it would be nice to have as complete a database as we can of all our alumni. It's our hope to keep them informed about our current events and institutional developments. Most importantly, we want to be sure to invite them to the events of our 60th Anniversary in 2015.*

It is our hope that by being able to swiftly communicate with OLA Alumni we can keep the OLA spirit alive through sharing current things that are happening in the school. **Arlene McMorran** (past school principal) and **Amy Hutson** (current school principal) will also be collaborating on an Alumni Newsletter. It will be featuring stories about what the alumni have

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You are invited to celebrate
The Sacred Triduum
 with your Parish Family

Mass of the Lord's Supper:
 Thursday, April 2, 7:30pm
 Followed by Adoration of the Blessed
 Sacrament until 10:00pm

Good Friday:
 Friday, April 3, 1:00pm
 Tenebrae, 7:00pm

Easter Vigil:
 Saturday, April 4, 8:00pm

Easter:
 Sunday, April 5, 8:00am & 10:30am

Go Paperless!

We would like to send Vox Populi electronically to as many parishioners as possible to save on printing and postage costs. Email Randy at **randyg@olabeloit.com** to receive future issues electronically.



Pastor's Message

By the Very Rev.
Paul Ugo Arinze

The Easter glory ushers renewal of hope in the lives of all Christians. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia! As we enter into the spring season when what seemed dead during the winter months are bringing forth new life, the winter snows are replaced by April showers, and cold gives way to warmth; we are called also to a renewal of spirit and hope at OLA.

A lot has happened since the last *Vox Populi* and many lives have been touched in different ways. Some of our members have answered the call to glory, leaving behind grieving loved ones who constantly need our love and prayers. Within this time also, we have experienced the joys of welcoming new babies through baptism in our church; we have celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony, watching with joy as young couples are married in our church and we've also welcomed some new members into our parish. Last, but not the least, Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School is celebrating 60 years of providing quality Catholic education in our parish. The above mentioned are signs of life and of our commitment to bind together in this journey of faith. We are thankful for the vision of those who 60 years ago came together to establish a Catholic school in our parish. Many

students have passed through the halls of this great school and some are still proud members of our parish. By God's providence we are the only remaining Catholic school in Beloit and we hope that we continue to provide quality Catholic education for another 60 years and beyond. May the good reputation of our Parish last forever.

I would also like to bring to your attention some exciting news from the diocese. Most of you would remember not very long ago how parishes were asked to actively plan for linking, merging or in some cases closing all together because of the shortage of priests. Many parishes underwent such changes in our diocese. Thanks to your prayers and God's providence, the tide is now shifting in the right direction. The Diocese of Madison has 32 seminarians who are studying to be priests compared to just 6 a decade ago. Five deacons will be ordained to the Catholic priesthood for our diocese in June of this year. That is news of great joy! In order to make sure that the diocese has enough funds for the training of these future priests who will end up serving in our parishes, the diocese embarked on an Endowment Campaign called *Priests for Our Future: The Church is Alive*. This campaign was rolled out in stages: first, the Pilot Parishes, then the Phase One Parishes. Here is even more exciting news: all the parishes in the Pilot Program and nearly 98% of the parishes in Phase One all exceeded their goals. This is a great sign that our parishioners understand the need to make sure that sacraments are maintained in their parishes through the presence of the priest. OLA and all the parishes in our cluster are in

Phase Two of this campaign. You will soon be getting more information about this campaign as it is rolled out in phases in our parish. I ask that you first pray for the success of this campaign in our parish and secondly, that we be generous in supporting the campaign. The campaign follows the ideal of Catholic stewardship that calls for equal sacrifices but proportional gifts since our financial situations are all different. Together we can all help secure our future by supporting this campaign.

Finally, we were all saddened by the news of **Sister Judy's** departure from our parish at the end of June. Sister was approved for a sabbatical and she truly felt that after 18 years of fruitful service and presence in our parish that it is a good time for her to see what else the Lord has in store for her. As I said in my bulletin article of March 15th, her departure will be a great loss for us. We will be writing more about Sister Judy in the next edition of the *Vox Populi*, but for the time being, save the week-end of June 13 & 14, 2015 as we will be celebrating Sister Judy's 50th Anniversary as a professed Religious Sister with the Sinsinawa Dominicans and we'll be having a farewell party for her. Let us keep Sister Judy and our parish in our prayers. Search is underway to find another Pastoral Associate for our parish. You will be updated as the process unfolds. ■

Happy Easter!
Fr. Paul

Caritas Update

by Ann Schroeder

The following letter is from Donna Ambrose at *Caritas*:

February, 2015

Dear Friends of *Caritas*,

Recently, we were informed that the Feinstein Foundation has changed the scope of their giving and will no longer be doing the Feinstein Challenge. We applaud their efforts and are grateful for our partnership over the past 17 years. In light of this news, we have decided to embrace this opportunity to launch our own "homegrown" campaign!

We invite you to consider giving to our 1st Annual "*Spring into Action*" *Caritas* challenge! Our inaugural theme is *Ready, Set, GROW!* With your support, we can continue to grow hope, opportunities, solutions, healthy families, and our future.

As in years past, your gift will grow if you contribute during March or April! We have partnered with a local foundation that is committed to helping us carry on this important spring campaign. Already this year, we have served a record number of people. This would not have been possible without your past support, and for that, we are extremely grateful! I hope you'll join us – *Let's Get Growing!*

Sincerely,
Donna Ambrose ■

OLA School Turns 60!

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gone on to do with their lives as well as what is happening at our school.

We are encouraging our alumni to join the group on our Facebook page, *OLA School Alumni*. If you already are a member of the group, invite a fellow alumnus to join our group. We hope to make the OLA School Alumni page on Facebook a source for graduates to reconnect with each other and their former school.

If you have any information about any former alumni or are able to help in any way, please contact **Kari Santas** at kari.santas@gmail.com or **Katie Dupuis** at ktsr1@hotmail.com.



Please watch the bulletin for our lost alumni list. We are on a mission! ■

Volunteer Profile Rita Llorca- Hands of Faith

by Rita Llorca

Hands of Faith is sponsored by the Greater Beloit Interfaith Hospitality Network. Homeless families are housed, on a rotating basis, in area churches. Those families are fed, supported and given assistance in their search for housing, employment and other needs. To make this possible, many volunteers are needed. Community-wide, there are as many as 700 volunteers in *Hands of Faith*.

I am grateful for many opportunities in my life and one of these is being able to volunteer my time with our guests from *Hands of Faith*. They remind me of how vulnerable life can be. To use a well worn cliché, "There but for the grace of God, go I." *Hands of Faith* participants are individuals and families who, temporarily, are without a place to call their own and possibly without a job and resources

for their basic needs. What must they feel like? And yet, what I have noticed about these guests is that they are gracious, friendly, uncomplaining and relatively positive. I draw inspiration from their attitude.

Volunteering with *Hands of Faith* has given me greater insight into my life. It has also made me more aware of the difficulties and needs of others. I am

amazed at the strength of the human spirit.

I want to end with the *Hands of Faith* Mission Statement: *We, Hands of Faith, an interfaith community, resolve to lessen the burdens of our brothers and sisters by raising their hope and dignity.*

Isn't that what it's all about? Would you consider joining the OLA volunteer corps? Call me (608-365-8458) and I will answer questions or call our parish coordinators: **Sue Hartzel** (608-362-7215) or **Beth Gliebe** (815-389-3556).

Thank you! ■



New Hymnals

by Randy Gracyalny

After 14 years and many happy musical memories, it is time to retire our *Gather Comprehensive Hymnals*. We have been discussing the need for a different hymnal for about 4 years and have delayed doing so for a variety of reasons. Last summer it was decided that we could wait no longer and a hymnal committee was established.

Some of the reasons for replacing *Gather Comprehensive* include:

- At least 40% are in some state of disrepair.
- Does not have the new Mass translation.
- Regular need for music supplementation through inserts.

What were we looking for in a new hymnal?

- Good selection of presently known songs.
- Good selection of unknown songs.
- Mix of traditional and contemporary songs.

- Wide range of psalmody.
- Selection of Mass settings ideally with some we already know.

After carefully evaluating six different hymnals, the committee unanimously agreed on *Journeysongs* for our new hymnal.

Total cost for the hymnals including congregation, choir/cantor, keyboard and instrumental accompaniment books will be a little over \$16,000. As we had done when purchasing *Gather Comprehensive*, we are funding *Journeysongs* by giving you the opportunity to purchase hymnals in the name of someone dear to you. (See bookplate)

Please fill out the form below and return it through the collection or to the Administration Center with payment. When we have reached our total, the hymnals will be ordered with the hope of having them by Pentecost, May 24.

Watch the thermometer in the Gathering Space for progress toward our goal.

Thank you for your generosity in providing for the musical prayer of our parish! ■



I would like to purchase the following *Journeysong* Hymnal(s):

(Please print clearly – use additional page for multiple names if needed)

_____ Congregation hymnals @ \$16 each

_____ Choir hymnals @ \$30 each

_____ Accompaniment books @ \$130 each

Given as a gift by _____

In the name of _____

Donators' phone or email (for verification, if needed) _____

Has It Only Been Two Years of Pope Francis?

by Rob Olsen,
Director of Faith Formation

As this issue of *Vox Populi* goes to press we remember that it has been only two years since Pope Francis was elected following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. I say only two years because to me, and I suspect to many others, it seems Francis has been pope longer than that. I think the reasons are simple enough to understand. This will be Pope Francis' third Easter. As Catholics we almost subconsciously measure time from liturgical seasons.

Probably more to the point is the almost daily reporting in mainstream media (not just Catholic or religious media) of his words and actions. Of course we probably don't need to be reminded that all news that purports to be fair and balanced truly is; or that people, in general, can tend to "cherry pick" only what they want to hear or what agrees with their worldview, especially so when it comes to religion. There is no question that Pope Francis is stirring things up and some things will be controversial. Some are afraid of change; and others think changes aren't coming fast enough. It reminds me of an old joke I heard from one of my theology professors **Q: How many Catholics does it take to change a light bulb? A: CHANGE? Catholics don't change.**

But very seriously, our professor would remind us that one of the critical roles of the Church is to preserve the sacred heritage and memory of our tradition. He would say, and truly stress the word **WE**; before we (the Church) change, we like to ponder it for a couple of hundred years, lest we lose any of that sacred remembrance. Remembrance is at the core of who we are: at the heart of the Eucharist we hear the words **Do this in remembrance of me**. Yet, it is that original Last Supper and every Eucharist since that has changed the world.

With remembrance as a theme, let us remember that (at least in my lifetime): in 1959 Pope John XXIII was the first pope in 89 years to travel into the cities of Italy outside the Vatican. Pope Paul VI was called the "Pilgrim Pope" because he was the first pope to visit six continents during his pontificate. Of course most of us remember that Pope John Paul II in his 27 year pontificate traveled to 129 different countries. Pope Benedict XVI was the first pope to resign in 600+ years. Talk about change!

What I remember about each of these men is the courage and strength it must take to fulfill the daily pressures and demands of the office (really, how do they do it?) I remember that Pope Paul VI was nearly stabbed in his visit to the Philippines and Pope John Paul II was shot and survived to forgive his attacker. We remember the vast and radical changes that each of these men lived through and tried to steer the Church through. We remember how each of them was affected by their formation in ministry, and especially in terms of the wars and political turmoil they experienced. We remember all of them as men of deep prayer and advocates for peace.

So with Pope Francis, we remember his style of simplicity, personal touch, and the call to each of us to remember the example of Christ. We need to remember he was formed in his ministry in the cities and streets of Argentina and not in the halls of the Vatican. It is good we remember that we need more than the soundbites, somebody's blog, and tweets to hear what he is telling the world. We need to remember that he has brought a sense of hope and joy into the world through living the Gospel; when previously we tend to only hear of a world and Church in crisis. Yet he is very clear in addressing the crises of family, poverty and inequality, war and peace, and the environment that we face. We must

remember the pressures and demands, the courage and strength needed, so that Pope Francis is in our prayers. With all that Pope Francis has affected, it does seem odd to be remembering only two years. Let us hope that 100 or 200 years from now people will remember this era of our Church as a time when many popes broke the barriers of being "prisoners of the Vatican" (term used by Pius IX in 1870.) That this was a time when the Church led the world toward greater peace and we faithfully passed on a rich tradition of remembrance of Christ to our next generation. ■

Faith Formation Happenings

■ Remaining Wednesday evening Faith Formation classes at regular times: April 8, 15, 22. There are no classes March 25 due to spring breaks and April 1 due to Holy Week.

■ You are invited to OLA for the Sacrament of Confirmation for a fine group of young people from the cluster parishes at 7:00PM on Wednesday, April 29th with Bishop Morlino. Please keep the Confirmands, their sponsors, families and teachers in your prayers.

■ One of the joys of every parish is the celebration of First Communion for our children. The children, with their parents, will gather for a rehearsal on Wednesday, April 22 from 6:15-7:30PM. **FIRST COMMUNION** will be at the 10:30AM Mass on April 26 and at all the Masses on the weekend of May 2 and 3.

■ Mark your calendars for our annual **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**, every morning **JUNE 15-19**. Our theme this year is **Discovering God in the Old Testament**. Please watch for details and opportunities to help out and join in the fun!

Upcoming Events

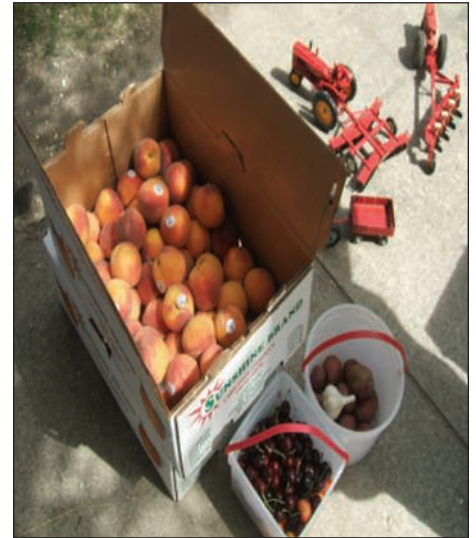
- Saturday **April 4** – 10:00AM
Decorate for Easter
- Sunday **April 12**– 9:15AM
Children’s Choir Rehearsal
in church
2:00PM *Tunes & Treats*
School Band Concert
in Assumption Hall
- Wednesday **April 22** – 6:15PM
1st Communion Rehearsal
and final Faith Formation
Classes
- Saturday **April 25** – 6:00PM
School *Spring Fling*
at La Casa Grande
- Sunday **April 26** – 10:30AM
1st Communion
- Wednesday **April 29** – 7:00PM
Confirmation at OLA
with Cluster Parishes
- Thursday **April 30** – 11:00AM
Anointing Mass at OLA
- Saturday/Sunday **May 2-3**
1st Communion Weekend
- Thursday **May 7** – 6:00PM
Hands of Faith Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
in Assumption Hall
- Saturday/Sunday **May 9-10**
Mothers Day Rose Sale
at all Masses
- Saturday **May 16** – 8:00AM
Parish Work Day
- Sunday **May 17** – 2:00PM
Choir “Year End” Concert
in church
- Saturday/Sunday **May 23-24**
Pentecost – *G.O.D.S. Fund*
Collection at all Masses
- Monday **May 25** – 9:00AM
Memorial Day Mass
followed by prayers
in cemetery
- Saturday/Sunday **June 13-14**
Sister Judy’s Jubilee and
Farewell Celebration

Child Care

By Rachel Shepherd

In like a lion, out like a lamb! That has definitely described our experience so far as we head into springtime. I wanted to let you know that our kiddos in childcare are excited to see sunshine and melting snow! We have enjoyed watching them tromp through puddles and mud as they explore the earth once again as it reveals itself! We have some exciting times coming up as we look forward to fun spring activities! They have already been asking for the sidewalk chalk, bikes and our babies and toddlers are once again super excited to go on walks in their buggy and strollers! Please watch for us on campus? Remember to check us out at www.olachildcare.com for important upcoming events!

Pictures are from last year’s visit with Farmer Rob! Soon we will have a visit and begin to plant! ■



Sister Judy Celebrates

By Pat Casucci

Sister Judy, Our Pastoral Associate, seems to be everywhere as she works



with parishioners. She’s always smiling while working in our parish – whether helping, doing good works, visiting patients and others, or welcoming everyone, and more. Her *God bless you* warms our hearts.

Sister Judy is celebrating her 50th Jubilee as a Dominican Sister. All parishioners are invited to a special celebration to honor her on the weekend of June 13 and 14. Watch the Bulletin for more details. A story about Sister’s experiences will be included in the next *Vox Populi* Newsletter. ■

Frassati Fest 2015

By Geno Finn, Youth Minister

This past January twenty-five teens and four adult chaperones traveled to the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells to join over 300 youth and adults for a three-day conference.

Frassati Fest is a gathering of youth from all over the Diocese of Madison coming together for time of prayer, learning, and fellowship. Of the twenty-five teens that attended, four seniors, **Toula Goumas, Ben Gliebe, Kallie Neumer,** and **Katie Hathaway,** and one junior, **Caroline Locke,** were part of the planning team to help plan the whole weekend.

The planning team consisted of over thirty teens from around the diocese as well as a few youth ministers. I was one of the youth ministers who helped plan the weekend. As a planning team we met once a month starting in August 2014. Lots of effort went into putting everything together. Being a part of the team was a great way for me as a new youth minister to get to know these teens and really get to know other youth ministers in the diocese. It was a pleasure being able to help plan an opportunity for teens all over the diocese to draw closer to Christ.

The weekend consisted of different speakers giving a talk to all in attendance. The speakers spoke about their relationship with Christ and how each of the teens could have a relationship

with Christ. The speakers were all from Wisconsin. They each had a remarkable story to tell and were very engaging.

We arrived on Friday night and jumped right into the weekend with getting to know each of the speakers and meeting other youth. Saturday we began early in the morning for some singing and a color war. Parishes were divided into different colors and competed in little games like a water balloon toss. We then broke up into an all guys and all girls session. This was a highlight for some of the youth. It was a time to learn how we could become better sons and daughters



of God. Then all afternoon we were able to enjoy the indoor waterpark going down some scary waterslides and just relax.

Come Saturday night we all got the opportunity to spend time with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. This was a life changing experience for some of the youth. They had the opportunity to meet Jesus in the Eucharist and experience His love.

They also had the opportunity to meet Jesus in Confession and have their sins forgiven. This night was very powerful. Anytime you get to meet the Lord in the Eucharist is a powerful time. We ended the night sharing experiences from the day with each other at the condo.

Finally on Sunday we all came together for another session with the speakers. We ended the day and weekend with Mass celebrated by Bishop Morlino.

This was a very adventurous and faith-filled weekend for the teens as well as for me. It was a time to get away from all our troubles and problems, a

time to be disconnected from the world. **Frassati Fest** was a time for the youth to establish a greater relationship with Christ. They were given the opportunity to grow as children of God. It is important, especially as a teen, to get away from the world, shut off their phones, and focus their life back on

who really matters in this world: Jesus Christ. Jesus called each of the teens to **Frassati Fest** to experience Him in some way.

I personally enjoyed watching Christ work through each of them throughout the weekend. I pray that they may continue to form and grow deeper in their relationship with Christ. ■



Good Books to Read

by Amy Mejia

Our Catholic faith is filled with such a rich treasure of tradition! There are so many good books out there to help us experience our faith to its fullest. Three books are suggested here as good reads for any of us who want to grow

in faith and explore or review the beauty of what we practice, for those of us who are wanting to be able to share our faith tradition better with others, or for we, who are wanting to know more about the Catholic faith but may be uneasy about asking. Each of the books covers many of the “basics” of our Catholicity as well as how what we practice is rooted in Scripture. The authors include personal touches as well. Titles are fairly self-explanatory, and the books are written in a contemporary, practical, and gentle fashion, making them easy to follow and not heavy. These books may also be of interest to teen readers who are drawn to growing in their faith. One

does not need to read all of the books nor do the books need to be read in any particular order:

The Feasts: How the Church Year Forms Us as Catholics
By Cardinal Donald Wuerl and Mike Aquilina

The Mass: The Glory, The Mystery, The Tradition
By Cardinal Donald Wuerl and Mike Aquilina

The Light is on For You: The Life Changing Power of Confession
By Cardinal Donald Wuerl

These books can be found online. ■

Spring Has Sprung – Spring Fling 2015

By Amy Hutson, Principal

With the warmer weather, it sure feels spring-like. We are busily planning our **Spring Fling** Event. We hope that you will be able to join us on Saturday, April 25th, beginning at 6:00PM at **La Casa Grande**

for this fun-filled evening. Enjoy food, friends, and fun as we raise money to benefit our school. The evening’s events include dinner, a silent auction, a live auction, and dueling pianos from **Piano Fondue**. It is sure to be a night to remember. Tickets for the event will be for sale at the school office, after weekend Masses, and also online beginning Monday, April 6.

Tickets for the event are \$40 a person. We have some fabulous items up for auction. New this year is the classroom projects. Each classroom has created a one-of-a-kind “masterpiece” that will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. You won’t want to miss this! ■

Baptisms “You are God’s work of art”

Misael Gabriel Jimenez (*Jesus & Maritza*)
Emma Elise Riesinger (*Jason & Kathryn*)
Amilah Joan Stenson (*Steven & Brianna*)
Owen Daniel Mitchell (*Daniel & Candice*)
Madelyn Rose Zweifel (*Jeffrey & Melinda*)
Tyler Joseph Huley (*Braden & Sarah*)
Chael David Toland (*David & April*)
Gregory Hobbes Mullins (*Donald & Carmen*)
Jacqueline Valeria Mullins (*Donald & Carmen*)
Mallory Renee Cheek (*David & Allison*)

Deaths “I have called you each by name”

Anita (Ann) Neruda (11-15-2014)
Catherine J. Marzo (12-23-2014)
Katherine L. Accardi (01-02-2015)
Mary K. Lowrie-Black (01-16-2015)
Debra J. Morse (01-23-2015)
Ruth M. Francis (02-08-2015)
Florence S. Moore (02-10-2015)
Donald R. Youngwith (02-15-2015)