

VOX POPULI

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Newsletter of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

There Was the Resurrection, There Is Resurrection And There Will Always Be Resurrection!

by Laura Warzecha
Director of Pastoral Ministries

This is our Faith. This is our hope. This is the heart of the gospel and is fixed into the *DNA* of our soul.

There was THE Resurrection.

We know the story, maybe all too well. (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 and John 20)

There IS resurrection...

...Every day. If we blink we might miss it.

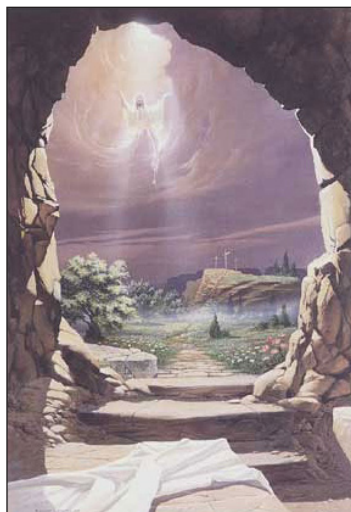
Do we get up every day and take care of our needs? Do we eat our vegetables, get some activity, turn off the noise and simply listen to God for a few minutes or offer a thought or prayer for someone else? Do we have a child to feed and teach? A parent to shop and care for? A spouse to love and accept? Friends, neighbors, and fellow-parishioners to check in on with a phone call or note? Do we accept care from others and from God with a grateful heart? Do we squeeze in time to do one thing that gives us joy, even if it is only to take a long, deep breath?

Do we also fall short of completing our daily tasks and make mistakes, both large and small? Yes. Are we sorry? Do we resolve to do better and try again? Yes, we do and thereby, without sensing it, grow in Christ. Each daily sacrifice, big and small, comes with an *automatic* resurrection gift. New life, new energy to do it all again tomorrow.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE RESURRECTION

There is always resurrection power for us to use. Why? Bishop Hying answers this way, *In the rising of the Christ, God's POWER breaks the power of sin and death FOREVER.* [emphases added]

What does this power look like? It could be as simple as finding the strength to finish the day. Or it could be more dramatic, as this example from my own life illustrates.



I was home alone in the middle of the night and found myself in the midst of horrible mental anguish. I was experiencing a memory so painful, it seemed my head was about to explode. I felt violently sick to my stomach and knew I was about to either faint or die. My bible, always open, lay not far from my reach. I had heard that the very book of God's Word is powerful and active, but never *tested it* myself. What did I have to lose? I grabbed it as I fell into a chair, looked down, could read only a few words, and prepared to die. In an instant, the pain was gone. The entire incident lasted only a few minutes

and never happened again.

Believe the power of resurrection. Call on it in need. Then I invite you to share your story in a future *Vox* issue, fellow-disciples. ■

Share your resurrection story or an experience that made Jesus' presence *real* to you. Email rae.l.kahle@gmail.com or drop in the collection in an envelope labeled *Vox Populi* for possible inclusion in a future edition of the newsletter.



Pastor's Message

by Fr. Mike Resop

In writing this article, I wondered how many times in my 41 years of priesthood have I asked someone to reflect on his or her gift of faith or listened to someone share his or her faith journey with me. That is what Evangelization is...sharing your faith story...so this is a glimpse into the foundation of my faith story.

My parents came from two different faith backgrounds: Dad came from a very devout Catholic tradition, while Mom was raised with little or no religion in her household. At the time of their marriage, Mom took instructions with the priest from St. Michael's Catholic Church in Berlin, Wi.

What she learned about faith and church she practiced with profound dedication. In my childhood, my parents gave examples of their faith through prayer & service. We not only attended Mass every Sunday, but at home, we prayed the rosary every night, and recited devotions to Blessed Mother and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As we prayed, the family knelt around our parent's bed with large pictures of Mary and Jesus above the headboard of the bed. The months of May and October were special times when the statue of Mary moved from the corner of the room into the middle of the living room decorated with flowers or the rosary. Those memories come back to me every year.

Our prayer also included those who were in need, as well, for the sisters and priests of the school & parish. My parents responded to that need by driving the sisters (who did not drive) to grocery

shopping, to appointments, to the train or bus depot, and picking up groceries for the priests...at times we got to ride along in our red Rambler station wagon. It was in those moments that I remember the sisters and priest talking about their vocation and asking the question: *Do you want to be a sister or a priest?* That is where the idea of priesthood was planted in my head and eventually into my heart. My parents and siblings were always supportive as I discerned my vocation to the priesthood.

When I see families coming together at Mass on the weekends, thoughts flood my mind of the gift of faith given to me and how that has deepened through the years. That is where I see God at work, which gives me great hope.

My prayer is that families can talk about their faith stories, and then share the gift of faith through prayer & service. ■

Fr. Mike

Working at OLA

by Jean Nosek

It has been my pleasure to work at OLA as administrative assistant in the Faith Formation Department since 1996. I answered an ad in the bulletin for the part-time position. At the time, my mother had recently passed, and our youngest son was in 7th grade in OLA School. I thought, *I could*

do that. So, I applied and, as they say, the rest is history. The hours are flexible so I can continue my involvement in various groups and vacations.

Over the years, I have worked for **Rev. Tom Monaghan, Fr. Gary Krahenbuhl, Fr. Paul Arinze,** and now **Fr. Mike Resop.** I have worked directly for DREs **Chris Scallon, Sandy Blevins, Rob Olsen,** and now **Marianne**



Giovingo. People come and go, but the atmosphere remains the same – a great place to be.

Working at OLA is a Happy Place – wonderful co-workers. We work, pray, laugh, and cry together as we support each other. I suppose some day I will need to retire, but so far, I have no desire to do that. ■

Each year we ask that all parishioners consider a subscription to the *Catholic Herald* newspaper. If you would like a subscription, please return the enclosed envelope, through the collection or to the Administration Center, regardless of your ability to pay, and we will process. If you're able to pay extra and help defray subscription costs to the parish, that is also appreciated. ■

Guidelines for Resumption of Public Masses

As provided by the Diocese of Madison and adapted for use by OLA following current attendance restrictions



**CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF
MADISON**

Guiding Assumptions

- ❖ Sacramental life is essential for Catholics, and churches can operate as safely as other essential services.
- ❖ Catholics must be guided at all times by faith and reason, especially in times of crisis.
- ❖ Safest practices will be created with input from medical experts. These practices will likely evolve as the pandemic unfolds, and will vary based on ongoing local, regional, and national risk assessments.

Following are some of the steps and protocols being put in place to allow coming together again for Mass **beginning the weekend of May 30-31**. Daily Mass will resume in the church, with the 5:00PM Mass, Tuesday, June 2.

Church Set-Up & Overall Guidelines

- **The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will remain in effect until further notice.**
- Everyone should wear a mask as you enter the church, while at Mass and returning to your cars.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the doors.

- People will need to be separated by 6 feet or more. Every other pew will be marked off to help with this. Members of the same household do not need to practice physical distancing with each other and so may sit together in the same row.
- All hymnals will be removed from the pews.
- Hospitality Ministers will not be greeting people at the doors.
- During this time of pandemic, there will be no congregational singing as this can be a *super spreader* of the virus.
- Everyone is encouraged to keep social distance before and after Mass and ask that you maintain it in the parking lot.
- People will be dismissed pew-by-pew at the conclusion of Mass to maintain social distancing. Please be patient.

The Mass & Holy Communion

- **Those who are in vulnerable categories (persons over 65 years of age or with underlying health issues, etc.) are strongly encouraged to remain at home and not attend Mass due to health risk. The faithful who have COVID-19, show symptoms consistent with it, or have had contact with a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, should self-quarantine and remain home until cleared by medical professionals.**
- We will not use altar servers until it is safe to do so.

- Sacristans who put hosts into the communion bowls before Mass will wear a mask and wash their hands before beginning their work and after their work is complete.
- The Offertory Procession of the Gifts will be omitted.
- Long-handled baskets will be used for the collection. Hospitality Ministers will wear a mask during the collection and wash their hands immediately afterwards.
- The sign of peace will be omitted.
- Anyone distributing Holy Communion will sanitize their hands immediately before distributing Communion.
- Holy Communion will only be distributed under the form of bread until further notice.
- Lower your mask just before receiving and put back on after receiving.
- A small table with hand sanitizer will be available at each Communion station and used by the one distributing Communion if they touch the hand or mouth of a Communicant. They will need to wait a short time for that to dry before resuming distribution. Once again, please be patient.

Remember, our best defense against spreading the virus is:
**SOCIAL DISTANCE
WEAR A MASK
SANITIZE/WASH YOUR
HANDS. ■**



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION
"Living as Missionary Disciples"

Totus Tuus Summer 2020 Program Online

by Marianne Giovingo,
Director of Faith Formation

There is an awesome summer program hosted by the diocese called **Totus Tuus**. This is Latin for **Totally Yours**. It was popularized by Pope St. John Paul II in reference to his love and devotion for our Blessed Mother. The intention of the program is to provide children from grades 1-12, a sacramental, spiritual, and intellectual experience of the faith for a week together, while at the same time teaching them/inviting them to continue this relationship with Jesus for life.

Unfortunately, due to the effects of the pandemic, the Diocese had to cancel the program for Summer

2020. But, I have great news for you! **OLA will be hosting a week-long retreat for children** similar to the topics they would have received with the original **Totus Tuus** program.

Here's what we need from you:

■ I need you to email mgiovingo@olabeloit.com **no later than June 12th** in order to register EACH child you wish to participate in the summer program. Please include their name(s), and grade level they will be entering in the coming school year.

■ Our original program was supposed to be hosted at OLA the week of **June 14th-19th**, so we will keep that same time frame for our on-line retreat. Each day you will receive an email from me including that day's schedule and attachments of activities. What's great is that we hope you are able

to follow the schedule accordingly, but understand that unexpected things come up and you may not be able to follow it: you will always have access to the resources.

■ This year, the children will be learning the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and the Ten Commandments.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this on-line **Totus Tuus** retreat. I hope that many of you are able to join us on this great adventure with God.

Next summer we plan on once again hosting the entire program on the parish grounds and look forward to the children being able to be joined by friends and family in that experience. Please know of my prayers as we stay United in the Eucharist. ■



We proudly present the OLA School Eighth Grade Graduates:

Nolan Blevins
Andy Buckley
Reuben Cano
Noah Casiday
Kevin Cobos
Katrina Douglas
Anthony Ferrera
Michael Guillen
Kaylee Harter
Maya Knepper
Nate Lounsbury
Abigail Meyer
Andrea Sala

Evangelization: Even To/With the Little Ones

by Cassandra Letcher,
Director of Child Care

What is evangelization and what is its purpose? Evangelization may be defined as the bringing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to bear, in saving power, upon the lives of people. Its purpose is to put men, women, and children in touch with the living God who came in the person of Jesus to seek and to save that which was lost.

Although that can seem heavy and overwhelming at times, it can be quite simple if we allow it to be. We show love and compassion to others on a daily basis, and we help build young minds to do the same. Do not just preach the word, model it; *They are watching*.

The daycare strives to be a place of comfort, security and where we experience happiness and unconditional love. We

evangelize in different ways. While we are closed due to COVID-19 we can still serve our families on many different levels. We have coordinated videos emphasizing: music, tasty snacks, working together, family and art. We have done themed story times, bible story time, music and movement, lesson plans, etc. We have made small gestures that mean big things. We delivered May Day baskets to each family. Yes, it is nothing big, but it sent a big message that we are thinking of you and continue to miss you. Our travels with deliveries took us to Madison, Janesville, Beloit, South Beloit, Rockton and Roscoe! Our center also offered a quick and easy Mother's Day gift for our dads to pick up on our back porch to give to their wives. We just give: give of our time, ourselves, and in that, we gain so much more.

Be good stewards and see where God takes you. Always be humble and kind. May you all be safe; in God's name we pray. ■

Online Learning? You Bet!

by Trevor Seivert,
OLA School Principal

As you can imagine, during the coronavirus pandemic, it's been challenging for our society. When the Governor's order came out on March 13th, OLA teachers acted quickly over the weekend of March 14-15 setting up online classes, **Google Hangouts** and video lessons. We held a staff meeting on March 15th to get the teachers set up with their technology and **Google Classrooms** set up.

On Monday, March 16th we held school for students to come in and grab textbooks, materials, supplies, log on to **Google Classroom**, and, most importantly, their **Chromebooks**.

Fortunately, each student at OLA has a **Chromebook**, so all were able to receive their technology for online, e-learning.

We closed school on March 17th for a professional development day for the teachers to put the finishing touches on their digital classrooms.

On March 18th, we rolled out our digital learning, having only *lost* one teaching day. The teachers and students didn't miss a beat. Teachers have been meeting with their classes daily, and students are working from home.

It hasn't been without its challenges. Some families had

trouble with technology, some students weren't doing their work, and at the beginning, it was overwhelming for families to receive so many emails/messages.

Things have definitely settled down in our 4th week. Teachers and students have adjusted to the *new normal*. Now that we have a routine down, it's been a lot more manageable.

Moreover, at OLA, we're not just focusing on *core classes* (Reading, Writing, Math), we even give the students digital instruction for PE and Music! Our PE and music teachers are sending videos. Just yesterday, the students made their own instruments, video recorded themselves singing a song and sent the video to the music teacher. The PE students were given a lesson, parents were given a log to record students' time exercising (yesterday was Yoga because it was raining), and parents could send in a picture/video of their student exercising.

At OLA, we've only missed one day of learning.

I'm most impressed with the teachers. In one day, they have completely flipped their classrooms to online learning. They've spent countless hours creating lessons, video recording themselves, setting up **Google Hangouts/Zoom** classrooms, and putting together information for the students. Moreover, since many of our families work during the day, the teachers are even available until 9:00-10:00PM answering emails

and phone calls to make sure **all** of our students are learning! All things considered, it has been remarkable!

It certainly wasn't the way we envisioned finishing the school year, but by the grace of God, we were fortunate enough to have the tools and the staff to make the best of this situation. I'm humbled by the way this pandemic has helped us *get back to the basics* and grow together. ■



Google Classroom



Baptisms "You Are God's Work of Art"

Gabriel Josiah Laube (Adam & Mickaila)
Isabella Rose Perez (Jose & Katelyn)

Deaths "I Have Called You Each by Name"

Andrew W. Kovach (2-20-2020)
Richard C. Heyerdahl (3-15-2020)
Lawrence J. McDowell (4-3-2020)
Lawrence R. Christofferson (4-11-2020)
Eileen T. Finnegan (4-13-2020)

Liturgy and Evangelization

by Randy Gracyalny

For 2000 years, Catholics have gathered to celebrate the Mass. At the conclusion of that celebration, we are given the directive in the dismissal to spread (share) the message of God; to evangelize. The 4 options given in the Roman Missal are:

- *Go forth, the Mass is ended.*
- *Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.*
- *Go in peace, glorifying the Lord in your life.*
- *Go in peace.*

...and we respond, *Thanks be to God.*

So, our conclusion is really a beginning... A beginning to what we are called to do in the coming

week. All that we do during Mass, the prayers, songs, scripture, and especially the reception of Christ's Body and Blood in Communion, prepares and strengthens us for the week of evangelizing ahead.

That is what has been so hard during the pandemic. Yes, many of us have had the opportunity to pray at home and participate in live or recorded Masses on TV or one of our devices but one of the dangers from that is we begin to internalize our faith and prayer focuses on us as individuals. That is not true liturgy.

When we gather, together, we grow in faith from each other. When we are not together, when you are not there, the community is not as strong and suffers. As St. Paul says, *As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts*

of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. (1 Cor. 12:12) Each of us is a part of the Body of Christ. No one of us is more important than another but we are so important to each other.

When things begin to return to some semblance of normal and we will be able to gather in larger numbers, my prayer is that we will return to Mass with a renewed appreciation of our individual importance to our communal gathering. If you have been away for just the time of the pandemic or for a longer period of time, we invite you back. You are missed and we are not all we can be without you!

May God continue to give us the voice and courage to *glorify the Lord in our lives.* ■

Wild Goose Summer 2020 Adult Formation—Online

by Marianne Giovingo,

Director of Faith Formation

Adults need to continue formation just as much, if not more, than our children. Yet, we are good at making excuses for every reason as to why we don't have time to encounter God spiritually, physically, mentally or intellectually. We need to permit God to speak to us even in our busy lives!

Adult Faith Formation is offering you an opportunity to continue deepening your relationship with God right from your own house. There is an awesome program the parish has purchased and given you FREE access to called **FORMED**. Isn't it providential that the name of the program describes the very action we hope to accomplish, to be ever-more formed by the Holy Spirit.

■ First, if you have not already signed up for **FORMED**, you will need to do so. Go to www.formed.org then click on **Signup**. Next

click on *I belong to a Parish or Organization*. Put *Our Lady of the Assumption* in the search box then scroll down to the one with our address (*2222 Shopiere Rd Beloit WI*.) Click on that and then the **Next** button. Fill in your name, email and click on **Sign-up**. After this one time registration, you will have total access to FREE movies, books, series, and so much more to help foster deeper faith. Now that you are signed up, we can start to organize the program.

■ To register, please email me (mgiovingo@olabeloit.com) by Friday, July 17. Include your name and that you are interested in the *Wild Goose* small group discussion. If more than one person will be joining from the same computer, include their name as well to help us know how many are participating. I will email you, no later than the Sunday before, which video you should watch for that Thursday's small group discussion. I will also include the *study guide* connected to the appropriate video and a **Zoom Meeting ID** and **Password** which will be needed each Thursday

to log on, a little before 7:00PM, to be a part of the 40 minute small group discussion.

■ If you prefer to do this on your own, go to the **FORMED** homepage, click on the **SEARCH** button and type in *Wild Goose*. This will take you to the video series we will use in our small group discussion. The study guides can be found on the bottom of the page.

There are 14 videos so we know there may be times that you have conflicts, but it will be fine to *come and go* as you are able. I also invite you to ask others to join at any point during the series. We are excited to see how the Spirit will lead you personally, but because Church is communal and personal, we are confident God is going to do great things for OLA with your **YES!**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me and again, be sure you have signed up for **FORMED**.

Please know that we are praying for you and excited to walk with you on this journey as we stay United in the Eucharist! ■

Memory Garden Bricks

Our Lady of the Assumption is again offering engraved bricks. Order an engraved brick to be placed in the Memory Garden area between the front entrance of the church and main entrance of the school.

You can have your name, your family name, names of your children, *in memory* or *in honor*

of someone engraved on a Gift Brick, and all money raised will go



toward flowers and upkeep of the Memory Garden area.

To order, go to the parish tab on our website or call the Administration Center (608) 362-9066. Orders must be in by Friday, June 26. All bricks will be shipped to OLA and installed in time for the *Blessing of the New Bricks* on August 15, our Parish Feast Day. ■

New! FLOCKNOTE at OLA!

Flocknote is a church communication management tool built exclusively for communication by churches. OLA, along with most parishes in the Madison Diocese, have joined, allowing us to reach out to you, our *sheep*, via email or text, and hear

back from you in an instant.

If you have not receive an email from Fr. Mike or the parish office in the weeks since Easter, it may be that we do not have your current email address as we are now using *Flocknote* in place of the former emailing process.

Please take a minute to sign up. It's fast and easy. Just go to www.flocknote.com, click on Find Your Parish, type in our zip code (53511), select Our Lady of the Assumption, and fill in your name, email and cell phone number. You do not need a password or log in. ■



Rob Olsen, our former Director of Faith Formation who died from cancer last November, dedicated part of his farm to growing trees. One of his wishes was to donate a tree to OLA for Christmas which his family accomplished this past holiday. As a lasting tribute to Rob, we had this tree, from **Wirkus Nurseries**, planted near the exit of the front parking lot. ■

Parish Pastoral and Social Justice Work Continues

by Laura Warzecha
Director of Pastoral Ministries

HOMEBOUND & FACILITY RESIDENTS

Pastoral ministers and families pay special attention to our homebound and facility-bound parishioners at this time. Through phone calling, greeting cards and notes, window visits, video chats and of course, constant prayer.

Respite ministers, in particular, try to make contacts weekly with their families.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Prayer Chain, Women’s Exercise, Seasons of Hope/Grief, Rosary Pray-ers (we see you out

there in the parking lot in your wagon train), Women’s Cluster and more continue to be in SAFE contact and support of one another.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

While our Social Justice Commission has not formally met, much work continues.

Back in early 2018 OLA launched an in-pew survey of all the community activities we were involved in, including caring for loved ones and neighbors. Based on those results, the number of parishioners and the category of non-paid involvement were as follows:

■ 161 religious/community service organizations

- 118 assist others
- 12 volunteer in health care
- 61 support family and children
- 113 are involved in formal prayer group activities

I am sure we only see a tiny tip of the iceberg from what we are hearing directly and seeing in the paper: Sewing face-coverings by the hundreds, distributing food curbside, car parades of support, door deliveries of every kind to those in need, video community meetings of support and information dissemination and overflowing financial help!!

Keep it up. Never give up. Your works and prayers (time, talent and treasure) make the world go round! ■

Updating Parish Database

Over the past 2 months, the Parish Staff, Pastoral Council and Pastoral Ministry Team members have been calling to check in on all our registered parishioners. In doing this, along with a partial loss of computer data, we have found that many of the phone numbers and other contact information are incorrect. We are asking **EACH** parish family to fill out the information below and return it to the parish office, either through the collection basket, dropped off at the Administration Center or mailed to: OLA, 2222 Shopiere Road, Beloit, WI 53511. You can also email the requested information to: jeanneb@olabeloit.com. Thank you for your assistance!!

NAME _____ HOME PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE (IF MARRIED) _____

CELL PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____