

The Cathedral Star

June 2011

Vol. XIII • No. 1

Clean water for the children of Ecole Ste. Therese Montessori School

Francis of Assisi said, "Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure." This observation about the purity of water could not have been said about the water for the children and their families of the Ecole Ste. Therese Montessori School in Jeremie, Haiti, until six socially conscious folks worked for change. In the time from October of 2010, December 2010 to January 2011, and finally in February 2011, Gary Boice, EA Cole, Father Fichteman, Don Kavanaugh, Jack Lydon, and Toni Mudd worked to install and make use of a water purification system at the school. There is a wealth of information on the Cathedral Website, but we wanted to get some first-hand comments from those who participated. Since the finish of the project, the children of the school have purified water to drink, to wash their hands, and to take home to their families.

Father Fichteman enjoyed being involved in the technical part of the project and working with Gary who planned it and made it all work. When the job was all finished, Father asked the pastor, Father Tony Leolien, to give a final blessing.



Left:
Fr. Bill anchoring
pump

Right:
Fr. Tony blessing
pump house

This proved to be very emotional with the kids all around together with their principal, Clovita, an impressive lady, whose eyes revealed how deeply satisfying this was for her. She was fully invested in the whole project. This adventure was not without suspense as they just finished on a Sunday at 5:00 P.M. and the dedication was Monday at 10:00 A.M. with the team scheduled for departure the next day. Father expressed his own sense of satisfaction at accomplishing something concrete and of lasting value.

In the seven weeks he spent in Haiti, Gary Boice was the planner and the engineer of the project. In fact, his son Michael went to Haiti with him to do the planning and climbing on buildings to do the measuring. Gary described the conditions the team was up against to build the purification system. Since there was no Home Depot in Haiti, he took around 15 or 16 suitcases of wire, plumbing parts, and spare parts with him on the plane. Since the school had no electricity, they installed batteries that could



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store city power. When asked how he knew how to build this system, Gary, who owns a computer company, said that he and his wife bought a farm at one time, and he learned plumbing and electrical work from that experience. He has a list of 15 names he can call for advice, but he has been technical all his life. "I feel like I was born to do this; I feel like I was supposed to be there," Gary said. He and his wife plan to start a non-profit organization to use technology to bridge the poverty gap in Haiti. He hopes they can eventually bring computers to the schools, but this will take some time. Already, in the fall, Gary plans to install a water purification system in another Catholic school in the same parish as Ste. Therese School. "Older people have many skills," Gary observed, "and sometimes they think they are too old to help, but that's not true." He said he is sixty-six, and he might not do things as fast as someone younger, but he gets it done.



Gary and Michael Boice

Jack Lydon explained that he was not there when the project was completed. He did say, however, that he is fortunate that he was able to play a small part in helping. He said they were blessed to have Gary leading the project from conception to completion and for all the time and effort he put in the project both here and in Haiti. Jack adds, "I hope the water continues to flow for the benefit of the children and hopefully their families and community. I think this is a tribute to the Cathedral parishioners and Father Bill for his commitment to Haiti and our Sister Parish."



Jack Lydon inserting grounding rod

However, Jack's wife, Jackie, had some insights to add to Jack's statement. "Jack is a very humble person and does not give himself much credit for this project. He and Gary went to Jeremie and started the final step for the water project. They spent two weeks putting the foundation in and doing all the preliminary work for the completion. Jack has been to Haiti twice before the last group of four. He and Gary were a great team together, and they made the final phase possible."

EA Cole, Cathedral parish nurse, took on the task of educating the children about the importance of washing their

hands. EA would shake their hands and then turn on a blue light to show them how many germs were transmitted. "Why is washing hands so important?" EA asked a seven-year old girl. "So I won't get cholera," responded the child. Comparing this child to her own seven-year-old granddaughter, EA reflected how such a statement would not begin to be in the child's thoughts, bringing home the terrible threat of disease that the children of Haiti face.

Toni Mudd, Chairperson for the Sister Parish Committee, accompanied EA in the hygiene classes. She explained that there are 230 children, age 4-10, in the Montessori School.



EA Cole and Tony Mudd

When the parish group went to Haiti, Don Kavanaugh packed 250 two-gallon containers to take with them on the plane to help achieve the ultimate goal that each child could take home two gallons of clean water every day. The water the general public uses is contaminated; Toni was not sure to what extent, but she mentioned water coming from a stream in the hills and people washing clothes in it or bathing in it until it got to its final destination where it is only available for six

hours a day, every other day, but not on a regular schedule. Contaminated water is especially dangerous for children under five, an age group with a mortality rate of one out of eight. The children at the school use basins to wash their hands; there is no running water. Toni's profound experience was that the children "got it. They understood it - they saw people die. It felt hopeful that we were bringing clean water to them." She feels gratified to know that their realization of the importance of clean water would continue the rest of their lives and that this learning would go home to their parents. Toni states, "I have run the gamut of emotions and have grown from the experience."



Ecole Ste. Therese



~Martha Villiger

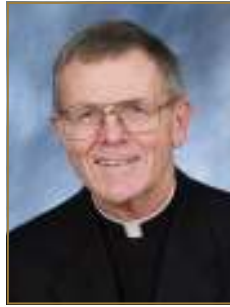


Father Bill's Quill



For the last time, the wonderful editor of these pages, Angela Wiggins, has gently

nudged me with "It's time for Bill's Quill again." Indeed, the "last time" is hard for me to grasp fully as I write this about 5 weeks away from retirement. While almost half of my priestly ministry has been at the Cathedral, I feel impelled to reflect a bit on all of the years, as I approach the 30 year mark on May 30, 2011.



Fr. Bill Fichteman

My first assignment at St. Francis of Assisi in the Highlands with Fr. Jerry Eifler was a great introduction to priestly life. The people of St. Francis were so welcoming; that's where I first discovered I could actually relate to grade school age kids. (Without brothers and sisters, I grew up in a very adult world). At St. Francis I also had over 25 funerals that first year! Lifelong friendships developed with parishioners and staff: besides Fr. Jerry Eifler, were the marvelously irreverent Msgr. Raymond Treece, founding vice-president of Bel-larmine; Fr. Clifford Riede, whose funeral homily I preached; Dominican Sister Theresa Fox; the Dr. Bernie Popham family; music teacher Giva Eberenz; and a group of Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, three of whose funerals I have presided at. Believe it or not, I was "sort of" the youth minister at St. Francis. Then, dealing with teenagers really scared me. Yet, it's like "old times," when I now encounter them as "40-ish adults." One is a physician, another an Assistant Police Chief; yet another runs a nursing home. Even though I really didn't know what I was doing, God pulled together a group of young people and adult volunteers who were mutually supportive. It somehow all worked!

The days I was Clergy Personnel Director (1984-1989) gave me a personal appreciation for the warmth and good humor of Archbishop Thomas Kelly. He was always wonderfully supportive of me, even as he would ask Rosemarie Bauer, my equally supportive secretary, "Where in the hell is Fichteman?" whenever he needed me. I also learned during this time to appreciate the generosity, vulnerability, humanness and, yes, pain of my brother priests.

The Church of the Epiphany, where I spent 3 years as "Weekend Associate," was a kind of dream assignment, where

I learned what true "parish ownership" was and discovered a real passion for creative, effective, prayerful worship.

My eight years at St. James in Elizabethtown and St. Ignatius in White Mills (get a Kentucky map and look about 18 miles southwest of E-town) is where I cut my teeth as pastor. Great satisfactions here included seeing a floundering grade school of 160 kids approach an enrollment of 450 by the time I left in 1997. I listened carefully to the Parish Council and School Board at St. James. Sometimes they led in the right direction in spite of some contrary inclinations on my part. A wonderfully successful introduction to stewardship is still working at St. James, thanks to their great and generous spirits. The people of St. Ignatius (all 65 families strong) taught me how much parishioners of a small rural parish can do on their own, if empowered. They took to empowerment like fish to water and have somehow survived closings and mergers. Again, lifelong friendships with parishioners and staff developed at St. James — Sisters Lisa Stallings, SP and Marilyn Brodd, SSSF, and retired Army General Thomas Lynch, book-keeper Mary Dick, and Lorraine Longendyck, to name just a few.

And then the Cathedral!! What a wonderfully diverse, horizon-expanding experience this has been. I still remember being totally surprised when Norma Merrick, the Archbishop's secretary, called one day in 1997, saying, "The Archbishop wants to talk to you about the Cathedral."

"What about it?" I naively asked. It was the beginning of the biggest "adventure" of my life.

Because the editor will balk at the length of this expanded Bill's Quill, I will leave major musings about my time at the Cathedral to some other venues in the leave taking process. Suffice it to say that my 30 years as a priest has been a wonderful ride; indeed, without question, these have been the happiest 30 of my 70 years. I feel like I have lived a marvelously enriching life as a priest, even through the difficult times.

Would I do it again? Easiest question I've ever been asked: **Certainly.** Priesthood has been "just right" for me. I am full of gratitude that God planted this seed in my heart and that I let it be grown and nurtured by so many wonderful people along the way. **Thanks be to God** is all I can say.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Roxanne Agruso
Nick Armes
Vanessa Armstrong
Ross & Armi Barrietta
Gregory Berger
Maya Bitar
Dennis Brennan
Elise Brewster

Johnson Britto
Ben Brown
Ro Clemente
Jake & Amanda Conrad, Magdalene, Malachi
Joe & Diana Coots, Chase, Everett
Ed & Sunny Cravens, Kai



Jenna Dismore
Angela Dobbs
Macarius Donneyong
Claud & Mary Jane Emrich
Emily Filippone, Melanie, Isabella
Todd Geddes
Andrey & Irina Gnativ, Nicholas
Lauren Griffith



Wherever two or three are gathered in His name: The Cathedral Youth Group

Adolescence is a wink in our lives, less than 10% of our total expected life span. But its brevity is trumped by its intensity, as anyone who has been an adolescent, or raised one, will testify. Next to family, the peer group is where teenagers establish identity and intimacy, so it is fitting that the Cathedral provides a group for our teenagers, where they can safely explore their individual and Christian identities.

When Samantha Thomeczek began as youth minister in 2009, there were seven participants in the Cathedral youth group. Now there are twenty. Members come from public, private, and parochial schools from both sides of the Ohio River. Many have known each other since pre-school, but several have been recently "recruited." In fact, the enthusiasm of one of these "recruits" convinced his parents to move their membership to the Cathedral.

Each Sunday, during the school year, the High School Youth Group gathers for religious education in the basement of the Patterson Education Building. They plop comfortably on overstuffed couches and giant pillows. They play air hockey and debate the value of hip-hop versus country versus "Emo" music. Guided by their group leaders (Joan and Scott Huber) the group members talk with candor about their lives and values. But what holds the group together is the recreation outside the basement walls: the service learning, concerts, movie nights, and mission trips.

This winter, the Cathedral hosted Jason Angelette, an inspirational speaker whose topic was chastity. According to Sam, the concept required a lot of explanation, not so much for the youth as for their parents. Chastity, Sam explains, is a lifestyle. "It's about discovering and being true to yourself, respecting your body, self and identity."

"The Thirty-hour Famine is the best thing we do!" says Samantha. For 30 hours, the youth and their adult chaperones go hungry. Twenty-four hours into their fast, they serve lunch to homeless guests in the Sandefur Dining Room. "Their hunger reminds them that there are people who live hungry every day," says Sam. "They connect with people experiencing problems as far as Africa and as near as a soup kitchen."



Top: Youth Group at leisure in Patterson basement
Bottom: Hungry students serving the homeless

"They get along like siblings," says Samantha. "I have met great people my age and now they are my best friends . . . we are all family," says Emily. "I like the discussions that we have because they cause me to question and give more consideration to certain aspects of life that I tend to usually overlook," GERALYN says. "The youth group is my religious family," adds Douglas.

The Cathedral Youth Group Facebook group page displays photos of youth group activities. One photo, taken during the Thirty-hour Famine, conveys the meaning of the group to its members. In large hand-scrawled letters, amidst fingerprints representing each child to be fed by the \$1,400 raised from pledges, are the words, "30 hours, 14 people, 1 heart."

-Kimberly Crum

Welcome New Parishioners!

- Matt & Heather Harris
- Cherie Hinkle, Christine Hinkle
- Nam-Ha Ho
- Annie Hocker
- Mark & Shannon Holdener, Bennett, Matthew, and Patrick
- Paul Housholder
- Greg Hutchison
- Richard & Elene Jelsma
- Lisa Johnson
- James Kaelin
- John Kottlowski
- Ted LaBedz

- James & Autumn Loomis
- Ethan & Becca Manning, Maddie
- Len Mariani
- Victoria Maruca
- Jessica McGill
- Julie Morton
- Neel Family -Daniel, Angelia, Emily, Jacob
- Aaron Nusz
- Allison Ouellet
- Don Padgett
- Randy & Gina Puno

- Josephine Reiter
- Ryan Renoud
- Glenn & Virginia Rutherford
- Mary Sidles
- Kari Smith
- Jamie & Melissa Smith
- Misti Smith
- Katie Sneiderman
- Allison Tuggle, Aydin, Taylin
- Mike and Kathy Williamson
- Chuck Wolfertz
- Alexander Wrinkles

He is part of the Cathedral narrative: parishioners tell stories about Father Bill

Fourteen years ago, when Cissie Willets heard Fr. Bill would be moving from her Elizabethtown to Louisville, she was pleased. She was also moving to Louisville. "There was no question of my choice of a church . . . Fr. Bill buried my first husband and married me to my second . . . he has been a real strength." When she informed Bill she would be following him, he said, "I'll need all the help I can get. Following Ron Knott is like following Rick Pitino." It was a good analogy in 1997.

Fourteen years after Fr. Bill arrived to shepherd the Cathedral flock, he should be able to say he succeeded, not in bettering the Coach, but in establishing himself as a vital part of our Cathedral's narrative. Fr. Bill is a tough act to follow, not only because he is compassionate, nor will he be remembered simply because of his relevant right-on point homilies. Fr. Bill has become a vital part of the Cathedral narrative because of the personal nature of his leadership. Most of us can tell stories about moments we have shared. And it is through stories that we live. "Storytelling reveals meaning without committing the error of defining it," said philosopher Hannah Arendt.

As part of this farewell message to Fr. Bill, I asked a few parishioners to "tell me a story," about Father Bill. Many replied with words of praise. "Father Bill made me feel right at home I have always admired Fr. Bill for his open mindedness He is a humanist When we were married, he explained that each and every day, as husband and wife, we have the amazing job of being the image of God for one another He embraced my husband's religious traditions Just watching him made the staff so tired that we went together and bought him a lounge chair for his office so he could rest between Masses."

Billy Reed remembers a Sunday Mass, several years ago, when hecklers from the Westboro Baptist Church gathered outside The Cathedral to demonstrate about homosexuality. "They made a public display of themselves, yelling insults at various parishioners on the way to worship. That day, his disgust palpable, Father Bill delivered an eloquent homily that denounced intolerance, exclusion, and bigotry. At the end, he received a well-deserved standing ovation from the congregation. I was fairly new to The Cathedral at the time, but I felt so proud to be Catholic and to have such a stand-up guy as my priest."

Toni Mudd tells the story of Fr. Bill trying to break out of the Haitian accommodations in which they had become locked. "We were staying in an old convent. As we were preparing to head down to breakfast.... a tremendous gust of wind blew through the hallway on the second floor and created a vacuum, and all the doors slammed shut with a very loud bang, including our one and only door to the ground floor (which was locked from the outside). Father Bill hollered for help in English and then he started using his best French! He was not gathering the attention of anyone...only the roosters which started to crow with him! Fr. Bill jiggled the door handle and used a credit card 'like a cat burglar.' One person held the flashlight and another took pictures of him performing what looks like a crime. The image of Fr. Bill jimmying a lock in the dark with the overhead flashlight is priceless!"



Fr. Bill opening door with credit card in Haiti;
Don Kavanaugh aiding and abetting.

Mark Meade will forever remember the Sunday morning, the day after his wedding, when his younger brother celebrated Mass with Fr. Bill after having helped preside at Mark's wedding. "Father Bill introduced Father Pachomius as the brother of parishioner Mark Meade, and, in a slip of the tongue, said he was in town to preside at my funeral. The real zinger for the congregation was when Fr. Bill said, 'and Mark is with us today!' Maybe this was secretly a lesson about the new life in marriage or resurrection, but I felt more like Tom Sawyer walking into his own funeral. "

Sarah Scheibe fondly remembers how Father Bill first welcomed her to her job at the Cathedral. "He is an incredibly welcoming person - someone who immediately puts you at ease and makes you feel like you belong. I know I got that feeling my second day at work when he stole my lunch. . . he did a great job apologizing afterward."

Deacon Robert Dever's May 15 homily described Fr. Bill as our good shepherd, "a man for others." Applause interrupted the homily. Bill, with his trademark humble humor said, "I hope this doesn't mean I have to leave now." Father Bill is our shepherd. He manages to be both pastoral and accessible. He is our benevolent shepherd, who manages to both lead and be among his flock.

-Kimberly Crum

A journey of faith

They come from various stages in life – single, preparing for marriage, married with young children, and a recent retiree. They call Louisville home but may have come from different parts of the state or region. They include an attorney and an engineer, a college music major, an intern at University of Louisville Hospital, and a recent graduate with a marketing and finance degree studying for the CPA exam.



Easter Vigil—The Elect and Godparents

On September 19, 2010, this diverse group of individuals began the process of becoming full-fledged Catholics through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, known as RCIA. Although a lifelong journey, the process itself would formally culminate before the Cathedral community with the receiving of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil on April 23, 2011. With RCIA coordinator Cathy Bannon, the RCIA team, and their individual godparents/sponsors as their guides, the participants began – or in some cases continued – the exploration of the Catholic faith and, as Cathy so beautifully put it, “their response to God’s call in their lives.”



Baptism of Caroline Delahanty

Those participating in the RCIA process are either catechumens or candidates. Catechumens are those who will be receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. Candidates are those who have already been baptized in the Christian faith but who will be receiving the sacraments of confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. The three catechumens in the RCIA group included Caroline Delahanty, Mark Clayton, and Sherry Ayers. The seven candidates in the group included David Stein, Melissa Smith, Lexi Langella, Lauren Ingram, Jenna Dismore, and Crystal and Farmer Brock.

The participants would not take their journey of faith alone. Participants select or are assigned a sponsor who will walk with them along the way, serving as guide and mentor. Some sponsors began as strangers and would become friends. Others were friends or family of the participants. Catechumen Mark Clayton is engaged to Shannon Rosado, and Shannon’s mother, Laura Rosado, served as his godparent/sponsor. Caroline Delahanty’s mother-in-law, Delores Delahanty, was her godparent/sponsor. For candidates Jenna Dismore and Lauren Ingram, their fiancés were their sponsors. Lexie Langella chose as her sponsor fellow music major Elizabeth

Metzger. David Stein chose as his sponsor his wife Barbara.

With the September 19th welcome meeting, the participants and their sponsors began a seven-month period of weekly gatherings for discussions of the Catholic faith. The gathering generally began at the 9:30 Sunday morning Mass, during which they would be dismissed with a blessing following the homily. They would then regroup in the Undercroft and cover various topics with facilitators including Deacon Robert Dever, Dr. Patty Hughes, Cathy Bannon, and Father Bill Fichteman. Topics covered ranged from the conversion journey to church history, the Mass, and the sacraments, from the Old Testament and the New Testament to morality and social teachings. The participants would go through both an Advent and a Lenten season. They would work at the Cathedral luncheon program for the homeless, participate in a retreat at Cave Hill Cemetery on Holy Saturday, and gather for reflections on Holy Week.

Why have they decided to join RCIA at this point in their lives and more fully join in the Catholic faith? What does the process mean to them? Let’s hear from three of the participants.



Lauren Ingram & Aaron Nusz

Candidate Lauren Ingram is 27 years old and grew up in Maysville, Kentucky. She moved to Louisville in 2002 to attend the University of Louisville and decided to stay in Louisville after graduation. She is an attorney with the Jefferson County Attorney’s Office, Division of Child

Support. Lauren said that she had thought about joining the Catholic church for a number of years but started the process after meeting her future husband (and sponsor), Aaron Nusz. In talking about RCIA, Lauren stated that it was “a great privilege and an even greater blessing to be a part of the RCIA process at the Cathedral. This process has been a great experience for Aaron and me. We have grown as a couple, both personally and spiritually.” Lauren found the process to be richly rewarding, rewards that she believes will continue as she grows in her new faith.

Catechumen Mark Clayton is originally from Bullitt County, Kentucky. He graduated from Sullivan University in December, 2010, with a degree in marketing and finance. He is currently taking extra accounting courses at the University of Louisville while studying for the CPA exam. He and Shannon Rosado will be married in October. Mark advised that the RCIA process had been a very good educational experience

Journey (continued)



Mark Clayton receiving First Eucharist

for him. Mark had knee surgery on April 12, 2011, and was still on crutches during the Easter Vigil. He states that “even on crutches, the Easter Vigil was one of the most amazing experiences of my life, not to mention the most memorable thus far.” As to the RCIA process itself, Mark says that going into it, he didn’t know what to expect. In his words, “With the experience coming to a close, I must say that the RCIA process is something that I will never forget, will always cherish, and keep close in my heart and mind.”



David & Barbara Stein

Candidate David Stein is originally from Evansville, Indiana, and was raised Methodist. He was a faithful and active member of his church, which he attributes to his parents and their abiding faith. David and Barbara Stein have been married for 36 years, and David has attended the Catholic church with his family since 1979. He and his family have been Cathedral parishioners for 12 years, and he and his wife are involved

with marriage preparation in the Sponsor Couple program here at the Cathedral. After 35 years of discernment, David decided to become fully initiated in the Catholic faith. In David’s words: “I had several reasons for going through RCIA at this time. First, I haven’t received communion in many years, and I sometimes felt I was missing being closer to Christ. Second, the time was right in my life after my recent retirement from UPS, and I felt the need to become more involved in the church. Third, my wife and Father Bill Fichteman have been an important part of my faith journey. With respect to Father Bill, who is retiring soon, I felt I wanted to start my faith journey as a Catholic with him as my pastor.”

David, along with the other participants, specifically wanted to express their thanks to Cathy Bannon, the RCIA team, their sponsors, and the Cathedral community for the efforts on their behalf. Perhaps the best evidence of that comes from candidates Crystal and Farmer Brock. They had originally intended to join another parish. However, the Brocks felt so welcome at the Cathedral during the RCIA process that they have decided to join the Cathedral parish. Now that the catechumens and the candidates have been initiated as full members of the Catholic faith, we at the Cathedral look forward to their continued involvement with our faith community.



Crystal Brock's Confirmation

~Sharon Mattingly

Watch for the transformation from storage area to museum displays

The next phase of the Archdiocese of Louisville History Center in the Patterson Education building is about to begin. New additions will include a video viewing area, pictorial history of the Cathedral construction and renovations, and a display of selected antique books from the archives.



Photo taken by Susan Railey.

Cathedral of the Assumption

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