Spring/Summer 2020

February-June

# Understanding the Cross As Gift

t. Gaspar del Bufalo, the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, often invited people to read the book of the crucifix, encouraging them to learn from the school of the cross. St. Gaspar once wrote: "At the foot of the cross we deepen our spirit of humility while also allowing God to ignite a flaming desire for the inner and hidden life in the wounds of the Crucified."

From the cross we are given a unique perspective into the heart of God, identifying a world so precious to God, yet wounded deeply in so many ways. We bring to the cross the shattered fragments of life-the losses, the regrets, the disappointments, the failures, the tragedies-all is lifted up and drawn into the wounds of Christ who will bring out the gift of new life In and of itself,

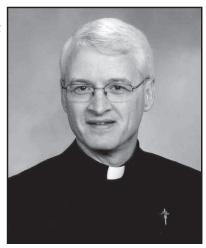
through his Precious Blood.

From the cross we see that suffering can be redemptive. In and of itself, suffering is worthless. But, when we connect our suffering with the suffering of Christ, it can become a path to new life.

With this connection we are able to see a value that can be found in suffering. As Fr. Jim Willig, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, once wrote as he fought cancer, "What I want to say to every suffering person is that suffering never should be wasted. Never! The worst thing that could happen to us is not that we would suffer, but rather that we would waste our suffering or simply endure it. Instead, we should grow from it, and learn from it, and let it unite us to the Lord.'

The message of the blood of the cross says to

us that we are never alone. Christ understands our suffering and walks with us in our pain. It is through the bloodshedding on the cross that we have been saved, been brought back into right-relationship with God. Reflecting on the cross, Fr. Robert



Schreiter, C.PP.S. states, "The cross symbolizes the

great paradox in Christian faith: life can come about through death, the weakness and powerlessness of suffering can be the road to strength, the instrument of human shame becomes the throne of divine glory."

How does a spirituality of the cross speak to us today? For those who experience suffering and injustice, this is a message of great power and hope. In our society, suffering is often associated with moral fault. We do all that we can to avoid suffering in any form. The blood of the cross reminds us that life is intertwined with death. Pain and suffering are a part of life and must be integrated in some way. Those who suffer or walk with the suffering can find a special gift in the spirituality of the cross.

Fr. Angelo

animated with the spirit to do something as if by divine influence

suffering is worthless.

But, when we connect our suffering

with the suffering of Christ,

it can become a path to new life.

### Children Prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion

First reconciliation and first Eucharist are two important rites of passage for Catholics. The preparation for these sacraments encompasses teaching, prayer, practice, and commitment. Both are journeys that are a privilege to share with our children and their families.

Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing. In it we admit our failings, express sorrow, and receive absolution of our sins. It heals our souls, bringing us in closer relationship with God and one another. Reconciliation transforms us as we experience the healing power of Christ. On March 29 after the 11:30 A.M. Mass, a group of Holy Trinity children will celebrate reconciliation for the first time at our regional Lenten reconciliation service. A soup supper will follow in Trinity Center. All are welcome.

First Communion is a powerful experience of God with us. To receive the body and blood of Jesus is the greatest gift of our faith. Preparation is imperative so that our children can fully experience the awesome reception of Jesus. On our feast day, Trinity Sunday, June 7, some children of our parish will receive Communion for the first time.

Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare and receive the graces of these two sacraments.

## Students Take Steps toward Confirmation

oly Trinity this year has eight students faithfully preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Becoming full members of the Catholic Church is a big step in the faith formation process. Instructors Lynda Middleton and Michelle Trimbur guide the *confirmandi* as they learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Church teachings necessary to help them discern this decision to remain faithful to their baptismal commitment:

to bear witness to Christ and to serve others. They will choose sponsors to support them and patron saints to guide them throughout their lives.

Please keep our *confirmandi* in your prayers as they complete the service hours required and attend the retreat that will prepare them for confirmation. This year our students will celebrate confirmation at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 9, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Kettering.

## The Jubilee Singers and Dancers to Perform at Trinity

The Jubilee Singers, a vocal performance group comprised of some of the best vocalists from many parishes in the Dayton area, are returning to Holy Trinity. Under the direction of Paula Kern, they will present the Stations of the Cross again this year. Despite having to adapt their program around scaffolding last year during the renovation of the sanctuary, they gave a stellar performance enjoyed by many. Praying the Stations of the Cross through song and dance is a very profound and moving spiritual experience. There were many tears shed at last year's offering, and we expect the same this year. Come to listen, watch, and celebrate the stations with us on Friday, March 6, at 7:00 P.M. in church. Consider making this evening part of your Lenten journey. All are welcome.

### You're Invited to Lunch with the Lord

ur prayer service and reflection series "Lunch with the Lord" is returning to Holy Trinity this Lent. We will meet in the parish office from noon to 12:45 P.M. each Wednesday

from March 4 to April 1 for a brown bag lunch, prayer, and discussion. All are welcome to join us for stimulating conversation and fellowship. Drinks will be provided.

## PARENTS: SHARE THESE FAITH Opportunities with Your Youth

ould you like to meet other Catholic youth from our pastoral region and the Dayton area while growing in your Catholic faith? Here are some upcoming youth events you might find interesting.

FAITH AND FREE Food: VIA Encounter, an event open to high school students, seeks to gather groups of disciples from across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for an evening of worship, powerful testimony, Eucharistic adoration, confession, and music. It will be held at Ascension Church, 2025 Woodman Drive in Kettering, on April 26 from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Encounter is a free event.

Awake: In partnership with NET Ministries, the Office for Youth Evangelization and Discipleship will present *Awake*, a Jr. High youth rally. This gathering for sixth to eighth graders will provide opportunities for fellowship, worship, and encounter. The next event will be held March 21 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 6245 Wilmington Pike in Centerville.

Life in the Spirit Seminar: Get away from your parents for a weekend at a youth retreat. The 21st Annual Life in the Spirit Seminar will be held March 20 to 22 at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center. This retreat is open to all teens and young adults who want to deepen and experience their Catholic faith. The retreat focuses on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the sacraments, and teachings of the Catholic faith. There will be guest speakers, small group discussions, adoration, reconciliation, personal prayer, Mass, games, and activities. Come and enjoy a weekend full of friends, fun, and faith. To register, call Fr. Matt Keller at Holy

### VBS NEEds You

Ur Vacation Bible School will be held Monday through Friday, June 8 to 12, in Trinity Center, 9 A.M. to noon. We need participants, youth, and adult helpers to bring a Trinity (937-228-1223) or St. Joseph Church (937-228-9272). For questions, call Kelly Horstman (419-678-8649).

**Y.E.S.:** Following the success of last summer's event, the Youth Elect Service will be offered in our pastoral region again this summer for students currently in sixth grade through graduating high school seniors. Youth will work in teams with adult volunteers to perform tasks for parishioners in need, such as pulling weeds, trimming bushes, mulching, washing windows and cars, spring cleaning, and the like.

If you missed last year's event, just ask some of the youth participants where they saw God that day. The second annual Y.E.S. event will be hosted at either Emmanuel School or Trinity Center beginning Friday, July 31, at 6:30 P.M. Activities will include icebreakers, time to get acquainted, distribution of work assignments and equipment, and prayer. On Saturday, August 1, the day will begin with Mass at 7:30 A.M. after which participants will be sent to their assigned work sites. The two-day retreat will end with dinner and sharing on Saturday by 6:00 P.M.

Members of youth ministry will have the opportunity to meet others from the Downtown Dayton Catholic Parishes, have fun, grow in faith, and be the hands and feet of Christ in our region.

Those who need help with household tasks or outside chores will have the opportunity to request a team of youth and adults as information becomes available. We are looking for adult crew leaders and assistants, so if you are nineteen years of age or older and would like to help, we'd love for you to join. All adult volunteers must be VIRTUS trained. Please consider sharing your time and faith with the church of today.

world of learning and fun to our community. We hope to invite the kids from the St. Vincent family shelter to be a part of the program this year as we continue to care for our neighbors. Join us for a ROARING good time this summer at VBS.

## LENTEN PILGRIMAGE BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY

he Downtown Dayton Catholic Churches Health Ministries Commission announces destinations for the 2020 Lenten Pilgrimage. This year it will take us through parishes and missions in Asia beginning Ash Wednesday, February 26, through Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

We have two paths to reach our goal. One path is physical exercise; the other, spiritual exercise. The mileage for each path will be combined to achieve a total goal of 12,902 miles, i.e., 6,451 miles in each activity.

The pilgrimage reflections will be taken from the book *Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits*, edited by Rev. Michael G. Harter, SJ. It is a collection of Ignatian prayers written by some of the most notable Jesuits, such as Ignatius Loyola, Francis Xavier, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and others. These meditations will be posted weekly in the bulletin. Each prayer expresses Ignatian spirituality, i.e., God is present in all things and at all times.

Tally sheets and collection baskets for your physical and spiritual miles will be placed in the back of each church in our region. Miles will be totaled weekly, tracking progress toward our goal, and will be posted in the weekly bulletin. Each church will display maps and information about the mission locations along our journey.

You can earn miles by exercise and spiritual activities as follows:

- Exercise Activity—Miles/time engaged in physical exercise (walking, bike riding, working out, playing sports, etc.)
  - Tally actual miles or convert time to miles: 15 minutes of exercise = 1 mile
- Spiritual Activity
  - Rosary = 5 miles
  - Daily Mass = 5 miles
  - Stations of the Cross = 5 miles
  - Sacrament of reconciliation = 15 miles
  - Attendance at a Lenten event = 10 miles (mission or other event)

The Health Ministries Commission challenges our three parishes to achieve the combined physical and spiritual goal of 12,902 miles while growing in spiritual life during Lent.

## TRINITY TO PRESENT PROGRAM ON GRIEF AND LOSS

The death of a loved one or the loss of something significant and the grief that follows is one of the hardest experiences human beings endure. While it is a normal response to suffering loss, it is important to understand that grief is an individual process and it is different for everyone.

"The reality is that you will grieve forever. You will not 'get over' the loss of a loved one; you will learn to live with it. You will heal and you will rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again but you will never be the same. Nor should you be the same nor would you want to."

*—Elisabeth Kübler-Ross* 

The pain of grief can disrupt physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, or even think straight. These are normal reactions to loss, and the more significant the loss, the more intense grief may be. All of us most likely know individuals who have grieved the loss of somebody or something close to them, whether it is a parent, spouse, child, friend, a beloved pet, or a job. It can be incredibly difficult to know what to say or do to help comfort others during this time, but reaching out to let them know you are thinking about them can have a meaningful impact. Sometimes just mentioning that you are there for them with a listening ear can be enough.

The more we understand grief and loss, the better equipped we will be to care for ourselves and support others in difficult times. Holy Trinity will offer an opportunity to learn more on this topic on Saturday, April 25, from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. in the Knights of Columbus Hall. Lynda Middleton and Stephanie Hittle, M.S., LPCC, a clinical counselor in Centerville, will be leading the program.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us." —Helen Keller

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Events	• FIRE, 9:30 ам, TC • RCIA, 12:30 рм, OB	17 • Tai Chi, 6:00 рм, TC	18 • Finance Commission meeting, 5:30 PM, OB	• Communion service, 12:00 рм, С • Mass, 6:00 рм, С	20	2	<ul> <li>Fish and Sausage Fry, 6:30 to 11:00 PM, TC</li> </ul>	
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₹ 2	<ul> <li>First Communion class, 9:30 AM, TC</li> <li>FIRE, 9:30 AM, TC</li> </ul>	• Tai Chi, 6:00 рм, TC	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17 • The Light Is On, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, C	• Lunch with the Lord, noon to 12:45 рм, OB	19	~ 20	21	
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PALM SUNDAY 5 • Easter Sunday Masses, 8:30 and 11:30 AM, C	6	7 • Finance Commission meeting, 5:30 PM, OB	8 • Parish Pastoral Council meeting, 6:00 ₱м, OB	holy thursday 9	• Tenebrae: 1:00 PM • Lord's Passion: 2:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY 10	vigil TC
EASTER SUNDAY 12	13		15	16	17	18
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<ul> <li>First Communion class, 9:30 ам, TC</li> <li>FIRE, 9:30 ам, TC</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Health Ministries Commission meeting 1:00 PM, OB</li> <li>Liturgy Commission meeting, 5:30 PM, OB</li> </ul>				(
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Activities & Events · Activities & Events · Activities & Events

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ACTIVITIES	father's day 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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## Yes, It's an All You-Can-Eat Fish and Sausage Fry!

ood—and there will be plenty of it—will be served from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. on Saturday, February 29, in Trinity Center. This event is open to anyone twenty-one years old and older. The delicious side dishes will be meals in themselves mac and cheese, french fries, green beans, cole slaw, and some cook's choices. After you have filled up on

Is your conscience nudging you to become a lector or Eucharistic minister? Want to reply to that nudge and find out more? Call Judi (937-228-1223) or send an email (busmgr.holytrinity @gmail.com.) Thank you.

the glorious food, you can enjoy the fun of games
of chance, a silent

auction, raffles, and a bake sale from 7:00 to 11:00 P.M. Admission is \$15.00 in advance and \$17.00 at the door. The price of the ticket includes three beverages. Addi-

tional beverages can be purchased. Tickets are on sale now after both Sunday Masses in the back of church. The deadline to purchase advanced sale tickets is Thursday, February 27, by 4:00 P.M. in the parish office.

How can you help make this night successful? Glad you asked. Help prepare the fish and sausage in the afternoon, serve in the kitchen, or work at the baked goods table. Maybe selling 50/50 chances or dealing cards is more your style. Help with setup and tear down is always appreciated. Perhaps you would like to donate an item for our silent auction.

We welcome all contributions and assistance. Call TT Gambrell (937-903-7538), Tracy Walsh (937-559-2320), or Barb Gilbert (937-673-4616) to offer your services.

Fr. Angelo Anthony Sharon Becker Alice Cox Fr. Matt Keller Lynda Middleton Judi Trick Amy Wiedeman

Thank you

thanks those who submit-

he Newsletter staff

ted articles for this issue of

Inspired:

## Offertory Opportunities without Envelopes

e are very grateful to you, our parishioners, for the support of our parish staff, liturgies, programs, buildings, and grounds. While many of you utilize the offertory envelope packets for donations to our church, there are methods of providing this support through electronic means.

Online Giving: Through ConnectNow, automatic pay by credit card can be set up each month on the day you choose. No more worrying about where the envelopes are. This also works for special collections, too. Look for the Online Giving tab on the left hand side of our website, holytrinitydayton.org for the link to sign up.

ACH TRANSFERS: Auto draft through your bank account is also available. This is similar to setting up the transfer of funds directly from your account for mortgage or utility payments. This can be done for offertory contributions as well. Along with your name and signature, you need to supply a voided check with your routing/transit number or a deposit slip with your savings account number.

BANK CHECKS: Some financial institutions will send checks to us with your contributions. These can be set up directly with your institution. We will be happy to assist with any needed details for this option.

These automated options are completely safe, reduce paperwork, save time, and help Holy Trinity. For questions or assistance in setup, contact the parish office (937- 228-1223).

Additional Ways to Support Holy Trinity: There are a number of ways beyond the offertory that can benefit our parish.

• Consider Holy Trinity in your financial or estate planning. There are several ways to do this: through gifts of cash, securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds), real estate, IRAs, life insurance, wills, bequests, or deferred giving (charitable trusts). Your financial advisor will be able to explain these various forms and the reduction for your taxable estate. This financial planning and fund designation can have substantial tax savings for you and provide a long term benefit for our parish. • Through the Kroger Community Rewards program, Holy Trinity can benefit from your purchases there. Enroll at www. krogercommunityrewards.com. Our organization number is BH841. Rewards are earned every time you shop and use your Plus Card. This does not affect your savings on groceries or sale items-you will continue to receive those.

• We would be remiss if we did not give thanks for the many in kind donations that we receive for our projects here at Holy Trinity. These contributions are generally in addition to offertory contributions. It is difficult to put a monetary value on all of these gifts, but the savings to the parish is significant.

We truly thank you for your ongoing support of Holy Trinity, which makes possible the many programs and opportunities for you and our Dayton Catholic community.

## HERE COMES PETER COTTONTAIL!

ell all the kids, grandkids, neighbors' kids, and friends' kids ages nine and under that they are welcome to hop on down the bunny trail to Holy Trinity for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The scramble for eggs will begin at noon on Holy Saturday, April 11. The youngest group will collect their baskets of Easter joy first. Everyone can enjoy fun activities, crafts, and refreshments plus a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

Thanks to the generosity of those parishioners

who just love to fill our plastic eggs, there will be an abundance of eggs jampacked with trinkets and "jelly beans for Tommy." No need to purchase new eggs. We have bins overflowing with "colored eggs for sister Sue." They will be available at the parish office for pickup and filling in mid-March.

Kids should bring their Easter baskets to fill and adults their cameras for this photo op. Mark this date—Saturday, April 11, at noon—on your calendar and put a big red circle around it! brief look at what's happening around the parish

#### Christian Formation Ministry

The Gospel According to St. MATTHEW Learn about this beautiful Gospel guided by Dennie Stieritz, Monday evenings, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at Bainbridge Hall.

Lunch with the Lord Gather in the parish office from noon to 12:45 P.M. each Wednesday from March 4 to April 1 for a brown bag lunch, prayer, and discussion. *See page 2 for more details*.

#### Music

**The Jubilee Singers** will present the Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity on Friday, March 6, at 7:00 P.M. *See page 2 for more details*.

#### **FUN-RAISERS**

Holy TRINITY Fish And SAUSAGE FRY Join us on Saturday, February 29, in Trinity Center for food from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. followed by games and a silent auction from 7:00 to 11:00 P.M. Tickets are on sale now at the parish office for \$15 if purchased by February 27 before 4:00 P.M. Afterward, cost will be \$17.00. See details on page 7. **Spring Plant Sale** Check the bulletin for plant sale order forms. Plant pickup will be Thursday, May 7, from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. in the parking lot.

#### Help Wanted

Fish FRy Helpers We need help for afternoon setup and evening games, raffles, the bake sale, and cleanup on Saturday, February 29. Please call TT Gambrell (937-903-7538), Tracy Walsh (937-559-2320), or Barb Gilbert (937-673-4616) if you can help.

### Special Liturgies

Ash Wednesday Services On February 26, a Communion service will be held at 12:15 P.M. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 P.M. Ashes will be distributed at both services.

**THE Light Is ON** Encounter Christ's peace through quiet prayer and private confession on Tuesday, March 24, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. in church.

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE** This healing sacrament will be celebrated on Sunday, March 29, following the 11:30 A.M. Mass in church. A soup supper will follow in Trinity Center. Holy Thursday Liturgy The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on April 9, at 6:00 P.M.

**Good Friday Services** Join us for one or more of the *Tre Ore* services on April 10 from noon to 3:00 P.M.

- **12:00** р.м.: Stations of the Cross **12:30** р.м.: Rosary
- 1:00 р.м.: *Tenebrae*
- 2:00 P.M.: Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**EASTER Viqil** This liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, April 11. Time to be determined. A reception will follow in Trinity Center.

**TRINITY SUNDAY** Celebrate Mass at 11:30 A.M. on June 7, and a picnic from 12:30 to 3:00 P.M. under the big top on the north parking lot.

### For Kids

The EASTER EGG HUNT Bring the kids to this fun event on Saturday, April 11, at noon in Trinity Center and garden.

VACATION Bible School Bring the kids to a week-long program filled with faith and fun starting Monday, June 8, through Friday, June 12, from 9:00 A.M. to noon in Trinity Center.



**Deadline** for the Fall/Winter issue is

Saturday,

August 29, 2020

### Newsletter Editorial Staff

Karen Averbeck Jean DeBrosse Robyn Essman Marianne Garcher Keelie Gustin Judi Trick Amy Wiedeman

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Marianne Garcher

### Holy Trinity Newsletter Guidelines

The Holy Trinity newsletter staff encourages all parishioners to submit articles and photos that would be of interest to the parish community.

The newsletter staff prefers not to use bylines because it views the publication as the voice of the parish. However, an author will be credited if the work has been copyrighted or previously published.

Written materials can be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail. If submitting hard copy, please type it if possible. Include your name and phone number with all submissions.

All articles and photos are subject to editing and approval by the newsletter staff.

If using information published on a website in researching your article, please cite author's name, if included, title of website article, the complete web address (URL), and date accessed.

Materials received after the published deadline will be considered for publication only if space and time permit.

Materials can be delivered to the parish offices at 272 Bainbridge Street, e-mailed to Judi Trick (busmgr.holytrinity@gmail.com) or faxed to 937-445-0232. If you have any questions, call the parish offices at 937-228-1223.