



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



“Boldly Live Out Your Faith” *Justin Lantz, St. Timothy’s New Youth and Young Adult Minister*

Justin Lantz knows firsthand how powerful youth ministry can be. When he was a sophomore in high school, Justin went to a Steubenville Youth Conference because he had a crush on a girl in youth group who was going. The conference didn’t bring them together, but it brought Justin into a deeper relationship with Christ than he ever anticipated.

“I saw thousands of teens in this tent worshipping God, and it set my heart on fire for Him,” Justin says. “I was a cradle Catholic, but this was the first time I really prayed. I’ll never forget it.”

This May, our faith community welcomed Justin as the new Parish Youth and Young Adult Minister. Previously he spent 10 years in youth ministry at Nativity Catholic Church and a year as a Life Teen camp director in Georgia, but Justin and his wife, Amanda, had hoped for an opportunity to return to the area.

“We have a beautiful community here, and our friends and family are here,” Justin says.

Justin brings with him not only his experience with youth ministry and leadership,

but also an example to share with our young people of a faith-filled Catholic marriage.

“It is amazing how you can see God working through the story of how Amanda and I got together,” Justin says.

Justin and Amanda met in fourth grade but began getting to know each other in high school when they were both in choir. At the time, Amanda had been baptized in a Methodist church, but she had never actually attended church.

“I fell in love with her, and we started dating,” Justin says. “A friend of Amanda’s began to witness to her, and we started going to a non-denominational church on Sunday morning, and then in the evening, I went to the Life Teen Mass at Nativity.”



Justin and Amanda Lantz with their two sons, Noah and Jeremiah, at Covecrest Life Teen Camp

continued on back cover

August 2016

In this Issue

- 2 “Do Small Things With Great Love”
Anticipating the Canonization of Mother Teresa
- 3 Stewardship: A Positive Way to Live
- 4 Fr. Kevin Yarnell: With Us on the Climb
- 6 A Loving Little Place to Learn

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“Do Small Things With Great Love”

Anticipating the Canonization of Mother Teresa

In the dark final years of the Cold War, a small woman – standing at barely five feet tall – offered a living counternarrative to the inhibiting fear undergirding our daily lives and our foreign affairs. Instead of living in fear, Mother Teresa acted out of love. Instead of withdrawing and isolating herself, she gave tirelessly to others.

Many of us harbor a personal connection to this saint, for we lived during the height of the media coverage of Mother Teresa’s work and her friendships with Pope St. John Paul II and the beloved Princess Diana.

Long before she received the name Mother Teresa and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born on Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, the crossroads of the Balkans. The youngest of three children, Mother Teresa was raised predominately by her mother after her father’s death, when she was about 8 years old. Dranfile (Drana) Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa’s mother, undoubtedly became a strong influence on her daughter’s vocation, since Drana herself was a devout Catholic and known for her prayer life and her charity.

Agnes attended a Catholic primary school and, following the example of her mother, became active in their parish and sang in Sacred Heart’s choir. As a young person, Agnes enjoyed reading the lives of the saints – while immersing herself in the stories of these holy men and women, Agnes first felt the stirring call to become a missionary.

At the age of 18, Agnes traveled to Dublin, Ireland, to join the Sisters of Loreto. She became Sr. Mary Teresa, named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and began to learn English – within a few months of arriving in Ireland, she left for India.

In India Sr. Mary Teresa lived at the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta where she served as an educator and taught at St. Mary’s School. After her final profession, she became Mother Teresa and, a few years later, began serving as the school’s principal.



On an ordinary day, Mother Teresa received an extraordinary call. While on a train ride to her annual retreat, Mother Teresa felt what she would describe as Jesus’ thirst for souls. Soon, Jesus called her to found the Missionaries of Charity, an order devoted to serving the “poorest of the poor.”

The order formally began on Oct. 7, 1950, and has grown from one woman tending the sick and dying in the streets of Calcutta to over 4,500

religious sisters helping the poor in over 130 countries around the world. Additionally, the order grew to include the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, the Missionaries of Charity Fathers and the Lay Missionaries of Charity.

Though externally Mother Teresa joyfully and indefatigably served the poor for nearly 50 years, during the majority of this time, she experienced a “dark night of the soul,” an extensive period of not feeling God’s presence or hearing His voice. Other saints, notably St. John of the Cross, similarly experienced a dark night of the soul. Despite this spiritual struggle, Mother Teresa continued her work joyfully throughout her sickness and until her death on Sept. 5, 1997.

St. Pope John Paul II beatified Mother Teresa in 2003. Fittingly, this year, a pontiff who has underscored the importance of social justice will celebrate her canonization. On Sept. 4, 2016, Pope Francis will canonize Mother Teresa, the “Saint of the Gutters,” at the Vatican in the last months of this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

A 20th century saint, Mother Teresa offers us an example of ceaseless prayer and selfless service. She is a modern model of sainthood that we can emulate in our daily lives starting with how we serve and treat the other members of our family, our faith community and all those with whom we interact on a daily basis.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Pray for Us!

Stewardship: A Positive Way to Live

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is something about the month of August that is glorious. Summer is still in full force – the lazy, hazy days are upon us, and some still have vacations on the horizon. And, yet, we can also see the end of this wonderful season drawing closer – our vacations may already be over, and we may be sadly anticipating the end of this relaxing time, with back-to-school and a return to the busyness of life just around the corner.

We are at that point in the year when things are coming to an end and things are beginning all at once. However, isn't that the way it always is? The Russian playwright and short-story writer Anton Chekhov once said, "People don't notice whether it is winter or summer when they are happy." There is certainly truth to that statement. You might say it is a stewardship statement.

I am sure you are wondering how to make the connection between Chekhov's quote and stewardship, but the connection is found quite simply in the word "happy." I once heard someone say in a presentation about stewardship that people who live stewardship as a way of life are almost always happy. There is a reason for that.

Stewardship is a positive way to live. It means feeling grateful and centering your thoughts on gratitude. In other words, your focus is on the good things in life, not the bad. That does not mean you have perfect health or that all is ideal in your



family, that you always sleep well at night, or that you enjoy everything that happens to you or around you.

However, it does mean that when the good happens, you thank God. You recognize that good and are filled with feelings of joy and gratitude. You and I know people like that, don't we? We know people who always seem filled with joy, regardless of what may be happening to them or around them personally. To me, these kinds of people are stewardship people – the kind

of people we all need to strive to be.

No doubt, you have heard that living a life of stewardship means living with an "attitude of gratitude." That is not easy, for you or for me. Let us vow to try to be like that nonetheless. As we watch our summer season dwindle away and the busier time of year begins again, let us concentrate on how God has blessed us. If we do that, I truly believe that we can be those people Chekhov described. If we are happy, it will not matter what time of year it is.

I am grateful for you, your support, your prayers, and – most of all – your presence in my life. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley

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Fr. Kevin Yarnell: W

St. Timothy is pleased to welcome Fr. Kevin Yarnell to the parish! Following an upbringing in the Methodist church and a career as a high school teacher, Fr. Kevin's path to St. Timothy was not exactly a direct one. Father likes to use the analogy of mountain climbing to describe the life and faith journey of all individuals, and this imagery seems remarkably apt. After all, we are all explorers on a journey, trusting in God to get us right where He wants us to be. And once we are able to do just that, the view is simply breathtaking!

Fr. Kevin is originally from Pennsylvania, although his family moved to Florida when he was still a child. Raised in the Methodist church, he has always felt closeness with the Lord. He followed his undergraduate degree from Florida Southern College with a master's in computer education from Shenandoah University. After two years of serving as the youth director of a Protestant church in New Port Richey, Father turned to teaching.

"As much as I liked youth work, it wasn't exactly the best use of all my talents," Fr. Kevin says. "I had this math and physics kind of brain, and none of that was getting used. Then, I got wind of this job at Tampa Catholic [High School] and I started as their computer teacher the first year that the school had computers. So, that was the first part of my transition into the Catholic Church.

"When I got the job, I called a girl I had dated and asked her to take me to Mass, because I knew so little about Catholicism," he continues. "Then, the Christian Brothers came the year after I started there, and they were a big influence on me and took me under their wing. So, Tampa Catholic kind of formed me in the faith, and then as I was helping out with some youth retreats and other things, I received even more formation."

While Fr. Kevin can identify the year 2002 as the time that he consciously made the decision to join the Catholic Church, there was no single moment that led to this discernment – instead, it was a gradual process in his faith journey made up of many small experiences. He was confirmed in the Catholic faith in 2003. However, he would soon discover that God had even more and exciting plans in store for him!

In 2010, Fr. Kevin was contemplating the option of early retirement. He met with a financial planner, who confirmed that he would have enough income coming in after retirement to explore something new, whether part-time youth work or something else.

"During Lent 2010, I decided to pray through the issue," he says. "One Sunday morning, I was praying through the different options, and this thought just sort of appeared in my head – you should be a priest. There are things in my spiritual life that aren't exemplary, but I've always been good at acknowledging God's will. So, I wasn't really scared by it, though it was surprising.

"I spent a couple of months praying through it and wondering if it was really legit," Father contin-

ues. "Then, a good friend of mine who lives in North Carolina was my sort of test case. I asked him what he thought of it, and he thought it was an amazing thing and that I should pursue it. So, I started checking with other people and they were also saying really encouraging things about it."

Fr. Kevin started seminary in fall of 2011, at Pope St. John XXIII in Weston, Mass. This seminary, also attended by Bishop Lynch, is geared toward older men – students have to be at least 30 years old when they enter.

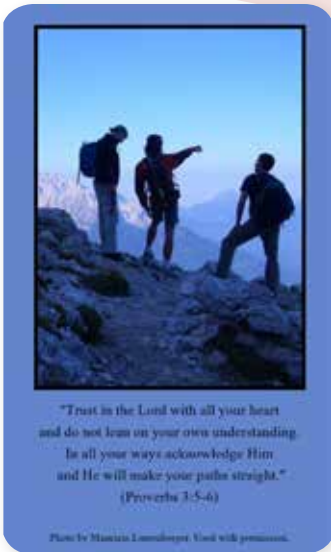


Fr. Kevin on the summit of Mt. Lafayette, at 5,260 feet up.



Fr. Kevin's view hiking along the ridge to Mt. Lincoln.

With Us on the Climb



Kevin Arthur Yarnell
Ordination to the Priesthood
of Jesus Christ
May 21, 2016
Diocese of
St. Petersburg, Florida

We're all called to holiness and so must take up a spiritual journey. By my ordination I've accepted God's call to aid others on the mountain even as I continue my own climb.

Please pray:
That I may compassionately invite those who have stopped their journey to take it up; that my teaching in word and deed is effective; that my work on the mountain is one of a servant; and that God will bless all who climb.

On Fr. Kevin's ordination holy card, the faith journey is represented by a mountain climb.

"There is some irony in having a seminary in South Florida where they send all the young buck seminarians, and then they send the old guys to the cold north," Fr. Kevin jokes. "So I was a reverse snowbird, going up north for the winter and south for summer!"

Fr. Kevin is thankful for the ways his teaching experiences help him as a diocesan priest. His time as an educator – in addition to the great preparation received in seminary – has helped him become an inspirational homilist. And years of sitting in on administrative meetings in the high school setting gave Father valuable experience working with personnel and budgets. Drawing on both his classroom and youth group background, Father looks forward to helping out with transitioning the St. Timothy youth group to a small-group model, as well as helping parishioners to initiate in-home Bible study meetings.

When asked for advice on living out the faith, Fr. Kevin emphasizes the importance of reading Scripture. He credits the reading of Scripture as a main reason he has been able to remain a faithful disciple all these years. The wisdom found there, he advises, will lead us where we need to go.

"If you're willing to read Scripture, you get to the point where you [trust] that wisdom," he says. "The best Christians I know are good at discerning God's will at all levels – not just the big stuff like 'should I get married?' but also the little stuff, like 'which girl I'm going to date,' 'which electives I'll take in college,' and so on. It's just like following a path – the big stuff follows the small, and you end up on a path based on the little decisions you make. So you want to discern God's will and trust that it will be fine."

And speaking of placing our trust in divine providence, Fr. Kevin returns to his mountain climbing analogy. He describes a climb of Mt. Katahdin, Maine, which he undertook with a friend from seminary.

"[The climb] was tiring but fun, and gorgeous," Father says. "Some of it was very difficult and challenging, and I have a fear of heights. We climbed to the top, and on the way down, we climbed the knife's edge trail, which was 1.2 miles of terror. And that stuff transferred over into training and now into my priestly ministry – for example, going into a hospital after an emergency call and being completely out of my comfort zone. I think of those moments [climbing] and think I was crazy uncomfortable, but it turned out fine. So, I go into these situations knowing it's not just me. It's really quite transformative that I went through those experiences in seminary and I was pushed beyond my limits."

In light of these experiences, Fr. Kevin decided to include an image of three men on a mountaintop on his ordination holy card. The photo and accompanying prayer were inspired by a conversation with his fellow seminarian and climber, Brian.

"We talked about the priest as mountain guide as opposed to the priest as shepherd," Father says. "The shepherd is a wonderful image, until you realize sheep are stupid and the shepherd is in charge! But people who are climbing are doing their own climbing, and the guide is there to offer expertise and encouragement along the way."

We are blessed to have Fr. Kevin join us here at St. Timothy and look forward to his support and guidance as we climb onward and upward in the faith!



A Loving Little Place to Learn

For Daisy Cintron, her favorite thing about the Early Childhood Learning Center is when a parent arrives to pick up their child, and their child doesn't want to go home.

"You know you're doing something right, when the child feels that good," says Daisy, who has served as the Director of our Early Childhood Learning Center, or ECLC, for the past 18 years. "When a parent tells me that their child wakes up and is eager to come to school, that just makes my day."

The ECLC, a ministry of St. Timothy, is designed to provide a play-based pre-school experience for children ages 2-5. The ECLC is a unique place, bringing together faith and learning in a family-like environment.

"What we want most is for them to love God and love learning," Daisy says.

She and the other members of the staff work hard to create an environment that honors the child and makes them feel that they are truly part of the family of ECLC.

"We pride ourselves in providing a loving and nurturing environment," Daisy says. "Once a child feels loved and safe, then the learning will happen. I love [the children and families], and I really truly believe we're extended family. We do the best that we can for the children, to help them to learn and grow. Because we love

the kids and love what we do, I think that shines through and makes [our school] special."

In a world where academic achievements are continually emphasized earlier, the ECLC seeks to foster an environment where the gentle rhythms of childhood are respected and the children's natural interests are valued.

"Children, at this age want to learn – they are curious, they are interested, they want to learn!" Daisy says. "You have to give them the opportunity and the time to develop that skill. They naturally go to something they want to learn, a skill they need to learn. [The teachers] feed off of that – we ask them questions and we give them the opportunity to think and work things through."

The environment is designed to welcome the children's curiosity, with everything easily accessible and specifically created to facilitate their interests. Various stations, such as art, blocks and dramatic play, offer children opportunities to follow their curiosities.

"Children need to be able to interact with the materials, they have to be able to touch and feel and look," Daisy says. "Things are at their eye level and all the materials are there for the children to use. They are able to do whatever is interesting to them."



Daisy Cintron, Director of ECLC

A Loving Little Place to Learn *continued from page 6*

“It’s all about teaching through the things the children are interested in,” she continues. “We get to know the kids a little bit, we see what they’re interested in and then we develop lessons that will pique their interest and hook them in so that they want to learn.”

At our program, not only is “learning through play” encouraged, but play is also recognized as the most important work of the child.

“We can’t minimize play for children because it’s so vital to their learning,” Daisy says. “It’s their work. You can’t give a 2-4 year old a worksheet and expect them to learn from that – it’s not where they are developmentally. That’s not how they learn, it’s boring to the child, it’s hard, and they don’t want to do it. Play is their work, it’s how they learn.”

Relationship dynamics are also a significant part of children’s development during this stage, and children are encouraged to learn healthy ways of relating to others in various circumstances.

“One of the big things we do with children this age is social skills,” Daisy says. “They need to learn how to interact with each other.”

Incorporating the faith is also an important part of the daily routine at ECLC. From morning prayer, to Bible stories in the classrooms, praying grace before snacks and Friday time in the church, the children are invited to grow in their faith in developmentally appropriate ways.

“They’re little sponges and they’re very reverent when they come into the church – they understand it’s

a special place,” Daisy says. “They listen to their story, sing songs, it’s all age-appropriate. It’s the perfect time to sow those seeds at their age. They grow very strong.”

Sharing the faith with children through our school has also had an impact on bringing parents back to the faith, inspired by their child’s budding relationship with God.

“A lot of times, families will bring their children to our preschool and the child is the ‘hook’ that brings them back to church, because the parent will see them praying,” Daisy says. “I can’t tell you how many times the parent will come to me about how beautiful it is [to hear their children pray].”

Daisy tells the story of a child who came to ECLC at the encouragement of her Catholic grandmother. The child’s mother was not Catholic, but by the end of the year, she had joined the RCIA process to enter the Church because of the beautiful faith she’d seen developing in her child.

“The miracles you see, if you just take a moment to look – those seeds that are sown, just by talking to children and praying with them,” Daisy says. “They take that home and it continues to grow. When I’m able to impact a family’s life through their child, I know I’m doing the right thing.”

If you’re looking to begin your child’s education in a loving, faithful and fun environment, that follows the child and welcomes their interests, ECLC just might be the place for you.



At the ECLC, we believe that children learn best through play.



Children enjoy learning from books in the reading corner.



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“Boldly Live Out Your Faith” *continued from front cover*

Their relationship became more serious after college, and Amanda began to attend RCIA with Justin as her sponsor. After entering the Church, Amanda, to Justin’s surprise, felt that she was called to discern the religious life.

“She fell in love with the Church so much that she felt called to be a nun and broke up with me!” Justin says. “We remained friends as she discerned.”

Then, when a friend of Justin’s went to England to start up Life Teen in Europe, Justin and Amanda were part of the team that went with him.

“We were in England for eight months and lived at a parish with Benedictine monks,” says Justin. “It was an amazing experience.”

At the end of their trip, Justin and Amanda traveled with their mission team to Ireland, Spain and Rome. In Dublin, for the first time in a year, Justin and Amanda held hands. In Rome, the weekend St. John Paul II canonized St. Gianni, Justin proposed to Amanda at the Trevi Fountain.

“Afterwards, we returned to the area and finished our studies at community college,” Justin says. “Then, I graduated from St. Leo’s with a bachelor’s degree in religion. We were married on May 12, 2007, at Nativity.”

Today, Amanda and Justin have been married nine years and have two boys – Jeremiah, 8, and Noah, 6. Amanda, who received her certification in medical assistance, loves children and currently works at a pediatric office.

In his new position, Justin will work with our young people from sixth grade students to young adults up to 39 years old. He will work with programs from youth groups for our junior high and high school students to college and post-college ministries.

The Lantz family has felt very welcomed at St. Timothy, and they are excited to become further involved with our faith community.

“I look forward to jumping in head-first with my family and pouring ourselves into the community,” Justin says. “I want to get the youth excited about boldly living out their faith.”

• *Mass Schedule* •

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m. • Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. • Daily: Mon-Sat 9 a.m., Wed 6:15 p.m. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.