



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Bringing Jesus to the Sick and Homebound Members of Our Faith Family

For Mary de la Torre, who has been serving our parishioners who are homebound and at St. Joseph’s Hospital for nearly 10 years, it was the experience of watching her late parents receive the Eucharist that inspired her to serve in this ministry.

“Someone would come and bring my dad Communion once a week,” Mary says. “Towards the end of my dad’s life, [the Eucharistic Minister] came everyday and that made my dad so happy. I realized then, how important it is for people who are sick and dying to get Communion.”

Now, Mary serves alongside Cindy Vinal as co-leader of the ministry to the Sick and Homebound at St. Timothy. This ministry serves to bring the Eucharist to our parishioners and other Catholics who reside in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities, as well as those who are homebound and unable to attend Mass.

According to Deacon Glenn Smith, who coordinates the ministry, it is important for two reasons.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and homebound serve to remind people that they are not forgotten by God or their parish family.

“We’re really part of a family; the parish becomes a family,” Deacon Glenn says. “When a family member is sick or ill, of course we’re going to reach out. Secondly, this is what Christ Himself has said to us, to do the

continued on page 2

August 2017

In this Issue

- 3 Summer Vacations Are Coming to an End... Now What?
- 4 Ministry Members Serve as Welcoming Parish “Ambassadors”
- 6 Stewardship’s “Supreme Teacher” Following Christ’s Example
- 7 Parishioner Ed LaRose Answers the Call to Serve

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Bringing Jesus to the Sick and Homebound Members of Our Faith Family *continued from front cover*

Corporal Works of Mercy, to visit the sick, to bring solace and comfort to folks. This sort of outreach is so consistent with the Gospel message.”

Many of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, or EMHCs, bring Communion to a number of local facilities, immediately following daily or Sunday Mass. They celebrate an informal Communion service with the residents, spending time in prayer with them, and bringing as much of the parish community to them as possible. Other EMHCs bring the Eucharist to homebound parishioners throughout the week, based upon the minister and homebound person’s schedule and needs. In some cases, people’s situations are temporary, such as recovering from a surgery or illness, while other people are homebound or live in a facility long term.

Mary has witnessed this ministry’s impact, as people have the opportunity to receive the Eucharist, even when they’re physically unable to attend Mass.

“It brings a sense of hope and strength and peace,” she says. “I’ll give

Communion to people [with dementia or Alzheimer’s] and the family will say they don’t know what’s going on. But when I start the Hail Mary and the Our Father, they recite that. It’s amazing – they may not know their kids’ names, but they know the prayers.”

“Receiving the Eucharist really gives them a sense of peace, and you can see it in their faces, the comfort that comes from that,” Deacon Glenn says. “It’s no longer the minister, but it’s really the person and Jesus, and that’s really what it should be. The minister is only the vehicle through which Jesus comes to those folks. These are people who desire the Eucharist so much, to the exclusion of nothing – they have so little ability physically, and receiving becomes a primary focus for them.”

Those who serve in this way also find this ministry to be a great blessing.

“Hearing these people, their stories and their faith, just knowing that God is with them – it has made me more holy,” Mary says.

The team invites those who may be interested in serving in this ministry to consider becoming trained to bring Communion to those in need.

“You are the vehicle through which Christ can come to the people who need Him most,” Deacon Glenn says.



Fr. John celebrates a healing Mass for the homebound.

If you would like more information on becoming involved in bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, or if you know someone who is physically unable to attend Mass and would like to have the Eucharist brought to them, please contact Mary de la Torre at mdspence4@aol.com, Cindy Vinal at cmvinal914@gmail.com, or Deacon Glenn Smith at deaconglen@sainttims.org.

Summer Vacations Are Coming to an End... Now What?

Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of August really does seem to return us to reality, doesn't it? Summer is coming to an end – maybe not officially on the calendar, but in terms of our lives and the life of the Church, it does. The children may view it as the end of something appealing – the start of summer vacation seems like a long time ago – and their parents may be breathing sighs of relief. For those involved in parish ministries, it might be a time when we say, “Now, it's time to work.”



Perhaps this is a time when we get back into the routine of things. However, we all know the truth – that faith and the Church are not seasonal. For that matter, stewardship is not seasonal, and it's not something that is done a few times a year. Rather, stewardship is something we should be thinking about each and every day.

There are many definitions of stewardship, but at its very basis, it means using the gifts God has given us to do the things God asks – calls, expects – us to do. Stewardship is discipleship. We may tend to think of stewardship as a question: “What is mine and what is God's?” The truth is that all that we have and all that we are belongs to and comes from God – absolutely everything!

We may hear that stewardship is using and sharing our time, our talent, and our treasure. In terms of

time, the secret is not learning how to use it or how to get more of it – the secret is knowing how best to use it. Talent and treasure are given to each of us in different amounts. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that we have to trust God before we really share those things. Relying on God and living a God-centered life are fundamental to a relationship with Him – and, for that matter, with one another. Being contented is not the fulfillment of what you may want. Rather, it is the realization of what you

already have.

So, we are back to the reality of this time of year. You may have heard the statement that stewardship people are grateful people. Perhaps this is a time to be grateful for the summer that has passed. But it is a time for us to recommit ourselves to doing better, especially as we enter a time of year that provides a return to routine. Importantly, it is also a time filled with celebrations, thanksgiving, hope, and maybe even better stewardship on each of our parts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light blue rectangular background.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley



Ministry Members Serve as We

At St. Timothy, we strive to make every visitor and parishioner feel welcome – no matter if you've been a parishioner for a few days or for several years. As just one facet of our hospitality ministry, the Ambassadors make sure that both newcomers and longtime parishioners are greeted by a friendly face and an eager helpful attitude.

"We need to be a light for others in the face of a dark world," says ministry leader Lisa Talmo. "We are all one in the body of Christ, and it's our responsibility as good Catholics to be welcoming, to respond to people's needs and to encourage them – regardless of whether they're new to the parish, or if they've been involved parishioners for 20 years.

Members of the Ambassador Ministry greet and welcome parishioners at each Sunday Mass as well as the Saturday vigil. They serve as a resource to answer questions parishioners may have about parish life or getting involved in other ministries. The ministry was founded in the Fall of 2013 under the guidance of Fr. Malley.

"He felt there was a need for the Ambassadors to take some of the responsibility of answering questions from the priests, deacons and ushers," Lisa says. "They are in such demand after Sunday Mass, the Ambassador ministry was conceived to



help relieve that overload of questions, giving the clergy more time for parishioners' spiritual concerns. Deacon Peter and [parishioner] Nancy Myers were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the early stages of the ministry and I am so grateful for their dedication. And since the spring of 2017, we have Fr. Kevin as a great leader to help guide and grow the ministry.

The ministry currently numbers 42 Ambassadors, of which 16 have served since its inception. An Ambassador can serve according to their own schedule, at the Mass of their choosing.

"Typically, we have people strategically placed in the Narthex and at key entrances," Lisa says. "We are here to be that face that people see when they first come in, that

will make them feel as welcome as possible. We're very fortunate to have a dedicated group, and they can serve as often or as little as they want. There are times of greater need throughout the year such as during the Easter or Christmas seasons, and they always rise to the occasion. We also have served at special events including First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses, the annual Blue Mass, Lenten and Advent Penance services, and the Vespers service the night before Bishop Parkes was installed this past January."

Lisa first got involved in the ministry after having less than welcoming experiences in other church communities throughout her life.

Welcoming Parish "Ambassadors"

"I felt that it was so very important to take my negative experiences and make them positive," she says. "You never know who you're going to touch on any given Sunday. We don't know what people are going through – any difficulties or struggles. It's important to sincerely make people feel welcome and let them know we are happy they are here with us in community. We need to be that light for them."

Through the ministry, Lisa has been able to see new parishioners gradually become more involved and more connected to the parish community. However, the Ambassadors themselves have also benefited from the ministry, and have continued to grow in their spirit of service.

"It's an easy entry into getting involved in ministry life, if you've never participated before," Lisa says. "Serving in this ministry enables you to feel more comfortable and

confident in the parish community, and I've seen people grow as time goes on. For example, one of our Ambassadors was new to the parish, and got involved in our ministry because her mom was involved in a similar ministry at her own church. She is now involved in Bible Study, is a reader, and hosts Small Christian Community groups."

Recently, as a group, the ministry started serving the homeless and hungry at Trinity Café. "During a meeting, I asked if the group wanted to get involved in Trinity Café, to serve together as a ministry," Lisa says. "We served in March, and had such a great response that we have decided to continue on throughout the year. We now have four dates set where we're going to serve on Saturday mornings. It's such a great experience to serve the community, but doing it with people that you enjoy being with in the parish

community makes it an even more rewarding, bonding experience. Some people have a hard time getting out of their comfort zone; this helps them to be able to serve together."

The ministry is always welcoming new parishioners and all ages are encouraged to participate.

"It's for people at all stages of life," Lisa says. "We just welcomed a young man who is going to be a junior in high school, we have some who are in their 80s, and all ages in between! As good stewards of our time, talent and treasure grateful for all the blessings and gifts God has given us, it is a privilege to be able to serve our St. Timothy community."

"The growth of the Ambassador ministry has been a great blessing to our parish. The dedication of the group is a wonderful collaborative effort."

"You never know who you're going to touch on any given Sunday. We don't know what people are going through – we may be the only people that make them think, 'Wow, someone truly cares about me.' It's important to truly make people feel welcome, and like we want them to be here. We need to be that light to them." – Lisa Talmo

If you would like more information about the Ambassadors Ministry, or if you have any questions about parish life, please feel free to approach an Ambassador after any weekend Mass. You may also contact Lisa Talmo at lisatalmo@aol.com.



Stewardship's "Supreme Teacher" *Following Christ's Example*

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head – that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

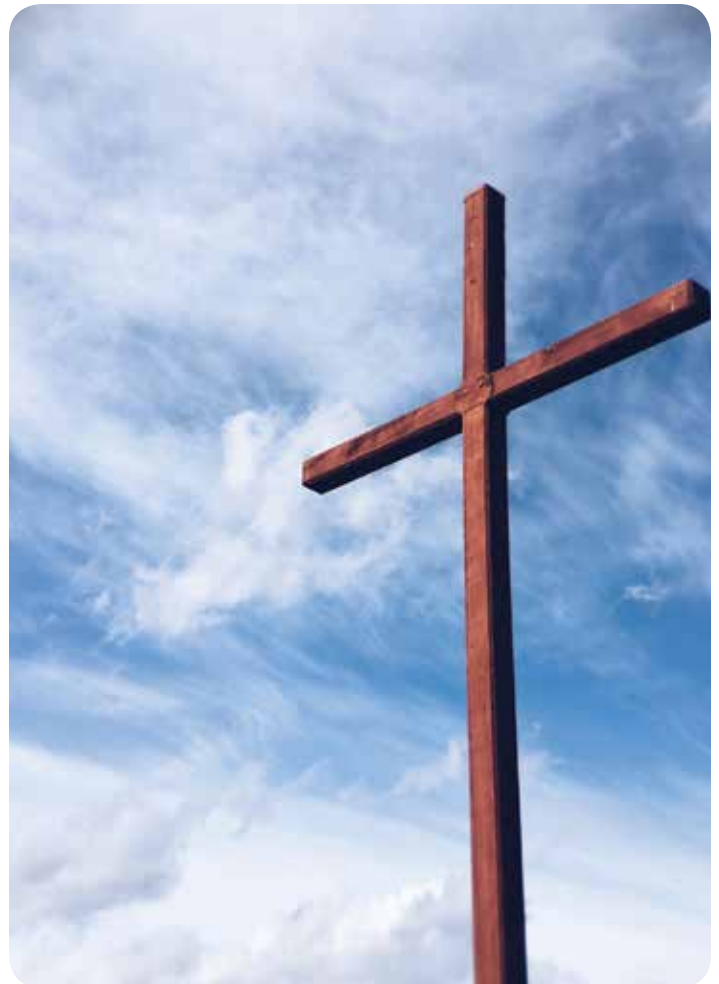
This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face numerous difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship – the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us – is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent, and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more

closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.



Parishioner Ed LaRose Answers the Call to Serve

Long before he began to officially discern a call to the diaconate in 2012, parishioner Ed LaRose was already living a life of service. In 2005, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Ed to the Second District Court of Appeal, and Ed has served as an appellate judge ever since. As a former trustee for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg and a current member of the Knights of Columbus, Ed has long united his interest in public service with a desire to serve the Lord and His Church.

For this lifelong Catholic, the call to a life of service has always been strong, and Ed recognizes this connection between his judgeship and his vocation to the diaconate.

“As a judge, I’m a public servant,” Ed says. “I’m supposed to make decisions according to the law and meant to promote justice in our civil society. And the deacon is a servant in the Church, so I’ve always viewed my judgeship as a model of service that is consistent with the model of deacon as servant.”

It is this draw to service that first led Ed to discern the diaconate. When he began seeing more deacons in the Church, he asked himself if he might be called to fill this role, as well. He got involved with our diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute, where he learned more about becoming an effective leader within the Church. From there, he went on to discern a call to enter the diaconate program.

As a member of the 2017 class, Ed should be finished up with his diaconate studies and ready for ordination by next month!

“I’m really looking forward to being able to proclaim the Word, to ministering to people and helping them along on their journey,” Ed says. “It’s not that I have any particular answers to life’s problems, but we are all on a journey, and if I can be a



Parishioners Ed and Jane LaRose. Ed is looking forward to his upcoming ordination as a permanent deacon.

companion to anyone on their spiritual growth, I’m looking forward to that.”

As Ed approaches ordination, he recognizes that he would not be where he is now if it weren’t for his wife, Jane, who has been incredibly supportive throughout the entire process. The couple’s three grown children are also encouraging and enthusiastic about their father’s new vocation.

In addition to the love and support of his wife and children, Ed is also grateful for the inspiration he found in witnessing the life of service led by his father, who is now deceased.

“When my father retired, he first became a Eucharistic Minister at a local hospital, and then became a chaplain at the hospital, which required him to deal with people who were not in the greatest moment of their lives, and sometimes help them with end of life decisions,” Ed says. “I always found that he had such joy in this ministry, and I never got to

continued on back cover



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Parishioner Ed LaRose Answers the Call to Serve

continued from page 7

ask him why. But when I started ministry work, I began to sense what is joyful about ministering to other people. You are Christ-like to them and, in turn, they are Christ-like to you.”

Of course, St. Timothy also gets a lot of credit for helping to nurture Ed’s call to the diaconate. Ed and Jane have been parishioners at St. Timothy for over 10 years. They first attended Mass here due to the church’s close proximity to their home, and they have been happy to call St. Timothy their faith home. The couple found our parish to be a

welcoming place that provided them with an active faith community in which to raise their children.

“It really is a very vibrant parish,” Ed says. “Fr. Malley has been so supportive of the diaconate program, and it has been a real blessing serving with him on Sundays, and with the other priests, as well. During the formation program, what I have found to be remarkable and humbling is that parishioners I don’t know will come up to me and wish me well and say they are praying for me. To get that affirmation from people in the parish helps me understand that I am on the right path here.”

“I’m really looking forward to being able to proclaim the Word, to ministering to people and helping them along on their journey. It’s not that I have any particular answers to life’s problems, but we are all on a journey, and if I can be a companion to anyone on their spiritual growth, I’m looking forward to that.” – Ed LaRose

• **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.