



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Cindy Vinal

Reflects on 15 Years as Parish Manager

In the 28 years that Cindy Vinal has been a parishioner at St. Timothy, a lot has changed. As she retires from the position of Parish Manager after 15 years, Cindy reflects on the many blessings and changes she has witnessed take place in our parish during her time here.

As Cindy notes, one of the greatest blessings at St. Timothy has been the exciting growth that has taken place here over the last few decades.

“When I first came, we had maybe 600 or 700 families, but now we are over 2,100,” she says. “In the early days, we were always struggling with money and we had a very small building. Then we were fortunate to be able to build the beautiful church we have now, and we can pay the bills and also do outreach. We have super generous and involved parishioners who do a lot of really great things in the parish.

“Over the years, we’ve seen parishioners mature, people that we have seen baptized

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Cindy Vinal served as the Parish Manager at St. Timothy for the last 15 years.

June 2017

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Cindy Vinal Reflects on 15 Years as Parish Manager

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in the church are now baptizing their own babies,” she continues. “We’re becoming a mature parish at 32 years old.”

Before becoming the first Parish Manager at St. Timothy, Cindy had a successful career in the IT field. Somewhere along the way, she began to feel that God was calling her to work for the church. So when she heard about the Parish Manager opening, she decided to leave her established career – and higher pay – to fill the brand-new position. Thanks to Cindy’s leap of faith, we have had a wonderful Parish Manager for these past 15 years!

Cindy recalls the highlights of her time as Parish Manager with gratitude for all of the incredible experiences she has been given.

“We’ve done some big things here,” she says. “We had a funeral for a Tampa police officer. I was intimidated with the task but found it to be such an honor of which to be a part. We also hosted the ordination of a Lutheran Bishop. It’s been very rewarding that I have been able to use my skills to do some very interesting things.”

Of course, in between all of the big events and occasions are the many, many days that Cindy has spent helping the parish run smoothly from behind the scenes. And of all the places there are to spend one’s days, she has been happy to be working here in our vibrant and welcoming parish.

“It’s a really good place to be – it’s warm and friendly,” she says. “There’s a nice age range of people and lots of activities for people to be involved in.”

Now that she is retiring from her post as parish manager, Cindy looks forward to getting more involved in some of the parish’s many ministries. She hopes to

bring the Eucharist to the homebound and help out with the local St. Vincent de Paul group. Cindy is appreciative of the many opportunities for involvement at St. Timothy, which now hosts over 40 ministries, including service ministries and social activities.

With the choice of committing time just once a year by helping with the parish’s large Christmas outreach or being engaged on a more regular basis, Cindy points out that there is truly something for everyone at St. Timothy. And the benefits of staying active in the Church abound.

“The parish becomes an extension to your family if you let it,” she says. “In this day and age when people move around so much, you can develop or enhance your social life at the church by being involved and serving others. It’s a good way to be involved with something that is good, and it certainly helps the church to grow and serve people. There is always room for more people to be involved – there are a lot who already are, but you could always use 10 or 20 or 100 more doing something.”

St. Timothy has certainly been blessed to have had Cindy Vinal as our Parish Manager, and our vibrant and active faith community has grown even stronger and more dynamic thanks to her hard work and dedication.

“I believe it was God calling me to take the position, and He always gave me the grace to do it,” Cindy says.

How thankful we are that Cindy heard God’s unexpected call in her life 15 years ago – and that she took the leap of faith to answer it! We wish her a joyful and blessed retirement, and look forward to her staying active in parish life in the days and years to come!

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Time Is Limitless... Or Is It?

Dear Friends in Christ,

Some years ago, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics to renew their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June. In thinking about that, it made me realize that we all like to measure time – not necessarily in minutes and hours, but certainly in terms of what happens at particular times of the year. In the Church, we celebrate so many occasions that measure time – Easter, Christmas, Corpus Christi, Pentecost, Ordinary Time, the feast days of our saints, and much more, all of which give us that sense of moving forward.

In our own lives and the lives of our families, we mark birthdays, anniversaries, Baptism days, and more dates than we can possibly remember. These dates commemorate or remind us of a point in time. Time is also one of those gifts from God that we attach to the idea and life of stewardship.

We are fond of saying that time is the one thing given to all of us in equal amounts. However, we all know that is not necessarily true. Does a mother with several children have the same amount of time as a person with no family? Does a company manager who is expected to be available seven days a week have the same amount of time as someone who works a 9-to-5 job?

My point is that time is a valuable commodity, whether we feel like we have a lot or very little. God, on the other hand, is timeless. The Lord sees things in an eternal view, while we tend to look at it in shorter measures. The question is really “What do we do with our time to serve others and to increase our relationship with God?” We have said many times that each of us needs to set aside time for both of those purposes – to serve and to pray. There is a reason it is called “prayer time.” Prayer should be a part of our lives, as much as eating, sleeping and working.



Another thing that June brings to mind is how life slows down for most of us. Young people are on summer vacation from school. Families and individuals take vacations. Unfortunately, some see it as a time to take a bit of vacation from worship. We can see it in declining Mass attendance and in the reduced number of activities within ministries and organizations.

We all mark time. We all know that it is limited, and can be fleeting. That is why even countries celebrate special days that mark time – throughout the summer season, Americans celebrate Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. How do we mark time as individuals, as families, and as a parish? That may say more about our understanding of stewardship than anything else. Maybe now, as summer is upon us, is the perfect time to concentrate *more* on our spiritual habits, rather than less.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley".

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





Serving the Community of La



For years, youth minister Justin Lantz has traveled to La Victoria, Dominican Republic to serve the community there. And this year, he is excited to bring the youth of the parish to La Victoria for an opportunity to immerse themselves in Dominican culture, build relationships, and give of themselves.

From June 5-10, Justin and Fr. Malley will accompany high school and college-age students to the town of La Victoria, which is located about an hour north of Santo Domingo, the capital. Justin has made this trip several times, the first when he was a junior in high school – and he is excited to bring the youth of St. Timothy for the first time. However, he points out that this experience will be more than just a typical mission trip.

“The way the trip is run is more of an immersion trip, not just a mission trip,” he says. “We’re not going to try to save them from their poverty – we’re going to build relationships with the people and get to understand their culture. We go in there with that attitude, and they give back to us just as much as we give to them, both emotionally and spiritually.”

To prepare for the trip, the youth took part in four half-day formation retreats. Part of this preparation includes learning about Dominican culture before they even set foot in the country.

“They learn about what they’ll experience when they get there,” Justin says. “One of the reasons we do this is so they can understand the people a little better before they get there. The other reason is because a lot of the time, people can go into a state of shock when they see a third-world country for the first time. If they are in a state of shock, they can’t really reflect on what they are seeing, and they aren’t able to experience the trip the way it should be. So a large part of this formation is to prepare them for what might happen when they see poverty, and how to reflect on that.”

Once they arrive, the group will stay at a retreat center within a convent of the Sisters of Schoenstatt.

“The sisters play a pivotal role in us going there, because they do some of the background work for us,”

Victoria, Dominican Republic

Justin says. “There is also a dedicated shrine to the Blessed Mother at the convent. By visiting the shrine, there are three graces attached – zeal for the Gospel, hospitality and transformation of heart. We always visit there and pray at the shrine to receive those graces from God.”

Each day of the trip will follow a basic schedule beginning with morning Mass at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast, a group gathering, and then breaking out into smaller groups for various service projects. Usually, there are three different projects to choose from each day. After returning to the convent to eat lunch together, the smaller groups will go back to their projects. In the evenings, everyone will gather together for a debrief in order to discuss and reflect on the events of that day.

“It’s pretty organized,” Justin says. “I encourage everyone to try something at least once during the trip, and to make sure that everybody gets an opportunity to do everything.”

Throughout the trip, the youth will work on a variety of projects to serve both the physical and spiritual needs of the community. One of the main projects is building concrete floors for family homes.

“Usually, families live in a 15x15 foot space, usually for a mom and six kids,” Justin says. “They usually

have dirt floors, and it’s usually just one room. In the six days that we are there, we put down three or four floors. We buy sand, gravel and cement from the local hardware store in town, and we do the prep work by mixing the cement and helping the families to move their belongings outside. Then, we hire locals to actually finish the floors. This way, the work that we do also helps their economy.”

The group will also do some work at the local school – for example, purchasing school supplies at local stores and donating them to the school, visiting classrooms and throwing a block party for schoolchildren in the town center. They will also provide a Vacation Bible School for the children in the convent, which includes Bible stories, puppet shows, and various arts and crafts.

The Sisters of Schoenstatt have a nutrition center at the convent for malnourished children from eight months up to 4 years old. The youth will also have the opportunity to volunteer there.

“There are about 40 or 50 kids in the nutrition center, and they get two hot meals a day and a snack – most likely, that’s all they’re going to eat that day,” Justin says. “The students – especially the girls – really enjoy going there to spend time with the kids, and take care of the babies and feed them.”





Celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is probably the most widely recognized representation of Christ's divine love and unwavering compassion for all of humanity. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been practiced for centuries, and this devotion continues to play an important role in today's Catholic faith. As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 23, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this essential Catholic devotion and its role in Church history.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart extends as far back as the 11th or 12th centuries. While there are no definitive texts or histories that verify initial devotees, it is understood that the devotion grew out of the Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries of the time. By the 16th century, documented devotional prayers and exercises had been formulated, and the ascetic writers began making more extensive reference to the Sacred Heart. But it was not until the 17th century that devotion to the Sacred Heart moved beyond being practiced on a private, individual basis. St. Jean Eudes established the first feast of the Sacred Heart, and this was shared with devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It was then that the devotional feast of the Sacred Heart began to spread to other dioceses and religious communities.

However, the devotion as we know and understand it today largely stems from the visions of Jesus Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. While these visions were numerous, the most remarkable revelation, known as "the great apparition," occurred during the octave of Corpus Christi in 1675. As Jesus said to Margaret Mary, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude."

Reporting her vision to Fr. Claude de la Colombe, Margaret Mary was then directed to write an account of the apparition. Despite her initial reluctance to do so, as well as her misgivings upon its completion, this written account would soon be published and widely read among both clergy and laymen, thus play-

ing an instrumental role in spreading the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Another book, *The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, was written by Jesuit Father Croiset after Jesus told Margaret Mary to have Fr. Croiset write it. Following Margaret Mary's death in 1690, Fr. Croiset would compose a short biography of her life that was amended to his book, which served to further increase interest and practice of the devotion.

Over the course of the next century, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus would continue to spread. By the latter half of the 18th century, a Mass of the Sacred Heart was given papal approval for Poland and Portugal, followed two decades later by Venice, Austria and Spain. Then, in 1856, the Feast of the Sacred Heart was officially established by Pope Pius IX.

While the specific readings and exercises for the feast day have been changed and replaced over the years, the basic tenets that extend back to the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque remain the same – the acknowledgement of and devotion to Christ's unending compassion and love for all of us.



St. Timothy Parish Plays Important Role for Catholic Charities

When it comes to parish support for Catholic Charities, no one can hold a candle to St. Timothy!

And not only are parishioners supportive of Catholic Charities, but they also are active in the parish, as well.

Rose Llauguet, Director of Pregnancy and Adoption Services with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, notes that not only is she an active parish member, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, but two Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center Directors are involved in parish ministries – Denise Sladky takes part in our RCIA process and is an active member of the choir, while Liliana Gimenez joins Rose as a Eucharistic Minister.

“We rely on our parishioners to support us in our ministry to women to educate and empower them in their pregnancy, as they choose whether to parent or make adoption plans,” Rose says. “St. Timothy is one of the parishes who are very strong supporters. The Knights of Columbus at St. Timothy are supporters of Project Life, and other groups in the parish all find some way in making a monetary donation or helping with baby showers. They offer support in helping to provide ultrasound machines, and supporting the Foundations of Life Gala.”

Rose is looking forward to this year’s Gala, set for Nov. 18 at Higgins Hall in Tampa.

“This year’s speaker will be Dr. William Lile, an obstetrician/gynecologist who bought out an abortion clinic and turned it into an OB/GYN office, with the stipulation that the doctor who he bought it from can’t perform abortions unless he leaves the state of Florida,” Rose says.

The abortion doctor is reported to have retired and left the country.

Not only is St. Timothy Parish deeply involved in protecting the sanctity of life for the unborn, but our parish also is very supportive of many of the other services provided by Catholic Charities.



Rose Llauguet, director of the Catholic Charities Foundation of Life Pregnancy Centers, at far left, joins staffers Joan Woody, Liliana Gimenez, and Teresa Arianjo, with Mark Dufva, Catholic Charities Executive Director. Our parish supports the work of not only the Foundation of Life Pregnancy Centers, but also many of the outreach services provided by Catholic Charities.

“My specialty is just one aspect of Catholic Charities,” Rose says. “There are 25 programs in Catholic Charities. St. Timothy also supports Pinellas Hope, which is the largest provider of housing for the homeless in Pinellas County.”

Our parish also has been supportive of the Trinity Café.

“It’s not a Catholic Charities program, but it is a soup kitchen that is getting ready to teach clients how to turn it into a business to prepare food,” Rose says. “We’re looking at them to contract to fix meals. We feed over 400 at Pinellas Hope.”

The strong connection we have to Catholic Charities plays an important role in helping the organization fulfill its mission.

“St. Timothy parishioners have a desire to do their part to help those marginalized and in need,” Rose says.

She points out that five members of the Pregnancy Center development committee are St. Timothy members who help in the efforts to raise funds, as the diocese covers only a portion of the center’s budget. Monies are generated through the Gala and Spring Tea, along with other fundraisers.

“St. Timothy has been a great supporter,” Rose says.

For more information about the Foundations of Life, please log on to foundationsoflife.org. For more information about adoption services at Catholic Charities, please log on to ccadoptfl.org. For Catholic Charities, please log on to ccdosp.org.



SAINT TIMOTHY

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Serving the Community of La Victoria, Dominican Republic *continued from page 5*

The group also helps the Sisters with any projects they need done at the convent – for example, painting their security wall – and they also plan to visit local families. While they bring food baskets to the families, the main purpose of these visits is to foster fellowship.

“We plan to give away about 40 food baskets,” Justin says. “The food basket helps them for a few days or even a week, but for the most part our visits are a way for us to get know these people and build relationships with them. The sisters will do some work to find the poorest of the poor in the community, and we visit them, spend time with them, give them the food basket and pray with them. We use translators, and so this way we’re able to learn about them and see if there is any way we can pray for them.”

On the last day of the trip, the group plans to go on an excursion to the marketplace in Santo Domingo. After visiting the cathedral and praying the Rosary, they will head home. Justin hopes that this experience will help to expand our youth’s worldview, and inspire them to continue to give of themselves to those in need.

“I think that when kids see how a lot of the rest of the world lives, their hearts begin to contemplate how they themselves are living,” he says. “The people that we meet there have this joy and faith, which we often are lacking here in the U.S. They definitely have hardships and struggles, but you can really see that their community always comes together to help each other out. So when the kids come back to the U.S., they are able to see and live their lives a bit differently.”

*If you would like more information about our Youth Ministry,
please contact Justin Lantz at justin.lantz@sainttims.org.*

• **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.