



**SAINT TIMOTHY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## *Living out Stewardship* By Helping Those in Need

In 1971, the World Synod of Catholic Bishops released a document titled *Justice in the World*. In this document, the bishops remind the faithful that “according to the Christian message... our relationship to our neighbor is bound up with our relationship to God; our response to the love of God, saving us through Christ, is shown to be effective in his love and service of people. Christian love of neighbor and justice cannot be separated” (34).

These words remind us of our individual call to a life of stewardship, challenging us to respond to the needs of others in love. St. Timothy, in an effort to live out these words, pairs with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Stop Hunger Now (SHN) each year to make a difference through the Helping Hands Program.

“Good social action is essential to being Catholic,” says St. Timothy CRS Representative Nick Frega. “If St. Timothy is going to take its job as a Catholic parish

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*Last year 20,000 meals were provided to help fight poverty in the small country of Burkina Faso through the Helping Hands event.*

March 2017

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# The Irish Evangelist

## *St. Patrick — Feast Day, March 17*

This month, we celebrate the feast of St. Patrick. Born in the year 387, Patrick grew up in the Roman province of Britain. He was captured at the age of 16 by Irish raiders, taken to Ireland and sold into slavery. And, despite the precarious nature of his captivity, Patrick managed to learn the language and customs of the Druid pagans who held him.

Throughout his captivity, the young Patrick would often turn to God in times of distress and need. Prayer became Patrick's refuge, and he would spend hours in conversation with God.

Patrick remained in the hands of his captors for six long years. Then, in the summer of 407, he experienced a profound religious transformation. Commanded by God in a dream, Patrick was instructed to leave Ireland via the coast. There, on the rocky shores of the Irish coast, sailors caught sight of Patrick and returned him to Britain and his family.

However, a short while later, Patrick experienced another profound dream. In the dream, Patrick heard the cries of the Irish people, "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more." And although it would



be years before he returned to Ireland, the prophetic nature of Patrick's dream was inevitable.

Patrick was not destined to stay in Britain for long – he soon moved to continental Europe and began studying for the priesthood in a French monastery. In 432, Patrick was ordained a bishop and

commissioned to take the Gospel to Ireland. He reached the Irish shores for a second time on March 25, 433. Patrick would spend the remainder of his life in Ireland, converting the Irish pagans for the next 30 years.

Patrick's legend spread far and wide, and by the grace of God, the saint converted thousands of Druids to the Catholic faith. He built churches throughout Ireland and opened the eyes of ruthless barbarian kings to the grace and love of Christ. Legend has it that Patrick used an ordinary shamrock clover to explain the mystery of the Trinity to the Irish people. Other legends depict Patrick ridding the island of venomous snakes. However, scientists now know that snakes never inhabited the Emerald Isle. But the story symbolically sheds light on Patrick's evangelical mission – ridding Ireland of pagan religions, with the cross replacing the popular Druid serpent.

Today, 93 percent of Ireland is Catholic. We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17, the day of his death. A holiday for all nations, St. Patrick's Day has become a universal opportunity to celebrate friendship and good fortune.

## Lent is More than Preparation for Easter

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2013, Pope Francis issued his first significant work. It was what is called an “apostolic exhortation” titled *The Joy of the Gospel* (*Evangelii Gaudium* in Latin). While Rome may use fancy words for some of these things, an “exhortation” of this sort does not change any official Church rules or traditions. However, it does offer advice and encouragement about how we should live our lives.

Pope Francis offers this kind of guidance on a regular basis, but this one in particular seems to present us with suggestions that are worthy of our consideration, especially during Lent. The pope called us to become missionary disciples: “The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 24).

Speaking about his exhortation, Pope Francis said, “One of the riches of the Second Vatican Council was to remind the Church of the two ‘lenses’ of the season of Lent: baptismal and penitential.” In fact, Vatican II noted specifically, “The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent – the recalling of baptism or the preparation for it, and penance – should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepared the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God’s word more frequently and devote more time to prayer” (*Companion to the Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1348).

It might be well for us to keep these in mind during Lent. There were vows made during our baptism, and this is the time of year to try to fulfill those vows, in addition to reaffirming them. We are



given various opportunities to renew these vows, and we may tend to do it automatically without a thought. Now, however, is the time to think. Perhaps during Lent, we can renew these vows as families – and we must not necessarily do it in church or at a Mass. Then, we need to do something during Lent to help each of us understand what that renewal means.

The other important part of Lent pointed out by Pope Francis has to do with penance. Most of us have heard the traditional practices of Lent – fasting, prayer, reception of the Sacraments, and almsgiving. These are things that may bring us closer to Christ. By fasting, we may gain a greater understanding of the hunger the Lord feels for our souls; by increased prayer, we join in union with God; through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, we become a greater part of that union with God; through giving alms, we empty ourselves in part, just as Jesus emptied Himself for us on the cross.

This is a time to do more than prepare for Easter. This is a time to change how we may approach living and our faith. God bless you now and throughout this holiest of seasons.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley



# Sharing the Gift of Encouragement

## *The Catholic Cancer Network*

*“The more comfortable someone can feel about discussing [cancer] and trying to understand it is good, and this group being a part of the church certainly provides a comfort and solace to those folks. At this point in the ministry’s history, we have people that came in, asked for help, received help, came out the other end, and now provide help. It’s about giving the individual an association with someone else who has been there, done that, and survived it all.” – Kevin Castora*



There are few things in life that can test our faith more than facing a serious illness like cancer. And with an estimated 1.6 million new cases of cancer diagnosed in the United States in 2016, and over 120,000 in the state of Florida alone, there are few of us who have not been touched in some way by this disease. Facing a diagnosis often leads to feelings of great uncertainty for both cancer patients, their friends and loved ones as they ask themselves: *What will happen to me now? What do all of these medical terms actually mean? And how do I move forward from here?* The seemingly endless questions and doubts – as well as the amount of new information that comes with an unexpected diagnosis – can be overwhelming.

Parishioner Kevin Castora knows all too well what it is like to be in search of answers and support after receiving a cancer diagnosis.

“The information gap at the moment of being told you have cancer is as wide as the Grand Canyon,” he

says. “Most people have never envisioned what comes next and where to go. When I was diagnosed with cancer in 2007, I had difficulty finding other people in similar situations to talk to because I was a novice at this. I was looking for information about what was next – what happens after surgery – because you just don’t know what to expect.”

Years ago, fellow parishioners that had been a support for Kevin as he underwent his battle with cancer, encouraged him to start a ministry aimed at providing new cancer patients with encouragement and information from people who have been through a similar experience. Kevin took the idea to heart and has been helping people, impacted by a cancer diagnosis, find the personalized support they need through the Catholic Cancer Network over the past seven years.

“The Catholic Cancer Network assists people who either have recently been diagnosed with cancer, have family members who have been diagnosed or are

# Encouragement and Hope

## *Cancer Network*

dealing with cancer on an ongoing basis,” Kevin says. “People can just walk in to any of our monthly meetings, meet with me or call me if they’ve just been diagnosed with cancer. I can then go through my list and find someone who has been through a similar diagnosis and treatment and has come out the other side with a very positive outlook. I then get the mutual agreement of both individuals, before I coordinate an introduction and meeting. At that point, the communication becomes one-on-one, either over the phone, over a coffee or at church.”

Kevin’s contact list of cancer survivors who are willing to be paired up with someone who is currently facing cancer includes more than 60 people, showing just how valuable they view this service. The ministry volunteers do not provide medical advice. However, the moral support, practical experience, and personal history they are able to share is truly priceless.

“When you’ve been through this, you realize how much support you can provide to someone just starting on that journey,” Kevin says. “Every volunteer that I have matched with a cancer patient has given me extremely positive feedback about being able to help out. You know that when you’re done, the recipient of those one-on-one conversations is going away a little more upbeat than when those conversations started.”

In addition to providing moral support to people navigating the unfamiliar waters of cancer diagnosis and treatment, volunteers in this ministry are able to offer another immeasurable gift – the gift of hope. As Kevin points out, survival rates for cancer are improving these days, and those who come to the Catholic Cancer Network for help are able to see and hear, firsthand, the inspiring stories of the survivors they meet.

“[Facing cancer] is a unique situation that hits a person very hard,” Kevin says. “The more

comfortable someone can feel about discussing it and trying to understand it is good, and the Catholic Cancer Network at St. Timothys certainly provides a comfort and solace to those folks. At this point in the ministry’s history, we have people that came in, asked for help, received help from others, came out the other end and now provide help. It’s about giving the individual an association with someone else who has been there, done that, and survived it all.”

Providing those whose lives are impacted by cancer with encouragement, practical help, and – most importantly of all – hope, the parishioners, who volunteer with this ministry, are using their time and talent to serve God’s people in a truly special way. We are thankful to Kevin Castora for bringing this important ministry to our faith community!

*Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Cancer Network?  
Please contact Kevin Castora by telephone at 813-920-7182 or by email at  
kcastor1@tampabay.rr.com.*



# Trinity Café

Since 2001, Trinity Café has been serving the homeless and hungry of the Tampa Bay area – and has done so with the acceptance, compassion and love that all of God’s children deserve.

“The mission of Trinity Café is to restore a sense of dignity, care and respect and a respite from the street to the homeless and hungry,” says Jerry Giglia. “[This is done by] serving a hot, nutritious, restaurant-quality three-course meal and engaging them in an environment of friendly conversation that expresses caring and understanding.”

Trinity Café was founded 16 years ago by four businessmen with a common concern for the homeless in downtown Tampa. Food is either donated or purchased at a low cost, and it is prepared and served at Trinity Café’s main facility on Nebraska Avenue in Tampa. Food prepared at the Nebraska Avenue location is also delivered to a second, newer location on Busch Boulevard. The Nebraska Avenue location has served as many as 300 meals in one hour, and as of this year, Trinity Café as a whole has served over one million meals.

Jerry and his wife, Meredith, had been serving at Trinity Café individually for several years before working to bring the ministry to the parish as a whole.

“As we served at Trinity Café over the years, we were always so uplifted and felt God’s grace so clearly while serving,” Meredith says. “We wanted to be able to share this special grace of serving with our fellow parishioners.”

“I always tell people that on some days, we would drive down there while we were preoccupied with some kind of issue or difficulty,” Jerry adds. “But when we got down there and served, it all went away. We would serve these people and leave feeling so renewed. As that continued to happen, we’d think, ‘Somehow, we’ve got to bring this to the parish.’”



*Jerry and Meredith Giglia*

Jerry and Meredith approached Fr. Malley and Deacon Peter with the idea for the ministry, which would allow a group of parishioners to serve at Trinity Café together as a parish community. The Giglias submitted a written proposal, which was approved by the Parish Council in April 2016. The first group of St. Timothy parishioners began serving in June 2016.

Trinity Café’s Nebraska Avenue location is open seven days a week, and the Busch location is open five days a week. Volunteers are needed on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., with meals served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and on weekends from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., with meals served from 9 to 10 a.m. While the ministry has employees that handle administration and food preparation, Trinity Café relies entirely on volunteers to serve the meals. On two days per month, one weekday and one weekend day, the Trinity Cafe allots 10 spots for St. Timothy volunteers.

Mealtime at Trinity Café is unique in that it is designed to give guests a sense of dignity.

# Serving Guests in Need with Dignity



*Group of volunteers from St. Timothy*

“At the Nebraska location where we serve, there are 12 tables with six place settings – it’s a restaurant-style atmosphere,” says Meredith. “There is someone to greet the guests as they come in, and tell them which tables to go to. We have accommodations for children and families, as well. As servers, we ask them what they’d like to drink, and we bring that for them, along with the food. It’s a three-course meal, and we also serve them dessert. In addition to the servers, there are also bussers who clear the tables before we reset them. There is also a guitar and piano there, and sometimes a guest will get up and start playing or singing.”

“For each of the 12 tables, there are two servers assigned to seats there,” Jerry adds. “We try to engage the guests. One thing that’s amazing to see is how you might get people who come to the table, and their eye contact is only with their food. But after a little while, you can tell when their guard starts coming down, and their eye contact starts to change when they engage you and one another.”

By serving at Trinity Café, parishioners have been able to be an example of their faith, and to grow in their relationship with God.

“Parishioners have become so excited and committed about serving at Trinity Café,” Jerry says. “This ministry has given them the opportunity to follow Pope Francis’ call to get out of our comfort zones of our parishes and neighborhoods, and go to the margins of our society in order to find and serve Christ among the poor, homeless and hungry.”

“By serving the poor, homeless and hungry as a parish community, our Lord changes our hearts as we change the lives of those we serve with a meal, and by interacting with them in a caring environment,” Meredith adds. “This change of heart enables us to come back to our parish with a better understanding of our Lord’s mercy, compassion and love. As we celebrate Mass and are strengthened and nourished by the Eucharist and the sacraments, we see more clearly the grace given to us by God, the faith that follows, and the good Corporal Works of Mercy that Trinity Café – and we as a parish – provide.”

*Trinity Café is located in Tampa at 2801 N. Nebraska Avenue, with a second location at 2202 E. Busch Boulevard. If you would like to get involved, please contact Jerry and Meredith Giglia at [gigliaml@gmail.com](mailto:gigliaml@gmail.com) or 813-968-5938. For more information about Trinity Café, please visit [www.trinitycafe.org](http://www.trinitycafe.org).*



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## CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## Living out Stewardship By Helping Those in Need

*continued from front cover*

seriously, building global solidarity and fighting global poverty are part of our mission.”

By pairing with the Catholic Relief Services Helping Hands program, St. Timothy has been able to help fight poverty in the small country of Burkina Faso in West Africa. In the first year of partnering with CRS, St. Timothy raised money to provide 10,000 meals. Last year, we were able to increase our aid to 20,000 meals and this year, the goal is to reach 20,000 or more meals. Though Burkina Faso may be far away, programs like this allow us to truly make a difference in someone’s life as well as make the world

“a little bit smaller” by creating bridges between gaps in society. In this way, parishioners are challenged to spiritually reflect on their own personal lives and to embrace more fully the call to stewardship.

This past February, around 80 volunteers came together to complete the project. Following the 9 a.m. Mass on Feb. 25, a presentation on global solidarity was offered before volunteers helped pack the food being sent to Burkina Faso.

“This has impacted my life and has caused me to reflect on how I take care of my personal property and my finances,” Nick says.

*If you would like to learn more, or would like get involved with important social action, please contact Nick Frega at 813-968-1077, ext. 202 or [nick.frega@sainttims.org](mailto:nick.frega@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.