



**SAINT TIMOTHY**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Evangelizing College Students for Christ: *FOCUS on Florida Campuses*

**W**hen James Dunnigan began studying at the University of Florida, he joined a fraternity and soon fell away from his faith. By the grace of God, a FOCUS missionary came into his life his senior year.

“If it wasn’t for that FOCUS missionary, I don’t know where I’d be,” James says.

FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, began in the 1990s as an outreach program for American college students.

“FOCUS seeks to evangelize college students for Christ and to invite students into a relationship with Christ through discipleship,” James says. “The missionaries enter into the lives of students, establish friendships and share the Good News of Christ and His Church.”

On campus, teams of four missionaries — two men and two women — lead small groups, Bible studies, mission trips and other faith-building activities for young adults. Many of them, like James,



*On a college student mission trip, James Dunnigan directed with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica*

have been raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools.

“I’m very grateful to Fr. Malley, who has been like a spiritual father to me and who has supported my work with FOCUS,” James says. “As a missionary, I now walk into these dark places on campuses and mentor men who generally have a false sense of what true masculinity is.”

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June 2018

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## The Challenge of Discipleship

**G**od calls us to give Him everything – our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind. This is the challenge of discipleship – a lifelong process of more fully placing our lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

The reason that God can ask such complete service from us is that He made us. Everything we have belongs to Him! This includes our intelligence, our physical ability, our artistic talent, our family, our finances, our government – anything we may typically think of as “ours.”

It takes courage to recognize that we are not the masters of our possessions and ourselves. Furthermore, as Christians, we believe that because everything we have is a gift from God, we are called to give Him thanks. We express our thanks by using our gifts to further His kingdom on earth. This is the basis for our understanding of stewardship.

We refer to “time,” “talent,” and “treasure” in order to differentiate between the various parts of our life that belong to God. “Time” is the duration of life that God has given us. “Talent” includes the special gifts or strengths God has nurtured in us. “Treasure” is what we have earned through our time and talent.

Even though we identify these three aspects of stewardship, they are still part of the same Gospel-based concept. And even when we focus separately

on these parts, it should not signal that one is more important than the other. Instead, focusing on each aspect one at a time helps us to better concentrate on that area in our lives.

Stewardship is, after all, an attitude. If our goal is to become better stewards, we must have a reason in our minds to do so. Here are the basics of a stewardship attitude:

### ***“God made everything!”***

A wholehearted trust that God made all things is essential to understanding stewardship. Recognizing God as the Creator is one of the most basic, profound beliefs of Christianity.

### ***“I am truly blessed!”***

It takes humility in order to truly acknowledge God’s goodness. Every great triumph and every little pleasure is a blessing from above, and every strong character trait we possess is a gift from God.

### ***“I believe I am to use God’s gifts for His glory!”***

What better way to thank God for His goodness than by using our personal gifts to glorify Him? We are not the owners of our time, talent or treasure. But we are caretakers given the responsibility of spreading God’s kingdom on earth.

## Surrounded by Saints and Good Stewards

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is June — not quite the heart of the summer, but certainly a time when everything seems to be wrapping up. From school and religious education, to many of our ministries, much is winding down and going on hiatus.

Last month, we celebrated the month of our Blessed Mother Mary. This month, I would like to turn our attention to the idea of stewardship, although that concept is important every month and every day throughout the year.

We do not have to look far to find good stewards. They are all around us. They may be sitting near us at Mass. They may be part of our own families and households. Pay attention at our liturgies as they are always there, serving in a variety of ways. I suppose the big question is, “Do people look at us and see a good steward?” We are talking about more than our parish and the Church here. There are people in our communities and neighborhoods who show us what it means to be a good steward, and they do not have to be Catholic.

In June, we celebrate Father’s Day. St. Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may seem to be overlooked, but we do need to look at him always and especially on Father’s Day. He humbly accepted his role much in the same way that Mary did. He does not have much to say in the Bible, indicative of his humility and understanding. Yet he, like Mary, was obedient. He was selfless. He was a worker, and in his own quiet way he was a leader — an example to all of us.

St. Joseph is, as you know, the patron saint of fathers, workers and the universal Church. If we could all emulate Joseph in some small part each day, we would be closer



to being the disciples Christ has called us to be.

Sometimes, we Catholics are criticized for using statues, and some may be under the misguided impression that we worship statues. Our country and our lives are filled with statues — for instance, look at Washington, D.C. and its various monuments. Think of Mount Rushmore. People go to see these statues and stand in front of them, sometimes bowing their heads in prayer, or looking at the statue or piece of marble

in awe. Does this mean these people are worshipping these statues? Absolutely not.

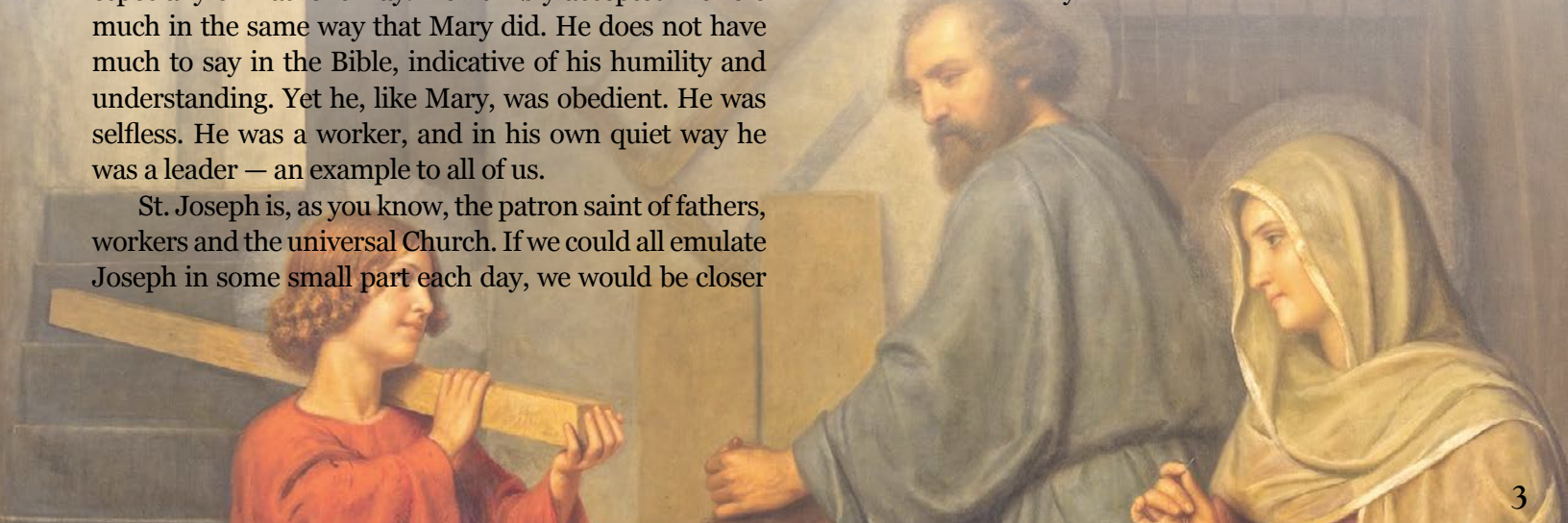
Let us be proud of our Catholic heritage and let us not be afraid to honor and respect our saints and the saints in our midst, the good stewards all around us. In fact, we must each try to be more like them.

God bless you in all you do.

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





# St. Philip Neri Center Formation Oppor

*“Each of us has 24 hours in the day, seven days a week. How we invest our time is based on the things we find most important, and if we think our faith is important we will find time for formation. If people want to grow in their life in Christ, we offer many opportunities to do so.” — Fr. John Lipscomb*

**W**e share a rich faith tradition that offers us so much at every stage of life — so why would we ever want to stop learning more? At the St. Philip Neri Center for Adult Faith Formation, right here on the St. Timothy parish campus, we offer a variety of opportunities for adults to continue to grow in faith.

The St. Philip Neri Center, located in the Parish Center, consists of an adoration chapel and three meeting rooms for activities such as classes, Bible studies, retreats or small-group meetings. Currently, a multitude of adult faith formation groups and parish ministries meet regularly in the Center.

“This project was thought through and prayed over quite a bit,” says Fr. John Lipscomb. “The faith formation center offers a place for adult formation — we believe that the Church needs to be concerned with lifelong formation, and not just the formation of children. We wanted it to be a place available for support groups, ongoing formation classes, or a quiet space for prayer and adoration.”

The Center gives adult parishioners a physical place where they can naturally continue their formation in the faith, no matter where they are in their faith journey. It’s important for us to allow God to strengthen us on the inside so we can make a difference in the outside world.

“First, to learn the faith is a lifelong process,” Fr. John says. “It’s not like going to school — we don’t

graduate from the need to immerse ourselves in the Scriptures. St. Augustine said it best when he said that at prayer, we are always beginners, so it is critical to learn the life in Spirit and life in prayer as beginners.

“Second, how do we express our faith in the world we live in, and the cultural climate we live in?” he adds. “How are we a part of the faith, but also have something to say about the life of the world around us? It is a lifelong learning process — it’s not something that we can learn in 12 years of formation as children and youth. There is a need within the Christian life to have the opportunity for growth, formation, education and transformation. How do we grow closer in faith to the Lord, and in the intimacy of the relationship He wants us to have with Him?”

The Center’s Adoration Chapel allows us to get up close and personal with the Lord, and spending time with Him is a great way to develop that important relationship. The chapel is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All are welcome to stop by any time for a few moments with the Blessed Sacrament, or to sign up for a regular adoration hour.

Parishioner Julie Pope has found that regular adoration brings joy to her life.

“I started adoration when I lived in Indiana when my kids were young,” she says. “I’d go before picking them up from school, and on my adoration days they always said I was in the best mood I’d been all week!

# Offers a Variety of Faith tunities for Adults

The peace and the clarity it brings is just wonderful, and I promise you, God always brings you back more time than you give. I love my Tuesday mornings now – it’s my appointment with God and I so look forward to it.”

Individuals are welcome to pray, read or even just sit quietly during their time in adoration.

“Sometimes it’s important to simply be there in the Lord’s Presence, simply to listen to the voice of the Lord, the quiet voice that sits inside us,” Fr. John says. “It’s also a wonderful place for some people to pray the Rosary, or say the Jesus prayer, or read the Liturgy of the Hours. Other people take their Bibles and sit and read Scripture, asking the Lord, ‘What are you trying to say to me? Help me understand.’

“And perhaps, above all, we can say ‘thank You’ to the Lord for the opportunity to be in His Presence,” he adds. “I think far too often, we think there’s a formula we need to go through to pray. Our prayers are often formal because of our liturgical life, so this is an opportunity to be informal, allowing our minds to speak what is on our hearts. Just like in all relationships, it’s a conversation with the Lord.”

The parish is working to schedule two committed adorers for each hour, as well as build a substitute list for when a scheduled adorer is unavailable. Using the Adoration Pro software, it’s easy to sign up for a regular hour of adoration or to become a substitute. Simply visit [adorationpro.org/timothyfl](http://adorationpro.org/timothyfl) to sign up.

“Each of us has 24 hours in the day, seven days a week,” Fr. John says. “How we invest our time is based on the things we find most important, and if we think our faith is important we will find time for formation. If people want to grow in their life in Christ, we offer many opportunities to do so.”



*If you would like more information about the faith formation opportunities offered at the St. Philip Neri Center, be sure to check the parish bulletin or call the parish office at 813-968-1077.*



## A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR

# PRAYER

## The Presentation of the Gifts

**O**ccasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to generously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty

but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!

## Greatness in Service: *Extending Our Gratitude to Parishioner Walter Poff*

Every once in a while, you meet someone who seems as though they have done just about everything and done it well. From athletics to his career, to his hobbies and family life, Walter Poff is that kind of person. And in the midst of accomplishing more than many of us could ever hope for ourselves, he has managed to keep faith at the center of his life — a priority, regardless of the other things that required his attention.

Growing up in New Albany, Ind., Walter was born into a Catholic family and was raised practicing the faith. He was honored as First Team All State (Indiana) in basketball while in high school and was also inducted into the New Albany High School Hall of Fame. He went on to the University of Detroit on a basketball scholarship and was inducted into the Hall of Fame there as well.

While in Detroit, Walter met his wife, Cecile, who was originally from the area. The couple, who wed shortly before Walter became a pilot in the Air Force, has been married 65 years. The couple has six children — four boys and two girls — and their family has grown to include not only grandchildren, but also many great-grandchildren.

The family traveled a lot during Walter's time serving in the Air Force, first to Florida, then Texas and beyond, with Walter flying fighter planes, four-engine transport planes, jets and more.

Walter accomplished much in his career, following his time in the Air Force, serving as the President of the National Association of Corrosion



*Walter and Cecile Poff have been active members of St. Timothy's since moving to the area in the early 2000s.*

Engineers (NACE International), an organization that “equips society to protect people, assets, and the environment from the adverse effects of corrosion.” He played a significant role in many important projects, including one involving the protection of the Statue of Liberty. In this role, he and Cecile traveled all around the U.S., England, Canada and South America.

Walter also loves to play golf, and spent many years attending the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Ga. with friends. He is known for “playing and winning all the golf games”!

Walter has been active at St. Timothy's since several years before the parish moved to its current location. He and Cecile moved to the area around the turn of the millennium, and became involved while the parish was meeting at the Ragg Road location, directly behind Gaither High School.

Walter found many ways to become involved, including serving as the first President of the parish Men's Club, and he loved organizing opportunities for men to be involved in the parish — from golf tournaments, to dances and more. Walter also served on our first stewardship committee and the capital campaign committee to build our new church and is also active in the Knights of Columbus, and is respected by many as an active and faithful member of the Church, willing to be generous in service.

Thank you, Walter, for your years of faithful service to our church, community and country! We are grateful for the example of great men, like you.



# SAINT TIMOTHY

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## *FOCUS on Florida Campuses* continued from front cover

Today FOCUS missionaries serve over 122 American universities and three international universities in Austria, England and Ireland. In Florida, they currently serve four schools — the University of North Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Ave Maria University and the University of Florida.

“We’re always expanding,” James says. “All our missionaries attend summer training at Ave Maria University, and our team directors will attend training in Catholic leadership at the Bethany Center this year.”

St. Timothy’s parishioners can support FOCUS and its mission in several ways, including praying for college students and our missionaries, and supporting a local missionary who serves with FOCUS.

“All of our missionaries fundraise 100 percent of our support, which allows us to be full-time missionaries and dedicate ourselves and our time,” James says. “All donations are tax deductible.”

As FOCUS.org explains, today only 30 percent of Americans who were raised Catholic still practice their faith. FOCUS missionaries reach out to young adult Catholics who are at a crucial point in their faith journeys and invite them to further their relationship with Christ.

“Pope Francis said the best tool for evangelizing a young person is another young person,” James says. “We train college students right after they graduate and send them onto campuses to provide mentorship so that students can grow in their faith in the college environment.”

*If you would like more information about FOCUS, please visit [focus.org](http://focus.org) or reach out to James Dunnigan at [james.dunnigan@focus.org](mailto:james.dunnigan@focus.org) or 813-486-5905.*

### *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.