



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Lou Turcotte Looking Forward to Growing in the Diocese

Sometimes, it comes over us like a lightning bolt. Sometimes, it's a feeling we've had all along. And sometimes, it's there in the back of our minds, a quiet tug we think we can avoid, that we think will change over time. But the will of God is there to change us, and if we listen, it's a path that will gracefully shape the course of our lives.

New Parochial Vicar Fr. Lou Turcotte was ordained this past May. Growing up in the diocese, Fr. Lou attended Light of Christ Parish with his parents, Yvette and John, and sisters, Corinne and Madi. A graduate of Clearwater High School and the University of Florida, Fr. Lou says he initially felt God leading him to the priesthood as a teenager.

"I had started thinking about it in high school but put it off," he says. "I got a degree in Marketing at the University of Florida. And then during my time there, I got involved with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, and that was the final blow of my resistance to the priesthood."

Fr. Lou says he gave in somewhat expecting to prove God wrong, that he wasn't called to the priesthood and that enrolling in seminary would lead to that conclusion. But after time at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami, his resolve

continued on page 5



Newly ordained priest Fr. Lou Turcotte began his tenure as Parochial Vicar here at St. Timothy in July. As a native of Clearwater, Fr. Lou says he is looking forward to serving in the diocese where he first learned his faith.

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In this Issue

- 2 Good for the Giver
- 4 As Summer Winds Down, Fall Back into Stewardship
- 6 Offering Our Love and Adoration to Jesus
- 7 Faith Lived and Experienced: St. Timothy's Deacon Peter and Charlotte Burns

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Stewardship

Good for the Giver

Here's a simple riddle: Name something you can't keep if you don't give it away, but if you give it away, it will increase.

The best answer to this riddle, if you haven't already guessed, is *love*. But the beauty of this paradox is that there can be a number of different answers. Another response might be *artistic talent*. Ask any artist, and they'll tell you that their skill for drawing or painting diminishes after a few weeks or months of inactivity. But the more they paint, the more their talent grows.

We also see this truth illustrated in nature. The Sea of Galilee, teeming with fish and other wildlife, is one example. All of the water in this beautiful reservoir is constantly being drained through the Jordan River, which stretches for about 60 miles, providing the only fresh water for all of Israel. It finally drains into the Dead Sea, which has no outlet. It is consequently stagnant and totally lifeless, continually evaporating into thin air.

The point, in a nutshell, is that the good steward accentuates his or her gifts by giving them away. And as a result, ends up with more!

There is a story about St. Teresa of Calcutta and her visit to one of the hundreds of convents she had

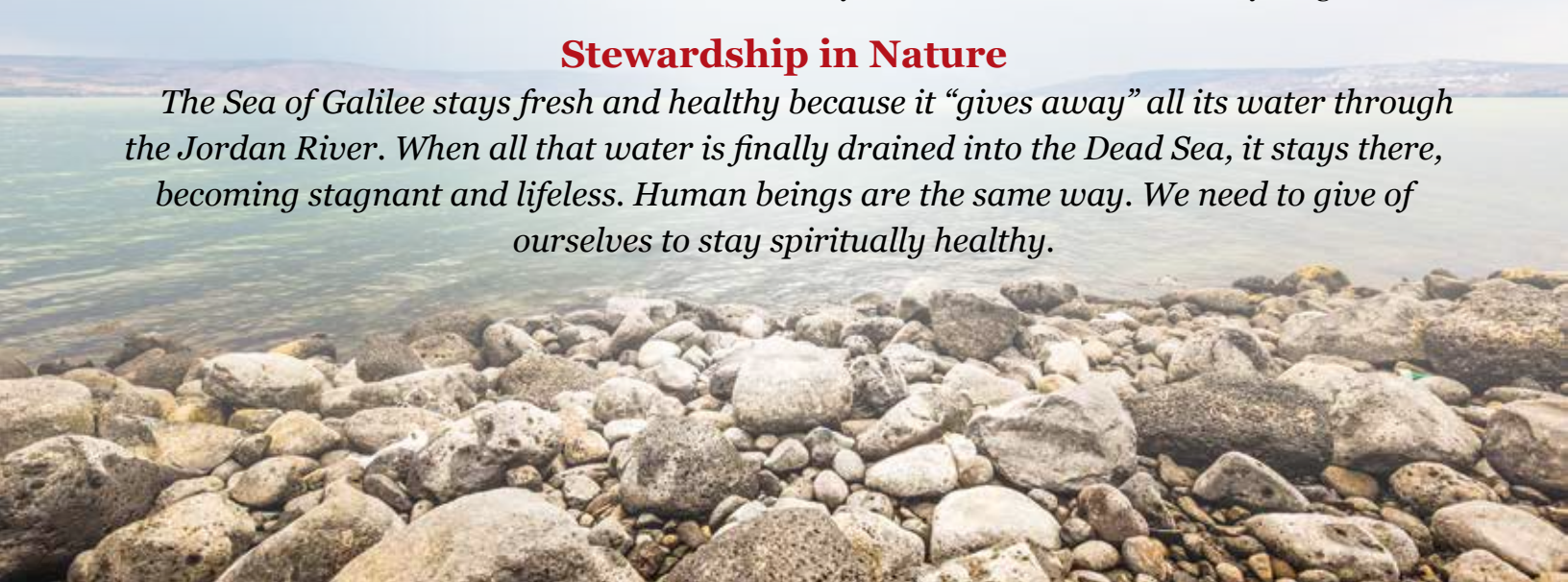
founded. The Superior of the convent told her, "Mother, we don't have enough time to do our work with the poor; there's just not enough hours in the day." St. Teresa responded, "Then you need to pray more." When the convent added another full hour of prayer each day, they somehow found that they had enough time to do even *more* for the poor in that city.

The difficulty with this idea – that by giving we receive – is still a struggle for many of us. When we arrive at the moment of giving, we think we will have less. This is especially true regarding money. When writing a check to a charity or to the parish, you mathematically end up with less money to spend, but the value of our sacrifice is immeasurable. This is why Jesus speaks so frequently in the Gospels about the spiritual benefits of giving to others. We may not have "more" after we give, but we will have more of something else – and something better.

When we emphasize stewardship, it is not primarily to increase "volunteerism" or to swell our budget. Indeed, our first aim is always the "good of the giver." We should not give because the parish has needs, *but because we have a need to give*. We recognize that the model Steward is Jesus, who gave *all*, even His very life, so that we could have everything.

Stewardship in Nature

The Sea of Galilee stays fresh and healthy because it "gives away" all its water through the Jordan River. When all that water is finally drained into the Dead Sea, it stays there, becoming stagnant and lifeless. Human beings are the same way. We need to give of ourselves to stay spiritually healthy.



A Letter From Our Pastor

As Summer Winds Down, Fall Back into Stewardship

Dear Friends in Christ,

August has traditionally been regarded as a summer month — a continuation of July with a few differences, namely back-to-school sales that arrive during the month. But now, many schools begin the academic year in August, with the ever-present back-to-school sales falling even earlier in July.

So do we regard August as “summer” or “the beginning of fall”? While I don’t have an answer to that question, I do know that it’s a time when we should be thinking about how we’re going to serve as Christian disciples and stewards once the fall routines begin.

Even for adults long out of school, the concept of “summer vacation” has a strong hold on us. Sure, some take vacations in the fall to see the leaves, or in winter for skiing or to see family during the Christmas season — but we still think of the summer as *the* time for vacations. Many also have the preconceived notion that “nothing happens” in our parish over the summer.

Of course, that is certainly not the case. In parishes across America, there are summer programs like Vacation Bible School for the children, and youth groups are attending conferences, and sharing in service projects in areas of need. In addition, both our staff and our volunteers are busy during



the summer, as they prepare for our “normally scheduled” activities that resume after Labor Day.

That brings me to my main point — how are *you* preparing to serve as a steward once Labor Day is past? Have you thought of how you can best serve the Lord Jesus with the talent He has entrusted to you? Have you planned how you can arrange your schedule to offer Him more of your time in prayer, worship and study? Have you considered how your budget might be rearranged to share more of the treasure in your care?

Maybe our Lord is inviting you to teach religious education, or to work with the youth, or to visit shut-ins, or to volunteer at a food bank, or to sing in the choir, or to attend weekday Mass, or... well, you get the idea. While we count down the days and wait for Autumn to arrive, we can use our time to evaluate how we can be better disciples, better stewards and better Christians — this fall and throughout the rest of our lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley

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time when we should be thinking about how we’re going to serve as
Christian disciples and stewards once the fall routines begin.*



Supporting Our Priests, Seminarians and Religious

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life are the heartbeat of the Catholic Church on earth — when individuals answer God’s call to these areas, they strengthen our Church from the inside out. The Vocation Network Ministry here at St. Timothy encourages us to pray for our seminarians, priests, and religious brothers and sisters, while also raising awareness for and helping educate those who may be discerning one of these vocations.

“We are trying to make the congregation aware that our priests and seminarians need prayers, and the ways in which they can pray for them,” says parishioner Sandy Hay. “We also want to figure out how we can present this to our kids and have them think about this as an option. It’s a new ministry here, so we’re just starting and trying to figure out the best ways to do this.”

Sandy and her husband, Wayne, are active participants in the Vocation Network Ministry. The ministry has worked to raise awareness and encourage prayer in a variety of different ways. One example is through display boards that are periodically placed in the narthex and parish center.

“Each year, these posters will show all the seminarians who are going through the process,” Wayne says. “That way, everyone knows who we are talking about and it helps put a face to the person that you’re praying for.”

The ministry also distributes a monthly vocation calendar, with each day dedicated to a specific seminarian, priest or religious person. They have also started an “Adopt-a-Seminarian” program in which individual parishioners and other parish ministries as a group can participate.

“We have gone to ministries like our Bible study groups, Women’s Club and Men’s Club and had them adopt a seminarian,” Sandy says. “We gave them their picture and bio, and they pray for them. They also have their birthday information so they can send them a birthday card if they wish. Some



The seminarian display

people have come up to us and asked, ‘What else can we do? How do we do this?’”

“We tell them to pray for them in whatever way they feel comfortable praying,” Wayne says. “For example, every day we say an Our Father or a Hail Mary for a seminarian. There is also a national prayer that is on the displays and the calendar. It’s a simple process — we just have to pray for these people.”

Ministry members also hope to raise awareness of what a priest’s life looks like, in order to paint a full picture for those who may be considering or discerning the priesthood.

“These young guys have a lot going on in their lives, and sometimes it’s tough to turn down a lot of the things that they will have to give up,” Wayne says.

“We want them and their families to realize there is a lot of satisfaction in being a priest, and that it’s more than Mass on Sunday,” Sandy says. “For example, we know a priest who is a cooking priest. He travels around and cooks — he explains

gious through the Vocation Network Ministry

why we need food for our bodies and the Eucharist as food for our souls. It's really great!

"There are so many different kinds of priests, too," she adds. "And different priests can take on different roles. It can be a hard job with its ups and downs, but it's also very fulfilling, so we want to spread the word."

Throughout their time in the ministry, Sandy and Wayne have been able to grow in their faith and appreciation for our priests and other religious people.

"It really makes you appreciate them and everything they are involved in," Sandy says. "It's also helped us to see why we need priests, and why we need people to fill their shoes as our current priests get older."

All parishioners are invited to participate in this ministry through prayer. If you would like to get involved or have ideas to share, please contact Sandy and Wayne Hay at wehay52@hotmail.com or skhay53@hotmail.com, or Deacon Peter Burns at 813-968-1077.

Fr. Lou Turcotte *continued from front cover*

began to subside and this continued as he undertook his pastoral year at St. Paul's Church in St. Petersburg.

"I realized the joy and peace that I found in looking forward to a life like this," Fr. Lou says.

Entering the religious life in a day and age when young people have so many choices for the path their lives can take can be difficult in part, Fr. Lou says, because there is a focus on the negative aspects of that lifestyle. Or, to borrow a phrase from Fr. Lou's generation, "FOMO" — "fear of missing out."

"They focus on what it means you will have to give up and you're told it's a hard life," he says. "Serving at the parish during the pastoral year, you realize there's this awesome side that no one's been discussing. It's such a joyful life and there's grace that comes with the challenges. There's no other life like this."

Fr. Lou says since joining seminary the Lord has led him to places he never imagined going, like Guatemala to participate in Spanish immersion, the Holy Land, and even inside prison walls to minister to the incarcerated.

"You get into these parts of society and see parts of people's lives that others don't get to see," he says. "You

ask, 'How did I get here, Lord? How did you lead me here?' It's an incredible privilege in the way people invite you into their lives as you represent Christ in that role."

When it comes to serving at St. Timothy, Fr. Lou says he's looking forward to growing within the diocese where his faith first took root. In the moments when he's not busy, he enjoys catching up with friends, soccer and kayaking.

"I'm also looking forward to growing in this role as a priest," Fr. Lou says. "It's still somewhat weird because I'm still Lou, the 28-year-old guy, who's trying to figure life out. It's the people in the parish who make us priests, and so I'm looking forward to celebrating Mass and Reconciliation and being there in a sacramental role. The diocese sent me to serve the parish, but it's chosen with a lot of respect to the St. Tim's community and a hope for what it needs. I'll be the youngest priest in the diocese and I'm sure I'm going to make mistakes. But I look forward to working with all of you and growing into the priest God wants me to be, and giving back something special to this community too."



Offering Our Love and Adoration to Jesus

Eucharistic Adoration is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Churches that have this adoration display the Eucharist in a special holder called a monstrance, and people come to pray and worship Jesus.

Christ's great love for us was shown when He was crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and give us eternal life. He loves us without limit, and offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Can we not give Jesus a few minutes of love and adoration in return?

Why is Eucharistic Adoration Important?

Eucharistic Adoration is a way to show respect and worship to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace.

What are the fruits of Eucharistic Adoration?

People who observe Eucharistic Adoration experience a deeper devotion to Jesus, and this manifests itself in countless ways. The primary fruits are repentance and conversion, which lead to increased charity — that is, the love of Christ alive in His people. The adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist also leads to greater reverence at Mass, a deeper desire for personal holiness, and a stronger sense of union with the parish and the whole Church. Ever since the early centuries of Christianity, the Church has linked Eucharistic Adoration to service to the poor. The practice has, more recently, led to an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.



What is proper etiquette during Eucharistic Adoration?

When we are not taking part in vocal prayers and hymns with other adorers, we should be praying silently. Whenever we pass before the place where the Sacred Host is reserved, we should genuflect. We should observe the modest dress and decorum that are appropriate for very solemn occasions. We should also avoid any actions that might disturb or distract others, or otherwise draw attention to ourselves rather than Jesus.

How should we pray during Eucharistic Adoration?

There are many ways to pray. You may meditate in silence by gazing on the Sacred Host. You may silently speak to Jesus from our mind and heart or rely on devotions and prayers from Catholic tradition, such as the reading of Scripture, recitation of the Rosary, or the litanies. When two or more are gathered before the Sacrament, they may also pray or sing hymns together.

What is the best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration?

The best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration is to make frequent visits to Jesus at the tabernacle. Invite your spouse, your children, your neighbors and co-workers to join you. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, “Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. “To visit the Blessed Sacrament is ... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord” (1418).

Faith Lived and Experienced: *St. Timothy's Deacon Peter and Charlotte Burns*

The parish was nothing like a traditional church you would find in the north! When they relocated to the area from Pittsburgh 22 years ago, Deacon Peter and Charlotte Burns affectionately remember attending Mass in a multipurpose building and moving chairs afterward for the Youth Group.

But it was the people and the spirit of the place that drew them to St. Timothy. It was that feeling of being at home.

“When we joined St. Timothy, we experienced living our faith, not just having our faith,” Charlotte says. “We never realized that getting into a parish could be like a family for us, and for me, the more I did, the more I wanted to do.”

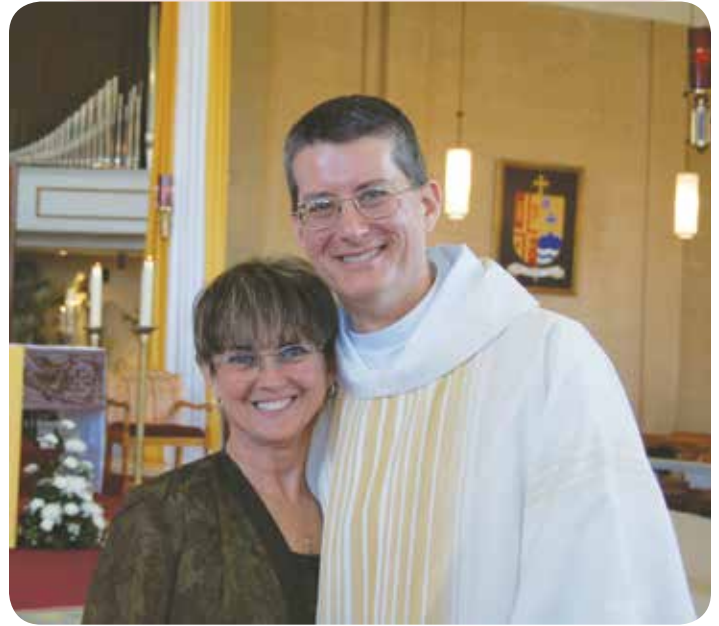
Deacon Peter and Charlotte first met at her sister's wedding when Deacon Peter played the guitar for the wedding Mass. Though he wasn't planning on attending the reception, he quickly changed his mind after meeting Charlotte.

“That was the start of our friendship, and we were friends for quite a while,” Charlotte says. “Our faith was always a big part of our relationship. We both had a Catholic education and were involved in Bible studies, and served as lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.”

They were married in 1985 and have four children — one daughter and three sons, one of whom was recently ordained as a priest.

When they moved to the area, Deacon Peter and Charlotte began their involvement in parish life by discerning how they could support the parish through ministries that interested them, and they immediately recognized St. Timothy has so many opportunities for parishioners looking to give their gifts back to God.

“Pray, be open and think about the gifts you have and what you'd like to do,” Deacon Peter says. “God



Deacon Peter and Charlotte Burns feel blessed to be part of St. Timothy's community and to have celebrated, grieved and grown alongside their fellow parishioners.

plants these desires deep in our hearts, and there is something there that draws us. We're happiest when we're doing what He asks of us.”

Charlotte began working with Religious Education at the parish, and continued to do so for years, and Deacon Peter became involved with the Confirmation program.

“I always had the desire to share my faith because I want people to have the joy and love that my faith brings me,” Charlotte says. “When our boys got into middle school, we also did a lot with peace and social justice ministries. We saw the kids getting involved and opening up to what the faith can be in their lives.”

Before becoming a deacon, Deacon Peter was encouraged to participate in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute, a multi-year adult formation process

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Deacon Peter and Charlotte Burns continued from page 7

through the diocese. He worked for the diocese for about 12 years, during which time he was ordained in October of 2009.

“Now I am the Director of Parish Life and work with the parish’s ministries, the clergy and the Stewardship Council,” Deacon Peter says. “I have direct responsibility for Faith formation, Youth Ministry and Sacramental Preparation.”

Charlotte was also involved with Deacon Peter’s diaconate formation and for several years went through the classes with him and the other deacons and their wives.

“It was great to be able to walk through the process with him,” Charlotte says. “This is his calling, and it is a huge blessing for both of us.”

Deacon Peter and Charlotte feel blessed to be part of St. Timothy’s community and to have celebrated, grieved and grown alongside their fellow parishioners.

“There are a number of people here who share in the spirit and believe that God is alive and well and shaping our community,” Deacon Peter says. “We’re blessed with our current pastor in his shepherding and fostering that spirituality.”

“When we joined St. Timothy, we experienced living our faith, not just having our faith. We never realized that getting into a parish could be like a family for us, and for me, the more I did, the more I wanted to do.” — Charlotte Burns

• 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.