



SAINT TIMOTHY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## George Martin Sees the Holy Spirit at Work in His Path to the Catholic Faith

While it was a great loss that first brought George Martin to the Catholic Church, what he found here was not just a place to worship, but new life.

George was raised in the Episcopalian faith, though his wedding at age 21 was the last time he would enter a church for many years. Then, almost 40 years later, as George nursed his wife, Sherry, through her terminal illness, everything changed. After months of juggling a full-time job with Sherry's care, George received a very clear message.

"I wasn't Catholic, but I knew of Pope John Paul II as a public figure and I was impressed with what he had done," George says. "One day he spoke to me, saying, 'What you're doing is exactly what you promised to do for this woman when you got married, and it's what needs to be done.' So it was a kind of pep talk."

Understandably, George's first reaction to this other-worldly experience was skepticism. Was it just the exhaustion talking? Had he

*continued on page 2*



*In the Catholic Church, George Martin found not just a place to worship, but new life.*

April 2019

### In this Issue

- 3 Celebrating Easter with Gratitude
- 4 Embracing Our Identity as an Easter People
- 6 Highlights of Our 2018 Stewardship Renewal
- 7 Jerry Giglia's Help at Diocese Recognized through Pro Ecclesia Award

17512 Lakeshore Rd.  
Lutz, FL 33558  
[www.sainttims.org](http://www.sainttims.org)



## George Martin Sees the Holy Spirit at Work in His Path to the Catholic Faith *continued from front cover*

“lost it”? Then, a few days later, he felt the former pope’s presence once again, and this time, he sensed that Pope John Paul II wasn’t alone.

“This time, he brought a friend,” says George of the second visit. “I knew who Mary was, but in my background, Mary was the mother of Jesus and that was pretty much it. But somehow that day I saw her reflection in what appeared to be a vast, calm ocean. And *that* changed my life. I don’t know how you could have a visit from Mary — someone you had never really thought about before — without it changing your life.”

Following Sherry’s death a few weeks later, George tried turning back to the faith tradition of his childhood. However, he found that the theology of the Episcopalian church had changed greatly in the previous decades, and it no longer felt like home. Praying for guidance, he eventually found his way to the Catholic Church and to the RCIA process here at St. Timothy.

Thankful to have landed in our parish, George became involved in church life right away, joining the Men’s Group before he was even confirmed in the faith. It would be through the Men’s Group that George would meet his current wife, Diana — yet another sign of God’s guiding hand in his life.

In the seven years George has been a parishioner at St. Timothy, he has continued to nurture an active faith life. He enjoyed teaching in the inquiry stage of our RCIA process for several years. He has also completed four years of study with the diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute, LPMI, and recently helped initiate our parish’s first Alpha courses for adult faith formation.

In October, George attended a Called and Gifted Workshop, and he is excited to be able to offer the same

opportunity to our parishioners in the fall by facilitating one here at St. Timothy.

“The Called and Gifted Workshop allows you to understand where your strengths are and how to pursue them,” he says. “If you have a strength in an area, you use it and see if that is what the Holy Spirit is calling you to do. If it is, it’s going to go well. If not, you find another way to serve. Find something that you’re comfortable with and good at, and you can use those skills to help others — that is what we are called to do.”

As he reflects on the unexpected path that brought him to the Catholic faith, George can see the Holy Spirit at work in countless ways.

“Age gives you perspective,” he says. “Sometimes you have a glimpse of a small part of the plan, and you can look back and wonder how it could have happened any other way. You realize that God had His hand in something, and there is no happenstance in it. There is someone helping to make the decisions.”

Moving forward in faith, the many blessings that George has found in discipleship give him an even greater desire to continue to serve God and His people in any way that he can.

“I don’t know if I can put into words [what I found in the Church],” he says. “I was not only seeking God — I was also seeking a foundational structure to sustain me. When I was teaching on the inquiry side of RCIA, I used to say, ‘Becoming Catholic is a free gift, and if you don’t die the next day, it’s the most expensive gift you’ll ever receive, because the last great commandment was to go out and make disciples of the world.’ It’s a big assignment.”

*“Age gives you perspective. Sometimes you have a glimpse of a small part of the plan, and you can look back and wonder how it could have happened any other way. You realize that God had His hand in something, and there is no happenstance in it.*

*There is someone helping to make the decisions.” — GEORGE MARTIN*

## Celebrating Easter with Gratitude

Dear Friends in Christ,

**E**aster Sunday is April 21. The method for determining the date of Easter was settled by the ancient Church according to a complicated formula that allows it to fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. However, most of us are content simply to look it up on a liturgical calendar!

One feature at this year's Easter celebration will be a dramatic contrast from what we have experienced in the winter months — the days will be noticeably longer.

As a matter of fact, the English word "Lent" is related to the Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to lengthen," for spring is the season when the days grow longer. Even though most Americans do not live in rural settings or agricultural environments like our ancestors did, we still find joy in the longer days that contrast with the early nightfall that we experienced at Christmas. So when Lent is over and Easter arrives, our spirits naturally delight as we leave the winter behind.

Don't get me wrong — I am not saying that Easter is some sort of spring festival. The central theme of the Christian festival of Easter is clear. It celebrates what happened over 2,000 years ago, when Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross and was raised back to life on the third day by God the Father. This event took place during the Jewish observance of Passover, which comes during the spring, which is why we celebrate Easter then.

So, we have two reasons to celebrate at Easter. Primary, of course, is our yearly remembrance of the victory of Jesus Christ over sin, Satan and death. But we can also rejoice in the coming of spring, which melts the snows of winter and brings us beautiful flowers in bloom.

In its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gives a definition of who a Christian steward is.



It has several parts, but the first aspect is that a Christian steward is "one who receives God's gifts gratefully." The bishops don't distinguish between gifts from God that are spiritual and ones that are material.

After all, "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good" (Genesis 1:31). So, the first step in becoming a good steward is to receive what God gives, to recognize these gifts come from God, and to be grateful for them.

So, as we celebrate Easter with gratitude for what God continues to do for us in both the material and spiritual spheres, we can resolve to use all we have received — the time, the talent and the treasure entrusted to us, the beauty of the natural world, and the hope of eternal life — as stewards who use them for God's glory and the welfare of His people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kenneth J. Malley".

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





## EMBRACING OUR IDENTITY

Our beloved St. John Paul II once proclaimed: “We are the Easter people and alleluia is our song!” And yet, notes parochial vicar Fr. Lou Turcotte, the resurrection has no meaning for us without the context of Christ’s passion, suffering, and death. By paying the ultimate price, Jesus poured forth His merciful love for us all, freeing us from the chains of sin and death. And the annual Paschal Triduum is a concrete way for Catholics to relive those experiences with Jesus, Mary and the apostles.

“It’s hard to have a complete Easter celebration without first journeying through the Triduum,” Fr. Lou says. “Otherwise, it’s like watching the last 20 minutes of the third *Star Wars* movie without knowing anything about who Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker are and what has led them to this point. The Triduum walks us through the Scriptural readings beginning with the Last Supper and the passion and death of Christ. It helps us to really taste what Christ went through.”

This journey begins each year with Holy Thursday. Starting at 7 p.m. in the church, this sacred liturgy scripturally takes us through the events of the Last Supper. Christ’s washing of the disciples’ feet is reenacted by the priest with chosen parishioners and then we get to relive the experience ourselves by participating in the Eucharistic Banquet.

“Through it, we celebrate the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist,” Fr. Lou says. “We have a celebration of the priesthood through the washing of the feet ceremony. Yet, what I think is really special about Holy Thursday is that it’s really the last true Mass before Easter. We celebrate the Eucharist together, and then the Eucharist is kind of put in reserve. Eucharistic Adoration usually follows, but then everything starts to quiet down.”

This “quieting down” prepares parishioners for the solemnity of the next day in the Easter Triduum — Good Friday. Here at St. Timothy, the memorial



*The Easter Vigil traditionally begins in darkness, symbolizing both the darkness of sin and the tomb.*



*One of last year’s catechumens receives the Sacrament of Baptism during the Easter Vigil.*

## Y AS AN *Easter People*

begins with Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. Then later the official Celebration of the Lord's Passion occurs in the church at 7 p.m. This may seem like a strange title for such a solemn occasion, and yet, says Fr. Lou, this is the great paradox of our faith. For through his salvific act, Christ turned the torturous instrument of the cross into His throne of mercy.

"It's at this evening where we adore the cross — this crazy instrument of torture that we adore because through all that pain and the subsequent darkness of the tomb, we are able to receive eternal life," Fr. Lou says. "So, and though we don't have that entire picture yet on Good Friday, we know that there is a light that will soon come."

Finally, the Easter story culminates with the magnificent liturgy of the Easter Vigil. Beginning at 8 p.m., the Mass starts out in total darkness, symbolizing the darkness that permeated the world before Christ's coming. Then through numerous Old and New Testament readings, salvation history is depicted allowing us to more fully appreciate God's perfect plan.

"When we celebrate the Vigil, it truly is the first taste of that Easter celebration — that first taste of light," Fr. Lou says. "And we really engage this with all the senses, beginning with that walk in complete darkness. Then we journey through salvation history together through all of these different Old and New Testament Readings. We begin with Creation through Exodus, when God saved His people through the time of the prophets and waiting. It helps us really *see* that this was always the Lord's plan — to draw us into a more intimate relationship, culminating with the resurrection."

The Easter celebration then continues with the acceptance of new Catholics entering through St. Timothy's RCIA process. And finally, we partake in the Eucharist, receiving the light of Christ into our very beings so as to bring Him out into the world.

"It's truly a great family event, going all the way back into our family history starting with Creation

and then culminating with the great light that Christ has brought into our lives today," Fr. Lou says.

Yet, the gift of Easter is that it isn't limited to any single liturgy. Rather, the Easter season continues for a total of 50 days after the Vigil and is meant to be lived in our hearts daily, no matter the time of the year. For we truly are an Easter people. Thus, says Fr. Lou, Easter is the perfect time for spiritual cleaning and rejuvenation — a time to honestly examine our hearts and gifts, and to discover new ways to live out our faith for our fellow brothers and sisters.

"We are the people of the resurrection," says Fr. Lou. "It defines who we are. And so this is an opportunity for us to really reflect upon this. How has Jesus' resurrection transformed me? How am I living it out today? Am I really living out that life or am I just letting it sit on the backburner? Christ wants us to really experience our life to the fullest and to do that intentionally."

### *Holy Week Schedule*

#### **HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18**

9 a.m. — Morning Prayer  
7 p.m. — Mass of the Lord's Supper  
10 p.m. — Tenebrae (Day Chapel)

#### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

9 a.m. — Morning Prayer  
3 p.m. — Stations of the Cross  
7 p.m. — Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

9 a.m. — Morning Prayer  
8 p.m. — Easter Vigil  
(There is no 5:30 p.m. Mass or Confessions)

#### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

7 a.m. — Easter Sunrise Mass  
Easter Masses — 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.  
(There is no 5:30 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday)



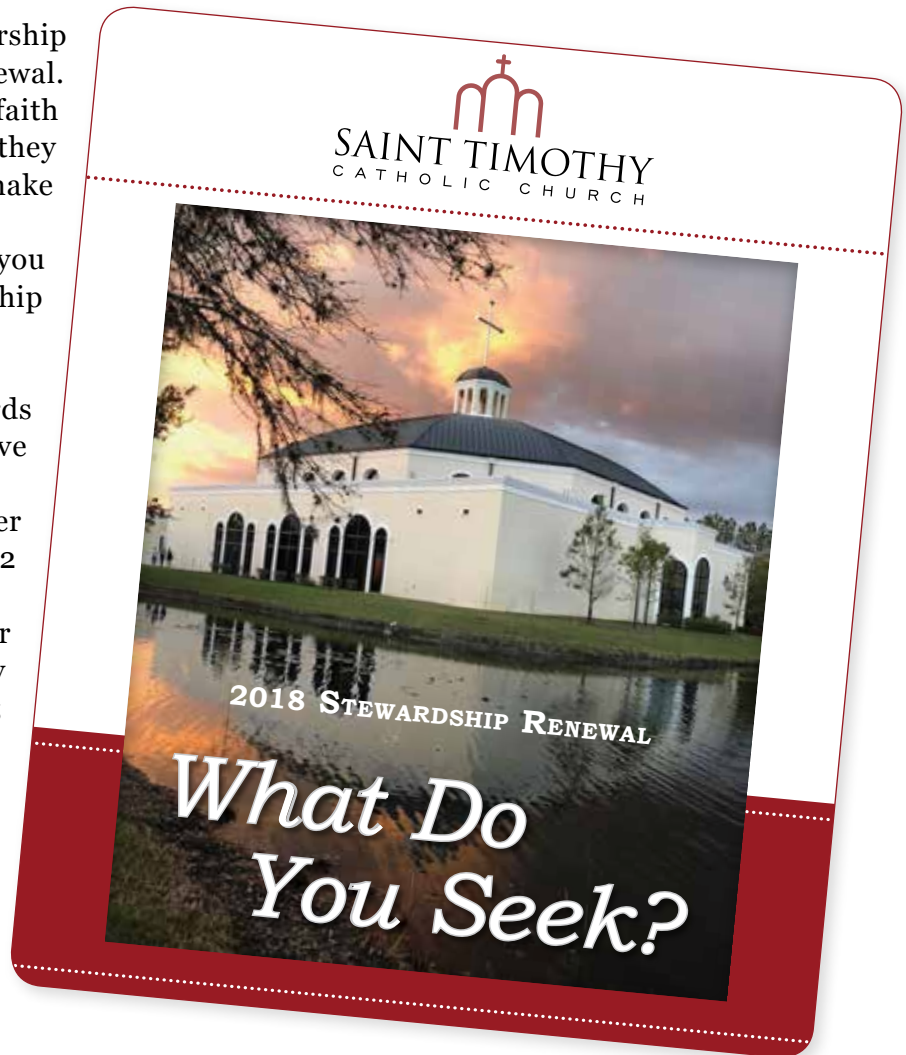
## Highlights of Our 2018 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

Several months ago, our parish leadership held our 2018 Stewardship Renewal. This renewal gave the members of our faith community the opportunity to evaluate how they are living out stewardship, as well as to make commitments of time, talent and treasure.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the results of the 2018 Stewardship Renewal here at St. Timothy.

- There were 552 commitment cards received representing 28 percent of active households.
- There were 3,663 commitments to prayer – the stewardship of time – from 92 percent of participating households.
- Some of the commitments to prayer included: “Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days,” 477 commitments; “Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 412 commitments; “Pray for our priests,” 378 commitments.
- There were 1,589 commitments to ministry – the stewardship of talent – from 78 percent of participating households. Of these, 395 were new ministry commitments, while 1,194 were re-commitments to ministries.
- Some of the commitments to ministry included: Women’s Club, 131 commitments; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 114 commitments; Bible Study, 105 commitments; Men’s Club, 93 commitments; Alpha, 88 commitments.
- There were 477 commitments to the offertory – the stewardship of treasure – from 86 percent of participating households, with the average pledge of \$2,488.

We thank all those who took part in the Stewardship Renewal by filling out and returning a commitment card. And if you did not have the opportunity to complete and return a commitment card, we invite you to consider the ways you might begin living out stewardship, sharing your gifts of time, talent and treasure with God and our parish community. After all, there is no time like the present to begin living the stewardship way of life!



## Jerry Giglia's Help at Diocese Recognized Through *Pro Ecclesia* Award

As children, many of us were taught the song "This Little Light of Mine." We're told when we're little that our individual gifts are worth being proud of and we should let that light within us shine for the world to see. But as we age, humility takes over and we tend to think of our gifts — especially the ones that can be so publicly recognized — as something to keep quiet.

That's why it's taken Jerry Giglia, the recipient of a papal medal, three years to talk about the honor. In April 2016, Jerry was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* papal medal. Meaning "for the Church and the pope," the medal is given to lay people and clergy for distinguished service to the Church.

"It makes me feel humble and it bothers me to brag, but the Scripture made me feel more comfortable about it," Jerry says.

The Scripture — "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:16) — has given Jerry inspiration to talk about what led to the medal and what receiving it was like.

Before becoming parishioners at St. Timothy, Jerry and his wife, Merrey, had been involved at their previous parish with youth ministry, parish council, finance council and various social committees, and participated in Bible study for 19 years.

"Then, 12 years ago I was presented with the opportunity to

*continued on back cover*



*Jerry Giglia was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice papal medal in April 2016. He is pictured here at left with (from left) Bishop Robert N. Lynch, Merrey Giglia, and Fr. Malley.*



*The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal is awarded to individuals who have provided distinguished service on behalf of the Church. It bears the images of Sts. Peter and Paul, under which is inscribed the Latin name of the current pope.*



# SAINT TIMOTHY

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

17512 Lakeshore Road  
Lutz, FL 33558  
813-968-1077  
[www.sainttims.org](http://www.sainttims.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Tampa, FL  
Permit No. 3311

## Jerry Giglia's Help at Diocese Recognized Through *Pro Ecclesia* Award *continued from page 7*

serve at the diocesan level on the Diocesan Finance Council and Treasurer of the Board of Diocesan Catholic Charities," Jerry says. "Both of these require a great deal of time and effort, and I was committed to them while still working full time as a CPA."

For his efforts, Jerry was nominated for the medal by former Bishop Robert N. Lynch. The Giggias learned that Pope Francis had chosen to award Jerry with the medal in February 2016 and two months later, the family gathered to receive it during a solemn Evening Prayer and Conferral of Papal Honors held in St. James Chapel at Bethany Center.

"I'm highly honored and will never forget that evening I was presented this papal medal by Bishop Lynch," Jerry says. "It was so emotional to have my wife, our sons Brian and Kevin, along with their wives, Jenni and Anais, and also our grandchildren, Lena and James, there. Other family and friends were also at the celebration. I thought of my deceased mother and

father as well, and how proud they would have been. I praise God for the support and encouragement from Merey, because these two diocesan involvements required a lot of time and effort over the past 12 years."

Both Jerry and Merey say they hope to inspire others to lend their individual talents to the Church.

"Each of us in our salvation journey is given many gifts from God for the purpose He is preparing us for in order to serve Him and our neighbors," Jerry says. "We are all needed for whatever work He calls us to do for His Kingdom. Our inspiration for our work in the Church should never be driven by any award because the papal honor is so infrequently awarded. In the past 21 years, these papal honors were awarded only four times by the diocese, but so many parishioners from all of the parishes give their time, talent and treasure every day with no recognition at all. Our true recognition will come from God in heaven, not through a human award."

### *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.