



SAINT TIMOTHY
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From South Bend to St. Timothy Meet "ACE" Teacher Joe DiFranco

If you are a parishioner at St. Timothy, you may have noticed a fairly new face in the pews at Mass, and in our choir. Joe DiFranco arrived in Tampa at the end of last summer, and although he is a Michigan native and recent University of Notre Dame graduate, it was not the warm weather that brought him here! Joe is currently teaching at Bishop McLaughlin High School as a part of the Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

Participants in the ACE program are outstanding college graduates who commit to spending two years teaching in a Catholic school in need of faculty. During the summers, these graduate student teachers return to the Notre Dame campus to complete coursework toward a Master's degree in Education.

Joe's interest in ACE began when a few people he knew joined the program following their college graduations. These friends told Joe he would be a good fit for the program, and when some of Joe's professors echoed this sentiment, he decided to apply.

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We are certainly glad to have Joe DiFranco here at St. Timothy during his time as an ACE teacher at Bishop McLaughlin High School, and we wish him all the best as he continues to learn and grow as a Catholic educator!

March 2019

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ACE Teacher Joe DiFranco *continued from front cover*

“Once I was accepted to the program, it was a discernment process,” Joe says. “Eventually I decided that I was being called to teach.”

In his first semester at Bishop McLaughlin High School, Joe taught economics. This semester, he is teaching government and world history. He has also been able to lend his artistic talents as a creative writing teacher and music teacher.

Over the last few months, Joe has learned that the first year of teaching involves a lot of lesson plans, grading and late nights. In the midst of these challenges, he is thankful for the supportive atmosphere at Bishop McLaughlin High School.

“It’s been great,” he says. “It’s obviously very challenging. I love the students, and the school is smaller — about 300 students — so it’s very familiar and very communal. It’s reassuring for someone who is starting new things to come in and have such a friendly atmosphere. The other faculty are fun and provide good advice and companionship.”

Teaching some classes that are geared toward freshmen and some that are offered for seniors, Joe has been able to see the life of students at both ends of their high school careers. In all of his classes, Joe loves having the opportunity to witness the magic that takes place when his students experience a “lightbulb moment.”

“I really enjoy when there is that moment with a group of students who aren’t quite getting a grasp on the material — or they’ve grasped it but want to know more — there is that moment where it all clicks,” he says. “That’s fun to see as an educator. It’s exciting.”

Knowing that the teenage years are an important time in the faith formation of our youth, Joe believes that teachers who come to our Catholic schools through the

ACE program can serve as strong examples of young people living out their faith.

“We certainly hope to serve as role models,” Joe says. “That’s a big part of what we do. I hope the kids see how important the faith is to me and that it makes an impression on them. I think that is one of the benefits of [ACE teachers] being so young.”

For all the hard work put in, there are also great rewards to participation in the ACE program as a new teacher in Catholic schools.

“I have five housemates here that are all ACE teachers, and that aspect has been terrific,” Joe says. “Having that support group to come home to is really wonderful. Then over the summer, we are in a large community with so many people who are connected to their faith. So between there and here in the house — living with people who care very deeply about this — I hope I’ll continue to grow [in the faith] by becoming more like them.”

Reflecting on his first year as a teacher with the ACE program, Joe feels blessed to have a dynamic parish like St. Timothy here to support him, and has greatly enjoyed becoming more involved in our faith community by participating in our Music Ministry.

“I find beauty in music, and very closely related to that, I find music to be very prayerful,” he says. “Joining the choir has been a great outlet for that, and a great way to get to know many members of the parish. I’ve also enjoyed getting to know Fr. Malley and Fr. Lou, who live right next door to us. There is always a lot going on in the parish, and I’m happy to be here.”

We are certainly glad to have Joe DiFranco here at St. Timothy during his time as an ACE teacher at Bishop McLaughlin High School, and we wish him all the best as he continues to learn and grow as a Catholic educator!

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Answering the Call for Lent

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, as we proceed on our Lenten journey to Easter, every one of us should ask ourselves, “What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ and how well am I living that out each day?”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops addressed what it means to be a disciple when they wrote their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. “Who is a Christian disciple?” the USCCB asked and, in turn, they also provided the answer, “One who responds to Christ’s call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ’s.” So, as disciples of Jesus Christ, it is essential that we consider the true meaning of that answer.

The first step in the Christian life is responding to Jesus’ call. Jesus invites every person to develop a relationship with Him. But obviously, not every person is a Christian disciple. Some people are too busy to even hear that invitation or don’t make the effort to recognize it. Others make a conscious decision to reject the call because it demands that they can no longer place themselves at the center of their lives.

On the other hand, for those of us who make an affirmative response to Christ’s call, the most meaningful life possible awaits us, both now and into eternity. However, saying “yes” to Jesus has consequences that affect the rest of our lives.

The first consequence of becoming a disciple is that we must now follow Jesus. The Gospel accounts record that when He called His disciples, they left what they were doing and followed Him. The same is true for us today. Becoming a Christian disciple does not necessarily mean that all of us will leave our present job, or enter into the consecrated life, or serve as a missionary in another country — although that might be where the journey leads you. But it does mean that we offer our work — whether as a doctor, homemaker, mechanic,



farmer or teacher — to build up the Kingdom of God.

In following Jesus as His disciples, we should strive to more fully absorb His teaching and then apply it to our daily lives. As we do, we find that we attempt to imitate Him, treating others with the same welcoming and generous spirit. St. Peter was direct when he described how Jesus acted: “He went about doing good... for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). That’s the model for how we should live.

Discipleship leads naturally to stewardship as a way of life. The time we offer in prayer and worship will give us the strength and guidance for serving Christ. Using the skills and gifts we have to build the Kingdom will direct our offering of talent. The support of all these endeavors with our treasure will ensure that our lives as disciples and stewards are genuine.

As a Christian steward this Lent, I encourage you to reflect on the changes you can make in growing as a disciple of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley





A LITTLE CHILD TO LEAD THEM

Sometimes the accomplishments of children can take you by surprise.

Many of us have had an experience of being startled by the insight shared by a child, or amazed by something they're able to achieve, something we simply assumed was beyond them.

However, here at St. Timothy, in our new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, these moments happen all the time. As a Montessori-based faith formation program, seeking to follow Maria Montessori's ideology, honoring the child's request to "help me do it myself," the atrium — the "classroom" — is a place where children are invited and assisted in growing closer to Jesus, at their own pace.

As is the case with Montessori environments, the setup is distinct from a traditional classroom. Our new Level 1 atrium, which is designed for children ages 3 through 6, is tailored to the specific developmental and learning needs of children in that age group. Rather than desks and a white board, the atrium is filled with small tables and mats to encourage "floor work," and nothing is higher than a child's eye level. Rather than textbooks, children

learn from handmade dioramas of Gospel stories, an altar and "Mass set" that is just their size, maps of Biblical locations, various practical life elements, and much more.

"There are no textbooks and it's not teacher centered, it's child centered — that's probably the biggest difference," says Angela Dominguez, our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator, who was trained in the method this past summer, along with Peggy Cloutier, our Director of Religious Education. "It's very peaceful and very child centered. They get to touch and work with the materials and it's a personal connection."

"It is such a peaceful and beautiful environment," she adds. "Everything makes you want to be in that room. It just draws you in."

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd gives children the chance to begin their faith formation at a time in their life when studies show they are actually most attentive to learning about God and beginning a relationship with Him, which is the heart of this method.

"The main thing I would like to see is that they have a relationship with God, and that they think



At Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, children have the opportunity to learn about the faith in a beautiful Montessori environment.

M: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

about God on a daily basis, not just when they go to Mass or are in the atrium,” Angela says.

For catechists who serve in the atrium, not only are they rewarded with astonishing glimpses into childlike faith, but they’re also given the opportunity to find themselves growing deeper into the heart of God in the peace and quiet.

“The thing that stuck out to me the most was, “This is going to make me a better teacher,”” says Angela, who has been a professional educator for many years. “It helps me put aside the rush of things and lets me take a step back. I don’t always have to direct them — they can direct me sometimes with their ideas. We have several children who are very knowledgeable in their faith and I’m just blown away with the connections that they make.”

Angela encourages parents to consider Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as an option for their young children, and to come visit the atrium.

“Come listen to the children and the wonderful things they say and the connections they make,” Angela says. “If you take the time to listen to what they have to say, you might be amazed and it might spark something inside of you. They have such an innocence and clarity that is so much different from adults.

“I hope the children see that people have taken the time to show them that they’re important,” she adds. “I hope they know, ‘You’re so important that we made sure to have things that fit in your hand and we had things you could work with.’”



Beginning at age 3, children who participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are invited to grow in their relationship with God.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd sessions are available on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m., in the Catechumenal Room. If you would like more information on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please contact Angela Dominguez at angela.dominguez@sainttims.org. Registration for 2019–20 school year Faith Formation classes, including Catechesis for the Good Shepherd, will take place in April. Please look for more information in the bulletin and sign up for weekly parish emails on our website to be informed about registration.



Stewardship

The Church is More than a Building — It is Our Spiritual Home

Where do you go to church? We've all answered that question hundreds of times before. But have you ever stopped to think about what it truly means?

"I go to our parish," is the usual response, and rightly so, because we do "go to" the church to celebrate Mass together. But as Catholics and stewards of God's gifts, the Church is much more than a building within which we worship. Rather, the Church is the universal body of believers; the society Christ established to help us grow in holiness, to bring us closer to Him through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and to lead the world to the truth.

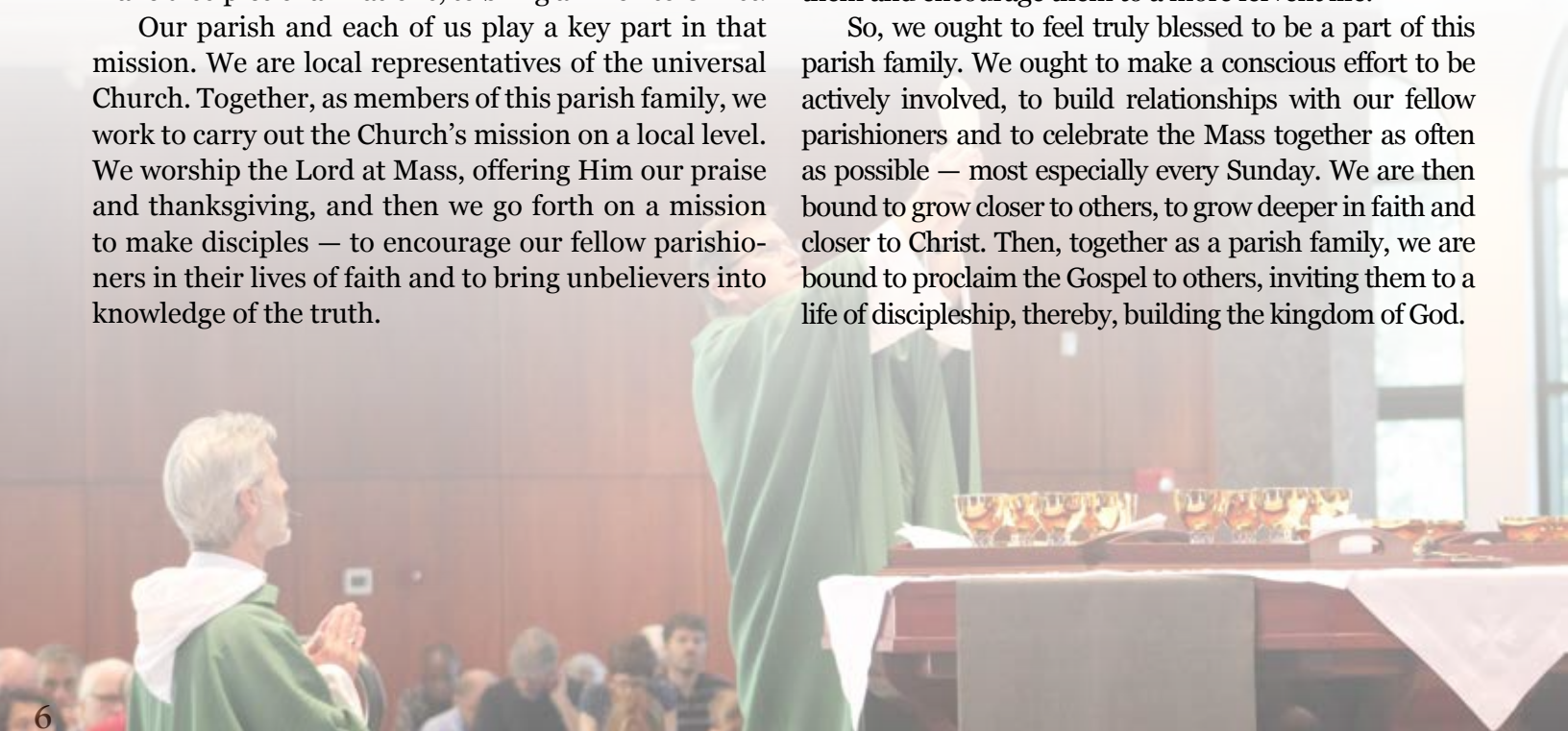
Before Jesus ascended to the Father, He commissioned the disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20). That is the Church's mission in the world today — to make disciples of all nations, to bring all men to Christ.

Our parish and each of us play a key part in that mission. We are local representatives of the universal Church. Together, as members of this parish family, we work to carry out the Church's mission on a local level. We worship the Lord at Mass, offering Him our praise and thanksgiving, and then we go forth on a mission to make disciples — to encourage our fellow parishioners in their lives of faith and to bring unbelievers into knowledge of the truth.

In addition to being a "local representation of the universal Church," the parish is much like a family. We are communal beings, and we are created to live with others. So, as Catholics, we are members of the Church and, on a more intimate level, of the parish. As such, we gather together for the Eucharistic meal and we grow in faith together throughout the week, supporting one another through our participation in many parish ministries, through prayer, and through the friendships that many of us share.

In a letter written to parish priests throughout the nation, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops explained the important place of the parish in the lives of Catholic faithful: "The parish is a privileged place to announce the Word of God. It includes a variety of forms and each of the faithful is called to take an active part, especially with the witness of a Christian life and the explicit proclamation of the Gospel to non-believers to lead them to the faith, or to believers to instruct them, confirm them and encourage them to a more fervent life."

So, we ought to feel truly blessed to be a part of this parish family. We ought to make a conscious effort to be actively involved, to build relationships with our fellow parishioners and to celebrate the Mass together as often as possible — most especially every Sunday. We are then bound to grow closer to others, to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ. Then, together as a parish family, we are bound to proclaim the Gospel to others, inviting them to a life of discipleship, thereby, building the kingdom of God.



WORLD YOUTH DAY:

An Experience that "Exceeds All Expectations"

For St. Timothy pilgrim Alee Stooks, the words of Luke 1:38 — “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord” — will forever reverberate in her heart thanks to the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama City, Panama. There, surrounded by millions of other young Catholics, one can’t help but feel how truly alive our Catholic faith is, nor help but desire to give one’s heart to God with complete and total trust like Our Lady did when she spoke these iconic words to the angel Gabriel.

“Seeing the joy in the eyes of others, the Holy Spirit working through our prayers, and the universality of the Church continues to astound me and give me peace,” Alee says. “I know going home, I will take the message of this World Youth Day to heart, becoming more aware of how I can serve others, as well as bring those around me closer to Christ by challenging them to be who God wants them to be.”

This, says Coordinator of Youth Ministry Jen Linder, is just one of the great gifts of the World Youth Day pilgrimages. The experience allows young people to see the beauty of our Catholic faith with new eyes, thanks to the witness of the young people around them, as well as the thousands of religious, priests, bishops, cardinals, the pope himself, and the rich spirituality of an entirely new culture.

“Just the vast numbers of all these faithful Catholics makes it an understatement to say that it’s overwhelming,” Jen says. “We tend to live in our little bubbles, and so it’s a very eye-opening experience. There are people next to you from all around the world, and yet we are all beautifully united by our faith.”

This year’s World Youth Day pilgrimage took place Jan. 23-28. Twenty St. Timothy youth — ranging from eighth grade through college age, along with six adult chaperones — were able to attend after months of fundraising here at the parish. Youth spent hours

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A photo taken of Pope Francis in his Popemobile from one of our parish pilgrims.



A group shot of St. Timothy 2019 pilgrims to World Youth Day in Panama City, Panama.



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World Youth Day *continued from page 7*

serving the faith community, working events like fish fries, the Christmas Toy Drive and various other parish events. The group also spent time spiritually preparing their hearts for the trip — a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.

But as Mark Ward points out, nothing can truly prepare one for this trip that “exceeds all expectations.”

“There is just nothing quite like being filled with the Holy Spirit,” Mark says. “When in the presence of the pope, an extremely holy man, you truly get to experience the Holy Spirit as an inexplicably

satisfying warmth that will bring you to tears of joy. This trip has transformed me, rekindling my love and joy for Jesus Christ.”

“Your heart just stirs and you feel God’s call to be a witness in the Church,” Jen adds. “You really feel called to become that witness, serving as His hands and feet.”

And now having returned, our World Youth Day pilgrims are eager to share what they’ve received with their St. Timothy community, and to truly become God’s servants — saying, ‘Let it be done!’ wholeheartedly to whatever the Lord has in store for their lives.

“Seeing the joy in the eyes of others, the Holy Spirit working through our prayers, and the universality of the Church continues to astound me and give me peace. I know going home, I will take the message of this World Youth Day to heart, becoming more aware of how I can serve others, as well as bring those around me closer to Christ by challenging them to be who God wants them to be.” — ALEE STOOKS

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.