



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



Meet Tom and Barbara Karac

Open to the Word of God and Answering the Call

When you're born a cradle Catholic, the temptation can be to take faith for granted. Always there in the background of our lives, we sometimes lose sight of how truly blessed we are through all the wonderful things our Lord has given us.

Both raised in devoutly Catholic households, longtime parishioners Tom and Barbara Karac describe faith as being an intricate part of their childhood and early years. Their families faithfully attended Mass and they were each fortunate to attend Catholic schools for both their primary and secondary education. So when the high school sweethearts met and later married, faith just naturally continued to be a part of their own family's life.

"I was just always close to my faith throughout the years," Barbara says. "As a girl, I was in the choir and it was just always part of my life."



Tom and Barbara and their family

"We were very dedicated in going to church," Tom adds. "I was always a lector in the parishes we were part of. It was just part of who we were."

Yet even still, Tom says he never fully realized or considered how connected his life was to God's goodness — nor had he recognized

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April 2020

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Meet Tom and Barbara Karac

Open to the Word of God and Answering the Call

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all of the blessings, both big and small, that had been given to him over the years.

"It was only a couple of years ago when Barb and I attended one of the retreats here at the parish that it suddenly dawned on me that all of these things happened in my life because of God's goodness," Tom says. "I've had many opportunities come my way — both personally and professionally — in the things I did, but I never realized the true meaning of those opportunities. Who they were leading me to? What they were showing me?"

This growing awareness of their good fortune has lead Tom and Barbara to become increasingly involved here at St. Timothy over their 30-plus years as parishioners. They are faithful adorers who both enjoy serving as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and assisting with the parish Bingo, and are involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Tom also continues to lector and, since his retirement, has become increasingly involved in the Knights of Columbus, where he currently serves as the Grand Knight.

"I actually joined the Knights of Columbus back in 1982 before we moved here to Florida, but because of work I let my membership sort of go into limbo," Tom says. "One day, a friend of mine invited me to become more active and so I did, doing little bits of things here and there before my retirement. Well, once I retired and my time became freer, I immediately got more involved — I love every minute of it. I enjoy all of

the opportunities it gives me and the other men of the parish to do good — both on the national and communal level."

Both Tom and Barbara describe their involvement in these ministries as great blessings in their lives. Not only has it provided them with concrete ways to thank the Lord for His goodness, but it has also allowed them to get to know and form lasting friendships with many of their fellow parishioners.

"I have gotten closer to a lot of people — people, really, from different backgrounds," Barbara says. "It's been a wonderful experience to work alongside people I didn't know as well before like that."

"It's really amazing how, as you meet different people in the parish, you find all these things you have in common," Tom adds.

Stewardship has also radically strengthened the couple's relationship with the Lord. Through it, they've come to see His hand more clearly in their lives, and have become more in tune with His plans and bountiful blessings.

"I've come to realize that God was talking to me throughout my life and the things that I thought were just coincidences were actually Him," Tom says. "But you also have to be open, wanting to see and hear the direction He gives you. More than anything, I think it's really important that people have an open mind and that they be open to the Word of God and what His call is — to not predetermine what they think His will is or should be. It might not be always easy, but it will always lead you to other more rewarding activities."

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A Letter from our Pastor

EASTER:

THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Dear Friends in Christ,

How do you feel at the end of the Palm Sunday Mass each year? Have you ever noticed the abrupt shift of tone during the course of that liturgy? It begins with great joy as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the acclamation of the crowds. But, then, the mood swings to sorrow when the Passion Gospel is read, for we hear those same crowds shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" a few days later.

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, the most important week in the Christian year. The confusion of conflicting moods is spread through the week, especially during the Easter Triduum from sundown Holy Thursday to sundown Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday offers us the glorious Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrating the institution of the Eucharist before we pass to the sadness of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The next day brings us the Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion with our recognition of what our sins did to the Incarnate Son of God. Then, after a day of waiting as we mourn Jesus' burial and repose in the tomb, we celebrate His victory over sin, Satan and death at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night or at the Masses the next day. If we have participated in all the main services of the Triduum, we arrive at Sunday evening exhausted, but joyful.

This year Palm Sunday falls on the first Sunday in April, so we observe Holy Week and Easter Sunday early in the month. That means we will spend most of April in the Easter Season, a period filled with joy and thanksgiving. Our gladness comes not only because Christ rose from the



dead, but also because we benefit from it. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it, "The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life" (CCC, 654).

In other words, Christ's Resurrection is the source of our own future resurrection. St. Paul wrote about it to the Romans in the following words: "For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Rom 6:5).

Eternal life in union with Christ — a hope for a new life beginning now and extending on into heaven — is the result of Jesus' Resurrection. What greater grounds for thanksgiving can there be than this Easter hope?

How do we show our joy and gratitude to God for this amazing gift? We join in worship and we praise God by word and song. We share the Good News of Jesus' victory over death with our family, friends and neighbors. And we offer back to the Lord a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us. Yes, the Easter message that we share in the benefits of Christ's Resurrection is the ultimate foundation for all Christian stewardship.

The Lord is risen, alleluia.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Kenneth J. Malley



Journey to Sainthood:

Parishioner Diane Boyd Kosarich Hopes to See

When Diane Boyd Kosarich's twin sisters were born premature in 1966, doctors said they only had a few days to live. A devout Catholic family, the Boyds sent immediately for the priest at their home parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Cumberland, Md. Believing the girls would never make it out of the hospital, Fr. Jean Marie consecrated them to the Blessed Mother and baptized them both in her name — Mary and Maria. Shockingly, the girls began to grow stronger, and within weeks, they were home with their family.

The twins' miraculous recovery was just the first of many times the Boyds would see the hand of God at work in Mary and Maria. After much reflection on the incredible lives of her sisters, St. Timothy parishioner Diane Kosarich

decided in 2018 to nominate Mary and Maria for sainthood in the Catholic Church. Considering the joyful way that both Mary and Maria lived their faith despite their many infirmities, it is easy to understand why Diane has taken this great leap of faith in applying for her sisters' sainthood!

Following the astounding recovery of the premature twins just after their birth, all seemed well. It wasn't until Mary and Maria began walking that their parents noticed something that set them apart from their other five siblings — it seemed that any time the girls fell or bumped into something, they would break a bone. Traveling from their home in western Maryland to the Johns Hopkins research hospital in Baltimore, the family learned that the sisters suffered from a rare brittle bone disease, a

syndrome that the specialist would eventually name for them.

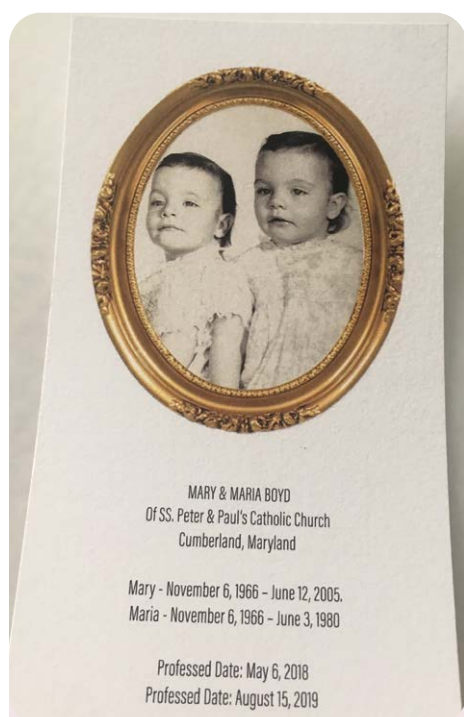
Life was far from easy for the twins as they grew up. Living with a brittle bone disease meant countless surgeries, time spent in braces and casts, and constant pain. Remarkably, they remained at peace in the midst of their suffering.

"Mary and Maria were both wise beyond their years," Diane says. "The doctors were all amazed with their joy and their peacefulness through all their surgeries. They would go into their room after surgery expecting to give them pain medicine, and would find them laughing and giggling. The doctors knew there was something special about them."

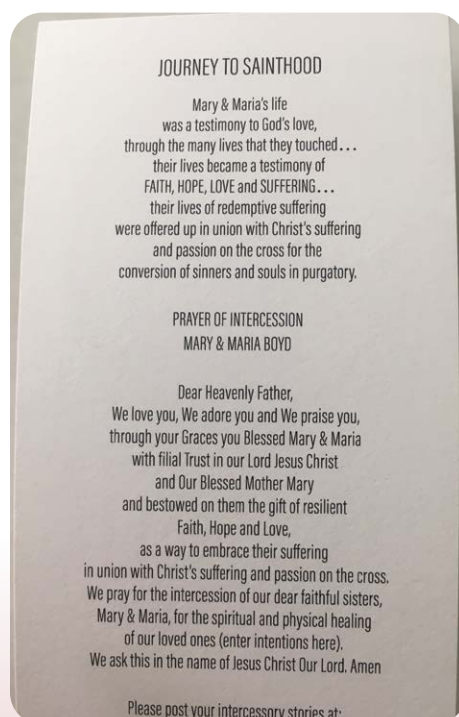
As the twin who suffered the most as a child, Maria was an inspiration even to her sister Mary, who also knew what it was like to live with chronic pain and repeated surgeries and hospitalizations. When Maria passed away during spinal surgery at the age of 12, the Boyds realized just how many lives she had touched.

"The year before Maria passed, she had to have a 'halo' brace attached to her forehead," Diane says. "I kind of relate it to the crown of thorns, since both Maria and Mary had always offered up their suffering to join with Christ's suffering. Maria had so much patience and faith that so many people just saw her and loved her for it. Over 200 people came to her funeral, and it was just one miracle after another in the stories people told about her that day."

Crushed by the loss of her twin, yet inspired by Maria's great faith, Mary continued to pursue her dreams despite her disabilities. Although her premature birth had left her with a deformity of the hands,



The Boyd sisters' prayer card, designed by Diane Kosarich.



The back of the Boyd sisters' prayer card.

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Sisters Beatified

Mary's unwavering determination and God-given talent as an artist led her to complete a degree in graphic arts at Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Shortly after older sister Diane moved to Florida, Mary followed her. The warmer climate was a bit easier on Mary's health, and her faith life continued to flourish here as she taught religious education classes and attended Bible studies at various area parishes.

"Mary was known for her wisdom and counseling," Diane says. "Everybody would call her with their problems and she would help them sort things out. She would pray for them — she was really big on contemplative prayer — and people could really feel the Holy Spirit with her."

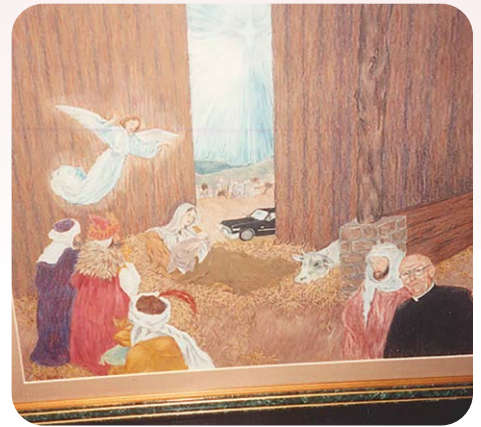
While both Maria and Mary experienced many surgeries in which they defied the odds, Mary felt a particularly powerful divine intervention take place during one of her later operations.

"In the last few years, no one wanted to do any more surgeries on Mary's back because it was so crippling," Diane says. "But the one surgeon in the country who would was in the Twin Cities of Minnesota! Mary told me after she got out of that surgery that the Lord had appeared to her while going into surgery and said to her, 'Everything is going to be okay.' She saw the Lord's face. Nothing like that had happened to her before, but she had been really worried about this surgery, because this was the one when no one wanted to touch her. The doctors said it was a miraculous surgery again."

Mary would live another seven years after that spinal surgery, though her constant pain would continue to worsen with time. As always, she told her friends and



Mary Boyd was honored to be asked to create an original painting celebrating the retirement of Msgr. John McNulty. Despite her long suffering, Mary not only kept her faith, but also her quick wit and sense of humor. In the painting, she depicted Msgr. McNulty at the birth of Christ, with his beloved 1967 Chevy also making an appearance.



family that she was uniting her suffering with Christ, and remained uncomplaining, peaceful and joyful until her passing at the age of 38 in 2005.

Several years ago, Mary and Maria's story became public when their childhood parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Cumberland, Md., became a shrine. The parish reached out to parishioners asking for their stories and memories, and Diane created a display highlighting her sisters' perseverance and strong Catholic faith. Later, Diane heard that Pope Francis had encouraged the beatification of people who had united their sufferings with Christ — and she immediately thought of her two beautiful sisters!

In 2018, Diane submitted a nomination to the sainthood for Mary and Maria through both the Diocese of St. Petersburg, which was Mary's diocese in her adult life, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which was Mary and Maria's childhood diocese. Since then, she has been working to make the astounding story of the Boyd twins known to all the faithful.

Diane is also keeping an eye and ear out for any miracles that may be attributed to her sisters' intercession. In at least one instance, she knows that a friend had asked for the prayers of Mary and Maria

when her young son was undergoing a high-risk brain surgery. Not only was the procedure a success, but when the doctors came into the child's room to check on him, they found him giggling and laughing in the bed — the "trademark" joyful giggling of the Boyd twins!

Deeply inspired by the faith of Mary and Maria, Diane asks for the prayers and blessings of our parish as she continues to work toward obtaining sainthood for these two extraordinary sisters.

"What I saw that was different in them was their prayer life," she says. "Both were dedicated to the Blessed Mother and said the Rosary every day, becoming closer to the Lord through Mary. With all of their near-death experiences and their trust and dependence on the Lord — the word 'strong' is not even enough to describe their faith!"

"They still had so much joy even though they were in pain," Diane adds. "Everyone who saw them was just amazed that they could still be showing the theological virtues of hope, faith and love, despite all their pain. There was a purpose to their lives — their redemptive suffering to help others who suffer. I feel like the Lord laid it on my heart to share their story."

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is watering a green plant with a watering can. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

Cultivate

YOUR PERSONAL GARDEN FOR CHRIST THIS SPRING

Everyone loves springtime. The weather is warmer and beautiful flowers are blooming all around us.

But anyone with a beautiful garden will attest that the flowers do not magically appear as if the season change itself miraculously makes the flowers bloom. Beautiful flowers and lush gardens are the result of the gardener's hard work.

Imagine that a man is given some flower seeds. The man then buries the seeds in the ground and leaves them on their own. As the months pass and rain falls, some seeds may receive enough nourishment to bloom. But simply burying seeds in the ground will hardly make for a gorgeous garden. Rather, if the man truly wants to enjoy many beautiful flowers, there is much care and work ahead. Recognizing the hidden beauty within these simple seeds, he must cultivate the ground, plant the seeds in a solid foundation, then water and fertilize them throughout the year — only then will he see the proper fruit these seeds were made to bear.

This simple illustration speaks to the heart of us this season — not only as we look around at the flowers, but more importantly as we reflect on the springtime of the Church. We are celebrating the great feast of Easter when, through His death and Resurrection, Christ offers us the greatest gift of all — eternal life with Him forever. This celebration leads us to reflect on the many gifts God has given us in this

life and the fruit they will bear, especially as we look to life eternal.

He has given each of us a multitude of gifts so that we can better serve Him and bring others to Him. Do we notice the hidden potential of our gifts? Do we see them, like the seed — as seemingly small, yet so full of fruit? Everything we have — our time, talents and treasure — is a gift from the Lord. Do we accept gifts in gratitude, then put them to use by cultivating and nourishing them so they will bear the proper fruit?

Just like springtime flowers that we enjoy, our time, talents and treasure need to be cared for. Our gifts need to be cultivated and nourished. It is only then that we will see them for what they are — wonderful gifts given by God meant for His greater glory.

Like the seeds, if we use our gifts flippantly, we may see some fruits here and there. But we are called to so much more — we are called to build a beautiful garden. We are called to offer God the most beautiful flowers of all.

This season, as we look at all the beautiful flowers around us and enjoy God's creation, let us think about the seeds in our own lives. Ask yourself if you have accepted the gifts God has given you — your time, talents and treasure — and have cultivated and cared for them properly. Or, do they just sit dormant within you yearning to bloom?

Just like springtime flowers we now enjoy, our time, talents and treasure need to be cared for.

Vito and Gerri Tenerelli: *Living out Active Discipleship Together*

"I think St. Timothy will continue to grow if they keep doing the things they are doing. They certainly figured out what made these two people happy. They should keep on with what they're doing — teaching love — because this parish teaches love, trust me!" — Vito Tenerelli

Throughout their 60 years of marriage — and even before they met — the Catholic faith has been at the foundation of life for Vito and Gerri Tenerelli. Both grew up in Catholic families in Michigan, with parents who modeled an active discipleship for them each and every day. So when Vito and Gerri got married, they knew that God would always be at the center of their own life together as spouses and parents — and eventually, grandparents!

Here at St. Timothy, we have been blessed to witness the Tenerellis' deep devotion to a stewardship way of life for almost 30 years. Although they are preparing to make a move to Oklahoma to be near their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, their legacy in our parish is sure to live on.

The Tenerellis first moved to our area in the early 1990s, brought here by Vito's work with Whirlpool. They visited many local parishes before discovering St. Timothy and falling in love with its welcoming environment, friendly parishioners, and numerous ministries.

Throughout the last three decades, Vito and Gerri have participated in many facets of parish life — the Men's Club and Women's Club, the pancake breakfasts, the church auction and festival, and more. Vito has been a Parish Council member and an usher, and Gerri currently serves as a Eucharistic Minister.

At the age of 80, the Tenerellis may not be quite as active in parish life as they once were, but they continue to be willing to lend a hand wherever needed! These days, they greatly enjoy helping with our Hospitality Ministry.

"One thing that stands out for me is the Newcomer's Welcoming Committee," Vito says. "I like that because it



Throughout their 60 years of marriage — and even before they met — the Catholic faith has been at the foundation of life for Vito and Gerri Tenerelli.

gives us a chance to meet the new people coming into the parish and the opportunity to talk to all of them before they even start coming to Mass here. I get a thrill out of that, and it gives me satisfaction knowing that we do all these things."

Making new friends and connecting with all of God's people is a true gift for Gerri and Vito, making the Hospitality Ministry a perfect fit for them.

"I enjoy the hospitality committee a lot, too," Gerri says. "It's nice to meet the new people and show them they are welcome and that we look forward to having them join us at Mass. Vito and I talk to strangers all over the world — we love people, and that's the way you enrich your life."

For both Gerri and Vito, the desire to serve has grown out of a strong commitment to nurturing their Catholic faith.



SAINT TIMOTHY

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Vito and Gerri Tenerelli: *Living out Active Discipleship Together*

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Gerri attended morning Mass daily for years, and continues to do so when she is able. Vito points to the religious articles throughout their home — from the crosses on the walls to the Blessed Mother stained glass in their window — as loving reminders that prompt him to say his daily prayers.

Alongside their personal devotions, the Tenerellis' involvement in parish life has helped strengthen their faith even more. As they prepare to bid a very fond farewell to the faith community they have loved so much for so long, they wish the priests, staff and parishioners of St. Timothy many more blessings in the years to come.

"I think St. Timothy will continue to grow if they keep doing the things they are doing," Vito says. "They certainly figured out what made these two people happy. They should keep on with what they're doing — teaching love — because this parish teaches love, trust me!"

"I'm so sure there is not another church in the whole world as warm and welcoming and loving as St. Timothy," Gerri says. "Everyone agrees. It's just a beautiful and wonderful place to be, and we will definitely be back to visit."

From our entire faith community, we thank the Tenerellis for being such inspiring examples of active discipleship here in our parish family!



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.