



SAINT TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fr. Malley Sends His *Thanksgiving Greetings* From Rome

Looking back, our former pastor Fr. Malley can't help but marvel at Divine Providence, and how well God has prepared him for his current position at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

"The formation I received while serving at St. Timothy is critical to the work that I do now," Fr. Malley says. "At St. Tims, I recognized the value of the annual process of assessment of time, talent, and treasure. Parishioners train their priests in more ways than they know, and those at St. Timothy helped train me in ways that I am still discovering."

Fr. Malley is deeply thankful for all of the companions that God put in his path as he served our parish family.

"I am grateful to the parishioners and the Parish Stewardship Committee, who challenged and encouraged me, many times outside of my comfort zone," he says. "They helped me become more attentive to the fact that it is more difficult to be generous when I am not grateful for what I have been given. At St. Timothy, I had an amazing staff and an incredible group of volunteers. So many individuals at the parish have a desire to serve God in numerous ways — such as in community events, in faith formation and service to others, and in liturgy and prayer."

He also can't help but savor the experiences that have made a lasting impression on him.

"The music, the festivities, and the celebrations we shared throughout the seasons are embedded into my heart and memory," he says. "I have so many stories, images, pictures, and videos that I can share from my time of service at St. Timothy Parish."



My training in spiritual direction will be utilized here in a unique way," Fr. Malley says. "We are forming men to serve, not be served — we are forming compassionate and caring individuals."

November 2020

In this Issue

- 3 "What's in It For Us"
May Surprise You
- 4 Linda Mooney
Reflects on 25 Years
of Service in the
Liturgical Environment
Ministry "It Uses All
Of Your Senses"
- 6 Teaching Our Children
the True Meaning of
Stewardship
- 7 Candle-Lighting
Mass: Remembering
and Remaining
United with Our
Dearly Departed

17512 Lakeshore Rd.
Lutz, FL 33558
www.sainttims.org

continued on page 2



Thanksgiving Tidings from Rome *continued from front cover*

Moving forward, he is busy making new memories in Rome, the Eternal City.

"After over two decades of serving as a parish priest, I begin a new role as house spiritual director at the Pontifical North American College [PNAC] in Rome," he says. "The PNAC currently has about 170 students from across the United States and Australia. The seminarians reside at the North American College and they attend one of the Pontifical Universities in Rome for their academic studies."

In his new position, he enjoys drawing from the wellspring of God's wisdom as he gives spiritual direction.

"I am being assigned 20 to 30 seminarians that I will meet with on a regular basis," Fr. Malley says. "Spiritual direction is a tool to help an individual notice how the Lord is loving them, and working in their lives. My training in spiritual direction will be utilized here in a unique way. We are forming men to serve, not be served — we are forming compassionate and caring individuals."

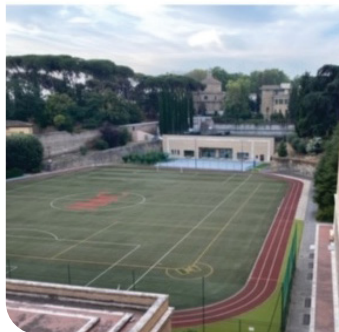
Fr. Malley has enjoyed helping with student retreats, including one that took place in Assisi, Italy.

"There is plenty of hope and joy to share here," Fr. Malley says. "We have received many great blessings so far. We even had a private audience with Pope Francis, with just the first-year students and the faculty."

As always, Fr. Malley asks for our loyal support and prayers. "I am now living with a household filled with young men who are eager to offer their lives in service to the Lord," he says. "So, please pray for all our seminarians, and for others who are called to religious life. They have already been courageous in responding to this initial call, however, there are many obstacles, trials, and struggles before they can make their final commitments. Your prayers, as well as the vocation to prayer in the Church, are critical."



"We have received many great blessings so far," Fr. Malley says. "We even had a private audience with Pope Francis, with just the first-year students and the faculty."



Fr. Malley is busy making new memories in Rome, the Eternal City.

If you would like further information about the Pontifical North American College in Rome, please visit www.pnac.org.

SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Letter From Our Pastor

"What's in It For Us" May Surprise You

Dear Friends in Christ,

You already know that our parish is committed to living as intentional disciples of Christ through the holistic practice of stewardship. What you may not know is that one of our inspirations and mentors is the late Msgr. Thomas McGread of the Diocese of Wichita.

Who was Msgr. McGread?

Msgr. McGread was a humble, servant priest who created a model for how stewardship should be practiced — both here and in many Catholic parishes across the country. What began simply with Msgr. McGread applying his stewardship principles at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wichita — where he served as pastor for 31 years — has become a way of life for our parish family and for Catholics around the nation.

With such an incredible blueprint from this visionary priest, how could we go wrong?

We have truly embraced stewardship here at St. Timothy, and for that, I am blessed and grateful. From the beginning, however, the question "What's in it for us?" had to be on our minds as our efforts to educate parishioners and promote the stewardship way of life were introduced.

At first, "What's in it for us?" seemed to center on what people were willing to do to give back to God as part of practicing their faith and living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

While this is important, there is so much more to it.

The truth is, "What's in it for us?" is really about "What's in it for you," which perhaps is best explained as one simple principle — cultivating a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

When Christ calls us to discipleship, He is also calling us to be faithful stewards of our time, talent and treasure. Our gratitude for these gifts is best expressed through giving a portion of each back to God. Thus, stewardship becomes a way of life that is also the way to holiness. Our relationship with Christ is what we get in return.



Our efforts as a parish to promote the spiritual benefits of active stewardship are designed to foster a deeper relationship with God for all of us. Membership in a parish family should encourage, support, and celebrate that relationship with the living God, first and foremost. Everything else flows from that.

If we are not focused on our relationship with God, then what will define our spirituality?

If we have embraced the blessings of stewardship as a practical way of being the disciples we are called to be, we will in turn have a deeper relationship with Christ.

We celebrate Thanksgiving this month, which truly is a stewardship holiday since stewardship begins with an attitude of gratitude. I am truly thankful for the many parishioners willing to do so much.

In closing, let me share one final thought to help you realize the gift that our parish is to each and every one of us.

Be grateful for all you have;

Be generous in giving something back to God; and

Be faithful stewards, and you will have done both.

That is what's in it for you, and in turn, that is what's in it for us!

And don't forget — God has been doing this for centuries. We're just the latest and most fortunate recipients.

Happy Thanksgiving, and may God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John Blum".

Fr. John Blum
Pastor



Linda Mooney Reflects on 25 Years of S

One of the most beautiful things about stewardship is that we all have talents to share — whether we serve during Mass, help out around the parish, or assist others in need throughout the community. Here at St. Timothy, Linda Mooney has used her artistic talents in stewardship service, helping to make our worship experience more meaningful. And now, after 25 years, Linda is stepping down from her work as head of the Liturgical Environment Ministry.

Although she was not raised in the Catholic faith, she grew up in a strong Christian home that meant Sundays were devoted to church and family. She has carried that devotion to her Catholic faith.

Her work in the ministry began when she found the Christmastime altar décor jarred her artistic sensibilities.

“I’m a perfectionist,” she says. “If something is not done correctly, whether it’s in my home or church — say, I see a plant out of place — I have to fix it.”

She was gifted reference materials and drew heavily on the book, *To Crown the Year*. She went to local churches and took photos to see what was done for the liturgical seasons. She also spent a lot of time at Disney World.

“Everything is done there to perfection,” she says. “I got lots of ideas that came from there because they decorate for all the seasons.”

While our former church building had its challenges for decorating, our new building had even more.

“It is not a traditional altar,” she says. “The space is so huge. You have to do it all on a grand scale or it gets lost — basically you have to think big and think about the perspectives in the church to do the environment correctly.”

She has had the help of about 50 ministry members through the years.

“Linda *was* the ministry,” says Diane Tousignant, a 10-year ministry member. “Everything we did, all the decorating, were all her designs and ideas and her vision for what the church should look like. We like to decorate but we aren’t decorators. We learned a great deal about liturgical decorating from Linda.”

Linda sewed all the banners used throughout the year and purchased much of the materials used. She spent countless hours on the work and fixed whatever needed repairing.



The Fontanini creche, enhanced with decorating touches



A stunning tableau for the Lenten season

Service in the Liturgical Environment Ministry

"It Uses All Of Your Senses"

"One of the big things about Linda and the Liturgical Environment Ministry is that we were always behind the scenes," Diane says. "We were like little mice who came in the middle of the night. She was always there for us, with our questions."

The Christmas season has presented its challenges and its joys — such as placing the Fontanini creche in the sanctuary.

"It is in huge boxes," she says. "We have two maintenance men who are wonderful. They will carry those boxes out and use a lift to put up the 18-foot banners."

The parish Men's Club has also been very helpful over the years, especially when it was time to put up the Christmas trees and light them.

"They are all on timers," she says. "All the mangers, all the lights and statuary, and all the trees come on at Mass times and go off after Mass. It makes life a whole lot easier."

Over the years, Linda has created a collection of laminated photos of how the decorating was done for each season.

"We always worked with pictures in one hand," she says, "to avoid the possibility of forgetting how something goes."

Having the church appropriately decorated for each liturgical season plays an important part in helping to build our faith.

"It uses all of your senses," Linda says. "It's like music for your ears. The environment is your visual sense for celebrating the Mass."

During her work in our parish, Linda has also been deeply involved along with her husband, Dr. John Mooney, in yearly medical clinic trips to Haiti. She put her expertise as an emergency room nurse to the service of those in desperate need of medical care. This work, along with her devotion to the Liturgical Environment Ministry, has enabled her to not only put her faith into action but also to express her thanks to God for the blessings in her life.

A new ministry leader is not yet in place. Diane and two others are overseeing the group for Christmas.

"We're so grateful to Linda for the hours she put in, for the advice and knowledge she gave to each of us," Diane says.



A bounty of colorful flowers evoking the joy of Easter



Poinsettias and candles decorating this area for Christmas



TEACHING OUR CHILDREN *the True Meaning of Stewardship*

What is your response when someone compliments your child's achievements in art, music, or sports? Do you say "thank you" as a kind response, or do you thank God for granting your child the gifts necessary for success?

As parents, we serve as the primary educators of our children. Teaching them from a young age that their talents — whether in soccer, chorus, or painting — come not from us, but from God, is essential to teaching stewardship. God graciously grants each of us unique skills and abilities, and it is our job to use those gifts to glorify Him. As parents, aunts, uncles, or older siblings, we can guide children in our lives to recognize their God-given gifts. We can further encourage children to use God's gifts to their full potential, and then thank Him for bestowing them. This teaches young Catholics how to be good stewards. Indeed, not utilizing our talents brings to mind the parable of the servant who buries the treasure his master gives him, instead of using it to create more treasure. God wants us to use our talents wisely and thankfully.

Teaching children to utilize their talents to build God's kingdom is only one step of the threefold stewardship message. How your children spend their time is also important. As we move through the hustle and bustle of our day — balancing school, chores, and extracurricular activities — do we find time to spend with God? It often seems as if 24 hours is not long enough to fulfill our many daily tasks.

So, how can we find the time to teach and demonstrate the importance of sharing our time with God? Simple time offerings include praying on the way to school, stopping by the church to pray for a friend in need, or thanking God for a good outcome on a test. Even learning about a saint over dinner and praying as a family before bedtime can be a valuable time offering to the Lord.

As parents, finding daily prayer time ourselves is also necessary, both for our roles as good stewards and as an



example to our children. How wonderful for a child to witness their parent in quiet prayer devotion!

The third tier of stewardship — treasure — is most frequently overlooked when educating our children. Birthday money from Grandma and allowance money doesn't count — or does it?

All gifts we receive are really from God, and the "first fruits" of those gifts should be generously returned to God — even if they "come" from Grandma. Starting as early as grade school, children can understand the concept of giving back to the all-giving God if we simply take the opportunity to teach it to them. Witnessing our weekly tithe is a great start, but encouraging them to give in their own children's offertory envelope is also important. Knowing they are returning to God in thanksgiving will fill them with joy!

Of the many lessons that parents instill in their children, teaching them to be good stewards should be a top priority. Our goal as parents is to get our children to heaven to be with our creator, God. Teaching them to be good stewards is a great way to ensure entry.

Of the many lessons that parents instill in their children, teaching them to be good stewards should be a top priority. Our goal as parents is to get our children to heaven to be with our creator, God. Teaching them to be good stewards is a great way to ensure entry.

Candle-Lighting Mass

REMEMBERING AND REMAINING UNITED WITH OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

Each year, November is ushered in by the solemn feasts of All Saints Day on Nov. 1, and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2. During these special memorials, Catholics around the world remember all those who have gone before us in the pursuit of that final goal — heaven.

“As Catholic Christians, we believe in the communion of saints,” says St. Timothy Funeral Ministry coordinator Cathy Summers. “In believing in that, we believe there is a true resurrection. That means we pray for the souls of those who have passed and believe that, in turn, they will pray for us. The funeral process isn't about simply burying and being done. The whole funeral process is to acknowledge that we are part of the family of Christ, and as such, we resurrect with Christ.”

One special way that St. Timothy honors this mystical reality is through the annual Candle-Lighting Mass. Scheduled this year for Oct. 31, at 9 a.m., this sacred liturgy is designed to allow parishioners who have lost loved ones over the past year to remember them in a special way.

“We remember those who have died, and since we do not know the specific hour of their judgment, we continue to ask God to be merciful to them,” Cathy says. “It is a great spiritual way to recall our loved ones and encounter inner peace — a noble and exalted form of bereavement.”

The ceremony includes a slide show with the picture and name of each deceased member, and then their name is read and called out on the altar. A large six-foot cross is also laid flat on a rolling table, filled with around 100 tea lights. Each of these candles is symbolically lit during the liturgy, representing the soul of a beloved departed member.



The tea light cross, with each light symbolizing a departed loved one

continued on back cover



SAINT TIMOTHY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

17512 Lakeshore Road
Lutz, FL 33558
813-968-1077
www.sainttims.org

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

Candle-Lighting Mass continued from page 7

Having lost her beloved husband two years ago, Cathy knows firsthand the pain of grieving a loved one. She says that participating in the Funeral Ministry and special liturgies like the Candle-Lighting Mass have been tremendous in enabling her to heal and cope during this difficult time.

"It's been an enormous blessing," Cathy says. "This ministry has moved me and has made me grow, and has enlightened my true sense of Christ and what is happening to my husband now. I'm able to cope so much better. It wasn't easy — it isn't easy at all. But I know he is resurrected with Christ. I just know it in my heart and that's the peace I receive."

"We remember those who have died, and since we do not know the specific hour of their judgment, we continue to ask God to be merciful to them. It is a great spiritual way to recall our loved ones and encounter inner peace — a noble and exalted form of bereavement."

— CATHY SUMMERS

For more information about the Funeral Ministry, please visit www.sainttims.org/funeral/

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. • Holy Days: 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Vigil: 7 p.m.