

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

We Are Serving as Builders of God's Kingdom

Dear Parishioners,

As head of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests in the United States and as someone who enjoys leading people on a pilgrimage, I obviously love to travel. But even I get weary of being on the road too long. So, towards the end of last year's pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy, I decided to take a day of rest and prayer in Assisi rather than join the group on a day trip to Florence. For me, it was a great decision.

I saw the group off, and after breakfast I walked into town to I make a holy hour in the Basilica of St. Clare in the Chapel of the Crucifix. The crucifix, of course, is the San Damiano Crucifix – the very same crucifix that St. Francis prayed before. It wasn't the most perfect setting for contemplative prayer as hundreds of tourists passed through. Still, I was happy to pray there and observe that most had no idea of the significance of this crucifix, but some very much did. As I gazed upon our Lord, I – like St. Francis – heard that quiet voice within call me to mission. It was not "rebuild my Church." It was simply "be with." But be with whom, Lord? It was a good question to ponder.

After my holy hour, I made my way down to the Basilica of St. Francis for the Eucharist. During Mass, the Lord was kind enough to complete His thought so that I'd have a deeper sense of mission. "Be with the Builders." As pastor of what is consider a big "corporate" parish, I am now more conscious than ever of being present to all those wonderful parishioners who give of their time and energy to help build up God's Kingdom.

Presently, we are in the midst of a Priority Planning Process. We look forward to celebrating 100 years as a faith community in 2017 and we are trying to discern a deeper sense of mission as we move forward. Several generations have worked hard to make our parish a vibrant faith community. We now, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are called to pay it forward and I find listening to the "builders" in our parish to be very energizing. I thank all of you who attended the Listening Session or turned in a Survey for our Priority Planning. I am grateful for the good work of our Pastoral Council as we continue the fairly intensive meetings that are involved in this process. I hope to announce the results of our work in January.

Mass Schedule

Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Monday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Friday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m.,
5:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Chapel is located at the corner of
Monte Sano and Bellevue.

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Faith and Service

Over 70 Years of Living Stewardship at St. Mary's

Time, talent, and treasure. By now, these three words have become a fixture in our parish as we strive to incorporate stewardship by making a daily decision to give back to God. The message is simple, but while the new language helps put a name to what we are all called to do, the concept is by no means a new one and, indeed, has been part of St. Mary's for the past 100 years. As parishioner Laura Cameron reminds us, stewardship is a way of life that has been going on for a long time.

"I suppose we have a name for it now, but it's really about just stepping in whenever there is a need," Laura says. "Maybe it's part of the work ethic that my parents demonstrated during the Depression when no one had much, but everyone helped each other and never gave it any thought. It was just what you did."

Perhaps it is fitting that, as we approach our 100th anniversary as a parish, we turn to someone who is also 100 years old and whose service to our parish is measured in decades. When you put the name "Laura" and the word "service" in the same sentence, sometimes it's good to step back and let the numbers speak for themselves – Laura has been a member of St. Mary's for over 70 years; she has worked with nine different pastors and 45 parochial vicars; for the past 19 years, she has faithfully committed to an hour of adoration every Monday morning; and for almost 69 years, she has shared her talent as an organist and has volunteered as one of our parish wedding coordinators.

"When you do something long enough, you help make it work for the parish which, in the end, helps everyone," Laura says. "I remember when I first met Fr. Jerry Ragan and Fr. Ben Dallas, I introduced myself as the wedding coordinator and explained that we had everything set up and the only thing they needed to do was to show up and keep the wedding rehearsal down to 45 minutes."

But Laura represents many in the parish whose service can't always be measured, because it's about giving a little here and a little there, such as when Laura played the organ for the overflow Mass at Easter. Or it's about stepping in to fill a vacancy, like when she has substituted for a catechism class. And sometimes, it's about seeing something that needs to be done and



Laura Cameron visiting Toronto. She has been to all 50 states and has traveled to 34 countries (35 if you count her stepping one foot into Russia).

just doing it, as Laura did when she went by the parish office at noon to answer phones while everyone went out to lunch. Many times, service is working behind the scenes, such as when she quietly mended vestments or altar linens.

"St. Mary's is my other home," Laura says. "It is part of my life. I don't think anything I do is special – anything I do in the parish is like getting up in the morning, or having breakfast, or going to Mass on Sundays. The Church, my faith, stewardship – they are not separate from who I am. It's all one."

Ultimately, one of the most beautiful things about our Catholic faith is our tradition of service to others. And it is people like Laura who remind us that, in serving, we are only parts of the whole – that we are all called to service each according to the gifts God has given us, and that it takes everyone sharing their talents to keep the Church operating and functioning as one body.

Perpetual Adoration *If Not Me, Then Who?*

We all know it's there – and for 19 years, people have come to the quiet of the Adoration Chapel on the corner of Monte Sano and Bellevue Avenues. Whether they come for an hour or a few minutes, being able to sit in the reality of Christ's Presence is a gift of time to whisper quiet prayers, to listen without distraction, and to just be. But it is a gift that needs commitment in order for it to continue.



“The Adoration Chapel has always been my preferred place to pray,” says parishioner Michelle Migone. “It has been an incredible blessing for me to be able to spend quite time there going over the readings of the day, or praying the Rosary, or delving into a spiritual book, or just simply sitting in the Presence of our Lord. I know that my time there has provided me and my family with many blessings. I would hate to think what it would be like if we did not have this treasure.”

And it is a treasure. Having Perpetual Adoration means that, in a very tangible way, our parish is praying unceasingly with not only the scheduled adorers who commit to an hour, but also with anyone who comes in at any time throughout the day and night.

“People are always popping in,” says Laura Cameron, who has committed to the 9 a.m. slot every Monday for the past 19 years. “People stop in for a few minutes on their way to work, joggers will come in to kneel and say a quick prayer, and students from Augusta University – carrying backpacks and books – come in before heading to class.”

And that's the beauty of the Adoration Chapel – it's always open for anyone at any time: for those who come from the Emergency Room to pray for a loved one, for those who had a bad day and need respite, for

those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, for the students who come with their classmates, for those seeking direction, for those who want to kneel and thank God for their many blessings.

But the accessibility that comes with having a Perpetual Adoration Chapel means that there are scheduled adorers who cover every single hour of every single day. Which begs the question – what will happen to our Adoration Chapel if we no longer have scheduled adorers?

“It's getting harder and harder to fill every hour,” says Paul Zielinski, who coordinates the ministry along with his wife, Mary Ellen. “Many of those who brought Perpetual Adoration to the parish are still here and are still committed – by covering an hour, by purchasing new carpeting and new cushions for the chapel, by installing a new light over the monstrance, by bringing flowers for the altar every single week. But we are getting older. Some have had to drop out due to illness. Some have passed away. Truthfully, the program is in desperate need of adorers to fill the hours, because sometimes there isn't anyone there at all.”

Indeed, each Sunday the bulletin contains an ongoing list of what is needed for the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. At first glance, the list is lengthy. But if you read carefully, you will see that there is really only one need – you and me, for one hour.

“It might seem hard to commit to an hour,” Laura says. “But it's really not. You sign up, put it on the calendar, and it then becomes a normal part of your routine. You might need to find a way to make it work, but with anything in life if you really want something you will find a way to make it happen.”

The Adoration Chapel has been a blessing for the past 19 years, but scheduled adorers and substitutes are desperately needed. Please prayerfully consider committing to one hour. For more information on how you can help, contact Paul and Mary Ellen Zielinski at 706-228-5115.

Meet the 2016 Gartland Award Winner *Patty Maleck and Ken Maleck*

In just a few days, parishioners Patty Maleck and Kyle McArdle will be heading to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah to attend a very special Mass, and we couldn't be more excited for them! At this Mass on Nov. 20, the feast day of Christ the King, Bishop Hartmayer will present the 2016 Gartland Awards to parishioners throughout our diocese who have demonstrated outstanding service to the Catholic Church.

Patty has been a member here at St. Mary on the Hill for over 30 years now, but her devotion to service in the Church began long before she moved to Augusta. Born and raised in Albany, N.Y., Patty spent a lot of time helping out around her home parish of St. Anne's.

"I went to Catholic school from grade school through high school," she says. "During that time, the girls belonged to the Legion of Mary, so we did a lot of service in the church like ironing the linens, replenishing the candles, and answering phones and doorbells for the priests."

In 1975, Patty met Ken Maleck when the two were teammates in a bowling league. Their team might not have won the championship, but they won in love! Two years later, the couple was married at St. Anne's in Albany. After moving to Augusta in 1984, Patty and Ken stayed active in the faith, and ultimately discerned Ken's call to the diaconate. From day one, the years of preparation and sacrifice that go into the ordination process were viewed by the Malecks as a team effort.

"I wasn't shocked when Ken mentioned a discernment to the diaconate," Patty says. "We talked about it together, and we had a teenage son at the time. So, it was a little difficult because I went with Ken the first year he did the classes, but my first responsibility was to take care of our son, Brian. Ken would go [to Savannah for classes] on a Friday night, and I would get Brian to his swim meet, and then I would drive out there to join Ken on Saturday. It brought us both closer to the Church and to each other."

While it may be said that serving the parish as a deacon's wife is a ministry in and of itself, Patty also



Patty and Ken Maleck

dedicates her time to stewardship in countless other capacities. Her past ministries include involvement in the Disciples in Mission and Heart Renewed programs, Liturgical planning, and volunteer work at Catholic Social Services. Currently, she teaches CCD classes and serves as a Eucharistic Minister, in addition to helping Fr. Jerry coordinate the Eucharistic Ministry team.

In the midst of the everyday busyness of life, Patty finds that making time for prayer and stewardship is a renewing experience.

"You prioritize what's important to you, and church is extremely important to us," she says. "And you can make 101 excuses not to do something, but you just prioritize and make the time to do it. Sometimes, you think you don't want to do something, but after you do, you feel so good and at peace with yourself for having done it. Like adoration – Ken and I will go to adoration together and everything that has gone on during the week just dissolves. It's such a peaceful time for us."

Like Patty, Kyle McArdle also has a deacon in his immediate family – his father is Deacon Don McArdle. Growing up as one of nine siblings, the Catholic faith was always at the forefront of Kyle's childhood.

and Award Recipients

and Kyle McArdle



The McArdle family

“Dad and Mom just always seemed to keep the faith, the Church and our parish at the front of their minds,” Kyle says of his parents, Don and Pat. “They instilled in us the necessity of and the importance of the faith life that they had, and I’m certain that this example had a profound impact on it becoming important in our lives, too.”

Even though staying active in the faith had always played a large role in Kyle’s upbringing, it wasn’t until he experienced a time of great trial in his adult life that the call to stewardship really hit home for him. After he and his wife, Theresa, suffered the loss of several pregnancies, Kyle had a deepened sense of what it means to view all gifts on earth as belonging to God.

“At that point, God really hit me over the head with a hammer,” he says. “And He said, ‘You know, no matter what you have or don’t have, how well you’re doing or not, this life isn’t yours to begin with – everything belongs to me.’ I just gained a greater appreciation for how our lives are simply not our own. I now have a better understanding that when we surrender to this fact, we can allow God’s work to be done through us.”

Today, still mindful of giving back for graces received, Kyle can be found spending much of his time in some kind of service to the Church. He is the vice president of Catholic Stewardship Consultants, an organization that works closely with parishes to deepen the spirituality of parishioners and incorporate stewardship as an essential part of their faith life. And during his time “off,” Kyle has served our parish in various ways – coordinating the Lector Ministry, serving on the St. Mary on the Hill School PTO, helping with RCIA, serving on the Parish School Board, and he has also volunteered on a Citizen Review Panel for the Juvenile Court, The First Tee of Augusta and other youth focused organizations in our community.

These days, the most joy he receives in giving of his time come from his commitment to a weekly adoration hour and his service on the parish Consolation Ministry.

For Kyle, the importance of stewardship always comes back to the recognition that all the gifts we are blessed with in this world come from God. And as parents and foster parents, the value of staying active in the faith is something that he and Theresa – a beloved substitute teacher at our parish school – have made a family tradition.

“I do not have a lot of money or free time, but what I do have, I try to return to Him,” Kyle says. “And, in the times I begin to think that I do not have enough or I am too overloaded with responsibilities, God always seems to put forth a new challenge, asking me to give back a little more of myself through my time, talent, or treasure. God allows me to serve Him more, and serving Him brings an increased level of joy in my life that could not be filled any other way.”

While it would be impossible to thank Patty and Kyle enough for all they do for our parish and community, we can begin by extending our congratulations to both of them! What a blessing their living examples of stewardship are to St. Mary on the Hill and to our Catholic faith!

The Earliest Years of St. Mary's

Though the Augusta Catholics were separated into three parishes, they were united as never before. Catholics had enjoyed harmonious relations with their fellow Georgians throughout their history. However, in the early 20th century, a brilliant, charismatic orator and writer, Thomas E. Watson, former Congressman from Thomson, Ga., began an anti-Catholic campaign, which was effective in mobilizing a political bloc of rural voters who blindly followed his lead. In 1915, Watson instructed the Georgia Legislature to pass a Convent Inspections Act. He said that girls were being held prisoners in convents and that there were tunnels between rectories and convents –“unspeakable things were going on.”

The compliant legislators did as they were told and the Veazey Bill became law. Convents were inspected by grand jury committees in every county in which convents were located. This insult to religious women was the last straw for Georgia Catholics, who numbered only 15,000 out of a state population of three million. In 1916, with Augustans in leadership roles, the Catholic Laymen's Association was estab-

lished. The goal of the association was to correct the misinformation spread by Watson and his ilk.

The parishioners of St. Mary's joined the people of the town parishes to raise \$24,000 for the work of the association, including the publication of *The Bulletin*, a statewide weekly publication. World War I helped the cause of the Catholic Laymen and lessened Watson's influence. The Knights of Columbus are very visible in patriotic activities, whereas Tom Watson inveighed against the war saying the pope was behind it!

A tidbit – Tom Watson died in 1922, an enigma to the last. His nurse during his last illness was Catholic, and he insisted that his chauffeur drive her to Sunday Mass!

After World War I, the Hill area experienced a boom through the 1920s. Hillcrest, Lombardy Court and the Forrest Hills neighborhoods were promoted by developers. The number of parishioners grew steadily.

The Great Recession forced frugality upon all. The next Great War would again shape the development of our parish...



We Are Serving as Builders of God's Kingdom

continued from front cover

In this issue of *The Marianite*, you'll find profiles of some of "the builders" in our faith community. Our parish and especially our liturgies are blest by the good work of Patty Maleck and Kyle McArdle. They are most worthy recipients of this year's Gartland Award. And what can one say about the extraordinary work of Laura Cameron? She will be 101 years old in January and she puts most of us to shame when it comes to giving of her time and talent to the mission of our parish. We rejoice in the 70 years that she has been building up God's Kingdom as a member of St. Mary on the Hill.

Those of you who have committed to praying before the Blessed Sacrament for a specific hour every week are also builders of the Kingdom. I truly believe that it is the Perpetual Adoration that our parish has been committed to for the past 19 years that is the foundation for the good work that we do in building up God's Kingdom. I am thankful to all of you who are "builders" in and through the spirituality of Stewardship as a way of living out your Discipleship. Thank you for re-

turning your Stewardship Commitment Card. Together, may we continue to be builders of God's Kingdom.

P.S. – This year's Pilgrimage to the only Vatican Designated Holy Door in the Americas went very well. If you haven't made a pilgrimage to a holy door during this Year of Mercy, you still have a few days to do so. The closest holy door is one designated by the Bishop of Charleston at Mary Help of Christians Church in Aiken. It is a great spiritual practice and you'd be happy for having made the effort. The Year of Mercy ends on Nov. 20, so plan a trip with your family and friends today.

And some have asked about the possibility of a pilgrimage next year. I'm always ready to pack my bags. Where might you want to go?

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement

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In Memory of Paul Gallagher
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In Memory of David Samuel Maney
Bulls, Bears and Babes

Stewardship Outreach From Our Parish Over the Last Three Years

Aquinas High School
Catholic Social Services
St. Bernadette Church Mission Fund, Millen, Ga.
Ray City, Ga., Church Building Fund
South Georgia Migrant Outreach – fund Food Bank Account
Kairos Prison Ministry
Natural Family Planning
St. Paul Radio
Master's Table, Golden Harvest Food Bank
Coordinated Health Services – St. Vincent de Paul
Family Promise – Interfaith Hospitality
Fisher House
Lydia Project
Saints Overseas
Carmelite Monastery Building Fund
I Care 4
Nine Diocesan Defined Special Collections
*(Church in Africa, Latin America, World Missions, Campaign
for Human Development, Black/Native American Missions,
Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Home Missions Appeal, Catholic
Communications Campaign, & Peter's Pence)*

Other Special Collections (additional collections):

Mission Co-op (September)
Religious Retirement (second Sunday in December)
Diocesan Christmas Special – DOS schools
SMCS Christmas Special – Saints Overseas
Aid To Eastern Europe (Ash Wednesday)
Holy Places in Palestine (Good Friday)
Priest Retirement (Easter)
Operation Rice Bowl
Diocese of Charleston Flood Relief
Louisiana Flood Relief

Baptisms

Sept. 10
Lucy Katherine O'Neill
Daughter of Michael and Sara O'Neill

Sept. 11
Charlie Hall Spencer
Daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Spencer

Sept. 25
Frances Elizabeth Robertson
Daughter of Heard and Martha Robertson