



The Crossroads Messenger

The official newsletter of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church • Mount Washington, Kentucky

2nd Quarter 2021

Ground Breaking For PAC

Jessica Able & Ruby Thomas

Reprinted from The Record, February 25, 2021

St. Francis Xavier Church in Mt. Washington, Ky., held a ground-breaking ceremony for its Parish Activity Center Feb. 21.

The activity center will be located at the far right end of the church property, next to the Parish's existing religious education building.

The 11,000-square foot building will house a large event space, industrial-size kitchen and several classrooms, said Father Dale Cieslik, pastor of St. Francis Xavier. The projected cost is \$3.2 million.

"We have a great need for more space, especially to house large groups of people, whether that is receptions, meetings or Parish gatherings," said Father Cieslik.

The pandemic slowed plans for construction but Father Cieslik said the timeline is back on track.

"Literally hours before everything was shut down last year, we had just got approval from the Archdiocese. The wonderful thing is people stayed very faithful to their commitment to the campaign, all the while still meeting regular stewardship commitments," he said.

The Parish expects to dedicate the building on March 27, 2022, the same day the current church building was dedicated by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz in 2010.



From The Pastor's Pen

Welcome to Spring 2021!



As we continue to make progress in returning to almost “all things familiar,” there is a renewed sense of what life is all about as well as the vernal scent of fresh air.

The Easter Season will culminate with the Feast of Pentecost, May 22-23. On that day, we celebrate the birthday of our Roman Catholic Church. In our Parish, we will have The Holy Spirit draw names of some of the good stewards of the Parish to serve on the Parish Council. *Please give some thought to accepting an invitation to serve... or seeking someone you think would enhance our way of living the Gospel.*

The week after the celebration of Pentecost, we will honor all our Parishioner-graduates from high school and college. At that same 11 a.m. Mass, we will present The Pat French Scholarship to **Aeron Adams**, son of Wally and Julie Adams. I personally congratulate all of our young people on this time of accomplishment. Along with the many proud parents and families that have supported these students in their schooling is the support of the SFX faith family.

If you have not done so yet, please take the time to check out the building of our Parish Activity Center. Seen with an “eye of faith” it becomes an outward sign of the growth happening in us and around us. Our target date of completion is March 2, 2022. Many things will happen with this project within the year and one of them is to discern how, and by what means, we will furnish the newest room of our faith home. When called upon, I feel that each of you will respond with your usual and always reliable support. *Your kids and grandkids will thank you for it!*

Lastly, our “new” 11 a.m. Mass, born of the COVID pandemic, has proven its worth to our SFX faith family and guests and is now a permanent addition to our other two weekend masses. As Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

In Christ the Cornerstone

Fr. Dale



St. Francis Xavier

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Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon

www.sfxmw.com



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2nd Quarter 2021

May: Honoring Mary, And Our Mothers



Deacon's Desk

Deacon Earl Baker

Over the centuries, the month of May has been dedicated to honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary. This month is always a part of our Easter season, the fifty days in which we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. Many Parishes throughout the world celebrate this month with May Processions, Rosary recitations and other devotions. All of these celebrations are directed at honoring Mary, the Mother of God, for her grace-filled life and love of God. As Catholics, we believe the honor we give Mary leads to the adoration and praise of God.

During this liturgical season of Easter, we emphasize Our Blessed Mother's participation in the Paschal Mystery and her presence with the Church. It was in her humble obedience to do the will of God that she brought forth the Messiah, the Son of God, into the world. She was the first human to kiss the face of God, the first to believe in Jesus as her Savior and the first of his followers. Mary was present with Our Savior in his passion and death, not one to leave his side, as he endured the burden of his cross. She stands in solidarity with all



believers who live and suffer under the shadow of the cross. Mary is known as "Our Lady of Perpetual Help," for she knows our every need, and is always ready to assist us.

We call her "Our Blessed Mother" because Jesus gave her to us as he hung upon the cross, and he entrusted us to her as her children. Jesus' words to his disciple John, "Behold your Mother," were not only spoken to him but to all of us. She is the mother of the Church, the mystical body of Christ. Jesus invites us to accept Mary as our Mother and to respond to her motherly love as her children.

We also celebrate Pentecost in the month of May, when Mary prayed with the Apostles in the Upper Room as they waited for the descent of the Holy Spirit. After the Spirit came to them, they were able to preach boldly about Jesus and to dedicate their lives for the spread of the Gospel. Not only did she say "yes" to God's plan to bring the Messiah into the world, she continued to bring his message to the world after his

ascension to heaven. She is the Christian model of discipleship which we should all emulate.

It is also very fitting that we honor our earthly mothers during the Marian month of May. On Mother's Day, we show our affection for our mothers with material gifts such as cards and flowers, but more importantly, we thank God for the gift that our mothers are to us. In gratitude, we thank God for our mothers, who conceived us, nurtured us, cared for us, educated us, protected us and loved us. Our mothers are the first to teach us about our faith. Their example of selfless, sacrificial love has given us a glimpse of the love of God.

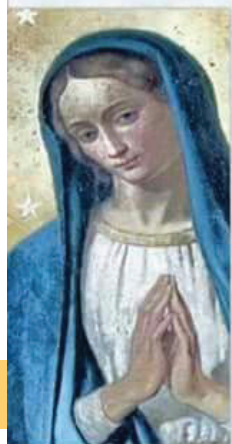
On Mother's Day, let us be grateful for the gift of our earthly mothers and for our spiritual mother as well. May they help us all to grow ever closer to Our Lord and Savior.

The month of May is dedicated to
The Blessed Virgin Mary
During this month, we offer up to Mary an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration.
FROM CATHOLICCULTURE.COM



Because of Mary's singular cooperation with the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church loves to pray in communion with the Virgin Mary, **to magnify** with her the great things the Lord has done for her, and **to entrust** supplications and praises to her.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2682



Mary is the perfect "Orans" (pray-er)...
When we pray to her, we are adhering with her to the plan of the Father, who sends his Son to save all men.. **We can pray with and to her.** The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2679



The custom of dedicating the month of May to Mary started at the end of the 13th century. It became especially popular among Jesuit students that it spread to the whole Church by 1700.

FROM CATHOLICCULTURE.COM



Paula's Ponderings

Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate



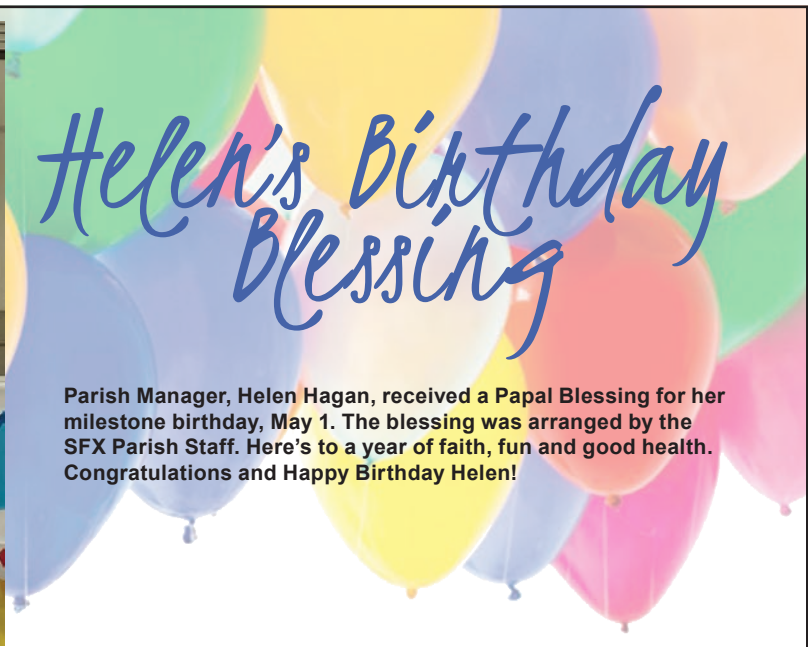
Have you ever been the new kid in class? If so, can you recall how you felt the first day at your new school? What thoughts were running through your mind as you stood outside that unfamiliar building? Were you bursting with excitement and anticipation just thinking about all your future friends and experiences? Or were you shrinking in anxiety and trepidation, possibly mourning the friends you left behind?

Growing up, I was part of a military family. My father was in the Army and we moved many times. Before my freshman year in high school, I'd already attended nine different schools. I was a perpetual "new kid" in class. Just when I would get settled and make a few friends, off we went to a different city, town, state and even country.

Starting my new job here at St. Francis Xavier, made me reflect on that part of my life and being the new kid. Will my coworkers accept me? Will Parishioners be excited to minister alongside me? Will I be able to not only fulfill their expectations but hopefully exceed them? With these questions and so many more occupying my mind, I turned to scripture to help me focus and muster up the courage for those first few days of being the new kid once again. I chose Isaiah 41:10 to pray and meditate on:

"Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

I can say after working here the past few months, I no longer feel like the new kid. Everyone I have met has been so warm and welcoming, even when I cannot remember their name. Trying to learn people's names during a mask-wearing pandemic has proven difficult. I am overjoyed with this new opportunity God has given me here at St. Francis Xavier. I look forward to serving you and walking alongside you toward our common goal....to further God's Kingdom on Earth.



Parish Manager, Helen Hagan, received a Papal Blessing for her milestone birthday, May 1. The blessing was arranged by the SFX Parish Staff. Here's to a year of faith, fun and good health. Congratulations and Happy Birthday Helen!



A New Light, A New Life

Darlene Fowler
Director, Religious Education

This year's Easter Vigil was a special night as Dennis Reed and his daughter Ashley entered fully into the Catholic Church. The pandemic made for uncertain times and a tough road, but the destination was worth the journey. When asked about the beginning of RCIA last fall, Ashley said she did not know what to expect but loves coming to Mass at St Francis Xavier not because she has to, but because she wants to. In part, she said, because of "the nice people here."

When asked how each felt Easter Vigil night, Ashley said she loved hearing Deacon Earl sing the *Exsultet*. Dennis spoke about how bittersweet the evening was. Pastoral Associate Margee Joseph and Formation Committee leader Al Zielberg were with them at the beginning of their faith journey but were called to their heavenly Father before Ashley and Dennis completed the sacraments and became full members of

the Church. Dennis recalled how Al had "old school knowledge," and knew so much about Vatican II. Al made the process so informative that Dennis wants to continue learning more about the Catholic faith. Dennis also talked about how he enjoys Fr. Dale's "inspirational homilies," adding he feels a sense of calm safety when he walks into church. Both Dennis and Ashley are excited to see what is next as they travel their faith journey together.

Hearing this as a "cradle Catholic" made me wonder how many of us really appreciate what we have had all our lives. It is so rewarding to hear the new people coming into the Church talk about how excited they are and how they're looking forward to learning even more about our Catholic faith. It has made me stop and look at my own faith journey and appreciate more fully this great gift of the Catholic Church.

Consider Developing Your Time And Talent With Us!

Monique Becker
Director, Stewardship and Development

I have a sign in my office that reads, "**YOUR TALENT** is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to **GOD.**"

Years ago, I read a story that told of an artist who passed away and when he arrived in heaven, asked God, "Just out of curiosity, who was the best artist?" He was surprised when God replied it was a cafeteria worker who never pursued her talent.

I recently attended an event where a young woman was asked to sing. From where I was sitting, my back was turned to her. As she began to sing, I felt like one of the judges on The Voice. I turned around in awe of the talent God had blessed this young woman with. After she sang, she walked over to my table and I complimented her on her amazing, God-given gift. She said she just sang in her room most of the time. I strongly recommended that, with such talent, she should seek opportunities to be heard. After the event, a woman in the audience asked the director of the event to reach out to the singer for her because she had written a song that she wanted the young performer to record, all expenses paid!

In the same way, let your light shine before others, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (NAB Matthew 5:16)

Here at St. Francis Xavier, I am humbled by the way I see your lights shine in a multitude of ways. You lead by example. Your kindness, motivation, inspiration, joy, perseverance, talents, thoughtfulness and generosity make God smile.

It is a great feeling to be a part of something wonderful and being a part of **THIS** faith family...is!



The Future Of Our Faith



Youth Group Plans For NCYC, Faith, Fellowship

Rhonda Abner
Newsletter Editor

“Encounter Christ through community, learning, service and friendship,” is the invitation of the St. Francis Xavier High School Youth Group. This guiding statement defines the important role youth play within our faith family.

After all the uncertainty of the past year, the Youth Group now meets on a regular basis. “We’re having a great time just being together,” said Youth Minister Dave Richardson. The enthusiasm for moving forward and finding ways to live their commitment to fellowship and sharing the faith is evident among the members. At a recent meeting the group enjoyed an authentic Mexican dinner provided by Ellena Bellasteros, shared the Word from the weekly Scripture readings and had fun playing ping pong, foosball, air hockey or other

games. Deacon Earl Baker attended a meeting to share his faith story and Pastoral Associate Paula Silliman is an upcoming guest



speaker. The group also continues “The Search” from the St. Augustine Institute on the FORMED Website.

Outside of regular meetings, the group sold raffle tickets for a Resurrected Jesus Wooden Cross. All proceeds will benefit an eastern Kentucky mission project. On a recent spring day, the group gathered at the home of a Parishioner to weed and mulch flowerbeds. They plan similar service projects in the coming months and look forward to serving the community in other ways as well. Participation in the National Catholic Youth Conference is not possible this year, but the group hopes to work toward future involvement in that and in mission trips.

Upcoming summer fun includes tentative plans for camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, cookouts, bonfires and more! Meetings are every Sunday night 6-8 p.m. The group is open to high school students in grades 9-12. If you are in the 8th grade and not going through Confirmation, you are welcome to attend. There’s room for all to experience quality time in faith, service, fun and fellowship. Come check it out!



A Faith-Filled Journey

Remembering Al

Vicki Hardin
Parishioner

Longtime Parishioner, Al Zielberg, was called home on April 5, 2021. He leaves to cherish his memory his two daughters, Karen and Cindy, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two brothers. Al also leaves behind many, many people - old and young - whose faith has been nourished by his lifelong history of lay ministry.

Al's formal theological education began at age 14. He attended Saint Thomas seminary for 6 years with plans to enter the priesthood. Although his plans changed, his devotion to faith formation did not. Lisa Downs, former Pastoral Associate of St. Francis Xavier Church, explains: "Al certainly had the 'head knowledge' regarding our faith, but he led with his heart and worked with people from this place. That is what made him so special."

Throughout his life, Al shared his faith with others in many ways. Parishioner Sandee Clark enjoyed his Bible study sessions tremendously. She found Al to be extremely knowledgeable about the Bible and appreciated him helping the group understand the foreshadowing in the Old Testament to events in the New Testament.

"Al knew sacred scripture well. He was able to articulate the meaning and effect of passages in living our daily lives," said Deacon Emeritus Gerry Mattingly.

But leading Bible study groups was not Al's only commitment of time and talent. Al and his wife, Ella, joined SFX Parish in 1978. Their involvement began shortly



thereafter, and they often times worked as a team to support the Parish. Al was dedicated to a variety of faith formation and faith enrichment opportunities at SFX with all age groups. He facilitated summer Bible School, taught adult and children's religious education, initiated and supported new members into the faith through the RCIA program, chaired the Formation Committee for the Parish Council, and more. He ministered to the sick and dying through Hosparus Health and visited and distributed Holy Communion to nursing home residents.

Parishioner Mary Morris received her Confirmation training by Al many years ago. At that time, classes were held in the basement of the Parish Offices and she recollects that he "was such a faith-filled man!"

Having served long and well, Al received a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis in 2015 commemorating his lifetime of lay ministry. His passing leaves a void at SFX. As Christians, we have all been called to serve. Al left us big shoes to fill.



SFX Spring Fling Volleyball Classic

Tournament Date: June 12, 2021
Register By: May 26, 2021
Ages: Youth to Adult (Co-Ed)

Check the bulletin or contact Julie Adams for more information!



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MOUNT WASHINGTON, KENTUCKY

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SUPER RAFFLE



Grand Prize - 2021 FORD ECOSPORT-S or \$20,000

2nd Prize - \$1,500 3rd Prize - \$500

Drawings - Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 7 PM

\$20 per ticket

5,000 tickets available

Proceeds benefit new Parish Activity Center construction and renovations

Purchase tickets online

www.sfxmw.com/raffle

or visit the following locations

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Mt. Washington

Conway-Heaton
Bardstown

Derby City Pizza
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