



Sharing the Catholic Journey

Discovering faith, joy, and community

May 2015

St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington, IN

Sharing the Catholic Journey is a monthly newsletter for the parishioners of St. John the Apostle Parish. We welcome your comments, your suggestions, and your stories of faith. Please write to: sawyerdenise@sjabloomington.org

Meet....

The King's Men...and one King's Kid



Front Row (l-r) John Seubert, Logan Wallace (honorary) Thomas Kapczynski, Dale DeSmith. Top row (l-r) Mike Volrich, Bill Dunfee, Roger Sawyer, Lee Blandford, Jan Lee, Jeff Tabor, Paul Heerdink.

"The St. John's Kings' Men group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Our purpose and call from God is to "lead, protect, and provide" for women, children, and the common good. Through prayer, scriptural and spiritual reading and discussion, we seek accountability. We welcome all men to join with us. Our ultimate purpose is to assist and help men grow in holiness and virtue, regardless of where they are on their faith walk and personal relationship with God."

While TKM at St. John's was established using the format recommended by the national organization, the local group

Fr. Daniel Mahan, Pastor

is not a "chapter" of a bigger organization, but is rather a truly local group which has the flexibility and

means to meet the needs of our local men and the parish community. Since the establishment of our TKM group, we have adapted the agenda to better serve us, the members.

Each meeting contains a spiritual element as well as a social element. Please consider joining the King's Men to share the brotherhood and spiritual growth available on a weekly basis. There are no dues and no commitment to attend every meeting. The meetings are open and welcoming to all men of the parish.



Welcome to our new Catholics!



At the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 4, we welcomed four new Catholics into the Catholic Church. Shown above with Father Mahan, Rodger Hoene, Amber Mast, Liesl and Robert Cruz

Catholicism 101....

by Scott Benningfield, DRE



Pentecost

So what exactly is Pentecost? It is the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Catholic Church!

¹When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. ²And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. ³Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:1-4)

It is from this powerful moment that the Church was born and was given tremendous strength to carry out its mission. The Church is not simply a gathering space; it is not simply a place of like-minded people; it has a God-given mission to bring others to God!

We see the Apostles with zeal and confidence. We see the witness of the martyrs. We see the Church growing. This is by no accident. It is from the spiritual “fire” of the Holy Spirit. It transforms!

Link with the Jewish Feast of Pentecost

As catholic.com/encyclopedia notes, the Feast of Pentecost was one of the major feasts for the Jews. It was a “closing festival of the harvest and of the Paschal season” (i.e. season of Passover). It was a celebration of the “first fruits of the harvest”. The word Pentecost is Greek for “fiftieth”. Pentecost was 50 days from the next day after the Sabbath of the Passover.

Although much was tied initially to agriculture, another significance of Pentecost was celebrated. Per Rabbinical teaching, Pentecost was when Moses gave the Israelites the Law (i.e. the Torah [first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy]). This took place 50 days after the first Passover held in Egypt. Some Church Fathers acknowledge this significance – including St. Jerome and St. Augustine (<http://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/feast-of-pentecost>).

During the Feast of Pentecost (also called Feast of Weeks), Jews would hear Exodus chapters 19 & 20. Chapter 20

begins with the 10 Commandments. The Jews were reminded of how the Law – the instruction of God – was needed for their new life as freed persons. The Jews had been enslaved in Egypt. Moses led them out but to begin this new phase was not easy. Being enslaved for so long, they did not know how to live properly in freedom. Even with being free, we need order – structure – guidance. The Law (especially the 10 Commandments) provided this. Per catholic.org, some even consider the Jewish Pentecost to be the birthday of Israel because of this.

The Church with its orderliness, structure, and guidance in how to pray and live provides the same benefit. We have free will, but as we know, left to our own devices, things will spiral out of control!

In reviewing this, we can see the link between the Jewish Pentecost and the Christian Pentecost: first fruits & new members, the guidance of the Torah & the guidance of the Church, the fire and wind at Mt. Sinai & in Jerusalem, and the birthdays of Israel & the Catholic Church!

From the what to the why

Pentecost is a celebration of the Holy Spirit – the “soul of the Church”. The Holy Spirit brought tremendous life to the Church and the Church brought Christ to the world. Without the Holy Spirit, there is no life in the Church. As *The Compendium* (to the Catechism) notes in #144: “The mission of Christ and of the Spirit became the mission of the Church...” As a result, the Church’s very nature is “missionary, sent by Christ to all the nations to make disciples of them” (CCC 767) (cf. Matthew 28:19). This mandate includes ALL of us. We (clergy, religious, and laity) are to bring the light of Christ to all those we encounter. The world may be improving in terms of technology but it’s decaying in true spirituality. We, as members of the Church that Christ founded, need to help change a secular decaying to a divine flourishing. The Church grew to 3000 new members in one day (Acts 2:41). The Holy Spirit can indeed move hearts! We ought not to forget the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit!



The Holy Trinity....

“The faith of all Christians rests on the Trinity. Christians are baptized in the *name* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the almighty Father, his only Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Most Holy Trinity.” (CCC 232–233)



The doctrine of the Trinity is considered to be a mystery, although not in the sense of what we humans tend to think of when we hear about something being a mystery. To our modern ears, “mystery” seems to imply that it is something a bit like a puzzle to be solved, such as when reading a mystery novel. However, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the ‘mysteries that are hidden in God which can never be known unless they are revealed by God.’ To be sure, God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But his inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel’s faith before the Incarnation of God’s Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 237)

Belief in the Trinity had its roots in the early years of Christianity, although it took time for the actual doctrine to be developed. Jesus himself seemed to speak indirectly about it when he said “those who have seen me have seen the Father,” and “In a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.” Acts 1:5.

Saint Ignatius of Antioch gave early support to the doctrine around the year 110 when he urged obedience “to Christ, and to the Father, and to the Spirit. Saint Justin Martyr, who lived from 100 to 165, also wrote, “in the name of God, the Father and Lord of the universe and of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.” The first early church father to have actually used the word “Trinity” was Saint Theophilus of Antioch in the 2nd century. He defined the Trinity as God, His word (*Logos*) and his Wisdom (*Sophia*). The first to officially define the Trinity was Tertullian in the early 3rd century.

It was at the Council of Nicea in 325 that the Church adopted the Nicene Creed which described Christ as “God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father.” This concept was further developed into the formula of “three persons, one being.”

Some of the early Church Fathers believed that a knowledge of the mystery of the Trinity was given to the prophets and saints of the Old Testament, although the revelation was gradual. They saw foreshadowings of the Trinity in Genesis, chapters 18 and 19, when the three mysterious strangers appeared to Abraham. “The Lord appeared to Abraham...as he sat in the entrance of his tent...Looking up, he saw three men standing nearby.” He hurries to make them comfortable and he asks Sarah to prepare food for them. Then “two angels” visited Lot in Sodom. St. Augustine believed that the three visitors to Abraham were the three persons of the Trinity. He saw no indication that the visitors were unequal.

Andrei Rublev’s Icon of the Holy Trinity

This icon was painted in the early 1400’s for the Trinity Cathedral in Russia, and it is considered to be a masterpiece of ancient Russian iconography. It is also one of the most famous images of the Holy Trinity ever created and the one most frequently copied by artists even today.



There are many traditions involved with painting icons. In iconography, every detail of the icon has symbolic meaning. This icon depicts the three “angels who visited Abraham. The persons of the Holy Trinity are shown in the order in which they are confessed in the Nicene Creed: The Father is on the left, the Son in the middle, and the Holy Spirit at the right.

All three are blessing the chalice, in which lies a sacrificed calf, which is prepared to be eaten. The sacrificed calf signifies Christ’s death on the cross; the fact that it is prepared as food symbolizes the sacrament of the Eucharist. All three angels have staves in their hand as a symbol of their divine power.

The color of their garments is also significant. The first angel at left (the Father) wears a blue undergarment which shows his divine celestial nature and a light purple outer garment, which indicates his unfathomable nature and his royal dignity. The angel in the middle (the Son) is wearing a dark crimson undergarment, which symbolizes the incarnation; the blue robe, his divinity. The blue undergarment and green outer one of the angel on the right (the Holy Spirit) represents heaven and earth and the life-giving force of the Holy Spirit.

ORDINARY CAR RUNS UNDER WATER!



In 1978 my family and I were visiting with my parents in Princeton, Indiana. We had just returned from a tour of duty in Germany. My father was in the hospital in Evansville, Indiana, and my mother asked us to take her to the hospital to visit dad. It had been a very rainy spring and there were signs of flooding, especially along the ditches adjacent to many of the county roads. Gibson County was no exception.

We started out from my mother's house, approximately 2.5 miles east of Princeton, with the idea of cutting across the country roads, southwest towards Evansville. We got approximately a mile from my mother's house when we came upon a country bridge. These old country bridges were built in an elevated position, approximately three feet above the roadbed. The water did not look that deep to me at first. I proceeded to drive through the water prior to the bridge. The level, of the water was just below the bottom of the doors on our vehicle, and rising. Some water came in on the floorboard, but we were up on the bridge out of the water.

Needless to say, my mother became very frightened. She had always been afraid of water because she did not know how to swim. Making matters even worse, I did not know the area very well. My parents had moved to that area while I was away serving in Germany. I found myself in quite a pickle. As I looked ahead I saw a sea of water. I knew I could not turn around, and any attempt to back out would have shut the car down with water rushing in the exhaust pipe. Adding to the danger factor was the huge drainage ditch that paralleled the road we were on. But, the problem was, we could not tell where the ditch ended and the road began. One, could easily drive off the road, and not be found until the spring when the ditch emptied. I knew I was in trouble as I stared ahead at the giant lake in front of me.

I turned to my mother, and said: 'Mom you know this area better than I do. Have we come through the worst of it, or not?' She said; "I think you have come through the worst part, but I am not sure. I never paid any attention to this area before." This sure did not make me feel any better about our situation. Everyone in the car began to pray, including my mother. Carole and I were basically new

Christians, still on fire, having just gone through The Life of the Spirit Seminar and receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit the year before. We had seen so many healings and miracles from God, and we believe God can do what His Word says He can do. After all He parted the Red Sea, and He could get us through this. So here we were, stuck on the single lane bridge, no way to turn around, no way to back up, and a car load of people, half of whom could not swim. There were no cell phones. We realized our only help would come from the Lord.

Let me share a little about the ordinary car we had. It was a 1969 Vista Cruiser Station Wagon, with a 350 V8 engine. It **DID NOT** have any special sealed electrical system, or any other amphibious characteristics. And, it certainly was not made to drive through water 3.5 to 4 feet deep. One has to realize at that depth the water was up to the bottom of the windows, starting over the distributor, the plugs, etc.

After the prayer, I decided we had to give it a try. I saw a small road sign at a crossroad approximately ¼ mile away. I guessed the sign would be closer to the road we were on, than it would be to the huge ditch. I decided to use it as a gage to keep us on the road. I asked everyone in the car to keep praying, and away we went, down and through the water for approximately ¼ mile, with water coming over the hood.

When we came out of the water the car had no brakes. I rode the brakes for about five miles to dry them out. We made our way to Evansville and visited dad in the hospital. And, yes dad recovered and went on to live until 1989. My family and I share this true story with you. This sure tested our faith and it built my Mother's faith. Our prayer is that it builds your faith. Remember, what is impossible with man, is possible with God.

WANTED: STORIES OF FAITH

Have you enjoyed this Story of Faith and the others that you have read during the past three years? These articles would not be possible without so many of our St. John parishioners taking the time to share with us their stories of conversion, returning home to the Church, and those times when they knew that God had touched their lives.

Everyone has a story to tell about their faith.

Will you share yours with us?

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The Roamin' Catholic...

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Antwerp, Belgium

By Denise Sawyer



In July of 2014, our music director, **Chuck Peters** attended a conference of music librarians held in Anwerp, Belgium. Included in this article are several of the photos he took when he visited St. Charles Borromeo Church.

The Catholic Church in Belgium...

Belgium, which didn't become a separate nation until 1830, is a country whose history is intertwined with its neighbors – the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Luxembourg. For most of its history, it was part of a larger territory. Although now a separate nation, it is divided by a language boundary between the French, derived from the Latin language, and Germanic Dutch. Its religious history reflects that same divide. Like much of Europe, this area was part of the Roman Empire, in an area known as Gaul. Christianity was first introduced by St. Servatius, a bishop who taught in the middle of the 4th century. It became a predominantly Catholic area, although the Protestant Reformation made a significant impact on much of western Europe.

Today, as in much of Europe, the beautiful cathedrals are visited by primarily the tourists. There is a crisis of faith throughout Europe as secularism takes a firm hold on the continent

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church...

Saint Charles Borromeo's Church, locally known under the Latin name of Sint-Carolus Borromeus, was built

between 1614 and 1621 on instructions of the Jesuit order. Although it is still a beautiful cathedral, many of its glories have been lost to history. At one time, the church was decorated with 39 ceiling paintings by artist Peter Paul Ruben, one of the most famous baroque painters of his day. Unfortunately a fire destroyed them all in a fire in 1718.



The church was subsequently rebuilt and opened its doors again. Sketches of about half of the ceiling paintings by Rubens have been preserved and are distributed in various art collections around the world.

The Lady Chapel, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is seen in the photo at right. It is beautifully decorated with marble, paintings, and sculptures. The painting "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary" hangs over the altar. It is a copy of Peter Paul Rubens' painting of "The Assumption." the original painting by Rubens, was 'purchased' by the Empress Maria Theresia in 1776.



There are two rows of wooden confessionals which are beautifully decorated with sculptures of angels.

Below is the High Altar of the Church. Remarkably, behind the altar is a large chest which contains four different canvasses. With a system of pulleys, the paintings can be changed throughout the year, according to the liturgical calendar.



What's happening in May.....

Friday, May 1: Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker



This optional memorial to St. Joseph was inserted into the liturgical calendar in 1955 by Pope Pius XII to emphasize the dignity of human labor. It coincides with May Day, the day on which much of the world celebrates labor. The memorial also draws attention to another significant facet of Joseph's role as Jesus' father. Not

only did he love Jesus as if he were in his own flesh and blood, but he also taught him the trade he had learned from his own father, carpentry, instilling in him a work ethic.

ANTIPHON: Come, let us worship Christ the Lord who was honored to be known as the son of a carpenter. Alleluia.

Tuesday, May 12: Memorial of Saint Pancras



Saint Pancras was a young Christian who was martyred in the early fourth century in Rome. He was born in what is today Syria; orphaned, his uncle took him to Rome when he was fourteen years old. As a Christian, he was arrested and brought before Diocletian, the emperor, who actually offered to adopt the boy. All he had to do was bow down to the

Roman gods, and he would be able to live a life of luxury. However, the faith of St. Pancras was strong, and he refused. At the order of the emperor, he was beheaded.

ANTIPHON: Perpetual light will shine on your Saints, O Lord, and life without end for ever, alleluia.

Thursday, May 14: Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved....' So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs." (Mark 16: 15-20)



ANTIPHON: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go. Alleluia.

Sunday, May 24: Solemnity of Pentecost



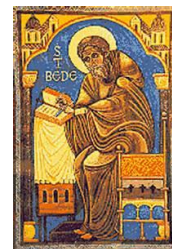
Before the Ascension, Jesus told his apostles to remain in Jerusalem. "You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8) They, along with some of the women, returned to the upper room to pray and wait together.

With tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit descended on all present, and "they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts 2: 4) Peter immediately went out to speak to the crowds, inspiring nearly 3000 people to be baptized that day. The Church had been born.

ANTIPHON: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us. Alleluia.

Monday, May 25: Memorial of Saint Bede the Venerable

Saint Bede was born in England in 673. At the young age of seven, he was already studying with Benedictine monks, later becoming a monk himself. He never ventured far from the monastery, and yet he is a Doctor of the Church. With access to many manuscripts, he is noted for his writing, including one of the first Anglo-Saxon histories, as well as many commentaries on Scripture. In images of him, he is traditionally depicted as a scribe or scholar.



ANTIPHON: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

Sunday, May 31: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

"The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teachings in the hierarchy of the truths of faith." (CCC 234)



ANTIPHON: Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.