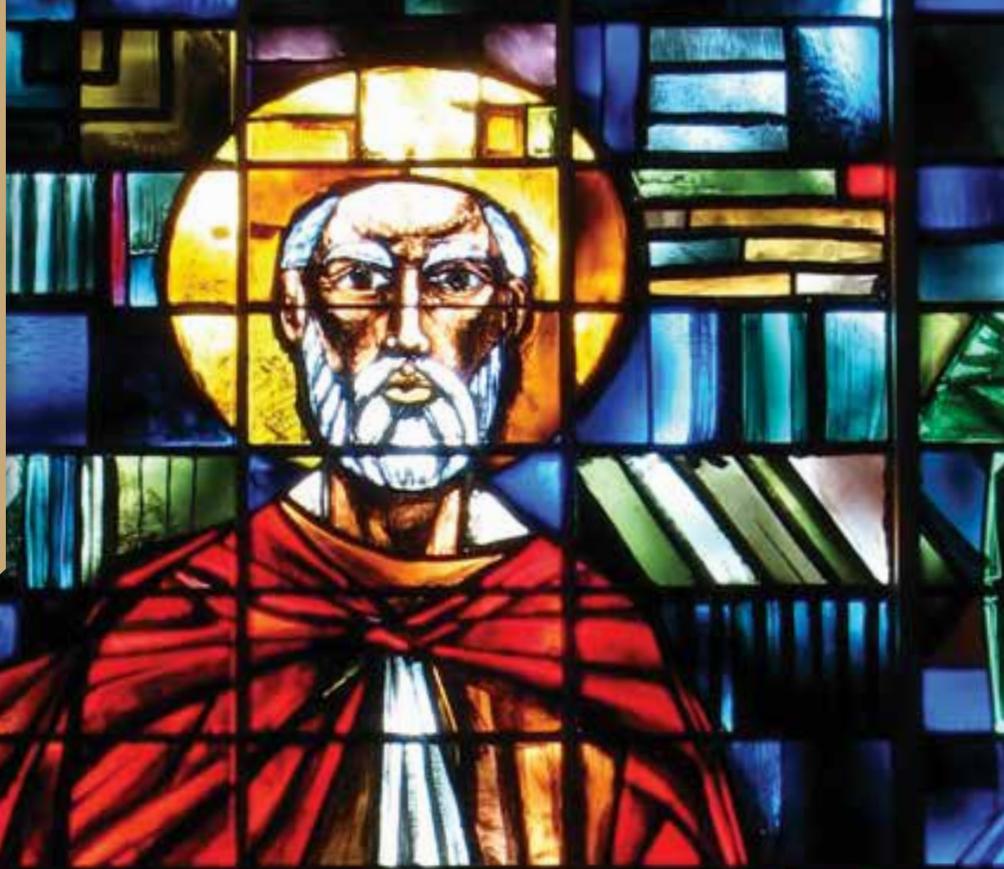


Church of St. Peter, Quincy, Ill.

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



“A Staple of the Community” **The Catholic Youth Organization in Quincy**

Did you know that the Catholic Youth Organization, or CYO, has existed for almost a century? Prison chaplain and Auxiliary Bishop Bernard J. Sheil in Chicago initiated the first CYO in 1930, during the time of the Great Depression. This first CYO was conceptualized as an athletic association, with the goal of offering young males, especially from the working class, a community and constructive leisure activities in the hope to dissuade them from taking part in criminal activities. The CYO used the Catholic social teachings as a guide. Furthermore, under the patronage of Archbishop George Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago, it was a core principle of CYO not to discriminate on the basis



of race, religion or gender, as was common in other youth organizations of the time.

The Catholic Youth Organization is officially an agency of the Roman Catholic Church, organized at the level of the diocese and serving youth in its religious, recreational, cultural, and social needs. The Diocese of Springfield closely followed the Chicago example under the leadership of Bishop

James Griffin, who headed our diocese from 1923 to 1948.

Because of Bishop Griffin's influence, the CYO became a factor and a presence in Quincy shortly after its beginnings in Chicago. For many, like Tom McLaughlin of our parish, it was an important part of their youth.

“I was born in 1950, and I have a great passion for the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) because I played and participated in their programs when I was growing up,” Tom says. “Our Quincy CYO was established decades ago. It has been a staple of the community since then. Although we have had some struggles in recent years, I personally am very optimistic about the future.”

Tom was designated by Msgr. Enlow as one of the two representatives from St. Peter on

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Keeping Our Stewardship Commitments in the Summertime

The kids are out of school and our fast-paced lives centered on school and youth sports activities have slowed down. Our own internal clocks are now on summer time. We're ready for a break from our hectic lives.

And while we take vacations and enjoy the leisurely pace of the season, we need to remember that summer is not the time to take a vacation from God. In fact, summer can serve as the perfect opportunity to grow in our relationship with God, especially since most of us have considerably more free time.

So, instead of neglecting our faith due to busy days and late nights, try these simple steps to embrace God during the quieter summer months and during your vacation.

Get More Active in a Parish Ministry

The summer is actually a perfect time to get more involved in a parish ministry. Because we no longer have to get the kids to and from school, or get them to sporting events or other activities that normally occur during the school year, our schedules are a bit less cluttered. Summer is indeed a perfect time to fill some downtime with service to God through ministry and giving of your talents. Take a look through the parish ministries to find something that suits your particular interest or talent.

Vacation Bible School, for Kids and Adults

Vacation Bible School is a great way for younger children to learn about God through songs, activities and fellowship. The fun-filled lessons build upon Gospel teachings while keeping kids' attention. For older children, it is a great opportunity to offer service by being a team leader or assistant. Adults can also help plan, decorate, organize, and teach during the week. It's a wonderful activity for the entire family!

Give Thanks for the Sun

Praise God for the sun, time off from school, and easygoing days by visiting the adoration chapel to say a quick prayer. Bring a journal or rosary along to help stay focused. Little children can even bring a religious coloring book to give thanks to God on their terms. Or, before heading to the pool, why not attend daily Mass with the kids? It's a perfect way to start the day and set the tone that – vacation or not – God is still an important part of your family life.

Don't Take a Vacation from Mass

Often while on a vacation away from our parish family, we are not familiar with where to attend Mass. Don't let that be an obstacle for you. Check out masstimes.org in order to find out where and when to go to Mass. In addition, if you are lodging at a hotel, the concierge will assist you with directions to the nearest Catholic Church.

Summertime Stewardship of Treasure

The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

So, enjoy the warmer temperatures and the relaxed atmosphere. Just don't forget who provides the sun and the sand! And most importantly, remember to take God with you wherever you go on vacation!

Time Is Limitless... Or Is It?

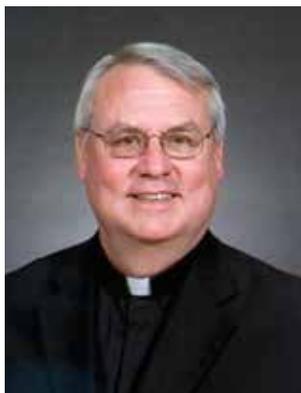
Dear Parishioners,

Some years ago, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics to renew their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June. In thinking about that, it made me realize that we all like to measure time – not necessarily in minutes and hours, but certainly in terms of what happens at particular times of the year. In the Church, we celebrate so many occasions that measure time – Easter, Christmas, Corpus Christi, Pentecost, Ordinary Time, the feast days of our saints, and much more, all of which give us that sense of moving forward.

In our own lives and the lives of our families, we mark birthdays, anniversaries, Baptism days, and more dates than we can possibly remember. These dates commemorate or remind us of a point in time. Time is also one of those gifts from God that we attach to the idea and life of stewardship.

We are fond of saying that time is the one thing given to all of us in equal amounts. However, we all know that is not necessarily true. Does a mother with several children have the same amount of time as a person with no family? Does a company manager who is expected to be available seven days a week have the same amount of time as someone who works a 9-to-5 job?

My point is that time is a valuable commodity, whether we feel like we have a lot or very little. God, on the other hand, is timeless. The Lord sees things in an eternal view, while we tend to look at it in shorter measures. The question is really “What do we do with our time



to serve others and to increase our relationship with God?” We have said many times that each of us needs to set aside time for both of those purposes – to serve and to pray. There is a reason it is called “prayer time.” Prayer should be a part of our lives, as much as eating, sleeping and working.

Another thing that June brings to mind is how life slows down for most of us. Young people are on summer vacation from school. Families and individuals take vacations. Unfortunately, some see it as a time to take a bit of vacation from worship. We can see it in declining Mass attendance and in the reduced number of activities within ministries and organizations.

We all mark time. We all know that it is limited, and can be fleeting. That is why even countries celebrate special days that mark time – throughout the summer season, Americans celebrate Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. How do we mark time as individuals, as families, and as a parish? That may say more about our understanding of stewardship than anything else. Maybe now, as summer is upon us, is the perfect time to concentrate more on our spiritual habits, rather than less.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow
Pastor

Late Start, But E CATCH

What a school year it has been! “There are so many things we have done,” says Mrs. Cindy Venvertloh, Principal.

We have new office space, had outstanding activities during the year, amazing kids, dedicated teachers, support from the parish – and did we say amazing kids?

St. Peter School currently has 449 students in Pre-K through eighth grade.

Mrs. Venvertloh also is most appreciative of the new office space and school entrance that provides additional security, while at the same time, a more welcoming setting.

“It’s nice and safe,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “That’s so important in schools. It’s a nice, nice change. It wouldn’t have happened without the help of the parish with their time and talent.”

The school year started a little later than usual because of our transportation arrangement with the public schools. But this delay worked to our advantage because of the construction that provided more office and storage space.

“It’s very exciting,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “Our first day of school, Mrs. Hutson didn’t have a desk yet – but it’s been an amazing thing to have the offices were they are now. I have more privacy and this allows more storage. It is huge – the space is much more welcoming to families and visitors. They know where everyone is.”

Another change during the year was the schedule change and new name for Grandparents Day – it is now Special Person’s Day. This change recognizes that grandparents may not be nearby and there are other special persons in a student’s life.

“The eighth grade has a huge responsibility for that day,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “They get all the chairs set up and help serve food and wait on the special persons as they have lunch. We couldn’t



Eighth-grade students dressed as their Confirmation saints and visited each classroom to tell the other students the story of their particular saint.

do it without the eighth grade. They take on leadership roles.”

Other activities during the year included All Saints Day.

“The eighth grade dressed up as saints and went from room to room to share with the other students what their saint did,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “They had chosen their saint for Confirmation, and that is who they portray. They talk about how their saint was canonized.”

The seventh and eighth grade went to the Nationals in the IESA Scholastic Bowl and had outstanding results.

“They did a fabulous job!” Mrs. Venvertloh says.

Fiker Rosen in our Running Club made an outstanding showing in national competition in Florida. His return included a grand welcome, complete with a fire truck.

“It’s amazing what he did!” Mrs. Venvertloh says.

Then there’s the \$22,000 the students raised during “Jump Rope for Heart” in February. Ella Sprague surpassed her goal of \$10,000 and raised \$12,000.

“Our Catholic Schools Week at the end of

Busy School Year PICKS UP

January is always a success,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “The kids love it. During the week, the kids go to nursing homes in the area, and they sing, play Bingo with the residents. The idea is to go out in the community and help, then come back and talk about how they enjoyed it. It’s quite an accomplishment.”

Looking ahead to the next school year, Mrs. Venvertloh says the Winter Wonderland Dance theme will be continued.

“We had a Father-Daughter Dance in January and made it into Winter Wonderland,” she says. “It was a huge success. Fathers and daughters celebrated with a formal dance, and they had their pictures taken. It was something different.”

A grandmother’s gift of a magic show to her grandson became a gift to the school when the student had the show at St. Peter.

During Lent, the seventh grade presented a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross.

“It was totally amazing,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “It was awe-inspiring to bring it to life. It was really unforgettable, and something all the kids can be



Our fifth-grade students had lots of fun learning about historic figures during their presentation of the Wax Museum. They each researched a person and portrayed that figure in their Wax Museum.

a part of. The students also are bringing back the Living Rosary. It definitely includes the whole school and is unique.”

The fifth grade presented a “wax museum” as a learning experience that will be repeated next year.

“The kids each chose a person from history and learned all they could about that person,” Mrs. Venvertloh says. “The room was set up like a wax museum with little spot lights on each character. Each character had a ‘button’ that brought him or her alive, and each told about who they are. This was the second year we’ve done it and the kids love it. It was very exciting for the kids to do. The parents were invited to see it.”

The sixth grade traveled to Chesterfield, Mo., for Biz Town through the Junior Achievement organization. They raised money to cover their expenses.

“They learn about what business means to a community,” she says. “They like having this real-world experience.”

During the event, the students took part in all aspects of business such as determining operating costs, setting prices and handling banking.

“My teachers are working hard,” Mrs. Venvertloh says of the St. Peter faculty. “During the last couple years, we did Reading and Writing Workshops. It’s amazing what our teachers do each day. Our teachers go through professional development days on Wednesdays. We have early dismissal and they spend one and one-half hours for special development that runs to 4 p.m. It’s a learning opportunity for teachers.”

Although school ends on June 1, those interested in enrolling their children may schedule a visit by contacting Administrative Assistant Sara Bradfield at 217-223-1120.

Encountering Christ Through Others

Meet Tom and Jane

Although the terminology might not always feel comfortable, most Christians – including Catholics – are familiar with the importance of striving to develop one’s “personal relationship with Christ.” And while few would dispute the necessity of growing closer to God personally through prayer, as Catholics, there is an important element that many of our separated brothers and sisters in other Christian communities do not always emphasize.

As Catholic Christians, we’re called to grow in our personal relationship with Jesus within the larger community, the Body of Christ, the Church. And for Tom and Jane Deters, theirs is just such a story – one of deepening their relationships with God through fellowship with others.

“We grew up in the years of the *Baltimore Catechism*,” says Tom, explaining that his first image of the divine was primarily focused on God the Father. “But as you grow, hopefully, you find your image of God as



In the midst of spending lots of time with their three children and eight grandchildren, spread across the country and the world, Tom and Jane Deters continue to make a priority of being involved in their local Catholic community.

more of a friendship, and find God in relationships. I think you see God in other people – I think we find God in relationships and through others.”

The Deters have both lived in Quincy their whole lives. High school sweethearts, Tom and Jane married at St. Peter’s – where Jane grew up – in

1969 and they raised their three children in the parish.

These days, despite maintaining a busy travel schedule to visit their children and eight grandchildren on the east coast, west coast and abroad, the Deters still make a priority of staying involved in the Church community, both through groups that

continued on page 7

Deters

“You learn from each other. That relationship with others allows us all to grow. You have an opportunity to learn new things about others and about who you are. I think that’s what God calls us to do, to grow.” – Tom Deters

foster their own spiritual lives, as well as ones that give them the opportunity to serve others.

Both retired teachers, Tom and Jane first became involved with TEC, or Teens Encounter Christ, 40 years ago. They continue to serve young people in this way.

“Young people are so refreshing in how they approach spirituality,” says Tom, who used to teach high school. “Sometimes, you see kids that are already there and just doing more, and other times you see young people making a significant change in their lives because of the spiritual experience they have [at TEC].

“I just think it’s a fantastic opportunity to continue with young people,” he continues, smiling. “They keep you young.”

After their first experience of TEC, it wasn’t long before the Deters attended their first Cursillo weekend.

“Cursillo is a chance to get away from your everyday world, and put the focus on you and your relationship with God,” Jane says. “And it’s

a really good chance to share with others. It’s a fun time, you meet lots of fun folks.”

“You get an opportunity to hear people’s story and what their faith has meant to them,” Tom adds.

Through TEC and Cursillo, the Deters have also continued gathering in small groups of people who grow together in the faith and encourage each other through the ups and downs of life.

“When times are tough, you know that you can ask them to pray with you and you know that they will,” Jane says.

“You always have that support system, and that’s something that has meant a lot in our life,” Tom adds.

Tom and Jane also seek to give back to others in the community, becoming a support for others through bringing Communion to those who are homebound, and serving engaged couples in the Pre-Caná program, as well as Tom’s involvement with the Friday Morning Men’s Group.

“You learn from each

other,” Tom says of the people they interact with in these different experiences. “That relationship with others allows us all to grow. You have an opportunity to learn new things about others and about who you are. I think that’s what God calls us to do, to grow.”

Tom and Jane encourage others who would like to grow more in their relationship with God – through fellowship with others – to consider becoming involved.

“If there are people feeling like they need some excitement, they need some change, we encourage them to be a part of parish life,” Tom says. “I think the question is whether a person is satisfied in their relationship with God, or if it’s something they want to grow. Some people stop growing when they’re 12, and some people never stop growing – that’s something we aspire to do.”

Thank you, Tom and Jane, for being a witness to us of the value of community in bringing us closer to Christ!

CHURCH
OF
SAINT PETER

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Quincy, Illinois 62301

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Return Service Requested

MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5 p.m.,

Sunday: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Mon-Sat: 8:00 a.m., except for

Wednesdays during the school year: 8:30

a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday: 7:30-7:50 a.m.,

3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment

“A Staple of the Community” *continued from front cover*

the local CYO Board – each of the four parishes has two representatives – and was elected as Vice President of the Board last year.

“Many people are aware that we developed some financial difficulties, and our facilities had become somewhat run-down, but we are working diligently to rectify both of those situations. We have put up the building which housed our offices and our gymnasium for sale. Although it has not yet sold, I am confident it will. One of my major goals is to get that property sold as the income would put us on a firmer basis.”

The CYO also owns 8 ½ acres at the corner of 12th and Einhaus Lane, where their ball fields are located.

“We are looking to get that property more developed once our finances stabilize, and we may erect a gymnasium there as we have the room for it,” Tom says. “Our summer programs are still in the developmental stages, but we will be getting back to the softball tournaments as we did in the past. Also, last year we had 210 girls in our fall

volleyball program – third through eighth grades – and we will be conducting those programs again this year. In the winter, we will have boys and girls basketball, as last year we had 180 young people involved in those.”

Please be alert and aware of what is being offered in CYO in the coming months and next year. With people like Tom taking a leadership role, it is most likely destined to return to what it once was in this community.

“CYO Athletics is not just about the final score,” Tom says. “It’s about positive coaching, sportsmanship for children and their parents, learning to live together in a diverse community, maximizing talents, and fostering the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual strength in each of us.”

If you would like more information about our CYO, please contact Tom McLaughlin at 217-223-9321 or Tomm12@sbcglobal.net.