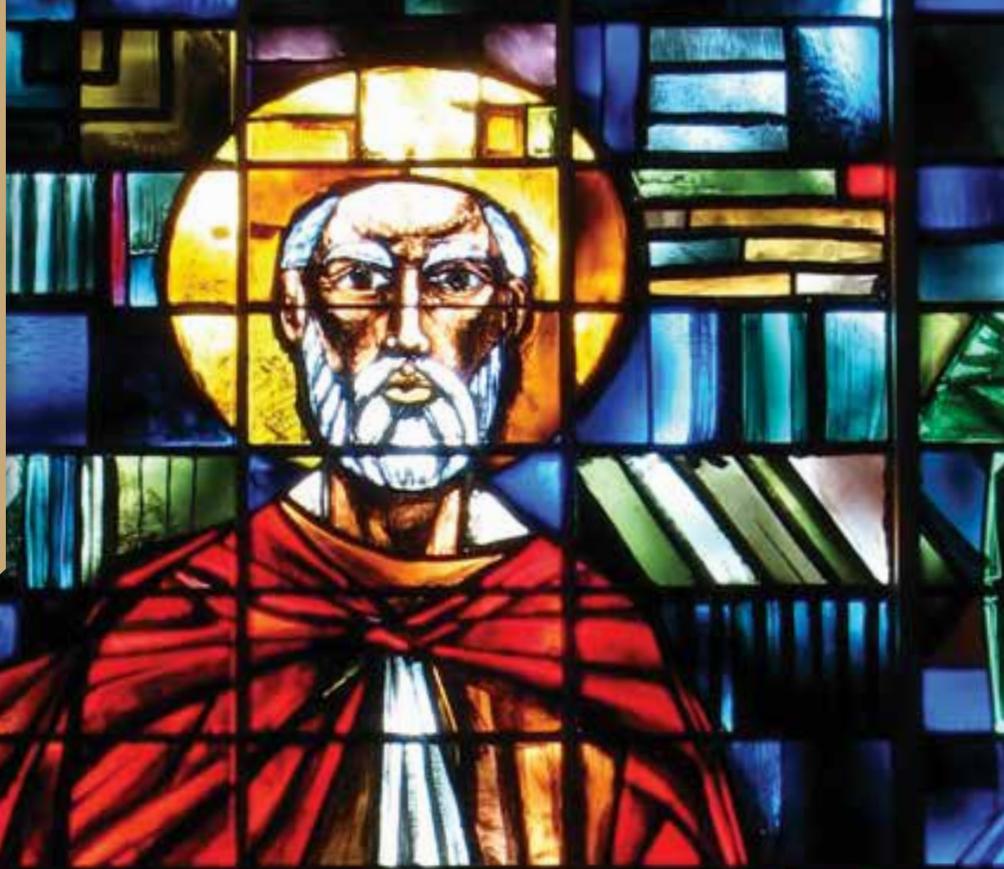


Church of St. Peter, Quincy, Ill.

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



ALMOST 75 YEARS OF FAITHFUL AND LOVING SERVICE CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF QUINCY

As a stewardship parish, we at St. Peter can regard the mission of Catholic Charities as one of stewardship: “to extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus... support the dignity and sanctity of human life at all stages of development and growth; value families and the sacredness of marriage, and work to strengthen them; and provide hope and help to those in need.”

St. Peter Catholic Church’s support for Catholic Charities has taken countless forms — from donating money and helping with material needs, to allowing Catholic Charities to use the physical space of the church, to helping by sharing the mission in the community, and to our members giving of their time to serve in a variety of ways.

In the Gospel, Jesus Christ showed a special place for the poor. He even reminds us that the poor will always be with us. As Catholics, our Baptism challenges us not only to see Christ in each person we meet, and whatever circumstance they may be facing, but also to be Christ-like to others, showing mercy by responding to the true needs of those in the community. Thankfully, our Baptism also prepares us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so



The Food Pantry, Quincy Catholic Charities

that we might live a life of stewardship by sharing our unique time, talents, and treasure.

“I think people would be amazed to know how many people we directly serve just from our Quincy office,” says Erika Sutton, the Community Services Supervisor for our Quincy Catholic Charities. “We have been a presence in Quincy since 1945 and are proud of the many services and assistance we have been able to provide to people for the past almost 75 years.”

continued on page 2

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF QUINCY

continued from front cover

Quincy Catholic Charities currently provides four programs to the community. They are Intact Family Services, Food Pantry, Med Assist and Professional Counseling Solutions. They operate on donations from the people of the community, including St. Peter.

“I was born and raised in Quincy and have been part of the Catholic Church here for many years,” Erika says. “After spending many years in social services, with college degrees in psychology and human relations, I came to work for Catholic Charities here in Quincy. We could not accomplish what we do — and it is significant — without the support of the people.”

As Erika notes, the Food Pantry at the office in Quincy — at 620 Maine St. — is particularly effective.

“Our Food Pantry strives to provide supplemental food to individuals and families that seek assistance and who meet the Department of Human Services requirements,” she says. “Quincy Catholic Charities is a member of the Central Illinois Food Bank and also participates in the Feeding America Program sponsored by Walmart.”

The Food Pantry is open every Monday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and every Friday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Clients may receive food one time per month.

“As I said, people would be surprised by the number of individuals and families we helped with food last year,” Erika says. “We keep very careful records, and just from our Quincy pantry, we served 24,782 people representing 7,105 families. In addition, we now have a Mobile Food Pantry which travels to the three-county area — Adams, Brown, and Pike — on a monthly basis. That has helped an additional 1,300 people.”

Quincy Catholic Charities serves people of all races, sex and religion through their programs that span the spectrum from prevention, intervention and treatment. The needs of those they serve take precedence over any boundaries that may exist, and Quincy Catholic Charities is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services to Children and Families, Inc. (COA).

Charitable gifts may be given to Quincy Catholic Charities; or Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield, Ill. Day-to-Day Operations: Charitable funding from private sources is needed for more than 45 percent of operating budget. Some of these funds help bridge the gap between actual costs of care and reimbursed monies from one of our contracted State programs. The donor may specify how the donation is to be used.

If you would like more information, or if you are interested in donating or volunteering in some way, contact the Catholic Charities office at 217-222-0958.



The Food Pantry, Quincy Catholic Charities

A Letter from Our Pastor

SURROUNDED BY SAINTS AND GOOD STEWARDS

Dear Parishioners,

It is June — not quite into the heart of the summer, but certainly a time when everything seems to be wrapping up. From school and religious education, to many of our ministries, much is winding down and going on hiatus.

Last month, we celebrated the month of our Blessed Mother Mary. This month, I would like to turn our attention to the idea of stewardship, although that concept is important every month and every day throughout the year.

We do not have to look far to find good stewards. They are all around us. They may be sitting near us at Mass. They may be part of our own families and households. Pay attention at our liturgies as they are always there, serving in a variety of ways. I suppose the big question is, “Do people look at us and see a good steward?” We are talking about more than our parish and the Church here. There are people in our communities and neighborhoods who show us what it means to be a good steward, and they do not have to be Catholic.

In June, we celebrate Father’s Day. St. Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may seem to be overlooked, but we do need to look at him always and especially on Father’s Day. He humbly accepted his role much in the same way that St. Mary did. He does not have much to say in the Bible, indicative of his humility and understanding. Yet he, like Mary, was obedient. He was selfless. He was a worker, and in his own quiet way he was a leader — an example to all of us.

St. Joseph is, as you know, the patron saint of fathers, workers and the universal Church. If we could all emulate Joseph in some small part each day, we would be closer to being the disciples Christ has called us to be.

Sometimes, we Catholics are criticized for using statues, and some may be under the misguided impression that we worship statues. Our country and our lives are filled with statues — for instance, look at Washington, D.C. and its various monuments. Think of Mount Rushmore. People go to see these statues and stand in front of them, sometimes bowing their heads in prayer, or looking at the statue or piece of marble in awe. Does this mean these people are worshipping these statues? Absolutely not.

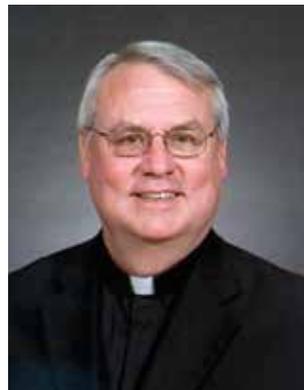
Let us be proud of our Catholic heritage and let us not be afraid to honor and respect our saints and the saints in our midst, the good stewards all around us. In fact, we must each try to be more like them.

God bless you in all you do.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow
Pastor



A COVENANT THAT IS MORE THAN JUST A PROMISE: THE SACRAMENT

For parishioner Laurie Stegeman, Catholic marriage is a “three-pronged covenant” — a covenant that exists between herself, her husband and God.

“It’s the wife’s responsibility to help her husband be the best Christian man he can be, and it’s the husband’s responsibility to help his wife be the best Christian woman she can be,” Laurie says. “God’s got to be part of your marriage.”

High school sweethearts, Laurie and her husband, Marty, are celebrating 33 years of marriage this month. The couple — who raised three children and are now grandparents to two — serves as part of the Pre Cana team at the parish, helping to prepare engaged couples to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony.

“You can go to the Justice of the Peace and make a promise to another person,” Laurie says. “But in a sacrament, you receive that grace from God and it’s not just a promise. A covenant is another level of commitment, and God’s within that commitment.”

“In marriage, I’m not just making a legal agreement,” Marty agrees. “This is a lifetime commitment to my spouse and God.”

Parishioners Mark and Mary Christensen agree that Catholic marriage is quite unique.

“It’s a covenant,” Mary says.

“Covenants don’t get broken,” Mark adds. “You’re making this decision, and this is a lifelong decision. This is my partner — we are now one.”

Mark and Mary celebrate 31 years of marriage this month and have spent many of those years working with engaged couples at St. Peter’s.

For a successful marriage, both couples emphasize the importance of spending time in



Marty and Laurie Stegeman serve on the St. Peter Pre Cana team, helping couples prepare for marriage.

prayer with your spouse.

“Prayer as a couple is very important,” Marty says. “I feel strongly that if it wasn’t for having a relationship with God, some of the things we’ve been through in our marriage have been far more difficult. He graces us every day we wake up together.”

Finding support from other models of faith and marriage has also been a significant part of the couples’ journeys.

“We’ve had great role models,” says Mark of couples within their families and friends. “There are some best practices out there — there are things that work and by looking at really good

“You can go to the Justice of the Peace and make a promise to another person. But in a sacrament, you receive that grace from God and it’s not just a promise. A covenant is another level of commitment, and God’s within that commitment.”

— Laurie Stegeman

OF MATRIMONY



Couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony, entering into a true covenant with God.

marriages, you can find a lot of great information and great practices that you could implement yourself.”

And while the couples initially joined the Pre Cana team to serve engaged couples, they have also found that their own marriages are enriched by this ministry.

“[Being on the Pre Cana team] has brought a new level to our marriage,” Marty says. “I think it has made us a better couple.”

“We have such a strong team of couples on this marriage team,” Laurie adds. “Marty and I learn a lot just from our meetings with them.”

“Pre Cana is like a retreat for our marriage, too,” Mary says. “It’s renewing. We give a talk, but we also listen to the talks of the other team members, we learn from them and we dialogue in between talks. It’s also time for us.”

The Christensens and Stegemans encourage other married couples to find ways to refocus and grow deeper in their relationship with God and each other.

“It can be intimidating to pray as a couple,” Laurie says. “We tell couples to start out in a way that makes them comfortable. Say an Our Father together or another rote prayer. As time goes on, it becomes more of a conversation with

God and you and your spouse. It really bonds you closer together.”

At the end of the day, for these couples, Christian marriage is about being open to the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony and trying to love each other with the love that God has for each of us.

“You have to have God at the center of your marriage,” Mary says. “It doesn’t mean everything is perfect — it just means you try to live and love and forgive as Jesus did.”

For more information on preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Peter or if you would like to be involved in serving engaged couples through Pre Cana, please contact the parish office at 217-222-3155.

Couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Peter participate in a day-long Pre Cana retreat, designed to help the couples address topics relevant to Catholic marriage, such as communication, intimacy, spirituality and what it means to receive this sacrament. Couples also meet with a priest as part of their preparation. Please pray for couples that have been or will be married at St. Peter this year.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Stewardship

DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM STEWARDSHIP THIS SUMMER

Everyone deserves a vacation. After nine grueling months of school, kids get to enjoy the summer to relax and regroup before beginning a new grade. Employees, after diligently working long hours and dealing with stressful situations, deserve time away from the office to enjoy their favorite getaway.

No one would argue that we need to mentally refresh our minds and bodies from time to time so that we can come back rejuvenated and ready to do our best.

Taking a break from some things, however, is not a possibility.

Take stewardship, for example. Imagine saying to yourself, "Well, this month I think I will not pray, not share any of my talents with anyone in need, and I will hoard my treasure." What would doing this accomplish? You certainly wouldn't feel refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to be at your best. Instead, feelings of greed, selfishness and spiritual unrest may occur. Stepping back from being a good steward just doesn't make sense.

So, now that summer has arrived in full force and our leisure time each day has increased, how can we remain good stewards?

It is likely that the regimented opportunities available during the school year are no longer available. Youth ministry and parish religious education formation may also be on summer break.

So, where do you turn? How can you keep your faith alive?

First and foremost, don't stop praying. The slow-paced days of summer are a perfect time to quiet ourselves for a few moments and try to reconnect with God. Why not take a moment of your free time each day to read the Gospel or a spiritual reflection while lounging in a hammock?

Next, try to participate in an outreach program over the summer. Think of the life of Christ — everything He did on Earth was an act of service. Now, think of the gifts God has bestowed on you. He wants you to share them with others like He did, and summer gives us the time to do just that.

If you like working with kids, you can volunteer at the Vacation Bible School by helping to decorate, organize or being a team leader for the younger children.

If you are handy with tools, you may call Habitat for Humanity to see how you can help build a home for a family in need.

Or, if you are musically inclined, you can share your singing or instrumental gifts with a local nursing home. Maybe you are good in the kitchen. If so, you could offer your culinary skills to a local soup kitchen or food bank.

If you are a strong student, you could offer tutoring services to neighborhood kids to help prepare them for the next school year.

No matter what gift God has given you, there is a way to share it.

Getting paid for volunteering sometimes happens. And, if you have a summer job while on break, you'll get a paycheck for sure. Have you ever taken an opportunity to think about sharing the first fruits of your check?

As a young adult, returning a portion of your paycheck to God is an important thing to consider. Giving a portion back to Him is a way to say "thanks."

Whatever you do this summer, don't take a break from being a good steward. Remember that the time God gives you is a gift. What you do with it — whether on vacation or not — is meant to give Him glory.



OPEN YOUR HEART: COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH CHADDOCK AND THE QUANADA WOMEN'S SHELTER

As Christians, we are called to read the Gospel thoughtfully and to find ways to serve “the least of our brothers and sisters” in our local community.

“Everyone at some point in their life needs a little extra help,” says Kathy Harman, St. Peter’s Parish Nurse. “The smallest things let them know that someone cares.”

Here at St. Peter’s, we are connected in mission and in physical location to two local services who put the faith into action by serving others in need. Chaddock, which primarily serves children who have experienced abuse or neglect, is situated just south of our parish campus.

“They have always been our neighbor, and we have watched them build over the years” says Msgr. Leo Enlow. “Three years ago, they were looking for a new board member, and I became the first Catholic priest to serve on their Board of Directors, which is an honor.”

Chaddock was founded as a ministry of The United Methodist Church, and today it serves thousands of children and families through educational and treatment services. It has a renowned Developmental Trauma and Attachment Program and an on-campus school.

“They live out the Gospel and serve children who may have been overlooked or who have gotten lost in the system,” Fr. Leo says. “In the past, when we needed one of their counselors, they came to us. They have been very good neighbors to us.”

Our parish also shares a northern property line with the Quanada women’s shelter, which is a free service for anyone who has been abused emotionally or physically, or anyone who needs crisis support, counseling or shelter.

Quanada also offers prevention services to



Quanada women's shelter



Chaddock lives out the Gospel by serving thousands of children and families in need.

the community and gives free and age appropriate presentations on issues such as self-esteem, peer pressure, bullying and sexual harassment.

“Quanada has been in our community for years and serves several counties in Illinois,” Kathy says. “They have a 24-hour crisis hotline and a food bank open every Friday from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. In addition to shelter, they provide counseling, support and some legal advocacy.”

One way St. Peter’s practically supports Quanada and its work is through sharing food after funeral luncheons. We also support Quanada through the work of our Social

Concerns Committee, and at times the shelter will send individuals to the parish, if we can be of service.

“Typically one of their case managers will send them to us, and we can help with small things such as personal hygiene items, bus tokens and assistance with gas,” Kathy says.

The gift cards that the parish office keeps for community members in need are generally collected during the Christmas season, along with requested items through the Giving Wreath. While many parishioners support both Chaddock and Quanada with their donations during the holidays, donations are welcome year-round.

Also, individuals who feel called to work with women in crisis situations can volunteer with Quanada after receiving training.

For Kathy, working with Quanada and generally with those in need in our community makes her deeply grateful for the blessings that Christ has given her.

“It makes you open your heart and thank God for all that you have,” Kathy says.

If you would like more information about Chaddock and the Quanada women's shelter, please reach out to Msgr. Leo Enlow and Kathy Harman through the parish office at 217-222-3155.

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.,

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses

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

Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

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

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

DON'T FORGET!

BE PART OF OUR UPCOMING PARISH DIRECTORY

It's not too late to be part of the Parish Directory! All families who participate receive a free 8x10 portrait and a copy of the directory. Portraits will be taken June 19-23, July 10-14, and July 17-21. To schedule a family portrait session, please sign up online at appt.lifetouch.com. Our directory will not be complete without you!

