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Showing God's Mercy to Others Through

THE CHADDOCK OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sometimes, the “Hound of Heaven” works in mysterious ways. For years, God knocked on the doors of the hearts of Ryan and Elizabeth Brown, teaching them amazing things in the process.

“Both Ryan and I grew up in close proximity to Chaddock, and we were always told that it was a school for children who had caused trouble,” Elizabeth says. “This was a real misconception, and over time we learned the truth about Chaddock — that it is a place of healing for children who have been hurt. And now we have been able to share this truth with others, including our own four children.”

For a time, Ryan and Elizabeth moved away from the area, but the memory of Chaddock never left them.

“When we lived in Quincy, I worked as a school principal,” Elizabeth says. “When we moved back here 12 years ago, one of my former students from Quincy came to Chaddock. I was able to interact with him and his adoptive mother during his time at Chaddock. It was wonderful. Over the years, we began forming great relationships with some of the children from Chaddock. For a couple of years in



high school, our oldest son would get together some of his friends and go play soccer with the kids at Chaddock. Chaddock just kept coming into our lives, and our whole family began to feel passionate about it.”

Eventually, they opened the doors of their hearts wide open to Christ's call, and founded the

Chaddock Outreach Committee, of which they

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THE CHADDOCK OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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currently serve as coordinators.

“God kept calling us and we finally decided to do something about it!” Elizabeth says. “The Chaddock Outreach Committee was just started in January, and we already have about 30 wonderful members. Each person has a unique reason why they are drawn to helping Chaddock. We have a handful of families who get involved because they believe it is something great they can do together for those in need.”

The Chaddock Outreach Committee maintains a three-fold mission, acting in a partnership with Chaddock. First, they collect donations of specific items to give to Chaddock, such as cleaning supplies, books, school items and games.

Secondly, outreach members do direct acts of service to Chaddock, such as painting or yard work.

“We would like to organize service days, such as on Saturdays, so that any of our parishioners can help,” Elizabeth says. “We are also hoping to start some student activities at Chaddock, such as tutoring, mentoring or facilitating after-school clubs.”

Further, funds raised on St. Peter’s School monthly “school



spirit days” are given to Chaddock so they can purchase items for their welcome baskets.

“As of April, \$1,375 has been donated for the baskets,” Elizabeth says. “They include a laundry basket stuffed with books, stuffed animals, sheets and other things to help the new children feel at home at Chaddock.”

Thirdly, the Chaddock Outreach Committee helps with Santa Express, a ministry through which thousands of gifts are given to Chaddock residents, community children and foster children.

Furthermore, committee members have been inviting students from Chaddock to attend some of our parish events. They have also been helping to maintain a new butterfly garden that was recently planted at Chaddock.

In turn, the “partnership” aspect implies that Chaddock will also help our parish in various ways — for example, they plan to offer professional development training for teachers at St. Peter’s School, towards working with children who have special needs or have endured trauma.

If you would like more information about this beautiful ministry of God's mercy, or to get involved, please contact Elizabeth Brown at 217-228-0403 or visit www.chaddock.org.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Dear Parishioners,

As this unprecedented crisis for our Church, nation and world continues to unfold, we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. As we begin a return to our “new normal,” we have so much for which to be grateful.

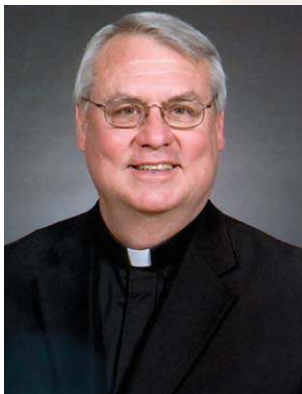
I have witnessed so many of you continuing to actively live out stewardship during these past few months while our parish family has been apart, and that is truly a blessing. But with the uncertainty of what this “new normal” will be like in the days, weeks and months ahead, I ask you all to again consider how you are living out your call to stewardship.

Regardless of whether or not we can physically gather in our church or come together for ministry activities and events, our faith always lives on.

Remember that stewardship is a way of life, meaning that we are called to live as intentional disciples of Christ through the practice of stewardship in all circumstances.

Have you been giving God your Time? I encourage you to pray every day. Use this time as an opportunity to develop or strengthen your prayer life.

How can you serve the Lord right now with your Talents? Serve your family and friends in the ways



that you can. Use your talents wisely to grow in relationship with others near or far.

Finally, is God still a priority in your Treasure? Despite the hardships, are you still keeping God at the heart of all your financial decisions. I encourage you to give God a portion of your Treasure out of gratitude, no matter how big or small.

Thank you for your continued support by way of prayers, service, and generous financial giving during these challenging times. I have been overwhelmed with a new sense of gratitude and dependence on our Lord during this crisis, and continue praying for each of you. And, I look forward to the day our parish and our church is bustling with life again, and I pray that day is coming soon.

Let us live with the joy of the Resurrection each day of our lives!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow". The script is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Msgr. Leo J. Enlow
Pastor

COMING TOGETHER IN COVID-19 *Our Parish Family Carries On*

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.”

Most of us had likely not heard the above prayer or the term “Spiritual Communion” until this spring. When an order came from Bishop Paprocki to suspend all church activities due to COVID-19, Fr. Leo knew he needed a way to minister to parishioners during this unprecedented time.

Fr. Leo and Fr. Aaron are working together to record video of Mass and make these videos available on the St. Peter Church YouTube channel. They are thankful to have help in making the quality quite a bit better than they could do on their own. They are also recording and posting morning Masses.

Both Fr. Leo and Fr. Aaron have been adding daily reflections to the website. For those who don’t have access to the internet or a computer, the office phone has a message with a prayer. Parishioners can also call in with a prayer or message to Fr. Leo and Fr. Aaron. Rosary, prayer services, litanies and Stations of the Cross have also been taped.

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“Through this roller coaster of emotions, my faith has kept me going. I have had more time for prayer and reflection. I have seen so much good in people as we all try to help each other out and stay connected from a distance.”

— LYN STRIEKER

CRISIS:

on in New Ways During Pandemic

In addition, the Wednesday children's Mass is celebrated so the children may still have their own Mass opportunity.

"It's like right now, we are living in the tomb," Fr. Leo says. "Hopefully, someday we can come out with a new life."

Fr. Leo has been pleased with the viewership on the Sunday Masses. However, as he notes, the biggest challenge is not being able to connect with people face-to-face.

"It's very difficult to have Mass without people there, but I know we can't," Fr. Leo says. "I feel fortunate that Fr. Aaron can also celebrate with me and Deacon Bob Lundberg is here to help."

The doors to the church have also remained open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so people can pray. There are wipes and supplies so people can wipe down the area where they were sitting. Fr. Aaron has also started a Perpetual Rosary for an end to the pandemic and a conversion of hearts. Parishioner Lyn Strieker says two people have been praying the Rosary every half hour.

"Matt and Gina Bergman have devoted many hours to taping, posting and communicating with our church and school families," Lyn says.

Members of the Warm and Welcoming Committee have been checking on parishioners over the phone. Fr. Leo says this is a great way to keep people connected, and will hopefully continue after the pandemic has passed. Kathy Harman, our parish nurse, has also been calling homebound parishioners and those in the nursing homes. The Social Concerns Committee has been collecting food and personal care items for distribution.

Fr. Leo is hopeful the time away from the Eucharist will give people a new appreciation for the Body and Blood of Christ.

"Sometimes, celebrating the Eucharist every week, we take it for granted," he says. "When it is taken away, there is a yearning to be a part of it. If



This collection from the Social Concerns Committee will help those in need during this difficult time.

there is anything positive from all of this, we will have a greater appreciation for the Eucharist."

Fr. Leo offers condolences to all those who have had to delay a funeral or wedding, and for those who could not receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. He also expresses his gratitude to parishioners who have continued their financial gifts during this difficult time.

"We get notes all the time from people who appreciate the ways we are doing things," he says.

In addition, Fr. Leo continues to pray for healthcare workers who are serving a ministry of healing and keeping people safe and healthy.

Lyn admits she has experienced "highs and lows" like most of us have during this time.

"Through this roller coaster of emotions, my faith has kept me going," she says. "I have had more time for prayer and reflection. I have seen so much good in people as we all try to help each other out and stay connected from a distance."

St. Peter Catholic Church

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 2019 - DECEMBER 2019

	Total Parish	Total School	Total
Income			
Total Regular Church Support	\$853,443.36	\$293,947.46	\$1,147,390.82
Other Sources of Revenue	\$10,413.00	\$69,480.71	\$79,893.71
Total Investment Income	\$573.50	\$0.00	\$573.50
Total Tuition Income	\$1,000.00	\$845,524.66	\$846,524.66
 Total Income	 \$865,429.86	 \$1,208,952.83	 \$2,074,382.69
 Expense			
Payroll Expenses	\$232,609.15	\$997,006.24	\$1,229,615.39
Total Contractual Services	\$13,346.94	\$27,887.09	\$41,234.03
Total Utilities	\$13,189.72	\$23,718.01	\$36,907.73
Insurance - Property & Liability	\$11,159.53	\$11,159.53	\$22,319.06
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,003.12	\$191,056.81	\$192,059.93
Equipment and Furniture	\$526.92	\$2,364.62	\$2,891.54
Total Supplies	\$14,627.52	\$115,892.43	\$130,519.95
Total Professional Fees	\$0.00	\$382.00	\$382.00
Total Professional Development	\$1,372.92	\$7,268.41	\$8,641.33
Charitable Contributions	\$4,096.14	\$0.00	\$4,096.14
Transportation Travel & Auto Ex		\$44.07	\$44.07
Total Religious Education Expenses	\$2,496.52	\$6,319.79	\$8,816.31
Total Parish Organization Expense	\$30,622.67	\$0.00	\$30,622.67
Library Expense		\$401.29	\$387.32
Vending Machine Expense		\$110.05	-\$56.37
Class Trip Expense		\$26,858.51	\$26,858.51
Total Other Expenses	\$25,965.30	\$3,825.02	\$29,790.32
 Total Expense	 \$351,016.45	 \$1,414,293.87	 \$1,765,310.32
 Net Income	 \$514,413.41	 -\$205,341.04	 \$309,072.37

THE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT GROUP:

Building up the Matrimonial Covenant

In a 2018 homily, Pope Francis emphasized just how important the Sacrament of Matrimony truly is — as man and woman, we are created in God’s image. Thus, marriage is an image of God. “Matrimony is a silent homily for everyone else, a daily homily,” Pope Francis said.

Because marriage is so important to society, the family and the Catholic Church, four couples — Marty and Laurie Stegeman, George and Betty McDonnell, Aaron and Karen Weiman, and Joe and Lori Bertram — recently organized the Marriage Enrichment Group. The group plans to meet every other Sunday, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., for six sessions in the fall and six sessions in the spring.

“We felt like marriage was under attack and needed as much help and support as a parish could offer,” Betty says.

The group was organized by some of the members of the PreCana classes for engaged couples. The members knew that continual marriage support was necessary beyond classes only for engaged couples. The planning group had been meeting twice a month since November.

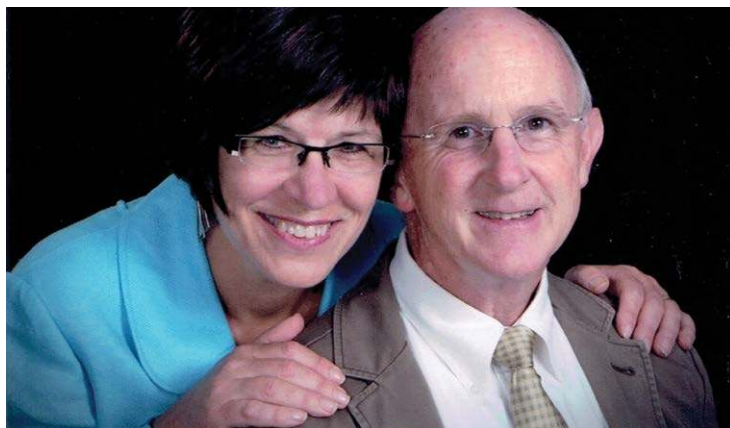
So far, the Marriage Enrichment Group was only able to meet once, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were couples married for just a few years all the way to 50 years. The program will utilize the *Beloved* video series from FORMED.org.

“It is wonderful to share our journeys and our stories to help and support each other,” Betty says.

The group’s overall goal is a simple, but important one.

“It’s to build stronger marriages, encourage connection among families and assist couples to grow in their faith together, which certainly includes greater participation in the Eucharist,” Betty says.

“The goal is to strengthen marriages by helping couples examine God’s love and blessing within their marriage covenant,” Laurie says.



Betty and George McDonnell



Joe and Lori Bertram



Marty and Laurie Stegeman

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THE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT GROUP

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In particular, Laurie appreciated that most couples spoke about the importance of prayer for their marriage. She also appreciated seeing so many examples of long-lasting love by those who attended.

George and Betty have enjoyed working on this team and seeing the willingness of married couples to grow together. They have also enjoyed

the opportunity to strengthen their marriage.

“Even though each couple is unique, God’s ultimate design for marriage remains the same — to be a sacramental witness to His love and to enter more deeply into union with Him and with each other,” Betty says. “We all live that out differently, but God’s call extends to each of us individually and as a couple.”

All married couples at St. Peter are welcome to attend. Please refer to the parish bulletin for more information on dates during the fall session.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend 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