

# Communigram

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity  
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## Welcome To The Catholic Community

*Bapchule, Arizona—St. Peter Mission*

**Rejoice with us!** On Holy Saturday we welcomed 28 new Catholics —twenty two are students in our school. This is the ‘breakdown’ of the newly baptized by grade: 4 parents (two of which are Sister Hilda’s former students!)

2, 2 yr. olds!	3 Pre-K children
1, kindergarten student	1, first grader
2, second graders	2, third graders
3, fourth graders	3, fifth graders
2, sixth graders	5, junior high students

**Interesting facts:** The newly baptized are from **7 families**.

- One whole family, became Catholic on Holy Saturday—Mom, Dad, their 2 children, and their 5 nieces and nephews whom they are raising.
- 11 girls, 13 boys, 3 Moms, and 1 Dad
- Of the 28 baptized, 19 were Confirmed and received their First Holy Communion. Nine were too young to receive all the Sacraments.

Sister Hannah Johnecheck started the Mission’s RCIA Program

last year and we Sisters continued the classes, meeting every Wednesday night from 6:00-7:00 p.m.—some classes went much longer.

More families asked for Baptism, but we have a rule that the family must be part of the school for at least two years before being accepted into the RCIA classes. We want to make sure that they have ‘absorbed’ the Catholic culture, have positive Sunday Church attendance and a basic understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus—both in words and in good deeds.

**Please PRAY with us:**

We are beyond happy for our children and their families. We both cried and celebrated with the families on Holy Saturday during a Mass which seemed endless! **Please join us in praying for our children and their families that their roots of faith in JESUS may grow deep and strong and produce great fruit and, hopefully VOCATIONS!**

*By Sister Martha Mary Carpenter*

## First Mission Experience

During her time as a postulant, the young woman has a mission experience of living with our Sisters in their mission convent taking part in their life of prayer and shadowing them in their ministry.

For my first mission experience, I was sent to St. Paul's in Kaukauna, Wisconsin where I stayed with Sister Juden Lang and Sister Delores Wisnicky. I had an absolutely wonderful time getting to know both of them. Both, in their own unique way, taught me so much about caring for



*Hilda and Sister Juden enjoyed the raspberry/rhubarb pie Hilda made while at St. Paul Convent.*

people in different stages of life. I felt very welcomed and completely spoiled while in Kaukauna. Both Sister Delores and Sister Juden were very open and willing to answer any questions that I had. It was nice to see how things worked in a smaller convent.

The residents at St. Paul's taught me something beautiful as well. We had a lot more in common, then I would have assumed. Like myself, some of the residents in the Villa were adjusting to a new environment, one they had never experienced before. They shared their experiences with having to give things up and the difficulty we can sometimes face in being obedient to God and where He has placed us. It was enlightening to see how several of them had come together to truly form a community and support system. Part of our human nature is the need for forming meaningful relationships with other people, and it was heart-warming to experience a place that was not only safe but provided social events for their residents and

those that they care for. It was also comforting to see how the priests and brothers came together during Mass, the care and compassion that they showed each other was magnificent. There was a certain magic in seeing them all wear their stoles during Mass. Regardless of their mental or physical capability, they hadn't lost who they were in relationship to God and if that was not beautiful, then I don't know what is. There is something so completely inspiring to me about the way that these men have been able to remain in relationship with God.

These precious moments of observation were paramount in my Lenten journey this year. One, it allowed me to see outside of myself but it also provided me with hope and reminded of the collateral beauty that comes with difficulties. It reminded me that with God, there is no pain without purpose and with every struggle that we face there is a certain beauty to it. It reminded me to be thankful always.

*Postulant Hilda Medina*



*Fr. Michael Gossett, Vocation Director, Sister Chiara Joan, Jonah Stanberry, Bishop Jeffrey Monforton, Fr. Jonas Shell, Parochial Vicar at Christ Our Light Parish, Jane Rush, Principal, and in front Audrey McQuain.*

## Vocation Day in Cambridge

*Cambridge, Ohio*— St. Benedict's School celebrated Vocations Day on Friday, March 16th.

Bishop Jeffrey Monforton, Fr. Michael Gossett, Diocesan Vocation Director, and Sister Chiara Joan Riffon, a TOR Sister from Toronto, Ohio, visited with the students, teachers and staff in the Gym. Bishop Monforton and Sr. Chiara shared their vocations stories with questions asked by Fr. Gossett. The students had questions prepared ahead of time and the three presenters answered those questions. After that the fun began as the Bishop, Audrey McQuain, 5th grade, and Jonah Stanberry, 8th grade, competed in playing the basketball game called PIG, as the students cheered. Audrey was the winner. Perhaps one of our students will become a priest, brother and/or Sister to serve the Church.

*Submitted by Sister Sharon Paul*

## Sister on Point Catholic Busy Student Retreat Team

Invited for the recent Point Catholic Busy Student Retreat, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Sister Julie Ann Sheahan served on the team of directors ministering to 60 students who committed themselves to the week. Campus Minister Wendy Mitch and Father Tom Lindner planned and organized the retreat with the theme 'Get Centered'.

Students committed themselves to the following during the retreat:

- ◆ Set aside time each day for four days to pray on your own.
- ◆ Meet with spiritual director for a half hour each day for four days.
- ◆ Dinner will be served every night. Join as your schedule allows.



- ◆ Join retreat participants for praise and preaching each night. And if your schedule allows, gather for Mass each day.



## Sister Directs Discernment Retreat in Eau Claire

Sister Jacqueline Spaniola directed 20 young people in a Discernment of Spirits Retreat day at the Eau Claire Ecumenical Religious Center March 3, 2018. Father Dan Oudenhoven and Campus Minister Savannah Siegler were open to exposing students to St. Ignatius' 22 Rules of discernment.



Here's some feedback from the students about the silent retreat day.

### What touched your heart?

- ◆ Realizing that prayer is not always talking. Prayer is listening.
- ◆ Developing my relationship with Christ through desolation
- ◆ The ability to sit in silence and reflect the Lord's plan and direction
- ◆ The silence really helped me think about things that I needed to work on and let God into my life.
- ◆ Learning the rules of discernment especially patience and how God tests us
- ◆ Really sitting down and understanding a discernment process

- ◆ I really loved learning the rules of discernment and having tangible ways of knowing what is from God.

### What part of the retreat was the most helpful?

- ◆ It was very helpful to be able to take a break from my busy life to stop and reflect and listen. Then, it was very helpful to then be able to talk to Sister J about what thoughts were running through my head.
- ◆ Knowing how to decipher evil spirits and good spirits. Also knowing about how consolation can bring evil spirits into our thought process
- ◆ I think it was helpful to learn how to hear God's voice and determine how to know if you are doing His will.
- ◆ daily discernment affects big discernment.
- ◆ mentioning that we shouldn't 'break off too much to chew' so that the devil can tempt us in that way.
- ◆ what is God's will for my life and not being selfish
- ◆ the note sheets and resources-having Sisters here with us.
- ◆ greatly appreciated how methodical it was. This really helped with clarity of mind.



*Sister Helen Marie Paul, Librarian, with some prospective students and their parents.*

Cambridge, Ohio—St. Benedict's School hosted an Open House for Grades Pre K-8 on Thursday, March 8, 2018, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. Teachers were in their classrooms and students were on hand to answer any questions and to conduct tours, especially for any prospective students and their parents. One highlight was visiting the Preschool, which is enjoying a highly successful first year. St. Benedict's School has been educating children since 1911.

*Submitted by Sister Sharon Paul*



Bapchule, Arizona— **My 3 Sisters!!!** Sister Thereselle Ar-ruda and Sister Pamela Catherine Peasel are welcoming our newest “Sister Katelyn”! Our friends ‘Sr. Kathy’ and ‘Sr. Beth’ flew her in from Michigan. Sister Katelyn is here to do vocation work—inviting young ladies to become Franciscan Sisters!



*Sister Christine Stoller, Associate Professor and Director of the Stangel Academic Computer Lab with young women inquiring and applying for a computer lab aide position.*

Manitowoc, Wisconsin—Silver Lake College students attended the On-Campus Job Fair March 5, 2018. They learned about and applied for on-campus positions for the 2018-19 academic year. The job fair is part of SLC Works, the college’s recently introduced Work College Program, which offers students a chance to gain progressive, professional work experience while they earn a valuable four-year degree.

*Submitted by Suzanne Weiss, SLC*



## NaProEthics On the Road

I [Sister Renée Mirkes] had the privilege of giving two lectures at the Florida Catholic Medical Association meeting in Venice, Florida on March 22-25. The keynote lecture, entitled *The Domino Theory Revisited*, recounted the moral fallout from the first domino of contraception. The second lecture discussed the ethics of various applications of the revolutionary genetic editing tool--CRISPR-Cas9. The best part of the whole experience was working with the marvelous physicians pictured here who comprised the planning committee for the event. They are an inspiration in today's healthcare world!

# JUST Gospel!

By Sister Kathleen Murphy  
Social Justice Commission

...Spirit of hope, stand before our eyes.  
Make us your own, now is the time...  
This line from Tom Kendzia's song introduces our thoughts for a new month. Spring awaits its moment to burst forth. These are the days of hope's new birth opening before our eyes. God brings forth new life again and it is ours to see and celebrate!

In this season of newness we look at Pope Francis' intention which asks us to pray, *That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.* When Pope Francis met with leaders of the U.N. in 2014 he shared the following thoughts: "I would like to remind you of an incident which took place two thousand years ago and is recounted in the Gospel of Saint Luke (19:1-10). It is the encounter between Jesus Christ and the rich tax collector Zacchaeus, as a result of which Zacchaeus made a radical decision of sharing and justice, because his conscience had been awakened by the gaze of

Jesus. The gaze, often silent, of that part of the human family which is cast off, left behind, ought to awaken the conscience of political and economic agents and lead them to generous and courageous decisions with immediate results, like the decision of Zacchaeus. The account of Jesus and Zacchaeus teaches us that above and beyond economic and social systems and theories, there will always be a need to promote generous, effective and practical openness to the needs of others. Jesus does not ask Zacchaeus to change jobs nor does he condemn his financial activity; he simply inspires him to put everything, freely yet immediately and indisputably, at the service of others."

Though we may not be able to contribute to the needs of others from our personal economic resources, we know that our Community helps in our name. However, we can offer our prayer always and everywhere and in some situations we can offer our time and energy to help those who are excluded by society. Keep in prayer those individuals and



agencies who make it their work to bring economic justice and security to those who lack the basic needs of life.

Our Core Value statement reminds us that *In the spirit of St. Francis, we read the signs of the time and express our love for the Church by loving service...* The signs of our time surely cry out for those who selflessly serve, those who recognize injustice and decry it, those who hold up in prayer the ones who have little reason to hope and cry out in their behalf. Let our prayerful support of all who work for economic justice, as well as our own work and appeals to God in the name of the poor and down-trodden be a source of hope in the world. For, *now is the time!*

Pope Francis told the youth to "cry out" at Palm Sunday Mass that included school shooting survivors. Celebrating Palm Sunday Mass with thousands of young people, Pope Francis urged them to continue singing and shouting "hosanna" in the world, proclaiming the lordship of Jesus and following his example of outreach to the poor and suffering.

Sister Leonette Kochan and Sister Mary Ann Spanjers joined members of the staff of the Diocese of Tucson along with students and teachers from San Miguel High School in the March for our Lives. It was peaceful, moving, inspiring and hope-filled! More than 8,000 people participated in the event in Tucson.

*Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Spanjers*



## Sisters Meet With Young Catholic Women



*The last group gathering of the day took place at the foot of the cross in our convent chapel. Notice what happened with the craft project each young woman had earlier received.*

*Greenwood, Mississippi*—Our Sisters at St. Francis of Assisi Convent invited young Catholic women to join them for a time of reflecting during the Lenten season with the theme; “At the Foot of the Cross”.

After a welcoming snack, young woman chose a paper cross and a copy of St. Francis’ Prayer before the Crucifix and a sheet of sample “doodles”. The cross and prayer were glued to a black sheet of paper. The cross was then to be decorated with the “doodles” of their choice. This activity continued later as each person waited their turn to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

With God’s cleansing love in mind all gathered at the foot of the cross in the sanctuary of our parish church for a reconciliation service with an examination of conscience based on the Stations of the Cross.

After the Sacrament of Reconciliation each young woman was given a cross on a cord to recall the gift of God’s love they had just been given.

In the meantime the grill had been lit and the coals were ready for some favorite foods. A picnic lunch in the backyard of the convent featuring s’mores was in order.

A closing prayer of petition and gratitude concluded our day.

*By Sister Annette Kurey*



*Tucson, Arizona*—The Sisters at San Xavier Convent [l to r: Sisters Ellen Pachmayer, Delores Vogt, Carla Riach, and Leonette Kochan] enjoyed having Clair and Bernadette, two young women from the University of Arizona who are discerning Religious Life, for Evening Prayer and supper!



Another meaningful event was the annual cancer walk up the mountain for all cancer victims and promoting cancer research. Sister Leonette Kochan, Sister Carla Riach, and Sister Mary Ann Spanjers were joined by some of Sister Mary Ann's San Miguel high school students! We all made it to the top!

*Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Spanjers*

# Parish Prays for Vocations During Lent



Fr. Bob Borer, celebrant for the 8 A.M. Mass on Palm Sunday, presented the Vocation Cross and Booklet to Sisters Helen Marie Paul, Carol Juckem, Sharon Paul, Jan Villemure, and June Smith to pray during Holy Week for Vocations.

Cambridge, Ohio—The parishioners at St. Benedict's Church, Christ Our Light Parish, pray in a special way for

Religious Vocations during the Lent. Parishioners: single, married, families or Communities sign up at one of the four Masses to pray in a special way for Vocations. At the end of the week-end Masses, the priest celebrant has the person or persons come up to the front and receive a Vocation Cross with a booklet to pray that week for vocations. The parishioners then join their prayers during the week with that person or family to pray for all vocations.

One of the prayers asks: "Lord, enkindle in our communities a missionary zeal to send workers into your fields and to Come and Follow You."

The Sisters at St. Benedict Convent offered to take the cross for Holy Week on Palm Sunday at the 8 A.M. Parish Mass and to pray in a special way for Religious Vocations.

*Submitted by sister Sharon Paul*

# Emmaus Trip



The Sisters from St. Peter Indian Mission, Bapchule, Arizona took an Emmaus trip Easter Monday traveling to a mission founded by Jesuit Padre Eusebio Kino—Tumacacori in Tubac, AZ.



It was beautiful day and a beautiful time with Community. L to r: Sisters Pamela Catherine Peasel, Barbara Jean Butler, Carol Mathe, Thereselle Arruda, Martha Mary Carpenter, and Maria Goretti Scandaliato.

# Quilting - Break from Studying

Several of the Sister students enjoyed a little time at the Turba home [Sister Elaine's parents] working on tying quilts during their recent spring break. The finished quilts are given to the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein and from there are sent to areas of the world in need of such items. The Turba's, along with other generous people in the St. Anna area, have been doing this type of ministry for over 50 years. They always appreciate a few extra hands when it comes to tying the quilts. The Sisters find the quilt project to be a good change of pace from their studying, and gives a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, knowing others will benefit from this contribution of time.





*Sister Sue Ann Hall sent this picture of the first daffodil to bloom at their convent in St. Louis—a sure sign of Spring!*



*Left to right: Sisters Mary Teresa Bettag, Mariadele Jacobs, Colleen Demro, and Clare Rose Oswald found the heavy snow perfect for making a snowman in Sacred Heart court where everyone could enjoy it - even to watch it slowly melt.*

*Photo by Sister Elena Gonzales*

## St. Patrick's Day Party



*These Sisters enjoyed playing Mexican Train during the St. Patrick's day party l to r: Sisters Mariella Erdmann, Huong Nguyen, and Kay Warning. Photo by Sister Hue Dang*

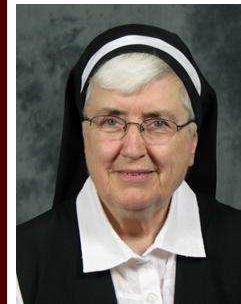
On occasion the novitiate plans Community recreation. Sister Colleen Demro planned one for St. Patrick's day, Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> that included games, dancing, singing, magic tricks, and refreshments. It was a joyful afternoon, and many took part in the festivities. The novitiate team is appreciative of the positive feedback and look forward to more Community gatherings in the future.



*Sister Winifred Crevier helps Sister Barbara Belinske redeem the numbers they found in their eggs during the Easter egg hunt at the Motherhouse. Sister Kay Warning and her niece, Lana, over see the prize table.*

*Photo by Sister Elena Gonzales*

## Let us pray for the deceased



**SISTER PAVEL MORIN**

April 15, 1928

March 6, 2018

Professed vows:

August 15, 1953