



St. Alexius



Our Lady of the Angels



St. Paul's

Building a Faith That Can Be Passed On *Meet The Schreiner Family*

This Issue:

2

“Therefore Go and Make Disciples of All Nations” *Evangelization, the Church, and Our Commitments as Stewards*

3

November is a Time for Thanksgiving

4

Generosity Multiplied: Rachel Bösl of Our Lady of the Angels

6

Visit with Our Kenyan Delegates a True Blessing for the Sauk Centre Parishes

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Service has always been an important part of James and Becky Schreiner’s lives. It is central to their teaching careers, their parenting style, and the ways they have chosen to embrace stewardship throughout their lives.

“I think we really have always enjoyed helping others, whether it’s children or friends,” James says.

“It’s how we remain involved in our church and community, trying to help others whenever we can,” Becky adds. “Whether we are praying for others or helping our own children become more involved, service has been our way of playing an active role in the faith community.”

Though faith has always been important to both James and Becky, it was becoming parents that really put things in perspective for the couple. Anxious to raise their children with a solid faith foundation, they knew it was important that they, themselves, model that faith in their daily living. For as the saying goes, you can’t give what you don’t have.

“Faith has always been a part of my life, and the birth of my children only helped strengthen it,” Becky says. “We wanted to give our children a solid faith



The Schreiner family (from left) Ana, James, Isaac, and Becky

foundation and let them grow. To do that, we worked hard to model it, to attend church together as a family, have prayer at home, and to encourage them to get involved in Youth Group activities.”

Both currently teaching at Sauk Centre Public Schools, their lives are busy. And with their children’s schedules added into the mix, it can often seem as if the family is pulled in 100 different directions. Yet, the family strives to continuously come back together, focusing on what truly matters – God and each other.

continued on back cover



“Therefore Go and Make Disciples of All Nations”

Evangelization, the Church, and Our Commitments as Stewards

According to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus’ parting words to us before He ascended to Heaven after His Resurrection included these instructions: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

That is, quite frankly, a call to evangelization. Clearly, evangelization is not new to the Church – it is traced to that call from Jesus Christ, a call to His apostles and followers of that time, and that call continues today in relation to us and our lives as Catholics. “Evangelization” has become a bit of a “catchphrase” in today’s Church. Of course, it is not a new idea, nor is it a new call.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis’s absolute first publication – officially an apostolic exhortation – was titled *Evangelii Gaudium*, which means “The Joy of the Gospel.” In that document, the pope had much to say about evangelization, including this: “Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love” (120).

Nevertheless, the idea of evangelization is nothing new. Pope St. John Paul II issued an encyclical in December 1990 titled *Redemptoris Missio* – “The Mission of the Redeemer” – in which he called for the church to renew its efforts in evangelization. This has become known as the “new evangelization,” but within, what Pope St. John Paul II says is that the Church “must renew her missionary commitment.” He adds, “Faith is strengthened when it is shared and given to others” (2).

Yet, it would seem that some Catholics resist this call to evangelization, perhaps recalling images of

street preachers, television evangelists or door-to-door groups saying “repent” or talking about the “wages of sin.” Or, we may feel that evangelization is the role of saints or missionaries or Catholic priests. The truth is that evangelization is born from a love of people and a desire that everyone comes to know the love of Christ and the blessings of living as part of His Kingdom.

Over a decade before Pope St. John Paul II addressed this issue, Pope Paul VI issued an apostolic exhortation in 1975 titled *Evangelii Nuntiandi* – “Evangelization in the Modern World” – in which the pope said, “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing of all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church” (14).

So, what does this mean to us as faithful stewards? Obviously, each of us is called to be an evangelist. That does not mean we go door-to-door or stand on street corners proclaiming our faith. Our own mission statement has a strong flavor of evangelization, especially because of our effort to embrace stewardship as a way of life. In recent years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued two pastoral letters – one called *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy of Catholic Evangelization*, and the other titled *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. The connection between stewardship and evangelization and discipleship is obvious, it would seem.

Pope Francis also said in his first official statement *Evangelii Gaudium* the following: “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ” (10). That is who we are, or who we should be.

A Letter From Our Pastor

November is a Time for Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

November seems to automatically bring us to thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving – it is both a time of year when we tend to think in terms of gratitude to God, and a time when we also formally celebrate our American holiday. My memories of Thanksgiving are filled with food, of course, but they are also filled with thoughts of family and a sense of togetherness and a sense of my faith.

But this is also a significant month in the Church from a number of perspectives. Nov. 1 is a Holy Day, the Solemnity of All Saints. The next day is All Souls Day, a day devoted to all the saints in our lives – living, not living, known, and unknown.

Most of us have people in our lives who have had a profound impact on us — people we can consider our own personal saints. This month is a wonderful reminder to think of them, thank them, and thank God for making them a part of our lives.

Our Thanksgiving holiday falls on Nov. 23, and is a time for families and gratitude. Thanksgiving became official in the United States in 1863,



and in his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln made very clear Whom we needed to thank. “To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God,” Lincoln said. In

other words, we all need to thank Almighty God for our many blessings.

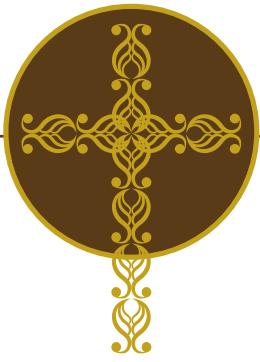
Finally, November also brings us to the end of one Church year and the beginning of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 26 officially begins the final week of our liturgical year, and the First Sunday of Advent is on Dec. 3. From the beginning of the month when we thank God for the example of the saints and the saintly people in our lives, to the end of the month when we thank God for everything we have and everything we are, November is a time to approach the Lord with a grateful heart. That is what stewardship truly is all about – about approaching God, about approaching each day, and about approaching all those with whom we come in contact with hearts filled with gratitude and love.

In our Father's hands,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Greg Paffel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Greg Paffel, Pastor





Generosity Multiplied: Rachel

On the surface, Our Lady of the Angels parishioner Rachel Bösl seemed to have everything she needed.

“I had an apartment and a car and a job and everything was great,” Rachel says. “But it just wasn’t enough, I wanted more.”

Sounds a bit like the modern-day version of St. Augustine’s longing prayer, “Our hearts are restless, until they rest in You, O God.”

Born and raised in Sauk Centre, Rachel grew up in a Catholic family.

“I was raised Catholic, and I went to Mass on Sunday, but that was really about it,” Rachel says. “I went to Youth Group because my friends did and it was fun, and I’d go on walks by myself and talk out loud to God.”

After high school, she decided to study accounting. Upon graduation, she returned home to work for a small company and began studying for her CPA exam.

But something was still missing. At the prompting of Fr. Greg and another good friend, Rachel decided to explore the possibility of serving with NET Ministries, in Ireland. NET – or National Evangelization Teams, which has branches in the United States, Canada, and Australia, as well as Ireland – is a Catholic missionary organization, with the primary mission of “challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church.” Through NET, teams of young adults travel and serve in parishes all around the globe, bringing the Good News of God’s love to all they encounter, through retreats and other forms of youth ministry.



Rachel Bösl, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Angels, just returned from spending two years as a missionary with NET Ireland.

After spending a semester in England, during college, Europe had gained a special place in Rachel’s heart, and she remembers feeling pulled and called to consider serving.

But it wasn’t an easy decision for Rachel. She struggled with many doubts, often wondering if she needed to “just be responsible” and stay home, have a job, and pay bills. Finally, one day in prayer, God made it clear that NET was where He was calling her.

“I was out walking, and I remember I stopped and prayed – ‘Jesus, if You want me to do this, You’re going to have to help me because I can’t do it on my own,’” she says. “This sense of peace came over me.”

And to her surprise, local parishioners were quick to help her in her fundraising goals.

“I remember thinking, I have to do all this fundraising – no one’s going to support a 25-year-old, I’m supposed to be working and paying bills and all that stuff,” Rachel recalls. “But the response was phenomenal – so many people supported me. It was so amazing, it was so beautiful.”

Within months, she was on a team with four other women and five men, on the other side of the world sharing God’s love on a team that traveled within Ireland, as well as to England, and even briefly to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), including places such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

“It’s a different world, but the faith out there, it’s there!” Rachel says, of the UAE, where her team hosted a retreat for 800 people.

Rachel Bösl of Our Lady of the Angels



During her first year, Rachel traveled with a team of other young adults, sharing the Gospel with people all across Ireland, England and the UAE.

After her year of service was complete, Rachel has the sense that God wasn't done with her yet, and made the decision to spend the next two years serving on missionary staff, putting her accounting skills to good use, as the Finance and Host Home Coordinator at the NET Ireland headquarters.

From being in a work environment that prioritized regular prayer, learning to fail and grow, and being encouraged in holiness by her fellow staff members, Rachel found her time working for NET Ireland helped her in many ways. She was also inspired by the generosity of those who support the mission of NET, both by hosting missionaries in their homes, or by making financial donations.

"One of my favorite donations we ever got was 8 euro in cash and

the note said, 'I'm sorry this is all I have in the moment, but you're doing great work,'" Rachel says. "It was like the widow's two coins."

And while her years of service certainly made a difference in the lives of others, in the end, Rachel found that her own life was truly changed.

"It really brought my relationship with Jesus to life, made it more real," she says. "Now, Jesus is a real person who I have a relationship with. It also opened my eyes to that world and taught me how to communicate better on a team. And [I gained] the confidence to stand in front of a group of young people and talk about my faith and to articulate 'this is what [my faith] means to me.'"

Rachel returned home to Sauk Centre this past August and hopes to

start working locally, as an accountant. She is also looking forward to serving local young people in youth groups and faith formation and hopes to surround herself with a vibrant young adult community.

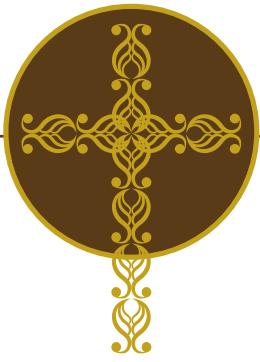
"Trying to find community is one of my biggest priorities because I need people to challenge me and call me on and show me Jesus more," she says.

Rachel hopes her fellow parishioners know the impact that their generosity had in her life and journey of faith.

"Words cannot express – thank you," she says. "It's not enough to just say 'thank you,' but I don't know how else to say that your generosity has changed my life. It's hard to put into words the amount of gratitude I have. If I could, I'd love to meet each person and hug them. There's nothing I could give back that would equal what they have given me."

Rachel also encourages others to find ways to serve God and the Church, whether in something as "big" as a year of service with NET, or just in seeing and filling needs within the parish community.

"Take the step," she says. "If it's something that's on your heart and doesn't go away, take a tiny step forward. Once you take the step forward, you'll see what the next step is. You cannot imagine the impact you might have on someone else's life. You also cannot imagine what you might receive from giving. I could never have imagined these past three years in my wildest dreams. What you give to God, He will multiply."



Visit with Our Kenyan Delegates a *True*



(Back row, from left) Ambrose Abongo Kauko and Fr. Gregory Ombu; (front row, from left) Sr. Beatrice Mayeye Osire, Fr. Sudhansu, and Maryline Poty Auka.



The delegates spent an afternoon on Sauk Lake, and Maryline Poty Auka took a turn driving the pontoon.

Last month, the Sauk Centre parish cluster had the privilege of hosting four delegates from our sister parish in Kenya. Fr. Gregory Ombu, Maryline Poty Auka, Sr. Beatrice Mayeye Osire, and Ambrose Abongo Kauko were all pleased to make the journey from St. Joseph in Migori to come get to know our parishioners and learn about life here. As we extended our warm hospitality to the Kenyan delegates, we were reminded of the countless blessings the sister parish relationship brings to our own faith community.

To Fr. Gregory, who has spent time preaching here in the past, Sauk Centre has come to feel like a second home.

“The sister parish relationship is indeed a blessing,” Father says. “When we come over here, it is like coming from home to home. And when people come over to Migori, it is also like they are coming home. It is a blessing to get to know how people live in different parts of the world and to share our life.”

While Fr. Gregory and the other delegates express their gratitude for the gifts our parish shares with the people of Migori, the beauty of the sister parish relationship is that it is a true partnership – here in the States, we also have much to learn from our brothers and sisters in Kenya.

“When you come over to Migori, you can see the poverty, but even those people are still very happy,” Fr. Gregory says. “They are contented with what they have, and life goes on. People from here learn that you can live with the little that you have and still be happy.”

Deeply committed to their faith, the parishioners of St. Joseph are active stewards of the Church. Fr. Gregory says three Masses every Sunday, with the help of many lay people who serve as greeters, ushers, sacristans, and music ministers. While some can afford to bring their tithe in the form of monetary donations to the church, other parishioners simply give whatever they can, whether it be a crop of bananas, a chicken, or a goat. During every liturgical celebration, the joy of the people shines through in their singing, dancing, and clapping.

While the vibrant faith life of the St. Joseph community is truly a blessing, there are serious challenges faced by their population. In addition to widespread poverty, HIV is prevalent.

Blessing for the Sauk Centre Parishes

This combination has led to a high number of orphan and vulnerable children (OVC). In 2009, the Sauk Centre parish cluster began the orphan project, and a year later hired a social worker, Maryline, to coordinate the care for some of Migori's most at-risk youth.

As a member of the Kenyan delegation, Maryline was thankful for the opportunity to give our parishioners a closer look at those being served by our orphan project.

"It is important for people to know about the orphans that they are supporting," Maryline says. "Their main needs are education, food, shelter, and sometimes medication."

Currently, the sister parish relationship is coordinating assistance to over 70 school-age OVC. The youngest, a 10-year-old boy with HIV, receives the medication that helps him stay healthy enough to attend school regularly. The oldest OVC is a young man who is studying computers at the local college, thanks to tuition aid provided through the orphan project.

Without a doubt, the material contributions of our parish to the orphans are invaluable – however, any spiritual gifts we can offer are also greatly appreciated.

"[Sauk Centre parishioners] do help through their prayers for the orphans," Maryline affirms. "The orphans are being cared for both mentally and physically, and that helps them feel accepted in the community."

One of the other Kenyan delegates, Sr. Beatrice, is the hospital administrator at St. Joseph's Mission Hospital. When Sauk Centre sends delegates to our sister parish, they are generously hosted in the guest house of the hospital. In return, we were pleased to have Sr. Beatrice visit us and let us know about some of the challenges facing their healthcare facilities.

Today, the largest need facing the hospital in Migori is a lack of updated technology and personnel.

"Our main wish is to have some volunteers who might come for one, two, or three months just to offer some free health services," Sr. Beatrice says. "That would help us sustain the facility and be able to give the necessary care for the patients."



(From left) Ambrose Abongo Kauko, Fr. Greg Paffel, Sr. Beatrice Mayeye Osire, and Fr. Gregory Ombo holding parishioner Elise Knoblach.

Like Fr. Gregory, Sister emphasizes how at home she felt during her time here with the Sauk Centre parish cluster and is grateful for the kindness and generosity of our parishioners. Upon her return to Migori, Sr. Beatrice looked forward to bringing all of the things she has learned during this cultural exchange back to her community.

Ambrose, who serves on the sister parish committee at St. Joseph, also felt blessed by the opportunity to spend some time here with us. He enjoys witnessing the positive impact this special relationship is having on the people in Migori, and the sense of community that it has fostered between the parishes.

All in all, the visit from our Kenyan delegation was a wonderful experience for all. How blessed we are by this beautiful sister parish relationship!

"I enjoyed the visit so much, so much," Ambrose says. "You are all so good. And I say thank you to God for all of you!"



St. Alexius · Our Lady of the Angels · St. Paul's

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Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday 5:00 p.m. - Our Lady of the Angels
Saturday 8:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Sunday 8:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
Sunday 8:30 a.m. - St. Alexius
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - St. Paul's
Sunday 10:30 a.m. - Our Lady of the Angels

Reconciliation Schedule

Thursday 4:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday 3:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
Saturday 4:00 p.m. - Our Lady of the Angels
Sunday 8:00 a.m. - St. Alexius

Meet The Schreiner Family *continued from front cover*

"I think sometimes, that time right before a meal, when we all just stop and give thanks is one of the most important things that we do," James says. "In these little things, I hope we are giving our children that example which help them depend upon their faith in life, as well."

And amidst the hustle and bustle of life, the Schreiners have still found ways to serve and be part of our parish family. Becky serves regularly as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, while James has enjoyed ushering with his now college-age son, Isaac, over the past few years. Meanwhile, their daughter, Ana, remains actively involved in the parish youth group, attending the National Catholic Youth Convention (NCYC) this November.

"I really enjoyed having my son usher with me at church," James says. "He is off to college now, but it was a way for me to try and instill in him the idea of being part of a faith community. It's a little thing, but hopefully it will be something he continues to carry with him. And as for my daughter, she is really enjoying being part of the Youth

Group. Our hope is that the activities they do together and things like the NCYC she is attending will help her feel that sense of community within our Church."

The Schreiners' continual incorporation of faith and service continues to be an inspiration to us all. They remind us that stewardship isn't about an expected amount of time or ministry involvement. Rather, it's a way of life – a constant seeking of ways to live out the faith in our particular vocations. And in the process, they have been richly rewarded as they witness the faith blossoming in their children's and own hearts.

"We are so thankful for all the blessings God has given us," Becky says. "I think worshipping with the people in our community has helped deepen my own faith tremendously while also building up those faith-based relationships."

"Being involved with the church over the years has helped us pass our faith on to our children – to give them that strong foundation," James adds. "For me, that has been the biggest blessing."

