

The Cathedral Star

April 2015

Vol. XVII • No. 1

O Truly Blessed Night

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth and divine to the human...

From the *Exultet*, the Easter Proclamation sung on Holy Saturday Night at the Easter Vigil Mass

For the seventeen people whose faith journeys started at various times and various places, the Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of the Assumption became not the end of their journey, but a new beginning.

For most of this group, the formal process for coming into the Catholic faith started in the fall with classes on Sundays after the 9:30 Mass. For one young woman, Courtney Knabel, a UofL student whose work schedule changed, Friday Classes were set up and led by: Father Jeff; a catechist from our Children's Religious Education program, Julia Barker; and Michael Cirone who leads bible studies at the Cathedral. One other person, soon to be baptized, also took part: Gerald McDaniel,

(Continued on page 6)



Photo by Bob Murphy

In this issue

O Truly Blessed Night

Stars in the Seats
Chris Murphy

Father Tony, the Itinerant Priest
Rev. Anthony Olges

An Added Ministry
Father Jeff Nicholas

The Faith Journey Experience



CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

433 SOUTH FIFTH STREET • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202
Voice 502-582-2971 • Fax 502-582-3919 • www.cathedraloftheassumption.org



Stars in the Seats

A Cathedral Derby Connection

By Angela Wiggins

Unless you have just landed in Louisville...from another planet...you have a Derby connection. Even if you have never been to Churchill Downs on the First Saturday of May, the Kentucky Derby Festival impacts the lives of all of us here, whether it is street closings, sounds from Thunder Over Louisville, jackpots at work, or Derby parties. However, some people just seem to immerse themselves in many things Derby and Kentucky Derby Festival. Cathedral parishioner Christopher Murphy is one.

Chris has been a member of the Cathedral for ten years. A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, he has lived in Louisville three different times. When he left his hometown and home parish in 1988, Chris became a "Roaming Catholic," finding churches of convenience - location, Mass time. Sometimes, the Cathedral filled that bill. At some point, in 2005, Chris opted for belonging. A few years later he decided to become a member of the Bishop Flaget Society, deepening his commitment to the parish. Because his profession takes him out of town 60 % of the time, he usually attends weekend evening Masses, but not week in and week out. He admits his favorite homilies are Fr. Jeff's when he uses visual aids.

Chris is an oncology medical scientist. When he started college, a bright young man with a great aptitude for science, his goal was to become a pharmacist. At Northeastern University, students are required to co-op in their field of study. With no teen work experience during high school, even with wonderful grades, he was not at the top of any list to intern in a pharmacy setting. Someone at the university whose field was oncology and who also believed Chris was not realizing his full potential, encouraged him to intern at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. There was much to learn on rounds with doctors, but what really made the difference to him were some of the young people with cancer who were treated there who connected with him – not because he was an expert, but because he was their age. Those relationships cemented Chris' decision to become an oncology pharmacist. His early years were spent hands-on, treating those with cancer. Now, although, he is one step removed, working in the pharmaceutical field of drugs that treat cancer, he still connects with colleagues on individual cases where the right combination of drugs could improve the quality of life for a patient.

The thoroughbred part of Chris' story started at a grade school girls' basketball game in which a friend's daughter was playing. Sitting on the bleachers with his friend, he was introduced to the dad of another child playing ball. This man was giving up a landscaping business to be-

come a horse trainer. Chris casually asked how anyone would ever learn enough to do that. He was handed a business card of a contact who was scheduled to give a seminar in the next few days. Chris attended that seminar. He became a part owner in a thoroughbred that won its first race the first time out, at 26 to 1 odds. There was no turning back!

Sharing his new-found passion with his parents, Chris also gave them a gift of a share in a thoroughbred. Both Mom and Dad were very appreciative, but it became really personal for his mom first, when she happened to use her thoroughbred owner's ID at her neighborhood bank. From then on, folks in Worcester began asking how her horse was doing, so Joan stayed involved. Chris' dad, who came to

live in Louisville after Joan died, formed a special bond with Chris' friends at the Turf Club at Churchill Downs, and he would go there even when Chris was out of town.

Never doing things by halves, Chris has been a member and now serves as director of Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners, Inc. He is in his 10th year as a Director of the Kentucky Derby Festival. His three areas for this year's festival are the Spelling Bee, the Bed Races, and Pegasus Pins – no small order. He does all this and still invites out of town friends each year for Derby.

Chris has a very special connection to The Kentucky Derby Festival Spelling Bee for children in 4th-8th grade. The winner each year is awarded a scholarship, which had been funded by corporate sponsorship. When finding a corporate sponsor became difficult, Chris offered a solution.

(Continued on page 5)



Replay Runaway and Chris Murphy

Father Tony, the Itinerant Priest

Rev. Anthony Olges

By Jackie Lydon

There are not many parishes in Louisville that experience the privilege of having a priest serve twice in their communities. We here at the Cathedral have that opportunity with the second coming of Fr. Tony.

Fr. Tony first served here from 2000 until 2002. He returned in 2014, and his assignment is ongoing. He stated that he is glad to return because of the quality of music and preaching, as he so eloquently phrased it, "the whole worship thing." He also said that of all the jobs at the Cathedral, itinerant preacher should be the most sought after. He considers the staff to be most helpful when he needs their assistance.



A bit of personal history about Fr. Tony is that he was born on February 5, 1944, here in Louisville. He is the middle child between two sisters. He is proud to say that he is celebrating the 45th anniversary of his May 16, 1970 ordination. He also clearly stated that he is a shy person.

He has had many assignments in those years including St. Rita, St. Pius X, St. Stephen Martyr, St. Polycarp, the cluster of St. Elizabeth, St. Therese and St. Vincent de Paul, and the Cathedral. He also shepherded at Holy Family and the cluster churches of Holy Family, St. Therese, and St. Elizabeth. His most recent assignment before coming to the Cathedral was as pastor of St. Brigid and St. James parishes.



Kim McDaniel and Father Tony this March in the Cathedral.

In my short time of knowing Fr. Tony, I love his dry sense of humor.

Annette Roberts

With such a busy schedule he does find time to spend on his hobbies of fishing and photography.

He said that he is glad to be back at the Cathedral, and that he has seen changes here. He stated that every parish changes over time, and that is true of our community. Speaking of the last two Cathedral pastors and the current pastor, Father Tony credited Fr. Ron Knott with parish renewal, Fr. Bill Fichteman with lifelong formation, and Fr. Jeff with community building.

Fr. Tony's duties here are to baptize people on request from the pastor, be on call for weekday Masses and funerals, and preside on a regular basis for weekend Masses. His homilies are well received here.

On his free weekends, Fr. Tony helps out at St. Francis Xavier in Mount Washington and All Saints in Taylorsville.



Baptism of baby Julia Barker when Father Tony was here 2000-2002.

A few parishioners have inquired about Fr. Tony's use of an iPad at Mass. He uses it for a better visual, finding it easier to read from than the Roman Missal.



I first remember meeting Fr. Tony when he was the parochial vicar of St. Rose School (with students from St. Therese, St. Elizabeth, and St. Louis Bertrand parishes) when my younger son attended there. It was a real pleasure to work with him his first time here at the Cathedral. His quick humor, gentle candor, and the team-player role he assumed endeared him to all of us on staff. Each week, those in the office who chose to participate, competed in a computer Free Cell competition (only one game per week, and rules set down by Fr. Tony), with the only reward being bragging rights until the next Friday. I remember him coming back from lunch one day with a cardboard container in his hand, ecstatic, believing he had discerned all the secret ingredients that seasoned Ollie's Trolley french fries. Marsha Kahl and I also remember our special Christmas gift delivered by Fr. Tony on behalf of Santa – a lump of coal! Just this February 5, we were able to return the favor in some small way. Fr. Tony is back! Hooray!

Angela Wiggins

An Added Ministry...

By Martha Villiger

As I was walking to the parish office to interview Father Jeff, I met a fellow parishioner going the same way. I made it known what I was attempting to do. The response I got was, "Oh, I hear he'll be going to boot camp." At this comment, I started to wonder if we should organize a parish protest to talk our pastor out of such an ordeal, which might require crawling in the mud under barbed wire, but I determined to find out the facts first.

The first thing Father asserted is that his new ministry as Chaplain of the Air National Guard is not taking him away from the

Cathedral. The beauty of joining the guard is that he can pastor the Cathedral as well as bring his skill set to the military. He explains that everybody deserves the right to have the freedom and ability to worship, but it is especially difficult in the service. "The Church has to come to them. They can't come to us." They have time-consuming duties, such as training and/or deployment.

Father has always felt that the Church has the responsibility to reach out to the military because of all they do for us.

Father Jeff served in the military for three years, fourteen years ago, but even before that he had a spiritual nudging from God to bring ministry to the military. Archbishop Kelly realized the Church's responsibility when he gave Father Jeff permission to train in the military and be deployed as an active duty Navy priest. He was in Okinawa and Mississippi. During that time, he discovered that he really enjoyed this ministry, and he seemed to have a knack for it. His work was well received. However the military is not so liturgically focused as parish work, which he began to miss.

At that time, Father Jeff realized two things. He said perhaps it was because of the training of the Benedictine monks at St. Meinrad that he loves the liturgical year: the Masses, the seasons, and all the things of a parish. Another thing was he felt the desire to pastor, so he came back from Navy duty. Consequently, he was assigned to St. Lawrence, Epiphany, and now the Cathedral. After almost

four years, of Cathedral ministry, he has gotten into the flow of it and thoroughly enjoys it. "Well," he said, "right when I got in my groove, as Providence would have it, I ran into Chaplain Terry Wentworth at Norton Hospital."

"You know we are losing our priest. He's a monk from St. Meinrad and is retiring. Have you ever given any thought to the military?" asked Chaplain Terry. Father Jeff told him about his work at the Cathedral and his previous military experience, and said, "I'm open to it. I don't know that it would happen, but I'm open to it."

(At this time I heard a distinct knocking. Father Jeff said it was from the workmen upstairs, but was it?)

Father casually said he would come out and take a look at it. (The Air National Guard at Louisville International Airport.) In the meantime, he was taking all this into his prayers.

Father Jeff had been thinking about having an associate priest at the Cathedral. However,

the needs of the archdiocese were too great to spare a priest, so it didn't work out. Then as fate would have it, Father Tony Olges retired, and he knew Father Jeff was looking for an associate, so he asked Father Jeff if he wanted him to help out. This was great because Father Tony knows the Cathedral, and many of the Cathedral people know him. It is a wonderful mix. Father Jeff said that if it weren't for Father Tony, he couldn't join the Air Guard because he would be required to serve one weekend a month, and he needed the assurance of the care of his Cathedral people.

"It was like a convergence of circumstances. One, I was in my groove; two, I had this prior military experience; three, they had this opening at the Air Guard they thought would be impossible to fill, because of the shortage of priests; four, Father Tony comes along. It was like all these things just fell in line." Father Jeff then went to the Air National Guard at Louisville International Airport, met with the commander and found their ideas of ministry were in sync with his. "It was like a 'perfect storm' kind of thing."

(Continued on page 5)



An Added Ministry...

(Continued from page 4)

At this point, Father Jeff approached Archbishop Kurtz with the idea. He was very open to it, but had all the proper questions, such as “Will the Cathedral be taken care of?” and “What will happen if you deploy?”

With all that in mind the Archbishop gave him his blessing to proceed. A setback occurred when he took his physical. A minor health problem caused him to be disqualified. However, the Air Guard gave him a waiver because the problem could be easily fixed. The Guard already had an office for him, and he was already going out there for Sunday Mass. He calls it circumstance number twelve (Who counts at this point?) that the Guard headquarters is only eight minutes from his rectory, and if anything required him to return to the Cathedral he would be there very quickly, and because the position is very fluid, he could return to duty after the problem was resolved.

The next step is Chaplain Boot Camp. (This is where we parishioners might start to worry.) “They call it Boot Camp to make it sound tougher than it really is,” Father laughed. “It’s really Chaplain training because it is the Chaplain’s job to provide every service member his right to worship, no matter who or what he worships. The Chaplain needs sensitivity. He has to be comfortable and capable to provide every service member with what he or she needs to worship God,” explained Father Jeff. “With so many traditions, the Chaplain cannot say, ‘It’s my way or the highway.’” Father does not have to go to the usual twelve-week training because of his previous Chaplain experience in the Navy, but he will have a six-week training period, which he welcomes because there have been so

many new developments since his original training fourteen years ago, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, high suicide rates, and family stress with extended deployments. Another thing is that his experience was with the Navy serving Marines, and he has no experience with the Air Force, which is a whole different culture. However, he won’t be dodging bullets or crawling through the mud. Chaplains are non-combatants so he has never touched a gun and probably never will. He will run and do pushups and the like but no combat.

As we looked at Father Jeff’s biography, we realized from the time he was ordained, he has always had two endeavors going on: service at a parish and advanced studies culminating in a doctorate in homiletics. His assignment at the Cathedral was the first time he was involved in only one major effort. Thus joining the Air National Guard fits his *modus operandi* perfectly.

This interview relieves us parishioners of several concerns we may have had. Father Jeff is not leaving the Cathedral but expanding his and the archdiocese’s ministry to the military. Our needs as Cathedral parishioners will not be neglected. Our pastor will not be crawling in the mud under barbed wire. The chance of forced deployment is very unlikely unless the Air National Guard is federalized. The last time this happened was during the Vietnam War. Finally, his involvement with the military could connect us with some Air Guard members becoming attracted to the Cathedral. So Father Jeff, thank you for assuaging our worry, and we join you in excitement over this new ministry.



Stars in the Seats

(Continued from page 2)

Chris is an only child. His parents were hard working people who did not have a college education, but who provided the means for Chris to go to college. One thing they did as a family when Chris was growing up was play Scrabble, spelling words with lettered tiles. Now the winner of the spelling bee receives the John and Joan Murphy Memorial Scholarship, a fitting tribute to Chris’ parents.

Chris is a neighbor to parishioners Lisa and Mike Palmisano, who are also members of Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners, Inc. They suggested a story about Chris for this spring issue of the newsletter. He provided “the common thread” that ties together his faith, his profession, his love of thoroughbreds, his commitment to friends, his community service: “You gotta have hope.” And you can bet on that!



O Truly Blessed Night...

(Continued from page 1)

husband of parishioner Kim McDaniel. The three youngest to come into the Church, Adriana, Aaron, and Silas Asiago attended Children's Religious Education in the Patterson Education Center on Sunday mornings and received additional sacramental preparation from our catechists and their mom, Jennifer, who came into the church last Easter at the Cathedral.

The adult Sunday gatherings consisted of Breaking Open the Word (discussion of the scriptural readings for each Sunday) and presentations on the many facets of our Catholic faith. Rotating leaders for

Breaking Open the Word included Marty Favorite, Lisa and Mike Palmisano, Barb and Dave Stein, and Audra and Mike Swearingen. The weekly presentations were given by Fr. Jeff, Deacon Chris, Deacon Stephan, Archbishop Kurtz, Therese Brennan, Michael Cirone, George Kaissieh, and Mike Swearingen. The year is planned out by Fr. Jeff, George Kaissieh, and the RCIA team leaders Bob Murphy and Marty Favorite. Each candidate and catechumen had a sponsor who joins them for the faith journey. It takes a vibrant parish community to prepare and welcome the newest members of the church.

The Faith Journey Experience—In Our Own Words...

Were not our hearts on fire...?

Luke 24:32, Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the way to Emmaus



Photo by Bob Murphy

The RCIA Cave Hill Retreat on Holy Saturday Morning

Comments from this year's Candidates (those Christians joining the Catholic faith), Catechumens (those being baptized into the Catholic faith), and Sponsors (those walking with the candidates and catechumens through the RCIA process).

CANDIDATES

Kelly Strange - *I truly appreciate my sponsor, Donna, who made a commitment to be "there" for me, and she was – with her kindness, knowledge, and presence. The other sponsors were helpful with information and guidance as well. Knowing how busy people are today, I realize making such a time commitment is not trivial – thank you – all of you!*

Mark Freel - *The RCIA program at the Cathedral was very insightful. I enjoyed the various opinions offered in presentations/breaking open the word. Thank you, Ron, my sponsor, and the entire RCIA team for being so welcoming into the Catholic Church.*

Gayle Berryman - *This has been so meaningful and wonderful. I learned so much, the time flew. The Easter Vigil touched my spirit and heart. Leaders and sponsors were so helpful. Holy Week was very touching. The church and class leaders have welcomed us and made us be a part. This has brought me closer to God.*

(Continued on page 7)

The Faith Journey Experience

(Continued from page 6)

Robert Taylor Parks - *I truly enjoyed my RCIA Journey, specifically breaking open the word. This was time that everyone could open up and provide us with specific feelings and thoughts on scripture. Thank you for the Journey.*

Rebecca L. Boisseau - *Easter Vigil was so touching and you could feel the Holy Spirit throughout. I love everything about the classes and getting to know everyone. And I want to continue my journey through my faith with the church and to serve somewhere in the church.*

CATECHUMENS

Danielle Santichavalitskul - *I really enjoyed having different speakers for the presentation. My favorite memory of the Cave Hill Retreat was when we first arrived at the cave while we fed the geese. There was a very loud goose squawking, but when we started the music and Marty read, everything got quiet, even the loud goose.*

Easter Vigil – I loved the beginning when everything was dark with the light of candles, because in darkness God will light the way.

Abby Burns - *I really enjoyed breaking open the word. Getting to know different families/leaders each month and hear various meanings of the readings was a wonderful experience. I am very thankful for the whole RCIA team, as this has been the greatest journey of my life.*

Mary Kay Nicholson - *Easter Vigil was a very moving experience.*

FROM SPONSORS

Jerry Purlee - *I attended all Masses during Holy Week. I enjoyed each evening, but especially the Chrism Mass. Being there with all the priests was a very uplifting and spiritually enriching time.*

Anna Huang Shrader - *The Baptism Rite during the Easter Vigil was joyful and fun which is not expected when the Archbishop and Fr. Jeff are often celebrating a Mass. The two of them did not let ritual overshadow the wonder and celebratory nature. Thanks to them.*

Donna Ditsler - *I feel blessed to have been a part of the RCIA experience and part of this whole experience. I always enjoy the Cave Hill Retreat. It's a very reflective experience. As a sponsor, this experience helps me to learn more about my faith and encourages me to become a better person, and meet new people and encourage them to become part of our faith community. I love this community and encourage everyone to walk to Christ.*

Sharon Mattingly - *Holy Week was very special with so many of our Catechumens and Candidates in attendance. Very moving to participate in that holy time with them.*

I always enjoy the speaker presentations. I am a cradle Catholic but have learned so much about my faith as a sponsor – things I had never heard anywhere else.

Lisa Palmisano - *I think the RCIA Program has an excellent group of folks that support the program each year – George Kaissieh; Bob Murphy and Marty Favorite – and the fact that our pastor, Fr. Jeff, has also participated extensively – has greatly enriched the RCIA program. I feel it is really the best program we have ever had.*

Mike Palmisano - *I encourage the RCIA people to: join the church; become docents for the History Center; be sponsors next year for RCIA; have their feet washed next Holy Thursday; participate with their time, talents and treasure, get involved in and with parish life.*

Thanks to Fr. Jeff, both deacons, George, Marty and Bob!

Ron Tamez - *Holy Week is a very sorrowful week that ends with joy at the Easter Vigil. Very moving experience.*

And from a close friend of a Candidate...

Jessica Rawe - *I feel so blessed to have gone through this journey with everyone. I came to the first meeting expecting to learn more about the Catholic Faith and I ended up learning more about myself and my relationship with Christ. I had never been to an Easter Vigil before and I am so glad I was able to experience it for the first time with people whom I have gotten to know through the RCIA process. It was truly beautiful.*

Cathedral of the Assumption

433 South Fifth Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

PAID

Louisville, KY
Permit No. 842



Photo by Jim Serdenis

The Cathedral Star

Staff Members

Margaret Brosko
Jackie Lydon
Sharon Mattingly
Tristan Padua
Martha Villiger



Office Liaison

Angela Wiggins



Masthead Design

Teresa Heintzman

First Eucharist, Sunday, April 12