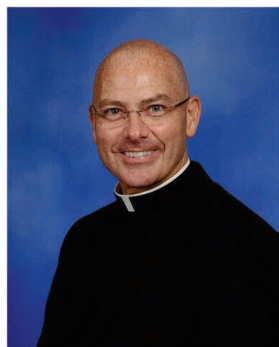


The Cathedral Star

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The Hat Hanging on the Rack



When Father Jeff moved his office to the second floor, much time was spent initially calling, climbing steps, standing in the hall looking for a light from above – some sign to indicate that

he was here. So in the high tech world in which we now live, he came up with a low tech solution. He moved his coat and hat rack from outside his second floor office to the first floor by the front door. If his hat is on the rack, Father is in the building.

This works very well most of the time. There are the odd occasions when he has more than one hat on the rack. There are times when his head decides to leave the Residence in “commando” mode so Father truly is here, but we don’t bother to call him or visit him because to our well trained eyes, he just isn’t here.

Besides the wide variety of hats Father hangs on the rack, he wears many other hats (figuratively) -- pastor, rector, son, brother, uncle, Chaplain to the Air National Guard,

member of the Priests’ Personnel Board, faculty member at St. Meinrad, and on and on. So, as a staff, we want to say “Hats Off to Father Jeff!”

Ken Garrett, Facilities Manager

Fr. Jeff lives a minimalist philosophy. Keep everything organized and get rid of what isn’t necessary. It’s easier said than done, but a worthy goal.

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CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

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One Family's

By Jenn Asiago

Faith Journey

Once in a blue moon we cross paths with someone who will have an impact in our lives not just at that moment, but rather a lasting impression we carry within our hearts. That person is Father Jeff. Father Jeff has been more than a pastor to me and my children. We consider him our dear friend.

I came into the church in 2013-2014 RCIA class after many years of grappling with God over joining an organized religion. Growing up in a godless home, religion was a notion I held with skepticism. Needless to say after losing the battle to God, I conceded to convert to Judaism. Well, God had different plans for me and my children and through His Providence we were guided and led to the Cathedral of the Assumption from Radcliff, KY.

Upon meeting Father Jeff, I had a lot of questions and boy were there a lot of questions. Father Jeff has a wonderful listening ear and is very knowledgeable in many areas and never once hesitated to answer my many questions, nor did he grow impatient with me. Father Jeff has a discerning

spirit which makes the conversation on a deeper and spiritual level to more fully grasp the understanding of the mystical body of Christ and the Church's teaching. I think we can all agree that he also challenges us to become the disciple of Christ that we are called to be through becoming a better version of ourselves through transformation.

After successfully completing the RCIA program, I was so excited to be in full communion with the Catholic Church

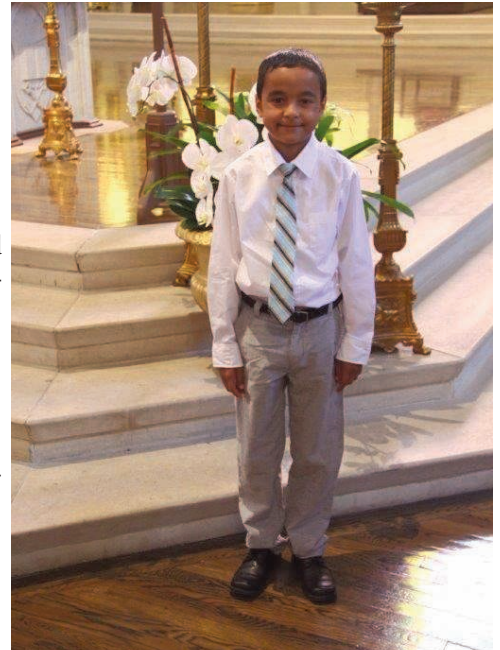
that I could not wait to have my children baptized and come in to the Catholic Church. My three children came in to the church and were baptized at Easter Vigil 2015. My children all

said they wanted Father Jeff to baptize them and to give them their first Communion. Father Jeff has made a lasting impression in my life as well as my children's lives so much so that on the day he announced he was being transferred to St. Bernadette Church, all three of them cried before he finished speaking and immediately asked me if we can become

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Ana, Aaron & Silas Asiago with Fr. Jeff



Jerry & Helen

All in the Family

By Jeanne Hammond

Helen and Jerry Nicolas joined the Cathedral Parish in 2011 when their son Father Jeff came to serve as pastor. From the beginning, they entered whole-heartedly into this community. As Father Jeff prepares for his new assignment, his parents want to share some parting thoughts.

HELEN: I'm glad for the chance to speak about our time at the Cathedral. It's been a wonderful ride. The "Why Catholic" group we joined gave us our first taste. Every week I looked forward to going because of the people. I was struck by what a faith-based group it was -- everybody had a story!



Helen & Jerry at 2016 Spring Fling Thing

JERRY: And more important, we were able to share without reservations. It was interesting that Archbishop Kurtz came to our last meeting, and he also participated. Helen and I were leaders of a Why Catholic group at Epiphany, and we wanted to join a group when we came to the Cathedral. Angela Wiggins said she had just the group for us, and she was right.

You've both been personally involved in a number of ministries. Helen, you've served as lector and as one of a "conciierge team" that Father Jeff started to welcome and support new parishioners. You've also both actively supported the Cathedral's Feed My Neighbor lunch program, serving every other second Saturday for over two years.

HELEN: It was easy to become involved. Everybody at the Cathedral is so welcoming. I feel very blessed to have been part of this community for these five years. Our experience has been very positive; I just know parishioners are going to welcome Father Wimsatt. He's coming to a great place.

JERRY: The culture of the Cathedral is unique. You have many welcoming people along with tradition and pageantry. That combination of things is the basis of the Cathedral's success.

HELEN: Yes, and I love this community's diversity. And that choir! The music is just amazing.

As is Father Jeff's singing voice. What is it like to see your own son celebrating the liturgy? That must be very moving?

HELEN: It is the most amazing thing of all to worship God in this beautiful space, to see my son at the altar and to hear him singing.

Jerry, what is it like for you to be the father of a priest, a son whom you call Father? Do you sometimes offer him counsel and advice?

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A Heartfelt *Farewell*

by Don Kavanaugh

It's hard to believe five years have gone by since he first appeared at the Cathedral. He was pointed out to me at Chrism Mass, but we would not be formally introduced until the reception celebrating his arrival as the sixteenth pastor of the Cathedral.

He seemed a bit taken aback by all the fuss over his arrival, people actually celebrating his arrival with only the warmth of welcome our Cathedral family can show. He seemed a bit withdrawn at the reception thrown for him even though he talked with everyone who approached him. I would find out later the

background of those feelings and the healing that he began that fateful night. Also, in the days to follow, we would learn he is a true extrovert and will verbalize almost anything and everything. That's not a bad trait, just one that not too many people in the parish had seen in any of his predecessors. After a while one gets used to it and it becomes, at times, comical, watching his thought processes.

In the months and years to follow, I found him to be a genuinely warm and caring person, funny, articulate, as much dedicated to his life as a priest as he is to family and friends. There were times though, in the first year that he was here, that I wanted to scream at him, not because he has done anything wrong, but because he could walk through a room, focused on some task, and not even see the people in the room he was passing through. Again, don't take this as criticism of him. Remember he is an extrovert and very project oriented. I'm an introvert, big time, and I do the same thing over and over again. The difference is my friends will scream at me or walk up in front of me yelling HELLO! In those beginning years, I never got to that point in Father's and my relationship. Nowadays, he very rarely walks through a room

without stopping to say a few words to all who are present. This pretty much tells us that extroverts learn by example; we introverts don't. We shy away from things too much.

I also found out somewhat later that he is a MAC guy; that is, he uses an Apple MacIntosh computer and not one running Windows. From that point on, I knew we would get along since I'm also a MAC guy and the only one around the Cathedral who works on them if something should go wrong or they need updating.



Belle of Louisville during Feastday Fest,
Don Kavanaugh on the right.

His homilies are some of the best I have heard at any parish in the country in my sixty-six years as an on again off again Catholic. At times, I would be down or pondering something in my life and walk into Sunday 5:30 P.M. Mass where his homily seemed to be directed just at me, speaking about the very thing I had on my mind. I still don't

know how he does that or if I have even told him how many times he has sent me forth after Mass renewed, comforted, and reinvigorated.

Fr. Jeff, after five years, I hope I have the right to not only call you my pastor but also my friend. It has been hard writing these few paragraphs knowing that soon I will not have the pleasure of seeing and talking with you, quite often on a daily basis or watch you interact with us during a Parish Council meeting or a host of other encounters I have shared with you.

I hope your new assignment brings you as much joy and comfort as you found with your Cathedral family. Always know we are still here and still your family and that the Cathedral is still your Cathedral!

With gratitude,
Donald P Kavanaugh

The Hat Hanging on the Rack

(Continued from page 1)

Deacon Chris McDonell

My thoughts about the Very Reverend, Doctor, Father, brother of another mother Jeff are joyful and dear to me. One of my first experiences with Fr. Jeff was on the altar. I was serving as an acolyte when he realized the lights over the altar were not on, so very quietly he tried to get my attention. When I did not see his waves, he leaned over to me, so I leaned over to him. He whispered something, but I couldn't hear him because of the singing. He was so anxious to get the lights on that he reached over and thumped me on the head and pointed at the lights. Thus our beautiful relationship began!

That was over 10 years ago and since then we've shared many things including family get-togethers with pets. It is why he's the godfather to my son. In those 10 years we both have shared such joys and such sorrows. Thanks be to God for his promises, for we know that our sorrows will turn into joy. I have been blessed to serve and be at weddings, funerals, baptisms and other celebrations at church. Everyone says there's nothing like Father Jeff doing a funeral, but I would have to say there's nothing like watching Father Jeff pray over a sick person whether in the hospital or at home or in scrubs in surgery so that he could stay with somebody who needed him. His reverence and his compassion are what drew me to him. His sense of humor and love for God keep me near him. Blessings to you on a new adventure! Here's to another 10 years!

EA Cole, Parish Nurse

When I first learned that Fr. Jeff was coming to the Cathedral, I called my counterpart at Epiphany where Father was then serving as pastor. I was told how very lucky I was to get the opportunity to work with Father Jeff who took such great care of the sick of the parish. I have not been disappointed, and I find he often beats me to visit those in the hospital.

Families who have lost loved ones are deeply touched by his personalized thoughtful homilies at funerals.

Fr. Jeff relates so well to children. My most recent experience has been with my granddaughter who came into the church this Easter. Aidan took great delight in Father Jeff visiting Religious Ed classes and especially when he baked bread with the First

Eucharist class, the way he made learning both fun and memorable.

Father's support to me throughout my daughter Kathy's illness and after her death is a treasured gift beyond words.

George Kaissieh, Pastoral Associate

Try to play a game of Twister with Fr. Jeff and discover what one's desire to win can make you do!! Fr. Jeff has the ability to become as young as his opponents, and he is willing to break a few rules or create new ones if needed. It's the spirit of youth and the ability that he masters that allows him to meet young people where they are. No wonder children, youth and young adults simply love him.



Angela Wiggins, Executive Assistant

From my front row seat, I love to see Fr. Jeff put waiting engaged couples at their ease when he greets them in the reception area, even before they go to his office to meet.

When we get the calls from hospitals for anointing of the sick, whether or not it is someone from our parish, Fr. Jeff rearranges his schedule to make this a priority. My husband and I personally want to thank Father for his visits when Bernie was hospitalized this past year; they were bright spots in long days.

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Jerry & Helen, A Family Tradition

(Continued from page 3)

JERRY: No! Not unless it is about something he needs built.

You made the pedestal for a parishioner's gift of a marble sculpture: Mary holding her son. So you are a carpenter, a Joseph.

JERRY: My middle name is Joseph.

Jerry, if you were to talk to other fathers whose sons are considering the priesthood, what would you say?

JERRY: Encourage, but don't push. Pray that God chooses your son, and pray that your son accepts God's call. Some wanted me to tell him, "Don't do it! It's the most stressful job in the world." That wasn't something I passed along.

HELEN: You encourage a son to do what he will be most happy doing.

JERRY: It can take a long time to discern a call. I remember Jeff going to UK, working part-time and studying all kinds of subjects I didn't think he'd have any use for, like psychology and sociology. I'm an engineer, and I wanted him to be an engineer -- learn something concrete for a career. But he didn't think that way -- luckily! Turns out all the courses he took were important, for a pastor.

HELEN: Every priest doesn't have the same gifts, but each has his own gifts. What's important is to accept

each pastor for the gifts he brings and not compare him to someone else.

JERRY: One of Jeff's homilies that still sticks with me was an impassioned plea to us to give to the poor, not so much because they need our gifts, but because giving to others in need -- however small your gift -- molds your soul.

We are indebted to Father Jeff for his vision for the Cathedral lunch program. For a third year, the parish will sponsor a Let's Dance Louisville fundraiser in support of our Feed My Neighbor program. I understand that Father Jeff's new duties will make it impossible for him to attend the June 25th auction and dance competition that he inspired. Any chance you'll come?

HELEN: Well, I think our Why Catholic group friends are planning to reserve a table; if so, we'll be there!

Are we apt to see you at the Cathedral for Mass or other activities?

HELEN: To be honest, I so enjoy seeing Father Jeff celebrate Mass I will have to follow him to Saint Bernadette's.

JERRY: I do too, especially when it is a loving community.

Well, you have certainly shared your love with us. Thank you both, and thank you, Father Jeff.



One Family's Faith Journey

(Continued from page 2)

members there at St. Bernadette!

My children love Father Jeff as he has truly set the example of what a life of discipleship represents.

Father Jeff epitomizes the discipleship of Christ through his homilies and the way he carries himself not only as a truly great pastor but also as an amazing friend!

Father Jeff will be greatly missed here at the Cathedral!

Thank you Father Jeff for your amazing work and leadership that you have exhibited at the Cathedral of the Assumption and that you will continue to carry with you!

We love you! The Asiago Family: Jennifer, Adriana (Ana), Aaron, and Silas.

The Hat Hanging on the Rack

Visualizing the parish as a tapestry, I look around at those who have come into the Church at the Cathedral and those who have joined the parish since Fr. Jeff has been pastor, and I see what richness and depth and resiliency they bring to the Cathedral's ever changing pattern as we are all woven together.

I am especially grateful for two assignments I received from Fr. Jeff: the chance to serve as staff liaison to the Cathedral's Social Concerns Committee and to work closely with the committee on the Mother Catherine Spalding Statue project. Thanks for trusting me with them.

Father, our hope is that you and all of your hats find a very welcome home (and rack) at St. Bernadette.



Father Jeff with Misti Grover

From the Fly on the Cathedral Wall

by Misti Grover

Now, I have heard many Masses from the cathedral wall. All of Father Jeff's messages are special. He has a way of making the daily reading apply to everyone's life at that time. Now, weekday Masses are shorter than they have been, but they have just as deep of an impact on the parishioners who attend that Mass. Father Jeff finds a way to touch each one of us, no matter the amount of time he spends. His sermons stick with me for days or weeks after they are spoken. He has the ability to touch many hearts and does it effectively.

His sermons often focus on how we treat each other. I remember a joke he once shared with us. "Three men show up at the gates of heaven. They meet St. Peter, and he tells them there is only one rule they must follow to get into heaven. They must go into a designated room and not step on any of the ducks. So

these three men start on their journey through the room, and "poof" the first man stepped on a duck and was attached to a woman. All she did was nag nag all day and all night. Then, "poof" the second man stepped on a duck and had the same thing happen. He got attached to a woman, and all she did was nag nag all day and all night!!!! Then, all of a sudden, "poof" the third man was attached to a gorgeous woman, and he asked her, "What happened? She looked at the man and said, "I stepped on a duck!!"

In closing, I want to thank Father Jeff not only for the way he has helped me personally grow in my faith journey but how he has helped us as a parish community to grow. Father Jeff, you have a gift to lead and guide people to understand God's true love and devotion. No matter which community you serve in the future, always know what a gifted priest you are to all those with whom you come in contact.



Cathedral of the Assumption

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You are cordially invited to the June 3rd Celebration in Honor of Fr. Jeff — Cathedral Undercroft, 6-8 pm

Please join us for a potluck celebration of Fr. Jeff's 5-years at the Cathedral of the Assumption as he prepares to assume the position of pastor of St. Bernadette Parish. We hope that you will join us in saying "thank you" to Fr. Jeff for his commitment to our parish and the spiritual growth of our community.

RSVP by May 29. Speak with or leave a message for Angela, 657-5213, with the following information: your name, the number of people attending, and the dish you plan to bring.

The Cathedral Star Staff Members

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Jack Lydon
Kay Madrick
Sharon Mattingly
Tristan Padua
Martha Villiger



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