

The Cathedral Star

September 2012

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First of Two Special Stewardship Editions!

Inside—articles by parishioners involved in the main categories of parish ministry and service: worship, formation, social concerns, administration, and stewardship.

“Master, to whom shall we go?”

This bible verse is from the Gospel of John, read this year on Sunday, August 26, the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time: *Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go?”*

The disciples did not want to hear that Jesus was going to have to endure hardship and death. They watched others, at first attracted by Jesus’ miracles, walk away from Jesus. But the disciples decided that following Jesus was where they chose to be.

Two thousand years later, at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, Kentucky, we, too, are surrounded on many sides by news we don’t want to hear. Yet at this moment in our lives, we have chosen this path to follow Jesus at the Cathedral.

Many of us entered into this community by coming through the front doors to worship at Mass or attend a concert. Others come in the back doors to serve lunch or to eat lunch. Others through the side lower doors to Adult Formation or a fish fry, or the Patterson doors for children’s education, or to hear a speaker at a Compassion meeting, or to visit the Archdiocese of Louisville History Center.

Over the past year, those of us with a Cathedral connection have done a lot of talking, listening, learning, writing, and tabulating. So I can speak to some of the things we have shared with one another. We are Cathedral, yet each of us is unique. Below are some recurring themes.

The minute I walked through those front doors, I knew I had found my home parish.

I found the beauty of the church and the reverence of the Mass a little daunting.

The Cathedral’s urban outreach attracted me to the parish.

*I was new to...
...the city,
...the country,
so I came to the Cathedral.*

I was interested in becoming Catholic.

I was in the hospital, and someone from the Cathedral brought me Holy Communion.

*I came hungry or thirsty and was nourished...
...in the Eucharist.
...by the homilies.
...by the music at Mass.
...with soup and a sandwich at lunch.
...by a formation program.*

My parents brought me.

My grandparents brought me.

I started coming here when I was a teenager (or young adult). Then my parents started coming here and got involved too.

Our children were grown and no longer attended parish school, so we started visiting other parishes.

As soon as I joined the parish, I wanted to start volunteering right away.

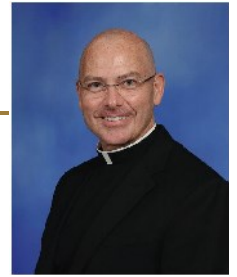
When you get involved, you get back so much more than you ever give.

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CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

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A Word from Father Jeff...



Fr. Jeff Nicolas



As we begin our stewardship renewal this year I find myself captivated by something a parishioner shared with me just a few evenings ago. Leslie, who works in the field of soliciting contributions to assist wonderful organizations in their good outreach, asked me if I knew the number one reason people do not give of themselves or their resources to organizations with which they are associated. I gave a reason, but it was not the number one reason. The number one reason people do not give is because they are not asked. I hope to not make that mistake during this year's stewardship renewal!

This issue of the Cathedral Star is full of parishioners who when asked to step up did so. You will read about Carollynn who when asked to step up as a RCIA sponsor and asked to become a children's catechist said, "yes." You will meet Jack and Jeannine who when asked to help with our Finance Committee and collection counting said, "yes." You will meet Rick who stepped up when asked to lead our Parish Council as chair, and Kim who said "yes" to leading our efforts at social

outreach. You will be introduced to Ron and Linda who said "yes" when asked to serve our parish community gatherings and support our GLBT family members. You will read about Ceelie who stepped up when asked to help create and sustain our Flaget Society planned giving program, and Paul whose "yes" brought him into a leadership role in planning and executing our wonderful liturgies. All have in common the "yes" they spoke and the reward they each experience for sharing in the responsibility of being servants of Christ in our parish community and beyond. And it all began with being asked.

As you read this issue I encourage you to discern what your response will be when you are asked to articulate your stewardship response this year. We want our Cathedral to be a place where all people can belong, be known, and believe in Christ's message of unconditional love. How will your "yes" bring this about?

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It's hard to feel a part of something so big.

We came because of the convenient Mass time.

We pass 3 (5, 6, 8...) churches on our drive to the Cathedral.

This is a comfortable place for single adults.

We were looking for a place where our children can receive religious formation and prepare for their sacraments.

Our children don't go to Catholic school. It's hard to feel a part of a parish with a school connected to it, so we come to the Cathedral.

We wanted to get married here.

Although I have a home parish, because I work downtown, the Cathedral is my weekday parish.

The cards and visits from parishioners keep me connected to the Cathedral even though I cannot attend here regularly.

On the New Roman Missal...

...I don't know why the Church had to do that.

...I really understand now the reasoning behind the changes. I get it.

...That New Roman Missal is so much like the English translation of the Mass before Vatican II.

...I liked the Mass before Vatican II.

On the Church...

...I love our faith and the Holy Father and our Archbishop.

...When is the Church going to change on (....your issue here)?

...I think the Vatican is out of touch.

...I think we need to get back to the basics of our faith.

...I don't always agree with him, but I just love Archbishop Kurtz.

...I wish the American Bishops were more in line with Rome.

...Even though I don't agree with where the Church is now, I choose to remain a member and work for change from within.

We are definitely not all on the same page... but we are all Cathedral. This is where and who, at this moment, we choose to be.

And another thing about the Cathedral—we are welcoming. Welcoming is a good thing, or some of us here might never have joined. Welcoming is a good thing for another reason—at any given weekend Mass here, one out of three people attending is likely to be a visitor. So, let's continue to make our visitors feel welcome to be at the Cathedral.

—Angela Wiggins





And now, some words from among us...

During the last 14 years of the Cathedral Star publications, we often had a feature section entitled *Stars in the Seats*. The newsletter committee chose members of our congregation to highlight—sometimes because of their jobs, their hobbies, their contributions to the community, or just because we thought other parishioners would really enjoy getting to know a little bit about that person. The following articles are therefore by some stars in the seats of our Cathedral about

ways parishioners and others connected to the Cathedral continue to shine on as stars.

As we plan for Stewardship 2013, representatives from the various areas of parish ministry and service have contributed articles that speak to those ministries and to their personal involvement. Each article will be placed under the major ministry area, with the component committees listed as well.

Administration & Finance

- ◆ *Parish Office*
- ◆ *Building & Grounds*
- ◆ *Collection Counters*
- ◆ *Special Event Set-up/Clean Up*
- ◆ *Special Services (parishioners with unique talents or skills)*
- ◆ *Parish Council*

The Finance Committee

I have had the privilege of serving on the Cathedral Finance Committee for the past six years.

The purpose of a Parish Finance Committee is to advise and assist the Pastor in the management of the finances of the parish. Our annual budget begins with the Ministry Committees of Formation, Parish Life, Stewardship, Worship (includes music), Social Concerns and Administration (salaries and maintenance of our historic buildings) comprised of employees and volunteer members of the parish discussing and recommending their priorities to the pastor, Parish Council and the Finance Committee.

The role of the Finance Committee is to review the numbers and evaluate whether the parish can afford to finance and support the priorities recommended by the ministry committees. The Parish Council discusses and determines the final priorities and budget with the approval of the pastor.

The Cathedral Finance Committee is comprised of seven members consisting of the Pastor, Father Jeff Nicolas, the Business Manager, Annette Roberts, and 5 parish members. The members of this committee are Chairman Tom Zimmerman, Mike Thorp, Javier Fajardo, Lisa Palmisano, and Jack Chivatero. The Finance Committee meets monthly to monitor collection receipts, expenditures, capital project progress and maintenance of our over 100-year-old building.

The experiences of the current members of the Finance Committee range from a retired Vice-President of the Kentucky



Jack & Jeannine Chivatero

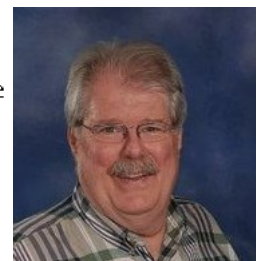
State Fair Board, a President and CEO of a commercial construction company, the head of the Diocesan Cemeteries, a Financial Advisor, and a CPA.

My wife Jeannine and I are both active volunteers at the Cathedral of the Assumption because we know that we are so blessed in our own lives. Giving back is what a blessed life requires. A really wonderful parish that works, takes many hours from many volunteers in addition to the staff to do what Jesus wants of us....to serve our fellow man. There are so many ways and programs to be involved with in this parish. Between us, we are on the finance committee, the prayer ministry, Eucharistic minister, and head one of the teams that help feed the poor in our parish kitchen. All one has to do is ask and a place can be found to use the talents that God has given each of us.

-Jack Chivatero

Parish Council *Called by the Spirit*

Recently, the Cathedral Parishioners were able to witness the selection of the newest members of the Parish Council: candidates who had already been screened in terms of their interest in serving on the Council and the abilities they will bring to that mission had their names placed in a hat and, after an appropriate prayer was spoken, names were pulled from the hat at the weekend masses. Those names belonged to the newest at-large members of the Cathedral's Parish Council.



Rick O'Daniel-Munger

The Parish Council has one major purpose and two major components. It's purpose is to be an advisory body for the Cathedral's Pastor: the Council provides a forum where plans are discussed, issues are addressed and consensus is reached concerning actions that should be taken on behalf of the Cathedral and its parishioners. All Parish Council meetings are open for any parishioner who wishes to attend and they gen-



will be a new, three-year strategic plan that will be presented to the parishioners during the month of October - in conjunction with our annual stewardship campaign.

Serving on the Council is a stewardship commitment that should be entered into with some degree of due deliberation. All of the members of the Council take their duties very seriously and consider it an honor to work with the pastor on behalf of all of the parishioners that call the Cathedral their spiritual home.

—Rick O’Daniel-Munger

Formation

- ◆ Formation Committee
- ◆ RCIA
- ◆ Infant Baptism
- ◆ Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- ◆ Children’s Religious Education
- ◆ Youth Ministry
- ◆ Sponsor Couple Marriage Preparation
- ◆ Tri-Covenant Committee

Personal Formation Journey

My mom once said, “You’re different.” As an individual, I admit I am unconventional. So, I’ll start my story with Religious and Spiritual Formation programs at the Cathedral in the middle. In my first class as the 4th grade religious education volunteer catechist, I learned a traditional Catholic prayer when I let a very energetic student lead our opening prayer. She slowed down to carefully pray from memory a prayer she learned from her grandma: “Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit, and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.” I love this prayer, because it can be said every day as we live our lives to let God into our hearts to continuously create and improve who we are spiritually.



Carolynn Hall

I first let God in by coming to the Cathedral when I moved into town 26 years ago. The preaching and the liturgy have never ceased to be excellent. Other than attending Mass I remained uninvolved for several years... and that’s the way I liked it. However, since I wanted to know more about the bible, I took advantage of the adult education classes from what was then aptly called *The School of Spiritual Growth*. Sr. Marylee King’s classes were both entertaining and scholarly, and they deepened my faith significantly. Reading my notes and the various companion books, the scriptures were opened up to me on a more intensive personal level, and for the first time I could really appreciate the bible enough to read it on my own. (Marylee has retired, but the Cathedral continues the tradition by offering a variety of lectures, retreat opportunities, and hosting small learning and faith shar-

ing programs like *Why Catholic?*.)

During these gatherings, I also began to meet other parishioners. I routinely joined them for the retreat trips to St. Meinrad’s and Gethsemane. It is uncanny how many religious orders are located in this part of the country. Cathy Bannon asked me to become an RCIA sponsor for a young woman. While joining her in attending the series of classes organized by Cathy and the parish RCIA Team, I continued to learn more about the faith that I myself had already been a part of for over 30 years. This was the first year that I stayed in town for the Easter Vigil. Witnessing and having a role in that most intimate Rite of Baptism, the full immersion type, was incredibly moving. I’m tearing-up just writing about it now, many years later.

Right:
First Eucharist

Below:
RCIA group at Cave
Hill Cemetery on
Holy Saturday



Finally, after all of that had come to pass, I was asked to become a catechist by Carolyn Denning. I am grateful, because it never would have occurred to me to volunteer. I have taught the 4th grade religious education class for the past nine years. Ten year olds are so much fun to teach. Last Sunday I began a new challenge, the 7th grade. Passing on the Catholic faith and sharing the spiritual growth I’ve experienced by volunteering and being involved in offerings here at the Cathedral of the Assumption has been a privilege and a pleasure.

So if the spirit moves you, don’t resist. This former uninvolved individual highly recommends joining in the journey of Formation at the Cathedral. A little or a lot, it’s totally worth the effort.

—Carolynn Hall



Social Concerns

- ◆ *Daily Lunch Program*
- ◆ *Sandefur Dining Hall Committee*
- ◆ *Crisis Intervention Program*
- ◆ *Housing Initiatives Subcommittee*
- ◆ *AIDS Ministry Awareness Subcommittee*
- ◆ *Legislative & Public Affairs Subcommittee*
- ◆ *Respect Life*
- ◆ *Sister Parish Committee*
- ◆ *St. John's Day Center*
- ◆ *Help Ministries of Central Louisville, Inc.*
- ◆ *Nativity Academy at St. Boniface*

Seek Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Social Concerns Committee aspires to “strive for mercy and justice through prayerful service and action, in order to promote the common good and enhance the dignity and worth of the human person in our church, community, nation and world”(2010 mission statement). As an urban parish, the Cathedral is positioned in a place of diverse economic need. This gives us an opportunity to serve the “least” among us. Consequently, our Social Concerns Committee has a special interest in the theme of Catholic Social Teaching that instructs us to seek “options for the poor and vulnerable.” The best way to know who we are is to see what we do.



Kim Crum

Some of our accomplishments include the following:

- * We issue more than 250 vouchers each year to low-income and homeless individuals in need of a Kentucky state photo ID, crucial to acquiring basic needs.
- * 250 volunteers serve 44,000 meals annually in the Sandefur Dining Hall to hungry, homeless, and working poor individuals.
- * Each year, we raise approximately \$4,000 to benefit the House of Ruth through our annual Desserts! Desserts! Festival.
- * We host annual panel discussions. Most recently, we hosted a panel on end-of-life ethics for Respect Life month in October 2011.
- * We coordinate school supplies and Christmas gift drives for Nativity Academy.
- * We gather hats and gloves donated by Cathedral parishioners for Sandefur Dining Hall lunch guests.
- * We coordinate efforts on behalf of our Sister Parish in Jeremie, Haiti, where Cathedral contributions continue to pay for daily lunches served to 250 students at the St. Therese Montessori School in Jeremie. In 2010, we directly oversaw the successful installation and blessing of a pump house and purifying water system at the Montessori School in Jeremie.
- * We contribute volunteer and financial support to agencies that extend our outreach to the “widows and orphans” of our

time: Help Ministries, St. John's Day Center and Nativity Academy.

* We coordinate the Cathedral's involvement in the annual Repair Affair event, in which 15-20 Cathedral volunteers provide maintenance and repair to the home of a low-income elderly disabled couple.

* We collect and deliver a truckload of toys for St. Vincent De Paul's Santa Shop.

* We coordinate the Cathedral's involvement in the Catholics in the Capitol annual event, which advocates legislation consistent with our mission and Catholic Social Teaching. Our Faithful Citizenship efforts continue to advocate for legislation that promotes programs that serve the needy and vulnerable.

These efforts will continue, with the direct action and generous contributions of our Cathedral family.

As the outgoing Chair of Social Concerns, my cup of gratitude is overfull. I continue to be blessed by the generosity, dedication, faith, and spirit of both the Social Concerns Committee and the many volunteers who prepare, serve, listen, lift, donate, organize, and collect. Through the work of many hands, our work and our souls are made lighter. We invite you to help us lighten this joyful “load.”

~Kim Crum



Above: Repair Affair

Below: Montessori School in Jeremie, Haiti





- ◆ Parish Life Committee
- ◆ Docents for Cathedral and History Center
- ◆ ACT+
- ◆ Bereavement
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Ministry to Sick & Homebound
- ◆ Ministry to the Hospitalized
- ◆ Parish Newsletter
- ◆ Photography & Videography
- ◆ Parish Health Ministry
- ◆ Prayer Ministry
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry

Parish Life

On a recent evening the Saturday night ministers and guests enjoyed a cookout of burgers and brats cooked by Ron Metts. Our guests brought dishes including caprese salad, green beans, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, summer cake, cookie bars, chocolate cake and other luscious dishes. Everyone enjoyed an evening of food and fellowship getting to know others better.



Ron & Linda Metts

The annual cookout is where our faith community life has brought us after joining the Cathedral of the Assumption in 1992. We had been on a quest for a diversified faith community and found it when we joined the Cathedral.



Above: 2012 Feastday Fest on the Belle of Louisville

Below: 2011 Cathedral Sunday



Soon after joining, we became Hospitality ministers, and Ronnie remains "on the door," but after several years I have moved to the Eucharistic ministry.

On Parish Life we have served at receptions including Chrism Mass and Easter Vigil offering hospitality to those attending services. By serving on the Bereavement Committee we provide a meal to grieving family and friends after the funeral Mass.

As members of Compassion, we are there to affirm members of our GLBT parish family and their loved ones.

It is in giving that we receive. St. Francis of Assisi

~Ron and Linda Metts

- ◆ Stewardship Committee
- ◆ Planned Giving
- ◆ Parish Pals

To lead souls to serve and to give

The Stewardship Committee of the Cathedral of the Assumption publishes the Stewardship Catalog, heads up the annual Stewardship campaign, and directs parishioners' gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the various ministries at the Cathedral. It works year round to create awareness about stewardship and to inspire each of us to consider what particular gifts we can bring to our parish community.



Ceilie Chilko



Portrait of Bishop Flaget

A subcommittee which flows from this mission is the Planned Giving Committee, which encourages parishioners to include the Cathedral in their estate plans. The Committee's legacy society, known as the Bishop Flaget Society, has been established to recognize those members who have done so.

Another program which has come out of the endeavors of the Stewardship Committee has been Parish Pals. It is designed to match new parishioners with established members, who will be available to offer help and guidance during their transition to full assimilation into the life of the parish.

As the representative from the Planned Giving Committee, I have been involved with the Stewardship Committee for many years. Working with the dedicated and generous people who give so much of their time, talent and treasure has been richly rewarding. It has proven to me the old adage that in giving, we receive.

To lead souls to serve and to give: these are the goals of the Stewardship Committee. In a perfect world, we would not need a committee to ask for these. But for those who do answer the call, whether out of a sense of gratitude or one of obligation, the result will be the same – a reward to be treasured.

~Ceilie Chilko



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Worship

- ◆ Cross Bearer/Candle Bearer
- ◆ Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
- ◆ Lector
- ◆ Minister of Hospitality
- ◆ Sacristan
- ◆ Server
- ◆ Liturgical Ministers for Funerals
- ◆ Art & Environment Committee
- ◆ Church Cleaning
- ◆ Cathedral Choir
- ◆ Cathedral Singers
- ◆ Cantor
- ◆ Music Department Administration

Many Hands

From the moment a parishioner or visitor steps on the Cathedral grounds, to their last step out of the sanctuary, the Cathedral Worship Committee makes an impact in the support of the Liturgy. The Worship Committee works diligently with all aspects of the Liturgy to give those who worship with the Cathedral a sacred, holy and moving experience.



Paul Najjar

The Hospitality Ministers who greet you with a smile and a Worship Aide, the Cantor and the Music Ministry, the Cross Bearers/Candle Bearers and Servers, the Lectors, the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and the Art and Environment Committee all are integral parts of making the Cathedral Liturgy a positive enriching exercise for the soul.

Each weekend, more than 100 volunteers work behind the scenes to support the Liturgy. As a group, the Worship Committee meets monthly to discuss all aspects and details of the Mass and how it looks, sounds, flows and touches the lives of all who enter the Cathedral sanctuary.

My first experience with a Cathedral Liturgy moved me like no other Liturgy I'd ever been a part of. That Mass, with the



Lighting of the fire at the Easter Vigil



There are many worship ministries represented in this one photo: Musicians, Cantor, Cathedral Singers, Server, Art & Environment

sun's rays shining brightly through the beautiful windows, Father Bill's sermon, and the opportunity to breathe, think and absorb all that was happening in the Liturgy has stayed with me to this day. I remember the urgency I had after that Mass to find someone, anyone, "Where/How do I become a member of the Cathedral?" And yes, a Hospitality Minister was right there to help me.

The beauty, the pace, the solemn, uplifting feeling I received was due in great part to the work of the Worship Committee and the involvement of so many parishioners to make it happen. The urgency I felt after that first Mass at the Cathedral, that emotional rush and desire to become a member? Well, the Worship Committee works countless hours to help nurture those experiences.

Having been a member of the Lector Ministry since 2002, and having served on the Worship Committee since 2006, I have seen and been a part of the team effort that works steadfastly with Father Jeff (and Father Bill before him) to create the best possible Liturgy for our community.

Working with the Worship Committee has given me an opportunity to grow with my faith, to learn more about the Liturgy as an adult than I ever knew when attending parochial school, to share my thoughts about the Liturgy, and to witness with fellow members of the group. Father Jeff has prompted us and led us in the last year to take ownership of the Liturgy and find opportunities to inject our collective spirit into our work. While it may be a daunting task and a challenge at times, it also has been a positive step in seeing how little changes can bring joy to the parish.

An example: for two years the Worship Committee discussed having a "May Crowning." So many parishioners and all on

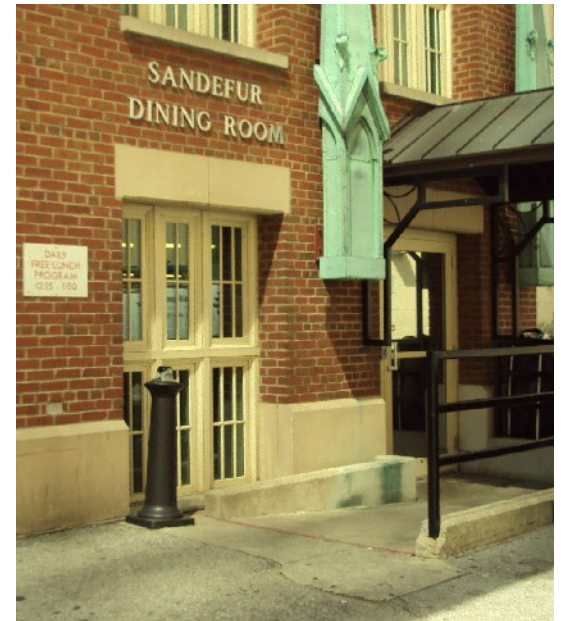


the committee talked fondly of the memories of the Crowning of Mary from our youth. We wanted to do this for a number of reasons; after all, we are The Cathedral of the Assumption. Father Jeff gave us insight and guidelines about a “May Crowning.” We learned about the history of the event and discovered that we really should do it in August, near the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. And this year, we were able to execute the ceremonial “May Crowning” with a beautiful dedication at a Mass on August 12. While it took some time to put together, the Worship Committee—from a simple suggestion at a meeting two years ago—created a memorable celebration with the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin.

While discussions of and about the attention to every detail of the Liturgy is the focal point of the Worship Committee, it is so much more than that. It is the representative group of the parish in all matters of the Liturgy.

We encourage your participation in any of our ministries, for “many hands mean light work.” We welcome your input, your time and your talent. And we look forward to serving the Cathedral community with the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit.

—Paul Najjar



Whichever door you enter
or open for someone else...

Welcome to the Cathedral!

