

# The Cathedral Star

Summer 2019 Vol. XXII No. 1



## Reflections Issue enstI snoitceffeR

*As we begin long range planning, this issue reflects on our recent history by sharing the vision for the parish that 60 committed parishioners recommended after a day of prayer, inspirational guidance from Father Lawrence Ezike, and frank discussion.*



### The Day of Reflection

*By Margaret Brosko*

Last year, we had an opportunity as a parish family to come together to discuss our vision for the future.

The Day of Reflection: Building Community Through Deepening Our Spiritual Life was a powerful display of how a diverse group of parishioners who are passionate about the health and vitality of our community can generate innovative ideas.

Questions like the ones below were part of three breakout sessions.

*How would you describe our Cathedral?*

*What do you love about it?*

*Do you feel a sense of belonging?*

*Is something or someone missing?*

*What can we do to make it even better?*

Overall, it was evident that we are blessed with an engaged, faith-filled family inspired to continue to do Christ's work in our community. The desire to make our Parish stronger and increase participation, especially among the younger generation, was identified as an overall opportunity for growth. The in-depth discussion also resulted in new ideas to further engage and show appreciation for our parish family. It highlighted what we need to do to continue to

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CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

433 SOUTH FIFTH STREET • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202  
Voice 502-582-2971 • Fax 502-582-3919 • [www.cathedraloftheassumption.org](http://www.cathedraloftheassumption.org)

## Charting Our Course



*Fr. Michael Wimsatt, Pastor*

Signs of newness accompany us as we move into the summer months at the Cathedral. New chairs and kneelers arrived to replace the ones that have outlived their life expectancy by several years and fallen into disrepair. Plans for a new sound system are also well underway as well as other timely projects to care for our historic home.

This time of natural excitement is driven by the renewal brought about from last year's Hail Full of Grace! Legacy and Vision Campaign. Many thanks to the Steering Committee members for their excellent service to the Cathedral community. The incredible dedication of the Steering Committee led by Bob Owings along with Rick Adrio, Leslie Smart, Don Kavanaugh, Tony Hammond, Tim Tomes, Angela Wiggins and George Kaissieh was met by an enormously generous response by the Cathedral community and we are grateful to be moving forward with stability and purpose into the next chapter of the Cathedral's history.

For all the momentous significance of the campaign itself, it is worth acknowledging that the campaign is not an end in and of itself. Ultimately, the campaign serves as a means to the greater end of creating a more vibrant and faith-filled parish community. Charting this course presents our parish community with an opportunity for strategic planning to help define the years ahead. Just as the campaign was an initiative that sought to engage the entirety

of the parish community, so will strategic planning seek the wisdom and perspective of the parish as a whole. Our shared journey in this regard has only just begun. More details will emerge in this regard as the year unfolds. Along the way we will be sure to share information with the parish at large. For now, please join us in fervent prayer that the Holy Spirit will help clarify our vision and grant us those virtues we most need to realize God's will for us and carry it out.

Please accept my enormous gratitude for your prayerful support of our Cathedral parish. In an age in which the Church faces many challenges from within and without, one of the surest sources of hope for a priest is in the witness of the men, women and children who continue to embrace the Christian life. Priesthood would not be possible without you. As my third year at the Cathedral draws to a close, I am amazed and a bit overwhelmed by how much has happened in my time here thus far. I am eager and hopeful to see how the journey continues to unfold. Be assured of my prayers and best wishes. My God continue to bless you for your kindness.

Peace,  
Fr. Michael Wimsatt

# Can you hear me now?



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We are just past 6 months since the conclusion of our parish pledge drive for The Hail, Full of Grace Vision and Legacy Campaign. As reported earlier this year, the campaign remains a historic success. It is through the generous nature of our parish, and a sense of responsibility to our community, that the current needs and future of the Cathedral of the Assumption will have the opportunity to fulfill its mission in Louisville. It is crucial that our entire parish remains engaged, and genuinely interested, in the continued success of our campaign. This includes the ongoing fulfillment of pledges, as well as additional opportunities to dedicate our time, treasure and talent toward the success and sustainability of our beloved Cathedral. Our Cathedral and our faith community continues to serve each of us in a unique way. Our Cathedral, including staff, parishioners, volunteers, and community leaders, continue to serve the greater community in ways that only a faith center can and should.

Many of the capital projects have been started, and are already reaching various stages of completion. Some of the significant projects are quite visible. All of us were delighted to see the arrival of the new hymnals, new chairs, kneelers, as well as the shine restored to the floor. Some projects may never receive the attention they deserve, but have significant value to the aesthetic as well as structural restoration. Fresh paint continues to be applied at an amazing rate, and HVAC system in the rectory has finally been replaced. The central HVAC system in the main Cathedral is now being evaluated for a final consideration of repair or replace. I am pleased to report that the final proposal for the Audio and Video System has been reviewed and approved for installation. We may all look forward to having a state of the art sound system, that will enable us to hear loud and clear, no matter where we choose to sit. As

part of the consideration for the sound system, the latest technology is a major tool to assist the Cathedral in serving as both a faith center and community gathering venue.

Finally it important to acknowledge events caused by the campaign that are beyond measure. Many of us, including the entire campaign committee, have had the pleasure of meeting and becoming closer to fellow parishioners. We are blessed to know that our parish community came together during this campaign, and I know those new friendships will remain for years to come. As campaign chair, the pleasure is all mine to have personally engaged with so many of you. I am so proud to serve in my church, and I am committed to your trust and love for our Cathedral. I hope this brief newsletter finds all of you well, and I look forward to seeing our Cathedral come to celebrate our feast day on August 17.

Faithfully yours,  
Bob Owings



*Beautiful blue cast to Coronation Window captured by Carolyn Miles on the evening the old chairs and kneelers were removed from church.*



make our family solid, strong and grounded in ministry.

After the three engaging breakout sessions, participants were asked to vote on the ideas they felt could have a positive impact on our parish family. Here are the top seven ideas with a brief description:

**Increased outreach to the downtown population**

A focused group of parishioners, The Outreach Team, will help get the word out about the Cathedral to new downtown residents, businesses and visitors.

**Ministry Training**

Continue small and large scale diverse and inclusive training within individual ministries and across ministries.

**“Did You Know” section in bulletin**

At the beginning of the year, each ministry drafts content about their volunteer needs and items of interest that will be printed in the bulletin.

**Outreach to Less Active**

The Outreach Team will engage less active parishioners determining who they are and what can be done as a parish family to make them feel welcome.

**Music Ministry**

How do we introduce other forms of diverse music while continuing to encourage and engage parishioners to sing with the choir?

**Parish Potluck**

Create a larger biannual event with games and prizes. Encourage ministries to create smaller community building gatherings.

**Adult Faith Formation**

Ensure a variety of formation offerings based on a foundation of Discipleship continues. These are tailored to an adult educational style including renowned speakers, small group faith sharing and utilizing talent within parish.

These ideas and recommendations along with numerous others were shared with Fr. Michael and the Parish Council. A number of them are already in the implementation phase. If you are interested in learning more, helping with the implementation or have another suggestion, please contact the Parish Office.

This Day of Reflection is one step in our journey to continue to improve and strengthen our Parish. The next step is to use the spirit, momentum, ideas and energy of these participants and others to create a more comprehensive strategic plan that will guide our future mission.

On behalf of Father Michael, the Parish Staff and the Stewardship Committee, a special thanks to all who participated in the Day of Reflection. We look forward to our continued fellowship and prayerful discernment as our community grows and evolves to meet the needs of all our members.

*“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”- Mother Teresa*



*“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”  
-Helen Keller*

*“Individual commitment to a group effort-that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”  
-Vince Lombardi*



# Traveler's Spiritual Home is the Cathedral

By Paula Lincoln



Gerry Nedelkoff often attends the 9:30 Mass on Sundays. She is a woman of many interests and lives a fascinating life. She has just added a new grandson to her family. Like her other children and grandchildren, he is out of town. But Gerry is a frequent traveler and New York is now part of her itinerary.

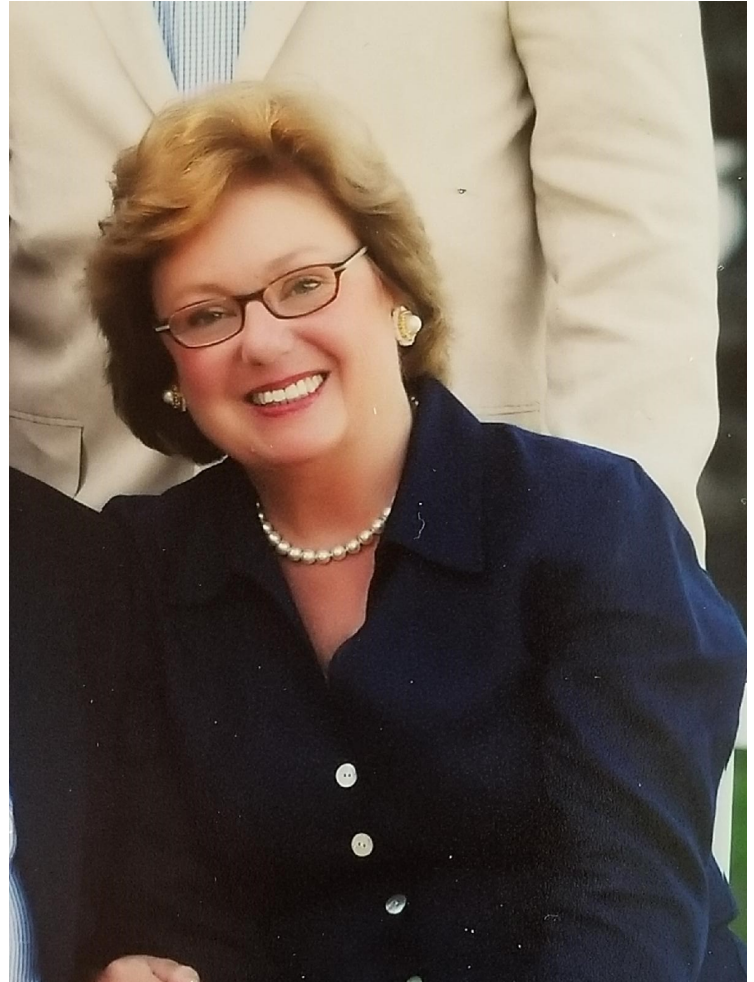
Her home is a two hundred acre farm on the edge of New Albany. She and her late husband, Bogdan Nedelkoff, raised their family there. He was a prominent pathologist who was born in Bulgaria and, because of him, Gerry became an international traveler. During his last illness, Gerry focused on him and worshipped at Mount Saint Francis, which is very close to her home.

Gerry was originally drawn to the Cathedral by the welcoming message of Father Ron Knott's preaching. He "spoke to the Gospel and always emphasized God's deep unconditional love for us." She recalls Father Knott saying, "All are welcome." The restored Cathedral and the diversity and connection to the community were important. The message of inclusiveness sparked Gerry's interest in being a Eucharistic Minister. "Seeing my fellow parishioners coming to receive Communion connected me to each of them in a special way."

Gerry's ten year old daughter joined her at the Cathedral to prepare for Confirmation. At the time, Gerry was a Montessori teacher and taught the younger children in the CCD program.

Gerry and her husband shared a love of classical music. After his death, she discovered that The Bach Society in Lexington was planning to perform

the Mass in B Minor. Gerry realized that it would be the perfect memorial for her husband. She felt that the Cathedral would be the perfect place to hold the memorial.



Even though she had never met Father Michael, she called for an appointment to discuss her plans. He was very gracious to her and even bought a CD so he would be familiar with the music. The memorial was very well received and Fr. Michael's empathy for her motivated her to return to the Cathedral. She said, "That evening I knew the Cathedral of the Assumption would always be my spiritual home."

# An Introduction to the Sandefer Dining Room and Paul Tadatada

By: Martha Villiger

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink... Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* Matthew 25:35,37,40

Paul Tadatada is the manager of the Cathedral Soup Kitchen. He is fairly new at this job so here is a chance to meet him and become more acquainted with how our Cathedral answers Jesus' call to love one another. Paul was acquainted with the soup kitchen because for the past five years his men's bible study group has served every 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday. Hearing that the manager was retiring, he applied, talked to Father Michael and the staff at the Cathedral, and he got the job.

He graduated from Eastern High School in 1978. His family belonged to St. Margaret Mary Church through all his teen-age years.

In college at University of Kentucky, he studied journalism but switched to political science. In the Lexington area, he started working for Godfather's Pizza and continued for eight years, becoming an area manager, and he worked six years for O'Charley's Restaurants as general manager. After he went to UofK, he stayed in Lexington for 14 years. He belonged to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church there. He moved back to Louisville to be close to his aging parents and his two younger brothers. For the last 20 years, Paul had worked for Wendy's Restaurants as a District manager in Louisville. In all Paul did restaurant work for 38 years in the Lexington and Louisville areas. He has a 34-year-old daughter, Amanda, from a previous marriage. She and her husband gave him a grandson a year and a half ago. From his present marriage of

21 years, he has a wife, Nancy, and a 13-year-old son, Ryan. He says he got one out of the house, and then along comes Ryan who is a blessing because as a young father, he feels he could have done a lot of things better and with a second child he is working harder to be a better father.

As Sandefur Dining Hall manager, he likes this work very much. As background for social work, he explained that St. Patrick in Louisville started a



branch of the Knights of Columbus in which he had been a member for three and a half years and Grand Knight for a year and a half. One of the Knights' missions is to raise funds for people in need. This stoked the fire in him to do charitable work. For this reason he says, "I had to jump on this job. It is a place to do good works and be appreciated for doing them and as a bonus, get paid for doing it." One of the highlights of the job is having the volunteer workers. They want to be here. For him, one of the biggest issues in regular restaurant work is the workers want to be paid, but they don't really want to be there. As a result, there is a lot of push back, a lot of negativity, or there are people who just don't want to come to work that day so you run short-handed. "With this job," he says, "people call the volunteer coordinator asking if they can come to work some day, so you have people who really want to be here, and that's the biggest difference."

Working at the door with Deacon Tom he got acquainted with the guests. A consistent number of people come every day, about 100 to 125 but has



been as high as 150. Paul says, “These are really good people. Sometimes you hear background stories. A lot of the times these are just people who through no fault of their own are just down on their luck, and they need help. It’s great at the end of the day to have them thank you for being here or to say ‘God Bless You.’ I tell them to come back as long as they need to, to never go hungry. That’s what we are here for. “



As peaceful as it is, there are some people who cause trouble. They may try to bully someone or talk foul-mouthed. \*Deacon Tom handles some difficult cases and Paul does also. They will tell them to leave, or make them stay away for a period of time advising them to think about their behavior. Paul and Deacon Tom create a place where people can relax and enjoy their meal. Paul related a case where a young man thought someone was looking at his girl friend, which caused the men to have words with each other. Paul stopped them, explaining the Dining Room doesn’t tolerate this behavior.

With various jobs, people have different levels of stress. Paul feels he has much less stress with this job than he had with his past responsibilities. Paul explains, “Everybody around me has noticed this. I must have carried stress on my face before. Some of my friends in my bible study noticed it. My wife

talks about how much nicer it is when I come home now because I don’t bring home problems. There really is not a lot to bring home. A lady who works where I go in to get my coffee said, ‘You look a lot less stressed now’ so I must have carried my stress on my face a lot.

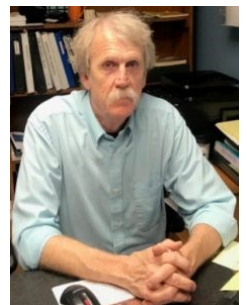
A key responsibility Paul has is to keep the dining room stocked with the necessary food. Several groups donate food. Gallrein Farms contribute lots of vegetables. Sweet Sixteen in Henry County donates meat. Dare to Care, Lucky’s Food Mart, Krogers, and Panera are some of the other benefactors. Vincenzo’s Restaurant has for many years made a tradition of providing a delicious Thanksgiving meal to our Daily Lunch Program guests on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

A typical lunch tray would have a bologna sandwich, (tuna fish on Friday), soup, a creative salad, a dessert and often some fresh fruit. On the second Sunday of the month, volunteers from St. Albert the Great will fire up the barbecue and make hot dogs and hamburgers. Paul asks guests, “Did you have enough?” And they will say, “Yeah, I’m full.”

Funding is an issue that most charities worry about. The fundraiser “Let’s Dance Louisville” did very well last year so that relieves concern. Parishioners remember how Maggie Cyphers worked especially hard to make that endeavor such a success.

Paul closed this interview by again expressing his gratitude for his position that gives him a chance to satisfy his special need to do good works and even be paid for it. Paul, we congratulate you for the excellent job you are doing for our Cathedral and for those in need among us.

*\*Since the writing of this article, Deacon Tom McNally has retired after years of dedication to our lunch guests. Long-time parishioner, volunteer, and retired social worker Joe Best, now serves as the Social Services Coordinator. Welcome aboard, Joe!*



# Cathedral of the Assumption

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Save the date!

# Feastday Fest at the Cathedral

Saturday, August 17

Watch bulletin and website for details.

## The Cathedral Star Staff Members

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Misty Grover  
Paula Lincoln  
Martha Villiger

Office Liaison  
Angela Wiggins

Masthead Design  
Teresa Heintzman