Covid 19- New Reality, New Opportunities

Submitted by Fr. Tom Tureman SDS

Parish life has been overturned in a way it has not been since the Reformation. What has been taken for granted and seen as a part of the rhythm of our lives is now altered beyond imagination. The response has been grief, fear, and even anger. Sadly one of the activities that has been linked to the pandemic has been the crowding and communal basis of worship. The most human thing we do is now the most dangerous! While we struggle with this reality, I wonder if this is also an invitation to something more positive than what we had before.

Since we had to start online liturgies, I have never seen such a resurgence of community and concern for each other. I am constantly asked from people passing by at a distance “How are you?”, “Are you OK?,” “How is your family?” These are simple questions that we often forget in the former rush of life. Since the start of this crisis, we have slowed down. People tell me they are reflecting on life more. People are stuck at home and trying new things they would never have tried. For me, I am learning to bake bread. That amazes me to even think about.

Families are discovering each other again in new ways, and the activities we have always taken for granted now are precious and important. In other words we are learning to take life one day at a time. How many of our mystics and saints have encouraged us to do that? However, wonderful as that is, we know that parish will reopen again. What are the changes and opportunities that affect us as we move forward?

As long as the Virus continues, we know there will be dramatic changes in order to stay well. Perhaps changes in the end will make us better and stronger than we were when we took life for granted.

At this time we are waiting for new guidelines from the Diocese as to when and how we will proceed. The challenge will be coming back in a way that protects and yet builds us up. Some basics and traditions of the mass and prayers will stay the same. However, how we interact, receive, and move around will be different.

Re-purposing of masses will be a reality: For example, designating one of our masses for our seniors who are most vulnerable while, perhaps, designating another for the needs of youth. It may require schedule changes and seating arrangement changes that are more conducive to health. All these are challenges but also really healthy possibilities that might make us a much better and stronger community in the end.

(Continued on page 7)

Our 2019-20 Elect

As you know, all religious gatherings are on hold for the forseeable future. Our three catechumens (the “Elect”) were unable to receive their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil liturgy (which did not occur). Please keep them and the entire RCIA Team in your prayers until we can complete the RCIA Process for Selina, Qevon (“Q”) and Steven.
Fr. Paul Wilkin SDS - A Walking Homily

Submitted by Susan Taylor

Father Paul Wilkin SDS is our newest edition to serve at Most Holy Trinity, as well as serving as a part-time priest for San Xavier Mission. He is one of eight children (five boys and three girls), a dedicated family member from Ohio. In fact his personal chalice was found in a dumpster and decorated after it was restored with jewels from his family members. His birthday is October 27th.

Father Paul has been gifted with a late vocation, newly ordained last summer, in June. He was guided by the Holy Spirit and several other religious-community members.

He first tackled work in graphic design and commercial art. He adapts quickly, “like a cheetah, fast and intelligent.” He participates “by all ways and means with mercy and love.” He voices his opinions by saying: “No” means “No,” and “Yes” means “Yes!”

His dry, sense of humor prefaces his communication, yet he shows a glint in his eye! He has adapted to our desert community already. Father arrived just before the Chili CookOff. He lives part-time with Fr. Tom Tureman SDS and Brother Jeffrey St. George SDS. He is able to absorb their work, guidelines and responsibilities, as well as the directions of the staff. He also has a particular penchant for making wine.

Some of Fr. Paul’s homilies have helped us examine our personal definitions of Faith, Mercy and Love during this Lenten Season. He claims being an Introvert, “Yet the Lord’s ways are that we may not remain shy but instead show our power of love and self-control. I wish for us to see, believe and obey God.” Father reminds us, “We are to become servants in the vineyard; not seeking to be only owners and lords.” He participates in all ways and means with obedience and creativity.

Welcome Father Paul! We do like your imagination and participation yet we appreciate your goals and aspirations, especially for travel to Asian Countries.

My Retreat

Submitted by Marcos Moreno (from a youth’s perspective)

This past retreat that I recently did really opened my eyes and taught me a lesson about how my faith and religion originated. Some of the things that were taught were like prayers to cast away the devil, or to really not take life for granted because everything we have here on earth, we won’t take with us to heaven.

One of the words that best stuck with me was the word ‘faith’. This word really hit me because, at first I thought ‘faith’ just meant believing in God and knowing He is good, but I was all wrong. Faith is a very strong word. The definition of it is ‘complete trust or confidence in someone or something’. When Catholics say that they have faith, it really means that they truly believe in our God to guide them and trust in Him to protect them from all on this earth.

A third thing that the retreat truly taught me was that church is like a big family. This also reminds me what Moreno, my teacher, always says, “A church can never be church without having families fill it in”. Another thing I will never forget about the retreat that I took was the fact that I felt as if I were at peace with Christ and was so close to Him, I could even feel His presence.

The people at the retreat were also very patient because although we all got a little bit hyper, they remained calm and kept on teaching. I loved getting closer to my church family. Even at lunch, just getting to interact with kids I have never talked to felt good because they felt safe to talk with me and so did I with them. The thing I saw the most of was people at peace mentally and physically. Even just seeing the new priest go and try to interact with the new kids was an awesome site. I felt almost as if all of the stress and worries that I had in my soul, had been lifted off of me thanks to the grace of God.

Overall, the retreat was an experience that I will be able to share with my kids when I am older. I will be able to help out others in need by teaching them the beauties and wonderful gifts that God our Father, placed in our ways, each and every day.
The Chili CookOff

Submitted by Br. Jeffrey St. George SDS

A good time was had by all! Most people I talked with commented favorably about this past January’s (Second) Chili CookOff. The parish profited approximately $1,485. The Chili CookOff team made substantial changes from the inaugural event, including refinements to the voting process (trusting the fate of the chili chefs to the taste buds of three judges - Mar- cos Moreno, Nora Genao, and Mike Taylor, and the raffle. The majority of the recipes were of the ‘mild’ persuasion, but hot sauce was made available for those who wished to ‘kick it up a notch.’

The winning chefs were Tim McCaffrey (First Place), Gina Jesus Montano (Second Place), and Perry Morris (Third Place). We’re grateful to all ten of our creative culinary contestants. They were the highlight of the afternoon.

The ‘watering hole’ was ably staffers Dana Lorenz, Pete Adamcin, and Bill Brennan.

For the raffle we would have liked to have had quilts as prizes same as last year, but the creative skill for those items wasn’t available this go-around. Instead, raffle organizers Mike and Susan Taylor were able to provide nine beautiful, varied prizes.

MHT parishioners and others generously contributed monetarily as well as with desserts, condiments, and beverages. Richard Martinez also volunteered his time in mastering the event.

We’re always looking for improvement, so we plan on another CookOff next year, most likely during January. The committee welcomes all suggestions that would make the event better.

PEACE TO ALL!

Living Waters for Tanzania...
...a Call to Assist our Tanzanian Brothers and Sisters

Submitted by Jackie White SDS

This past summer I was blessed to participate in the Salvatorian-sponsored Encounter to Tanzania to see and experience first-hand the people of Tanzania and the work of the Salvatorian Priests, Brothers, and Sisters. As I traveled through the poor sections, I was struck by the great needs for schools, health clinics, and clean water. However, upon reflection and prayerful discernment, it became clear to me the greatest impact would be bringing clean and safe water to the villages. Women and children often walk miles and spend hours collecting water and, many times, it is not clean. New wells provide safe, clean and readily available water.

We are asking you to support the building of a water well through the “Safe Water for Life and Dignity” project. This was started by former students of Jordan College, a Salvatorian college and seminary in Morogoro, Tanzania.

For $5000, we can provide a new well for a village. Most Holy Trinity Parish is prayerfully asking you to take the opportunity to change the lives of thousands of people in Tanzania. Each registered family received a special envelope for this project. Please be generous. Water is lifesaving as we, ourselves, know from living in a desert. If you can help, please contact the MHT Office at 520-884-9021.

Asante Sana (Thank you very much).
Behind the Bars...
...and the Sharps... and the Flats

Submitted by Robert Elliott

Hello. My name is Robert Elliott. I sing in the choir at the 1:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. I’m the tall, dark handsome fellow with the bass voice. I have sung in the choir for about two years.

When I started off, I was not planning to sing at all but to play the cello during Advent. But I was not ready for that. So, I decided I would try to get involved by singing. Now, after these two years, I have learned to sing in a group and to listen to other singers. I’m more knowledgeable about liturgical music as well. Also, I’ve returned to playing the cello and hope to be able to do both very soon. Finally, I’m able to read the treble clef better which inspires me to learn some piano. Our music director, Patti Munsen, need not worry though; her reputation is safe... for now!

In addition to my involvement at the 1:00 p.m. liturgy, I’ve had several opportunities to join the choir which performs at the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. In addition to all this, I’ve made friends and become more involved with the MHT community. I’m very pleased that I stepped forward to do something I enjoy.

Editor’s note: Robert is rather quiet but he comes from a famous family in Tucson. His brother, Sean was a star basketball player at University of Arizona and went on to play in the NBA. Many followed him and Steve Kerr on television. Steve is still coaching the Golden State Warriors. Robert’s mother, Odie Mae Elliott, was a great donator to Most Holy Trinity. For one of our auctions she donated many basketball items and also a quilt. The quilt sold for $1,000, was given back to MHT, and has been hanging in Guadalupe Hall ever since.

Meet Sr. Rita SDS

Submitted by Sr. Jane Eschweiler SDS

If you’re looking for a Catholic Sister, it won’t be hard to find Sr. Rita Vogelsang SDS. She’s TALL and has thick, wavy, white hair!

Rita grew up in rural Wisconsin and entered the Sisters of the Divine Savior in 1956, receiving her training in Milwaukee and preparing to be a registered nurse. In the early years, she concentrated on ministry to sick children in our rural Wisconsin hospitals.

Later, Sr. Rita spent five years in rural Kentucky doing home-health and well-child assessments. The community uses some loving photos of Rita with the children for vocations promotion that were taken during those years. They show a happy and playful minister who didn’t leave FUN out of her activities!

After preparation for parish nursing at Marquette University in Milwaukee, she practiced this rather new form of service in Birmingham, Alabama. There, she also became involved in religious education and RCIA. During those fifteen years, she did home health for elderly parishioners and brought communion to them.

Before coming to us, Sr. Rita had two more ministerial adventures. The first was in inner-city Milwaukee, where she lived in a HUD housing unit with lower-income residents, on the site of our former Motherhouse. She accompanied many elderly and did volunteer work in the city.

Her heart was still open to new experiences, so Rita offered to companion one of our Sisters in rural South Dakota for three years. Besides enduring some of the coldest weather she’d ever known, Rita spent time there visiting Native American residents at the Tekakwitha Nursing Home, leading communion services and the rosary for them, and playing the piano weekly. The pastor of the Catholic parish there also got her into some prison work a few times.

Sister Rita moved to Tucson in September of 2019. She is already enjoying the warmer winter and has “more time for prayer,” which she appreciates. She lives in community, with Sr. Darlene Pienischke SDS, at Park West, volunteers at Casa Alitas, and helps with RCIA and sacramental ministries at MHT.

Rita is known for her quick wit, simplicity, and forthrightness. She can talk to anyone and feels comfortable among all sorts of people. She enjoys reading, country music, and practicing her keyboard. Recently she began learning Spanish.

WELCOME, SISTER RITA!
**Sweet(er) Music!**

*Submitted by Patti Munsen*

The music ministry has been busy this year. We’ve been working to improve our known church repertoire and add new music that reflects the very real effects of the world on our lives and our spirituality. At the heart of what we try to do is answer the need of prayer for perseverance of faith that leads to the peace and calm in the promises of Christ and awareness in the world around us and our role in it.

We are called (as the song says), to be concerned with others and that we are all one body, one family together. Music is a strong and emotional prayer and gives us a good place to start in living, feeling, and acting as Christ taught us. It also builds in us strong bonds and shows us that together we are more than our singular selves.

In a beautiful and loving surprise, the members of the music ministry themselves have provided Most Holy Trinity with a new mixing board (it’s the electronic mind behind projecting and blending all of our microphones, instruments and voices together). They also provided a beautiful new keyboard that was much needed! Please feel free to come see the Yamaha Clavinova that now helps lead our music. We are grateful to our last keyboard for its lovely sound and service, but it was getting very tired and missing notes. We look forward to learning and using our new equipment to support the prayer of our liturgies. I want to thank this amazing group of musicians for their incredible generosity and support of our ministry!

We are most blessed to enter the future well equipped, knowing that we are able to pray, sing, and play with confidence.

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**2020 Trip to Israel**

*Submitted by Bill Brennan*

The MHT trip this January was amazing and, for me, profound. One highlight was visiting the Garden at Gethsemane at Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed as he faced his pending arrest. There are a dozen live olive trees there and at least two are, get this, over two thousand years old! They were there the evening before the Crucifixion! If only trees could talk. To stand in the very garden where Jesus knelt and prayed and was then arrested that first Holy Thursday was just profound beyond words.

Earlier we had visited and sailed on the Sea of Galilee where Peter fished. On its shores we walked in the ruins of the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus preached. Nearby are ruins said to be those of Peter’s house where Jesus healed his mother-in-law. In nearby Nazareth, where Jesus spent his youth, we walked old streets he probably ran around on as a kid.

We saw Jerusalem, of course, and prayed the Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, renewed baptismal vows at the Jordan River, and some floated in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. We stayed three nights in a newly-built hotel in Bethlehem, in Palestinian territory, as we traveled to Jerusalem or Jericho.

Our knowledgeable guide, a Christian-Israeli citizen of Palestinian heritage, gave us a primer on the holy sites every step of the trip. Having a foot in both the Israeli and the Palestinian experience, he gave us a balanced view of the reality of the devastating politics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We saw the Israeli pristine settlements surrounding Jerusalem but built in traditionally Palestinian territory. We learned about the weekly cutoff of water and garbage collection to one-fifth that of the settlements. Then there is the huge concrete wall with machine-gun guarded gates controlling Palestinian transit and closing erratically. Our bus once encountered a half-hour detour with no explanations obvious or offered, a frequent occurrence we were told.

If you can, catch next year’s MHT trip to Israel.
Meet a Multi-lingual Sister Darlene SDS

Submitted by Susan Taylor

Although her hair has changed from red to gray, I would observe a change from spunky to wise. Sr. Darlene Pienschke, like Aaron, has become like a mouthpiece for the Salvatorian sisters. She is curious, inquisitive and speaks Portuguese and Spanish. She is a talented nurse and is dedicated to her profession. I would describe her as easy going and intelligent. She has served as a professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. No wonder her favorite phrase is “The Lord is my Shepherd!”

Sister’s abilities are being used in Tucson as a nurse with Casa Alitas where she displays her gifts while assessing the physical condition and on-going needs of the newly-arrived immigrants being housed at Casa. She comes by her talent having spent ten years in Brazil as a missionary. Working with the native women of the Amazon, they developed new medicines from the indigenous plants of the region. She developed expertise in foot care while serving there.

Compassion is one of Sister’s qualities. Her little frame hides a person who inspires with her dynamite personality. She jumps into action from the beginning of her life. She challenges those in education and mentors her students to use their gifts in whatever they are doing including hospice ministry.

To know Sister is to love her. She leads all through her drive as an educator and inspires missionary work through her own example and her writing. She isn’t a pin but more like a needle in a haystack filled with energy and holiness.

Have you met Sr. Darlene yet?

Where, O Lord?

Where, O Lord, where is this world going?
How, O Lord, can we see what’s coming?

Peace we once knew has now gone away.
Times we shared lost to another day.

Families once together now torn.
Friends along with neighbors so forlorn.

Disaster tries to leave us broken,
But can we still hear Your Word spoken?

Can we know You are really there?
Can we believe that You always care?

Churches and communities beckon.
Imploring us to come and reckon.

Reconcile with others daily.
Forgive from the heart’s bottom truly.

Let us pray for all those infected.
Let us pray for all those who responded.

Poem by Norma Morrison SDS
Co-editor

The Trinity Times...
...don’t look for it in your mailbox!

We gave it the ol’ “College Try” but the numbers just aren’t there. You’ll recall that in the last issue of The Trinity Times, we advised our readers that we would need significant financial support to continue to print the publication in color, and mail it to every household registered in the parish. We need $1700-$1800 to produce and mail each issue. Reverting to black-and-white would save only about $250. The mailing costs would still be there.

The donations received after our plea in the last issue are greatly appreciated, but totaled only $450. We prevailed on our benefactor, who financed the last four issues, to make up the difference so that this issue could be completed.

Thanks to those who responded to our request including Anna Marie Andrade, Yvonne Burchett, Lynette Elias, Frisby Insurance, Mary Louise Gordon, William Mader, Peg Partin, Mike and Susan Taylor and Ken and Betty Unrein. However, future COLOR issues of The Trinity Times will be available only on the MHT website. In addition, some black-and-white copies will be produced “in-house” and made available in the vestibule for those members of our community without internet access. Unfortunately, those members of our parish who are unable to attend our weekly liturgies, and do not have internet access, will have no opportunity to read future issues.
Give Me a Drink
Submitted by Marti Fleming

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) (John 4:7-9)

The heart of the Kingdom of God is the face-to-face encounter. Politics may bring superficial (if much needed) change, but transformation takes place through relationship. To need something from a poor person, a marginalized person, to be fed, walked with, shored up, encouraged, instructed, loved by a person of a different color, demographic, sexual orientation, neighborhood, religion, or country is a humbling and shattering experience. Most of us spend our lives surrounding ourselves with enough money, prestige, and friends that we can stay in our own little self-created universe. To need something so badly - companionship, directions, guidance - that we are willing to step outside our universe: that’s where Christ is.

I once found myself in Spencer, West Virginia, a town of seven thousand, in the northwest part of the state. I’d spent a lot of time alone that year; voluntarily, but still, I was lonely. One Friday afternoon I read in the local paper of a covered-dish potluck at the nearby community center. I made a batch of deviled eggs, mentally reprised my best stories, and set out for the twenty-five mile drive.

When I arrived, I found forty or so people who managed to be both totally accommodating and totally, comically, uninterested in me or my ‘journey’. These folks didn’t need another friend. They had friends. They had families, by whom they were surrounded. They weren’t remotely fired up to have an existentially-tormented, temporarily-homeless person in their midst. And yet for that night, they saved me. They gave me a chair. They let me sit in on the conversation. They shared their food.

We tend to think religion is all about rules, but our religion is all about vulnerability. It is about relationship with people with whom we ‘use nothing in common’. That night, I said, “Give me a drink.” And the people of Appalachia gave.

Blessed Father, allow me to be stripped down to the point where I am invited to ask a stranger for food, for a drink. Help me to remember that, to the Samaritan woman, Christ was a stranger.

“This was written by Heather King, a convert to Catholicism, a contemplative, and the author of three memoirs. She lives in Los Angeles and blogs at shirtofflame.blogspot.com. This reflection appears in the book “Praying with St. John’s Gospel” available from Magnificat Press.

Have you ever gone into a place where you knew no one and felt alone? It’s a very disheartening experience. I attended a Sunday Liturgy in a small city in Michigan where they had a group who only greeted everyone. When I returned to my home parish, we tried it, finding success. In his Ash Wednesday homily, Fr. Tom spoke to a congregation that included a sizable number of “strangers.”

Think about what Jesus did that day at the well. He could have taken a drink by Himself and gone on. But, He stayed to see what the woman would do for a stranger. Being Jesus, He knew who she was and why she came noontime, instead of early morning with other women. His experience there warmed His heart. A complete stranger, a Jew, in a hostile foreign country, was being given a drink by a woman. That took much courage on her part. What if a village person saw her? She was already outcast. Now she was risking everything.

Maybe we should all think about reaching out to someone new. Maybe it’s time for MHT to find those volunteers to be our “Greeters.”

Covid 19- New Reality... (Continued from page 1)

At this point all is speculation. Once we hear from the Diocese and consult with fellow pastors, we will have a better angle on things. In the meantime we will need to pray for each other. Embrace our families, continue to celebrate our liturgies online and dedicate ourselves to the betterment of our community and society as we move forward.

If, at the end of all this, we are more loving, more humane, and we find our values centered on what is most important, then I believe our future will be bright. It is the least we can do for those who have suffered or died, and for those who are on the front lines of this pandemic fighting for us.
Mikayla

Submitted by Dcn. Ken Moreland

While talking with Elva Romero, a parish receptionist, I discovered that her granddaughter Mikayla, a high school senior, had applied to Colgate University in New York and was accepted. Wow, I thought, I wonder what made her decide to go to a small, exclusive university so far from her roots here in Tucson, so I asked her. The answer led to a very interesting conversation.

Mikayla was raised in Barrio Hollywood here in Tucson and was always an eager student doing well at Manzo and Tully Elementary Schools and Dodge Middle School before being accepted at University High School. At UHS Mikayla has participated in 15 Advance Placement classes and found a passion for computer coding and programing.

She has taken this passion and become the president of the Girls Who Code Club, sponsored by a group known as Women in Computer Science, and she and other members of this club have also been working with a group of pre-teens who meet monthly tutoring them in their own code club. Mikayla is also a member of Future Business Leaders of America concentrating on businesses related to computer science and has attended numerous state and national camps and presentations.

Along with that schedule she has found time to be on the women’s track and cross-country teams as well as holding down a part-time job to help save money for college. But, why Colgate?

The answer was many-faceted. First, the computer science and engineering programs that work a 3-year bachelor/5-year master format, and, the size of the school, around 2,500 students with a 9/1 student to professor ratio.

After applying for and being granted an opportunity for a sponsored visit to Colgate, she knew it would be a good fit. She not only found out that they did have just what she was looking for, but they were greatly interested in what her background was going to bring to them.

As far as the distance, she is looking forward to the opportunity to experience a new thing. We want to congratulate Mikayla on what she has accomplished so far, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

Do you have children or grandchildren graduating soon? If so, send any names and what they are planning to do, military (including the branch), which tech school, junior college or university, or what profession they might be entering to bmorales@mhtparish.org and we will honor them in a future issue.