
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 43 Issue 4

June, 2020

FROM YOUR PASTOR

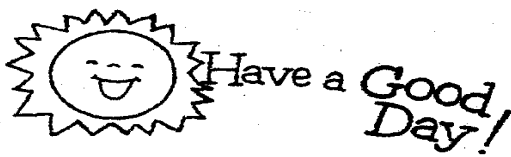
*Fr. Chuck Barthel 894-1373
cbarthel@marymother.org*

A Few Thoughts from Fr. Chuck

The other day – yesterday – today – tonight – tomorrow – some day: Welcome to the new way that we mark the days of the week! Not only have these past 2+ months been a strange time; but in some ways my sense of time feels strange. In the past I would talk about “Chronos” (clock time) and “Kairos” (God time). I think we all know what Chronos time is. For me, Kairos refers to those moments when you seem to be on a different plane of time. For example, I think most of us might have had the experience when we are visiting with a friend, having a great meal, going for a walk, sleeping by a body of water, and all of sudden we realize that x amount of Chronos time has passed. Didn’t we just get here / started talking / etc.? That’s Kairos time.

My name for a new 3rd time frame is “pandemic time.” That’s when time passes; and one day seems to blend into the next one. You keep wondering when this time will end and when will we move into a new time period.

I pray that all of us may continue to enter into this current time period, whatever it may be called, with a disposition of serenity and hope.



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

These faithful parish stewards meet in the parlor in the parish office on the first workday of the week, fifty-two weeks a year. Of course, it’s not all 19 of them at once! There is certainly an air of seriousness as they go about their tasks, especially as they make sure that all the numbers are accounted for. You can also hear some occasional laughter in the hallway, which usually happens when Fr. Chuck enters the room. Maybe it’s because he thanks them for their willingness to help out with an extra gift from their wallets to help keep the lights on and the AC working. Look on page 2 to find out who these parishioners are.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

*Dick Roseland 486-8345
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Where has the time Gone? Two years have flown by, all except the last 2 months, Yikes. The Love and Support I have received from the Parish Council members are something I wish everyone at Mary Mother should feel. Being part of a group that could discuss topics effecting the parish, that maybe everyone didn’t see the same way. The ability to listen to someone’s position thoughtfully and prayerfully is something that does not happen very often in society. This caring for each other keeps us from lashing out at someone.

The wisdom of Ed Lew and Father Chuck to sit back and listen, even when they already know the answer. All these are experiences: details of Administration and Finance and the Secretary; the Tenderness of Christian Service, Christian Formation, and Evangelization; the fun of the Social Commission, the Youth Group, and Athletics; the Caring of the Health commission, and the prayerful leadership in the Liturgy commission. Both of our Vice Chairs have dealt with serious health issues, Thank You Fred and Gary for your support, and Love of Mary Mother. I will miss you all and your unique Love and Service to Our Parish.

You don’t realize how much is going on at Mary Mother every day, until you see it for yourself. Take the opportunity to learn more about the good things we do, sign up, meet someone new, the time will fly by. I will miss everyone, and the chance to write down some wacky thoughts.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

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I pray that all of you are healthy and safe during these trying times. While we cannot meet as a community, it is an opportunity to increase our prayer life at home with family. This is only one blessing; but there are many to be enjoyed, if we take the time to look for them.

I would like to thank our outgoing Parish Council members for all their time and efforts in making Mary Mother “a radiant light to the world.” Thank you Carl Cooper, Karen Karr, Alex Norrenbems, Judy Peckham, Dick Roseland, and Steve Rothermel.

Since we were unable to meet in April, the new commission heads have not been decided. Hopefully, this will be accomplished in May. The newly elected Parish Council members are: Dave Baranowski, Kim Blackford, Mary Kay Gudinas, Jeanne Rothermel and for our youth, Maura Clancy. Thank you for saying yes to the call.

I look forward to, once again, celebrating the Eucharist as a community.

God Bless.

YOU
are important in
GOD’S PLAN.



THE SPOTLIGHT’S ON.....

These parish stewards are our parishioners:
**BILL EBERT, ARLENE FREEMAN,
 MIKE GARAVAGLIA, FRED HOHENBERGER,
 BOB HUGHES, BUD KERSCHEN,
 LAURA KLAGES, GARY LEIENDECKER,
 JANE LEWIS, JOE LICATA, JIM MANZ,
 MARY SCALZO, MARION SCHROER,
 JOE SPENCER, MARY KAY SPENCER,
 SHARON LEWIS VAN RONZALEN,
 DON WEBER, FRAN WINKER,
 and JIM YAMNITZ.**

They count the Sunday stewardship offering.
 (And no, they don’t make up the difference if a particular week’s total is below our weekly goal.)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE FOR OUR PARISH.**

Submitted by Fr. Chuck



LITURGY NOTES

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Hello, Saints of Mary Mother! (a favorite greeting of Fr. Jim Telthorst). This will be my final Update article as Mary Ann Blankinship and I will be retiring at the end of June. As you might have guessed, the current circumstances with the presence of the coronavirus have not exactly provided us with the departure that we had hoped for, especially in light of the fact that we are not able to communicate our farewell and thanks in person to many of you. **When I reviewed the very first Update article that I wrote back in February of 2007, I can adapt some of the same words that I used then** to describe our experience of leading the Mary Mother Music Ministry: “It has been an **honor and a privilege** to serve the community of **Mary, Mother of the Church.**” We are **incredibly grateful to our God** for the opportunity to **share worship with all of you over these past 14 years!**

“We are **honored** to be so well received as servants of this community, and we are grateful for your **warm hospitality**, and your **spirit of enthusiasm and excitement** for the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish. We hope we have done our part to **honor the rich traditions of worship** that have been integral to Mary Mother for many years.” **Special thanks to Fr. Chuck, our Parish Staff, Rita Mosblech, our Traditional Choir, Contemporary Choir, Children’s Choir, Teen Ensemble, Praise & Worship Band, and all our Cantors, Musicians, and Accompanists.** We love you all; and thanks for blessing us with your talents. We have missed not being with you in the usual fashion over these past few months; and we pray there will be an opportunity to celebrate together again sometime in the future. **God bless you all; and thank you for having us as part of the wonderful, singing and praying community of Mary, Mother of the Church.**

Blessings, Ken and Mary Ann



**HAVE YOU TOLD
SOMEONE
TODAY
THAT YOU
LOVE THEM?**

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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I've been searching my heart for the words to express my farewell and I keep feeling "deeply grateful!" It was 1973 when our pastor and associate, Fr. Ed Nugent and Fr. Chuck Beierwaltes, asked me to step out in faith and serve on Mary Mother's parish staff. I said "yes" and that was how I started to see the gracious fulfillment of our founders' words: "If we take one step toward God, God moves twice as close to us" and "God will never be outdone in generosity." So with this farewell, please join me in giving thanks for gifts so generously bestowed in the time I have been so blessed to serve. Thank you, Jesus, for showing us the love of the Father and the gift of the Spirit. Thanks to my wife, Kay, and my children, without whose love and support, I could not have served. Thanks for the love and dedication of all the catechists who have brought the Gospel of Jesus into the lives of our children. Thanks to every pastor and priest who showed me the way of servant leadership. Thanks to all with whom I served on Parish Council where I witnessed self-sacrifice for the way of Christ. Thanks to all who made great things happen by keeping Christ in the forefront of our strategic planning and all the programs that renewed our minds, our hearts, our relationships, and our faith. Thanks to all the parents and children who share faith at home and answer the call to sacramental life. Finally, thanks to all who participate in our liturgy with the joy of being one "through Him, and with Him. and in Him." I'll be with you there!



**BRING
A CHILD
UP
IN THE WAY
OF THE
LORD.**

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

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May the beauty of spring's turning into summer give us a respite as we continue the new ways of our living. Our Lord guides us through our days, as He promised, and is always beside us!

Through numerous phone calls, I have heard great stories of strength and devotion in our parish family, helping one another and neighbors. If we had a monthly character word, like the schools do, what would March, April and May have been? So many are fitting: Trust, Courage, Perseverance, Kindness, Patience.... All have been radiant lights from this Christ-centered community!

Thank you to Blood Drive donors, volunteers and parishioners who made face masks. Our Blood Drive on May 12th was the first Health Ministry Commission event to resume and went very well. The CPR/AED class is being planned for Friday, June 19th at 6:30PM. Parishioners will have the opportunity to learn how CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) is to continue, now with COVID 19 concerns and we will review use of the new Zoll AED (Automated External Defibrillator) units. Sign Ups will soon be accepted on the parish website. The class will be limited to 8.

Please call/email me if I may serve you. I am grateful to "team" with parishioners who care for one another and the community in so many ways!

Prayer will Light up Your Life.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

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It has been an honor to serve Mary Mother during these past two years. The term as chair of the Administration and Finance Commission is almost over. Father Chuck asked "MY TAKE AWAY" of these two years. When I began, the administration only required minor tweaking. It is a well-oiled machine with a more than capable Business Manager in Ann Garavaglia. The finances were also in great shape. All that was necessary was to keep this going financially in the same direction. There were a few new projects developed by a subcommittee that have been presented in earlier updates. My most important "take away" was to be a part of the core of 50 to 70 volunteers who never say "no." Many of them volunteer and also serve on the Parish Council. They work unceasingly and instill Mary Mother mission statement of BOLD WITNESS AND A SHINING LIGHT in all that they do. They are an inspiration.

"My take away" DO MORE for Mary Mother and the Church.

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

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For my last Update, I leave you with a pen from Father Corapi!

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous: The Umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And, moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother; and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well, I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Maybe this was one of the best explanations of the concept of GOD.

Bye for now.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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CHANGE...the one thing we can count on....and that has become quite apparent in the last 2 months! We have to learn, like the trees, to bend with the wind, or we are destined to break!

When I came onto the Parish Council almost 2 years ago, the athletic program was undergoing a huge CHANGE. Many people struggled with a range of feelings about the change...anger, disappointment, frustration, to name a few. What would this look like? In the end, for the sake of the children, MMOC merged with Assumption Athletic Association (AAA). It was confusing at first, but I am happy to report to you that it has proven to be a very good decision! Our gym is still used. Our concession stand is managed and manned. Our children get to play sports! We've been able to get rid of an outdoor concession stand and trailer that were in need of many repairs. We don't have to worry about playing on a flooded field. Sign ups and games are managed by AAA, which I can tell you is operated like a "well-oiled machine" with a whole host of involved volunteers!

The next CHANGE is that as of June, 2020 our Athletics Commission will be under the direction of the Social Commission. There will be a representative who attends the AAA meetings and reports "what's happening" to the Social Commission. All shall be well!



HEALTH MINISTRY

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This year has been one of fear and isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic. For myself, I had to make a conscious effort not to panic with the fear of catching the virus. With prayer, I was able to be at peace. The changes in my life were loss of gig money playing music; isolation from my mother who lives at Nazareth living center; and isolation from my siblings and music friends. The worst feeling was not being able to visit mom as she is in isolation where she lives. We had to trust.

More downtime meant more communication with others. I had more time to contemplate. Wearing a mask was not a big deal for me. The seriousness of the problems in New York were overwhelming to watch; and we cried for all the worldwide casualties of this event. We felt the struggle of the medical personnel who had to deal with caring for so many desperately sick people.

Our lives have changed. God is always with us if we let God into our thoughts.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

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Well, the last two years have moved by very fast and ended abruptly.

When I started, I was afraid I might be getting in over my head. People told me how much work was involved. To my great surprise, I found that it was not at all stressful. I attended as many meetings as I could, trying to get to know the people who were active in the Christian Formation. I've enjoyed this very much.

I've enjoyed very much working with Ed Lewandowski. Ed has been a real asset to Mary Mother since its beginning. He's been blessed with an excellent memory and seems to be aware of everything that's ever happened here, and is frequently called upon to explain how the parish functions and why. Those are the things that have nothing to do with the educational end of things, which he, of course, is completely familiar with. I am told he knows and has always known all the children's names in PSR.

I know we have some good people moving into the Parish Council this year. I hope we continue to get this kind of talent in order to keep Mary Mother moving into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

***We're Proud of
Our Graduates!***

SOCIAL COMMISSION

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A social life? Not for the past two months. What I really miss is smiling faces!

Most of us have ventured out for groceries or medicine. Obscured faces really handicap the ability to read someone's feelings. I try to cheerfully greet others with a hello through my face mask at Aldi, but I'm unsure of how my communication is being received. I would love to market masks with facial expressions. If smiles are contagious and bring people well being, a toothy grin might illicit some much needed happiness. Perhaps we can all pretend that people are smiling under those masks, and smile back.

***Smiling is happy
and fun...
feels good....
Looks good and
costs nothing.***

TITHING

While many of us may feel that our lives have been put on hold, the needs of those less fortunate has only increased. The gifts from our Tithing Program are appreciated even more during this time of quarantine. Thank you for your ongoing support via Faith Direct, or continuing your regular contributions, along with your personal donations directly to the many local agencies providing necessary assistance to others. Below are the organizations Mary Mother's Tithing Program has supported during this period.

**March 2020 – 5 Sundays -
\$1,094 each agency**

- 1) Feed My People – Emergency food and social services
- 2) Whole Kids Outreach – Prevention of child abuse
- 3) Bakhita Spiritual Companions – Support to survivors of human trafficking
- 4) St. Pius V Immigrant & Refugee Program – Medical, housing and clothing for immigrants and refugees
- 5) Marian Middle School - Adolescent faith-based school
- 6) People to People – Medical, food and water, to the poor in Haiti

**April, 2020 - 4 Sundays
\$936 each agency**

- 1) St. Augustine Wellston Center – Food pantry, thrift store, employment counseling, health services
- 2) Mary Ryder Home – Serves vulnerable senior women through compassionate care
- 3) Peter and Paul Community Services – Feeds poor and homeless in the community
- 4) Most Holy Trinity Parish – Neighborhood support around this inner-city parish
- 5) Jefferson County Pregnancy Care Center – Support for crisis pregnancies
- 6) Lemay Child and Family Center – Early education and care for children

**IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
NEW RULES
WITH PUBLIC MASSES,
CONTACT
THE PARISH OFFICE
AT 314-894-1373.**

YOUTH COMMISSION

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Hello Mary Mother!

I hope all of you are staying positive in this seemingly bleak time. It's important to keep our heads up and make the most of the current situation. Not even a pandemic can silence our passion to serve the Lord and evangelize his name!

Sadly, my Parish Council term is coming to a close. This will be my last time writing to all of you all. But as this chapter of my life culminates, I'm very happy to say that I will be entering the next a changed person. Through my time as Youth Representative, I found myself more immersed within the vibrant Mary Mother community. I had the privilege to meet so many amazing individuals, take part in heart-warming activities, and learn from our insightful parish population that always have wisdom, knowledge, experience, and love to pass on.

Thank you, to my Mary Mother family, for changing my life for the better. I love you all so much and can't wait to see you again when it is safe to do so. :)

**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A THEORY,
IT IS A LIFE.**

PRO-LIFE

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To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the encyclical "Evangelium vitae," the U.S. Bishops have asked all Catholic parishes to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021 entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service." The first step we are asked to do is support pregnant women in need through prayer. This is something I have found easy to do during this time of staying home. The U.S. Bishops have given us the following prayer to pray –

A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

"O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion. Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen."

During my staying home time, I read the encyclical "Evangelium vitae" again. It's available online. If you have extra time now during this pandemic, just spend 15 minutes a day reading it. You'll be glad you did.

LITURGY COMMISSION

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I am grateful for many things besides toilet paper and haircuts. I am grateful that I have been able to continue to work through this pandemic and to some extent, my husband has been as well. I have never been a very routine person, working nights with a very irregular schedule. However, the ritual of going to church has become my new normal and, since the pandemic, the daily live streams have been critical to my sanity.

I learned when I mobilized to Germany as a Navy nurse that small routine things were crucial to emotional well-being when away from home and things seemed uncertain. That is why again, instead of travelling every week, I would stay "home" and go to church. It kept my marriage strong and added many benefits to my life.

I see the vitality of our Church at Mary Mother crucial to our well-being and its continued growth and longevity. With changes in our larger church community and our communities at large, it is so important to strive for abundancy in our worship and evangelization of the Catholic Church. If not now, then when?

I am grateful for our wonderful parish and the Catholic faith that sustains us! I am grateful for Ken, Deacon Randy and Father Chuck who have been doing all of the liturgies throughout this pandemic. My husband and I also regularly enjoy EWTN both on radio and television. There are many ways to watch, learn, pray and be entertained and sustained. It has brought us to a fuller life and invite everyone to tune in if you don't already. Pass the good word!



**ANY MAN
CAN BE
A FATHER
BUT IT TAKES
SOMEONE
SPECIAL
TO BE A
DADDY.**

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION

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How often does Scripture remind us that no matter what terrible things happen on earth, God's presence is near and constant? Isaiah 54:10 comes to my mind immediately, "Though the mountains fall away and the hills be shaken, My love shall never fall away from you nor my covenant of peace be shaken..." Fr. Chuck did an excellent job of reminding us of God's constant presence when our current season of change started. Perhaps you have felt that your mountains have fallen away and your hills have been shaken.

I have had many a "hill shaking" moment these past weeks. I have discovered, however, that the constant love and presence of God has been with us at Mary Mother during the virus. In fact, I have been blessed to witness more frequently, God's loving presence since this uncomfortable journey started.

Here are some examples of God's love and presence. Even though SVDP has not been able to make in person visits to Neighbors in Need, our local council at Mary Mother has been able to help. Find more details on the Saint Vincent de Paul article on this page. None of this help would have been possible without your generous financial support.

The Sandwich Shop was in danger of having to close because we couldn't gather in groups more than 10 and new sanitation requirements were imposed. Rather than close, sandwiches are now being assembled at the St. Anthony of Padua food pantry which can host enough volunteers to complete the mission as food pantries enjoy certain exemptions from the current restrictions. Grocery store bread donations for the Sandwich Shop almost dried up as frantic consumers picked store shelves clean. Once again, we rallied and donated funds so that Bridge Bread could supply us with sandwich bread, while ensuring that their employees would have a steady paycheck.

What about our spring fundraiser for Rice Bowl? How could we possibly have a successful campaign without pulpit announcement, flyers, and our familiar Rice Bowl boxes? Well...we had a very successful Rice Bowl campaign, amid fear, uncertainty and social isolation Mary Mother raised \$4,947.00 for Rice Bowl. If that isn't enough good news, at the same time, we have also raised \$3,625.00 for Room at the Inn! God's constant love and presence are certainly evident in our parish!

We can't stop with these victories, there is more work to be done. We will not be able to gather our June collection of food and household items for the Rock Church. Would you please prayerfully consider writing a check designated for the Rock Church and sending it to our office? The Rock Church has assembled a group of volunteers, who will use our donations to shop for the items we would normally donate.

Thank you all most sincerely for continuing to inspire me!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

March, 2020 has been an interesting month for SVDP. COVID-19 has hit all of us but especially our Neighbors in Need. The St. Louis SVDP has been helpful in assisting many of our Mary Mother's neighbors with rent and Heat Up StL. Grants.

During the past three months SVDP members contributed 759 hours of service and logged 1202 miles making 73 home visits and recycling scrap metal. Because of your contributions in dollars, food and scrap metal we have been able to assist 213 of our Neighbors in Need with the following expenses:

Utilities: \$2,250.00
Housing: \$12,920.14
Medical: \$836.50
Car Insurance: \$428.47
Car Payment: \$184.00
Car Purchase: \$500.00 toward a car purchase
Payday Loan: \$961.83
Food Gift Cards: \$1,100.00 (to cover perishable items
Food: \$1,267.50 (in food pantry items delivered at \$1.25 per item)
Twinning: \$4200.00 (to other conferences from metal collection)
Vouchers totaling \$833.14 were given to 4 families for beds, furniture, and clothing.

We applied for several grants from Council + Our District and received the following additional assistance:

\$600 in Disaster Relief Food Vouchers
\$4.177 in grants toward rent
\$2,037.94 in grants toward utilities
\$2,900.00 in a grant toward a car purchase

Thank you from all of you for making this assistance possible and for being the face of Christ to our Neighbors in Need.

**CHRISTIANITY
IS
NOT
A
THEORY,
IT
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A
LIFE.**

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NEW PARISHIONERS:

John & Jan Bruenger
Amber Bleem
John & Josie Scott
John & Beth Gualdoni

DEATHS:

Ron Bryant (January)
Nick Ems

FAREWELL:

Steve & Barb Gewinner
Suzanne Goette
Bridgette Dougherty
Rosemary Crews



GOD

BLESS YOU

ON THIS

FATHER'S DAY!

