

The San Antonian

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Gathered and Sent

Each week we gather for liturgy, where we join in the action of praising and thanking God and sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ. This worship is not an act that stands apart from the rest of our lives. The Eucharist gathers us, but it also sends us. We are sent on a mission, just as the followers of Jesus were sent—to proclaim the Good News, to bring about the Kingdom. We pray so that we can act. Pope Francis explained it quite succinctly: “You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That’s how prayer works.”

The Pope’s summary makes very clear that we are not to be passive pray-ers. God enlists us to help accomplish

God’s work. Prayer is not unlike making a suggestion to the pastor about something you think needs to be done at the parish. If you ask, you better be prepared to help make your request happen!

In this issue of the San Antonian, you can read how prayer works in the lives of some of your fellow parishioners. How does our worship inspire and feed us for the work of building up the Kingdom? These stories represent just a small fraction of the good work that happens when we leave church each Sunday. People in this parish feed those who hunger—physically, spiritually, emotionally—in a myriad of ways, big and small. If we are truly fed at the Table, then we cannot sit by while others hunger.

Feed the Poor – From Retirement to Volunteering At The Caring Place

By Ray Schneider

In planning to retire from public service at the end of December, 2012, I began to read the book *How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free* by Ernie J. Zelinski, subtitled “Retirement wisdom you won’t get from your financial advisor”. The premise of the book is you should have already planned for the monetary aspect of HOW to retire before the day of retirement arrives. What you probably hadn’t planned for is what you will DO when you retire. In a nutshell, “there are three important human needs that most jobs inadvertently fill. The needs are structure, a sense of community, and purpose.” When you retire, your new job is to discover ways to fill these three needs.

During my first year of retirement, I did a poor job of fulfilling those needs. Way too much TV time! At a family gathering after about a year into my retirement, my sister, who works at

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Building The Kingdom, One House At A Time

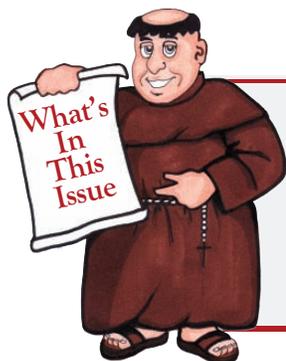
By John Bange

In 2008, Mark McCarthy won a serious battle with cancer. The doctors were amazed by his recovery and called it “miraculous.” Mark remains cancer free today.

To give thanks for his miracle, Mark decided to be more active with the St. Anthony choir and we enjoy hearing his bass voice each week. But he also wanted to do something positive to make a difference in Madisonville. Aware that there is a lack of affordable housing, he looked into Habitat for Humanity.

Since 2009, he has helped to build five new houses and rehab two. He works with the “Wednesday Crew,” a group of retired men from various professions and companies around the city. It’s a way to socialize, make new friends, get some good exercise, and make a real difference in the community.

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Worship Feeds Service

By Kathleen Cail

I think about the concepts of prayer and service a lot. At St. Anthony, we have opportunities to help out at MEAC, write Christmas cards to inmates at Lebanon Correctional, or make Kairos Cookies. We learn to pray for one another and for people and places outside our doors. My daughter attends a public high school that requires service hours for each student. College counselors tell students they need to demonstrate service work in order to get into college.

Prayer and volunteerism, in themselves, are not service. When we come together to worship, hear scripture, and share in the Eucharist, service becomes clearer and an important call to action that is a deeper extension of prayer and volunteerism. Prayer keeps us grounded in our faith and in relationship with God, and holds each other in our hearts. Volunteering is important and keeps many activities and organizations going. Neither can be discounted nor underestimated, but service is different. Service is taking the “encounter” with Christ at Mass out onto the streets and finding Christ in the people we meet, whether that is truly seeing Christ in each person to whom we serve a meal at MEAC, or Christ in the homeless person on the street, and valuing him or her as a child of God.

I volunteer as a board member for Starfire, here in Cincinnati, and for Positive Exposure in NYC. I do a lot of work for these organizations, but the people who are “the boots on the ground” for these organizations are the ones who are serving.

Bill Schmidter, The Science Guy

By Bill Schmidter

I graduated from college with a degree in physics in 1961 and became a physics and math teacher at St. Bernard Public High School, where I taught for five years, before going into the construction business, building houses and apartments.

For over 50 years, Carol and I ran many businesses, including a laundromat, ready-mix concrete, a gravel mine, oil wells, mobile home park and sales, self-storage, and building many large apartment buildings and warehouses.

Twenty-three years ago we heard that Father George Jacquemin was the priest at St. Anthony. We had known him and liked him when he was the pastor at St. Bernard Church in Winton Place, so we switched from St. Gertrude to St. Anthony. I was always a tinkerer, built my own boat and my own house. So Bill Steuer and I became the building and grounds committee at St. Anthony. We climbed the ladder to the clock tower many times and replaced the motor which ran the clock.

Eight years ago my return to teaching came about because a

When I get to know and spend time with Joe, Rosie, or Doug, who are served by Starfire, then I am serving them. When I connect Joe with a job opportunity or Doug with a person who shares an interest with him, then I am serving. When I help Starfire develop a strategy, I am volunteering. The same is true for Positive Exposure. When I write a business plan for a “center,” I am helping, but when I meet Rick as he does a photo shoot and get to know the people he is photographing, hear their stories, value their humanity, then I am serving.

I recently attended a talk with local Cincinnati Peter Block and Chicago-based John McKnight (the leader in Asset Based Community Development) about how to build community and how we view neighborhoods or people as “in need.” According to Peter, a study was conducted which found that a large percentage of people who are fed at soup kitchens say that their gift is cooking. Peter suggests that the real need is for people who are running the soup kitchens to recognize this and invite in some of the people they feed to help cook. Now instead of being “poor” or “homeless,” a person is a “cook,” has a relationship with other people, and is making a contribution. Peter also suggests that instead of having people stand in line to “be fed” we set up tables for them to sit at and “be served” at table, and sit down and eat with them. Encountering Christ in and valuing the humanity of a person are service. Christ’s life was one of service. He lived among people and encountered God’s love in each person he met. He loved to the end and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to us.

If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. (John 13:14)

high school friend from Xavier High School who is a retired engineer said he was doing volunteer teaching at St. Joseph School in the West End and asked if I would help. Paul and I recruited two other retired engineers and we taught the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade math and science one morning a week. We were known as “the science guys.” We were asked to put our program in other schools including Prince of Peace, Corryville Catholic, Resurrection, and St. Cecilia. One of the four of us conducted the class and the other three helped students with their experiment. We always began our classes with prayer, usually thanking God for some scientific phenomenon I liked. We had hands-on activities, which the kids liked very much. In one of our classes we taught mechanical advantage. We had a block and tackle with three little girls on one end and three big boys on the other end and because of the mechanical advantage the girls were able to pull the boys away. My favorite class was a gasoline engine class. We obtained eight lawnmower engines and the students had to take them apart and put them back together. We also got help from other people, including fellow parishioner Malachi Lawrence, who came and helped in a couple of classes. I am retiring because I am old and my hearing is getting very bad, but I thoroughly enjoyed teaching these children.

Quiet But Feisty

By John Bange

We see Kay Smith-Yount in church as a quiet but friendly, well-dressed woman. She doesn't talk much about herself or brag about the things she has done. She just does them.

Kay came from very humble beginnings. She was born in a log cabin on a plantation in Egypt, Mississippi. She was the granddaughter of a slave and the daughter of a sharecropper, the fifth of 17 children. Her first job was at the age of nine picking cotton for \$2 a day. The family experienced Klan violence and the hardships of the deepest kind of poverty, but they stuck together and through all that Kay learned the value of hard work, dedication and loyalty. A local minister recognized her talent, drive, and ambition. He wanted to give her a real chance to achieve her potential, and brought her to Cincinnati when he and his family relocated here to the West End, where she completed high school. At 16, and against all odds, she set out to find a job. Going from store to store, being turned down again and again, she was finally hired at a hardware store owned by a refugee from Belgium. He and his family were very encouraging to her with advice and opportunities about work and finance.

Later Kay was employed at the Fechheimer Brothers' Garment Company, during the era when the sewing rooms and restrooms were segregated. With the help of the NAACP, she brought an end to those practices and went on to become the president of the U.S. Garment Workers Local #224, the first African American president. She was also promoted and eventually became the production supervisor. At the same time Kay had to overcome a series of

A New Era At MEAC

By Walter Raines

"Out with the old... In with the new" is a popular expression that means to leave old ideas behind and to bring in new ideas. When the Madisonville Education & Assistance Center establishment faced the difficult prospect of having to replace resigning Executive Director Jessica Wabler, this wasn't the thought going through the minds of most us involved with MEAC. Jessica had performed an exemplary job for the organization and would have continued doing so going forward. As I prepared to become board president in January 2017, the thought of losing Jessica was challenging for all involved with MEAC, including staff and volunteers. We are forever grateful for her leadership, energy and dedication to the mission of caring for all of the clients served by MEAC during her tenure.

Enter Jen Baker as our new Executive Director. Jen comes to MEAC after an exhaustive search by our executive search committee with assistance by Gilman Partners (located locally in Fairfax). Jen felt enthusiastic enough about the possibilities at MEAC that she left a ten year tenure at Education Matters in Lower Price Hill. As a resident of Madisonville, Jen is astutely aware of the issues and needs of the residents and clients of the MEAC service area. She believes her main mission is to "lead our neighbors out of poverty while ensuring basic needs are met during that journey". MEAC offers our clients many of these "basic needs" through the following:

devastating personal and health problems, but aided by her conversion to the Catholic faith, found herself in a good place with a good life – three children, a loving husband, a home in the suburbs, and owner of several apartment buildings.

In 1987 Kay left Fechheimer after a 30-year career and took her experience, energy, enthusiasm, and determination back to her roots in the West End to become the executive director of the Community Land Cooperative of Cincinnati, a struggling non-profit housing organization. Kay helped revitalize the organization that helped low income people, especially single mothers, become home owners in the area at a time when residents were being displaced by urban renewal, gentrification, speculation, and historic preservation. In the face of many problems, she enlisted help from many organizations and individuals and was able to turn it around and make it a model for land trusts around the country, giving 100 workshops at conferences in 28 states. In the years since, Kay has taken her wisdom, experience, and leadership skills to serve on numerous boards and associations.

In 2014, this feisty octogenarian participated as one of the "Stars" in a Dancing with the Stars themed program benefiting the Cincinnati Arts Association's Overture Awards. She was both terrified and thrilled to participate with the others who were, to put it mildly, considerably younger than she! At least chronologically!

Kay is thankful for a life during which she has been blessed by God many times over. She always has the full support of her husband, Dan, in everything she does. She loves to give back, and for that we are very blessed.

- **MEAC Pantry** - food/clothing
- **Cincinnati Works** - employment assistance
- **Boys and Girls Club** - reading program at J.P. Parker School
- **MEAC Monday Night Meals** – nourishment provided by volunteers
- **MEAC Social Services** – provided by staff social worker

MEAC is very fortunate to enjoy the sustaining support of area churches. The work that we do would be impossible without their efforts on our behalf. MEAC can provide all of the aforementioned services because of the aid of our community. As the new Executive Director, Jen Baker is aware of this reality; she says "as new energy, growth and opportunities come to Madisonville, I believe MEAC plays a vital role in making sure those (sic) are accessible to all of the residents". Jen feels energized about tackling the task of satisfying the needs of the organization by increasing volunteerism (J.P. Parker reading program), fund-raising (annual Fall celebration), grant-writing (new/existing programs), and increasing area church support (including Eastminster Presbyterian Church).

This establishment has at its helm a visionary, who is poised to move to the next level. MEAC is ready to expand its scope to include more clients and offer more services. Jen says "education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, alongside of access to opportunities. MEAC will provide the tools needed". As board chair, I know that with our new executive director working side by side with the board and staff, we will make the community stronger and more self-reliant.

The Value of A Mission Trip

By Ken and Diane McPhillips

A few years back, friends asked if we wanted to go on a mission trip with them to Nicaragua. To be honest, we were relieved work conflicts prevented us from going. Using vacation time to go on a mission trip had NEVER been on our "to do" list. Upon their return, this couple explained what a great, "life-changing experience" it had been and there were lots of pictures of smiling people and tales of work accomplished.

Last fall, this couple again asked if we wanted to go on a mission trip. Since we didn't have a work conflict excuse, we agreed to go to the introductory meeting. At this meeting, we learned more about the mission organizer, Amigos for Christ; Cincinnati's assigned weeks for 2017; and the specifics of the application process, and were thanked for our interest. There was no pressure to commit or to donate but we left the meeting ready to commit because it felt as though we had been called!

The Cincinnati Amigos for Christ had a strictly community focus when it began. People commit to a one or two week trip to Nicaragua to work with a community to improve living conditions. The primary focus was to provide clean water and private toilets by digging of ditches and laying pipes. Once a community has sanitary water, the focus switches to education, healthcare, and economic development. The focus during our week was to work on a school. For three days, we sifted rocks from sand for concrete, carried heavy concrete blocks to work sites to build walls, and mixed and transported liquid concrete to stabilize foundations. However, the work did not seem so hard because the primary emphasis was on forming relationships rather than completing tasks. Everyone pitched in and was upbeat and encouraging! During long lunch breaks we visited the community workers' families. Neighborhood kids came daily to check the progress of their school and participate in fun activities. Mid-week, missionaries took a break and visited a retirement center where they sang and danced with residents. In 2017, one group of Cincinnati Amigos for Christ visited a home for widows and orphans.

A few years back, the Cincinnati Amigos for Christ added a medical focus. Surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists, and surgical technicians spend their weeks performing surgeries at a local hospital. For our trip, a dermatologist and physical therapist were kept quite busy addressing health needs of local residents.

Before we went to Nicaragua, we thought the value of this mission trip would be in the sacrifices we would have to endure, such as the 3 hour uncomfortable bus ride to and from the airport, living in a dorm, no private bath, cold showers, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for every lunch, beans and rice for every breakfast and dinner, and the inability to navigate in a different culture. Instead, we learned the value of trusting God to guide us to where we can impact the lives of others while growing spiritually! Perhaps our anticipations were more fears. We should have remembered God's words from Isaiah 41:10, "Do not be afraid for I am with you"! Most of the "sacrifices" listed above were insignificant or nonexistent. Couples had private bedrooms with baths. The black beans and rice were delicious and different each time, and there were plenty of other food choices! There even was a

raised patio to watch sunrises and sunsets. We easily navigated the local culture because everyone was working for common goals. The major goal of Amigos for Christ is to make Jesus more visible to everyone involved with the ministry! Each day began with a group gathering where each person was encouraged to identify one way to grow closer to God through the day's work. Each evening, the group gathered again to celebrate the work accomplished and to give thanks for the opportunity to be servants of God.

Amigos for Christ is a very dynamic and responsive organization, started in 1999, after a youth leader, John Bland, witnessed the widespread poverty and devastation in Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch. John envisioned a faith-based charity to strengthen communities by addressing concerns in 4 major areas: water/sanitation, healthcare, education, and economic development. Since then, Amigos has grown into an interdenominational service ministry providing several million dollars in aid to the poor and creating opportunities for families to flourish. Charity Navigator, an unbiased charity evaluator, has awarded Amigos for Christ the highest rating for financial performance, accountability, and transparency.

Thank God we heeded the call to go to Nicaragua! We were given an opportunity to grow spiritually and to serve God in a way we never anticipated! Our perspectives on life's values were transformed. If our "life-changing experience" has inspired you to learn more about the mission and work of Amigos for Christ, check out their website: <http://amigosforchrist.org>, and if it has sparked your interest in going on a mission trip, the 2018 Cincinnati trip to Nicaragua will be in late January and early February. We are happy to provide more information and can be contacted by email: dimcphil@yahoo.com.

How are you being called to change your perspective and to grow spiritually? Every day holds the potential to be a better Christian! Be not afraid!

Who Is Our Patron Saint - St. Anthony Of Padua?

By Jackie Schneider

BORN: August 15, 1195, in Lisbon, Portugal - Fernando Martins de Bulhoes - Also known as: Anthony of Lisbon

DIED: June 13, 1231, in Padua, Italy at 35 years old

FEAST DAY: June 13

NAME CHANGE: From Fernando to Anthony when he joined the Franciscan order.

NICKNAMES: The Wonder-Worker and Finder of Lost Articles

PATRON SAINT OF: Lost items, Lost and Found and St. Anthony Church in Madisonville OH

WHO WAS HE: Originally he was an Augustinian priest who left the order to join the Franciscans. After being called to preach at an ordination, Anthony presented a very eloquent and moving homily by opening himself to the Holy Spirit.

IMAGE: Typically depicted holding a book (the Bible) and the infant child Jesus.

KNOWN FOR: His simple way of teaching the Catholic faith that appealed to all kinds of people and his love and devotion to the poor and sick.

CANONIZED: May 30, 1232, by Pope Gregory IX, just one year after his death which makes him one of the most quickly canonized saints in church history.

SOURCE: Catholic Online/Saints & Angels; St. Anthony of Padua

Feed The Poor – From Retirement To Volunteering At The Caring Place *continued from page 1*

Nativity Parish in Pleasant Ridge, asked if I was free on Thursdays. Boy, was I free! She said The Caring Place (TCP) in Kennedy Heights needed someone to pick up food from The Fresh Market in Kenwood and take it to TCP. I figured it would keep me busy for a few hours once a week. For the first year, I had the food picked up, dropped off, and was back home by noon. Job done! I could feel good about myself! After volunteering for almost a year, I learned that one of the volunteers who did general assistance at TCP left at noon. I decided I could cover his work for the rest of the day until TCP closed. That was when I learned how important The Caring Place is for its clients.

TCP serves residents in Kennedy Heights, Pleasant Ridge, Golf Manor, and Silverton. Eligibility is based on family income. Food is distributed to families according to the number of family members. TCP is a “Choice” pantry which means the families can shop from the shelves and select food they like rather than receiving bags of pre-selected food. TCP also has a clothing room with gently-used clothes, where the families can shop.

We try to make their lives as pleasant as possible. If there is a birthday in the family, we will try to provide a cake. If there is an abundance of a certain item, then all families may get that item. At Thanksgiving and Easter, there is a special food distribution; at Christmas, we try to give toys; and, at the beginning of the school year, school supplies are provided.

A few clients stand out in my mind for different reasons:

- One woman, probably in her late 80’s, and her adult son: she is stooped over and needs a walker for assistance; he looks generally unkempt. The driver’s side door on their van does not open.
- Another woman who lives in the southern part of Pleasant Ridge rides her bike to TCP, and straps the bags of food to the bike for her journey home.
- Others are very resourceful in the methods they employ for getting the food home. From filling a piece of luggage to loading up their child’s wagon, they find a way.
- One client’s ID is from her jail stay.

I love it when we can feed more than just their stomach. One man, who is obese and has diabetes, has trouble walking. A woman, who is also larger, had a wider-than-standard walker she did not need anymore and donated it to The Caring Place. After we gave the man this walker, he was able to walk distances, and has lost 30 pounds because of it. Another couple of women saw a flyer that was hanging on the wall about a knitting circle being held at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center. They felt their work was not worthy of being displayed at the Center but decided to go to the Circle and learn. Both women now love the Center and have had pieces displayed there.

Every neighborhood has a food pantry. If you are not able to volunteer your time, you can donate food, clothing, household items or even cash so that you too can feed your neighbors who have fallen on hard times.

For God authority is always synonymous with service, humility, love. It means to enter into Jesus’ logic, who bends down to wash the feet of the Apostles

(cf. Angelus, January 29, 2012)

Building The Kingdom, One House At A Time

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The crew members start with different skill levels. One of the things that Mark likes about Habitat is that anyone can volunteer, regardless of their skill set. You can be an expert carpenter or barely know how to swing a hammer. Others will gladly teach you what you need to know.

Each Wednesday they gather at about 9:00 a.m. and work for six to eight hours. They start with a prayer and discuss safety. Early in the project they work at Habitat’s warehouse. Working from drawings, they fabricate exterior walls. Most walls are eight-foot high and of varying lengths. They make door and window openings. On another day, they erect the walls at the site. Over the following weeks they may also put up scaffolding, install insulation, drywall, siding, roof joists, and the roof. Finish work will include installing windows, doors, and cabinets. Much of this work is also done by the Saturday volunteers. Electrical and plumbing is done by contractors, as is sometimes the roof.

Habitat is not a giveaway program. The approved homeowner does pay for the house. They also put sweat equity into the project, working with the teams of volunteers and staff. For Mark, it is a genuine pleasure to get to know the family, working side by side with them and teaching them new skills. Celebrating the completion of their new home at the dedication ceremony is a real joy.

The 2017 home is going to be built on the east side of Madisonville on Ledge Avenue. This will provide a family with a new home, as well as rejuvenating the area and breaking isolation, with people coming and going.

Mark emphasized that anyone can volunteer. If a person cannot donate dollars, they can give their time. I asked Mark, “What if Pope Francis stopped by some Saturday? What could he do to help?” Mark said they would be pleased to teach him any skill he would like to learn, taking into consideration his age. But he could talk with folks and inspire them. He could provide lunch. Or he could do as our dear friend, the late Pat Fedders from St. Anthony did, stop by anytime and pick up rocks and sticks in the yard. Please contact Mark through the Parish Center at 513-271-0920 if you would like to become part of the team.

Our Father

By Christina Martich

I had the privilege to teach the 4th - 6th grade students this academic year for EPIC, the St. Anthony Faith Formation program. I led a class of ten thoughtful boys and girls who were willing to talk about and discuss stories about God and Jesus. During Lent we used an activity book entitled *Jesus and You: Heroes in Lent*. One class activity during the fourth week of Lent explored how Jesus came to teach us that we are all God's children and that God is Father to us all. So how can the students think about God using the word Father? The lesson asked them to think of and write down six words to describe the word FATHER.

These are words the students wrote.....

- F - faithful, forgiving
- A - amazing, awesome, almighty, alms-giving, astonishing
- T - trustworthy, teacher, tree of life, true
- H - healer, heart-sharing, heavenly, honest, here!
- E - eternal, everlasting, Emmanuel, Easter hero
- R - righteous, ready, real, resurrection, responsible, respectful

I was so proud of their creativity and willingness to share their words and ideas. What a blessing it has been for me to learn more about God and Jesus with them!

I want to thank all the parishioners who helped with hospitality in the Saints Cafe between the masses and during faith formation classes. The kids enjoyed helping themselves to snacks and drinks and interacting with all of you.

Receive The Gift

By Rita P. Balcom

It is only in emptying myself that I'm free to receive what the patients have to give.

What they give can present itself in many forms—blaring bursts of anger, subtlety in a dire situation, a runaway train of emotion, denial of the severity of a new prognosis, complete withdrawal, laughter, shock, apologies for sins, and so on.

What I search for is seen through their eyes – the windows of the soul. Looking someone straight in the eye with kindness can allow them to open up their heart, a little at a time.

What I receive is a gift of themselves, a willingness to share something precious with me—their life, their loves, their pain, their mortality, their sorrow, their joy, their desperation, their faith. And to trust that I will always treat them and their journey with dignity.

What I receive in return is a gratefulness for God's showing me the way to this ministry, for the ability to still be doing it at my age, for what I have survived in my own life, for the blessings that fill up my cup to overflowing.

“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus.”

(Pope Francis, Address during Visit at the Homeless Shelter “Dono Di Maria,” 5/21/13)

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