

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Jesus, the Good Shepherd

From The Pastor's Desk

This week I have asked **Brianne Feldpausch** to share her story of discernment.
God Bless, Fr. Dennis



After three years of medical school, I am taking a leave of absence to enter religious life as a Religious Sister of Mercy (RSM) of Alma, MI, on August 1st! Though I first felt called in fifth grade, I turned away and even rebelled against my call numerous times, but God kept pouring graces into my heart until I couldn't resist Him. My call is now so persistent and irresistible that I must go – and I am going so joyfully!

Let's rewind to high school – I wanted to live what I saw as a “normal life.” Though I prayed daily, went to Steubenville, and joined Most Holy Trinity (MHT) parish events, I often went through the motions and did the minimum in my faith. I remember weeping in Adoration during a MHT high school retreat since I was away from God. Suddenly, Fr. Mathias Thelen walked to the podium and said, “I feel that God wants me to say: ‘My daughter, you can always come back to me.’” I began crying even harder because I knew God was speaking to me.

At Michigan State University (MSU), my faith was challenged for the first time, and I became so thankful for my strong faith foundation instilled by MHT and my parents. I began claiming my faith for my own, but I still tiptoed into a deeper relationship with our Lord. Because God's tug on my heart persisted, I went on my first “Nun Run” (visiting multiple convents) through the Lansing diocese during my sophomore year. I felt pulled toward the RSMs during our visit, but I was freaked out by this real possibility. I was afraid of what God might ask me to do if I said “yes” to Him.

During this time, the Holy Spirit gave me the idea to become a “Mother Teresa physician.” Though I always planned to go straight from undergrad to medical school, I felt a stirring in my heart to devote a year in service beforehand. Through the Catholic Volunteer Network, I chose the Franciscan Change a Heart program, through which I would serve with the Street Medicine program of Pittsburgh Mercy Health (founded by the RSMs!). Before leaving for Pittsburgh, I still felt curious about the RSMs, so I requested a visit.

Journal entry from July 2015: “Today, I was supposed to go to Holy Hour with the Alma Mercy Sisters. I had been praying up to this day that God would open my heart to His Will and give me the courage to accept whatever vocation He has for me. This morning while trying to fall back asleep by repeating Hail Mary prayers, I had a vision in black and white. Jesus was on an altar, and I could barely see His face, but I knew it was Him. I immediately fell prostrate on the steps before Him, and He said, ‘Brianne, do you love me?’ I answered, ‘Yes,’ and He said, ‘Then come follow Me.’ I know this was Jesus speaking because my soul burned for hours afterwards, just like it does during Adoration.”

I was then quite surprised that the Sisters requested we postpone my visit. Encouraged by this vision, I finally visited the weekend before moving to Pittsburgh. I prayed fervently that God would speak to me. While in Adoration with the RSMs, I asked if God wanted me to enter. He clearly and gently said, “Not right now.” I wasn't sure if He meant not

ever, or just not at that time, but I then felt at peace leaving for Pittsburgh.

In Pittsburgh, I fell in love with serving people struggling with homelessness. They taught me so much about our own humanity and the dignity of each person. I vividly remember visiting a client under a bridge when I suddenly saw Jesus in Him. I was quite taken aback, but there Jesus was in this man.

Feeling at peace when my volunteer year ended, I began medical school with the idea of religious life remaining on a shelf. While visiting home during my second year, I journaled: “I was in the MHT church sitting on the bottom step of the altar. It was a beautiful, peaceful time with God. I kept asking, ‘Lord, how much do You love me?’ I looked up at the crucifix with Jesus nailed to the cross, arms spread wide apart, and He said, ‘This much.’”

Soon after, I felt God stirring in my heart again. I was surprised that dating now felt wrong – almost like I was cheating on God since I was not being true to what He was asking of me. I began longing for time in Adoration as I searched for the meaning of this renewed stirring (yet, I couldn't help thinking, “Seriously, Lord, You're potentially asking me to enter in the middle of medical school?!”).

Throughout the ensuing months of summer, my relationship with our Lord grew deeper than ever before. I did not realize how rich our faith and a relationship with Him could be! The question of my vocation went from years ago of, “Maybe I am called to religious life,” to the past couple years of, “I think I might be called,” to now, “*I am called to religious life.*” *Daily, I prayed, “When, where, and how, Lord?” God was patient with me for so long, and He now asked me to be patient with Him.*

Another Nun Run was offered in November when I happened to be off from clinical rotations. I prayed, “Lord, I will go. Please reveal your plan to me in a way that I can understand.” The last stop was with the RSMs. As we pulled into their driveway, my heart skipped a beat as I realized their entire house had been imprinted in my mind from my Nun Run six years previously. During this visit, I felt so strongly called to their Institute that if I had not been in medical school, I would have requested to enter that day! Filled with joy and wonder, I prayed, “Lord, if this is what You want for me, this is all that my heart desires.”

Trusting that God would provide the way, I scheduled a MSU academic advising meeting to discuss taking a leave of absence from medical school to enter religious life. Aware that I may encounter resistance, I repeatedly asked God to help the advisor (whom I had never met) be open to this possibility. When our meeting day arrived, I explained my request, and she responded, “I lived with a community of religious Sisters for two years before discerning God was calling me to marriage!” Awestruck, I thought, “Woah, Lord! You completely delivered!” The MSU advisor then assisted me with the process, and said she would pray for me.

I then spent four days with the RSMs over Christmas break. Within a couple of hours, I knew I was called there. I felt more at home with the RSMs than anywhere else I've lived in years. Jesus radiates so vibrantly from each Sister. I told one of the Sisters how spoiled I felt to be with them during their Christmas retreat, and she responded with a smile, “God will continue spoiling you!”

I have since been accepted to the RSMs (praise God!), and I enter on August 1st, 2019! I never dreamed that I would

From Brianne Feldpausch Continued . . .

enter religious life in the middle of medical school, so I am convinced this can only be the work of the Holy Spirit.

Though many RSMs are practicing physicians in their ministry, it is possible that I may not be called back to medical school. With our vow of obedience, this decision will not be in my hands, but it is *completely my choice to surrender this possibility into God's hands! I am amazed by how little fear I feel – for I trust that whatever God has in store is way more amazing than anything I could plan. By embracing my vocation, I do not feel that I am letting go of myself, but rather, I am becoming more of myself.*

I struggled with, "How can God be calling me, when I've messed up and turned away countless times?" But God loves to work through the sinner if we let Him. After years of living in the secular world, I found that He is full of such great richness that the world cannot offer. Jesus is all that will ever quench the thirsting of my soul. Since saying "yes" to my vocation, my heart has been so peaceful and full of joy that it's as if His joy has overflowed into my own heart. I am excited to jump into His embrace! All praises be to God, now and forever!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

"He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to Him, let go of yourself, lose yourself on the Cross, and you will find yourself entirely." -St. Catherine of Siena

God Bless,

Brianne Feldpausch

St. Stephen, deacon and martyr, Pray for us!



Ordination to the Diaconate

Saturday, May 18th 2019
at 10:30 am.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
955 Alton Road, East Lansing

Transitional Diaconate

John Vinton
Michael Cassar

Permanent Diaconate

Gary Perrydore
Gordon Prepsky
Richard Stoolmakeer
Robert Strouse
Kevin Wiley

Sean Costello
Eric Elstro
Phillip Guyeskey
Peter Hansen
Robert Nieman

Statue of Mary

It's been a while since we mentioned the statue of Mary that we invite parishioners to take home for one week. With the information below to assist you, pray for our parish and for the needs of families.



Please consider taking the statue home! There is a sign up sheet in the main entrance of the church.

Directions for those who take the statue home:

- Place the statue in a prominent place in your home to remind everyone to pray.
- Pray for the intentions which are listed below. One suggestion for your family prayer time is to begin with the sign of the cross, have everyone share how they saw God at work today, then pray the intentions listed below. Feel free to add your own. Close with the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be....

Prayer Intentions

- That every person in Most Holy Trinity parish will experience God's love, grow in maturity as a disciple of Christ, become actively engaged in the full life of the Church and joyfully utilize their gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God and the salvation of souls.
- For the sick of our parish, our shut-ins, those in hospitals and nursing homes, that they would experience healing and unite their sufferings with Jesus' cross and resurrection.
- For our young people, that they would "set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)
- For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
- For those suffering with addictions, that they would "trust the Lord with all their heart and lean not on their own understanding, but submit to God and allow Him to make their paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-12)
- For special graces to be poured out on all married couples, for those engaged, preparing for marriage, and for all married couples who are struggling.
- For those who are lost, searching, who no longer practice their faith, that the love of God would touch their hearts, and that the Holy Spirit might lead them to Christ.

***"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*-Ephesians 3:15-21**

DIOCESAN Interested in advertising your business in the bulletin?

Catholic Life **Every Day** Michael Lenz, a representative from our bulletin publisher, Diocesan Publications, will be seeking new ads and renewing present parish bulletin ads the week of May 20th. If you are interested in advertising please call the parish office for Michael's contact information. We feel this is an excellent opportunity for local businesses to increase their visibility. *Advertising in the bulletin allows this publication to be printed each week at no cost to our parish.*



We pray for all our mothers, living and deceased, and for all those who have exercised their maternal love in our lives.

Principal of Most Holy Trinity School
 Anne Hufnagel—AnneH@mhtparish.com

By connecting our Catholic faith to life, we at Most Holy Trinity School seek to fulfill Christ's mandate to proclaim the Gospel, restore all things in Him, strive to lead our students to the Truth for the betterment of this world and prepare them for the age to come.

Important Dates:

Monday, May 13	New Parent Orientation @ 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Tuesday, May 21	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Friday, May 24	11:30 Dismissal/Staff PD in p.m.
Monday, May 27	No School/Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 28	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Thursday, May 30	1 st – 4 th Grade Field Trip
Thursday, May 30	5 th – 8 th Grade Field Trip
Friday, May 31	8 th Grade Class Trip

New Parent Orientation: There will be a parent orientation for new parents who have either already enrolled or are considering enrolling their children at Most Holy Trinity School for the 2019/20 school year. The meeting will start in the school cafeteria or Msgr. Koenigsknecht Hall at 7:00 p.m. and will be hosted by Anne Hufnagel (principal) and Gillian Ernst (1st/2nd grade teacher).

Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance. – St. Francis of Assisi

Fowler Athletic Boosters to Host Scrap Metal Drive

A large trailer will be located at the village recycling site from **May 17-25**. Suggested items are: Outdoor furniture, metal fencing, cookware, shelving, poles, pipes/wires, ladders, sinks, car parts, appliances, bed frames/springs, bikes, grills, tools, gutters, siding, farm equipment, hot water heaters, trampoline frames & exercise equipment. *If you are unsure about acceptable items, call Portland Iron & Metal, Inc at 517-647-6476.*

Items NOT accepted include: batteries, propane tanks, computers, TVs, full paint cans, items with freon (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners).

K of C 50/50 Raffle



The Knights of Columbus are excited to announce our annual '50/50 Support the Faith Club' fundraiser. This is a cash raffle with various cash prizes and the proceeds will provide scholarships for families that are sending their children to MHT School. Tickets for the raffle are \$20 and can be purchased at MHT School, the rectory, and any officer. Each KC member was mailed two tickets and is encouraged to purchase or sell the tickets. We are requesting all tickets (sold/unsold) be returned by July 6th as the first of 20 cash raffle drawings will be July 8th. **ALL entries will be eligible for ALL 20 drawings.** The scholarships will be provided for the 2019-20 school year.

St. Joseph Parish Festival in Pewamo

21st Annual 5K Run/2 Mile Walk on Sat., June 8: For details and registration, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Pewamo/PewamoStJosephRun> or call Matt/Kelli Smith at 989-593-3509, Bill/Dawn Martin at 989-640-3591, or Jennyl Simon at 517-281-6585.

Volleyball Tournament: 4-on-4 co-ed grass tournament with competitive and recreational divisions. Cost is \$80/team. Call or text Kylie Thelen at (989) 640-9222 or Evan Thelen at (989) 534-6095 for registration and info. *Entry deadline is Thursday, June 6th.*

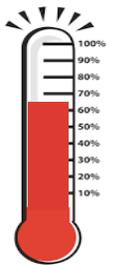


Diocesan Service Appeal

"Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Our Diocesan goal this year is \$5,100,000.00.
 Our parish goal has been set at **\$64,013.00**.
 Any pledge over and above our goal will be returned 50% to our parish.

Pledges now total \$41,269.32
64.47% of our goal!



Vacation Bible School **Save the Date**

We're really excited that three Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist from Ann Arbor will be leading VBS this year! The date for that is June 24-28. We will have more details along with registration later this spring.

"The Intellectual Legacy of Benedict XVI"

Presented by Dr. Matthew Ramage in Mercy Hall at Church of the Resurrection in Lansing, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on **Friday, May 17**. For more info, see LumenLansing.org

Sponsor of the Week

Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.

Westphalia Electric

 **Wedding Banns**



First Publication

Joshua Schmitt, son of Dan & Patty Schmitt

Courtney Henning, daughter of Scott & Carolyn Henning and Debbie & Brian Szpont

Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering, especially: Ardith Graham, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Julie Wieber Schafer, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Dick Rehmann, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Gregg Platte, Frank Hufnagel, Marie Weber, Jenine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger, Jordy Wohlscheid, Jennifer Grace Schraubach, Janet Simon, Dale Young, Brent Baese, Shane Grinnell, Richard Bushamp, Alan & Therese Kramer, Christopher Martin, Theresa Heeg, Bev Nurenberg, Jeff Wadell, Charles Wadell, Chuck Welch, Jeanne Alaga, Milo Platte, Timothy D. Thelen, Marilyn Dixon, Richard Rodgers, Carolee Smith, Charles Miller, Joyce Goerge, Father Den Morrow Alick Feldpausch and a special intention.

Please contact the office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.

**Our Parish Stewardship
God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

May 4 & 5 Collection..... \$9,982.86

Special Collections

Cemetery \$2.00
 Newspapers \$106.00
 Easter Offering \$5.00
 Easter Flowers \$5.00
 ETF \$20.00



The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is for all of those being persecuted and martyred for their faith. Lord, grant them protection and shelter in your loving heart.

Readings for the Week of May 12, 2019

Monday Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17
Wednesday Acts 12:24—13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday - May 13

7:00 p.m. + Paul & Helen Fox

Tuesday - May 14

8:15 a.m. + Ray & Janet Armbrustmacher

Wednesday - May 15

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 p.m. + John Klein Including Mary & Jake

Thursday - May 16

8:15 a.m. + For the Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary's Class of 1958

Friday - May 17

8:15 a.m. + Zoah Bengel

Saturday - May 18

4:30 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday - May 19

8:30 a.m. For the intentions of the 2019 Fowler High School Graduates

10:30 a.m. + Reynold Goerge

Ushers for May 18 & 19

4:30 p.m. - Tony Schafer, Jerome R Thelen, Lonnie Schueller, volunteer

8:30 a.m. - Gerry Schomisch, Philip Schmitt, Ralph Feldpausch, volunteer

10:30 a.m. - Stan Weber, Gene Messer, Leon Schneider, Brian Thelen

Servers for this week

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Gavin Klein, Ella Hufnagel

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - MHT School Volunteers

Weds., 7:00 p.m. - Zoe & Trinity Kramer

Thurs., 8:15 a.m. - Adult Volunteer

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Adult Volunteer

Servers for May 18 & 19

4:30 p.m. - Brooke, Emily & Amber Epkey, volunteer

8:30 a.m. - Caiden & Chase Pung, Owen Simon, Ella Hufnagel

10:30 a.m. - Tristan & Quentin Smith, Hudson Phillips, Jonathan Fowler

May 12, 2019

Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard

Parish Office Hours -- 8am-noon, 1-3pm

Parish Office: 593-2162

Email: office@mhtparish.com

Website: mhtparish.com

MHT School - 593-2616