

# adult retreat

SEPTEMBER 28-30

7 PM FRIDAY - NOON SUNDAY

BETHANY HOUSE, DEWITT

\$150 PER PERSON

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

**[Be Restored]**  
PSALM 23

### From The Pastor's Desk

This week I have asked Stephanie Kirvan to share her thought about our adult retreats.

God Bless, Fr. Dennis



When I reflect back to my first retreat, I'm amazed to realize just how much the Lord has used these opportunities to help transform me. He has worked within me on so many levels since I took that initial leap of faith & answered the call to attend. Where once stood this super shy, socially awkward introvert that wouldn't have dreamt of going to anything like this (because it was WAY out of my comfort zone), now stands someone excited and

ready to take on new challenges, who's a little less afraid to talk to someone new and even counts the days until the next retreat. I can personally attest to, and cannot emphasize enough, how much personal & spiritual growth and healing I've had as a result of these retreats. The fruits reach far beyond breaking me out of my shy little bubble.

Something that most people don't really know about me is that I never used to be this overly quiet, reserved person who's anxiety levels would rocket at the mere thought of being in a room full of people. Once upon a time, I actually thrived in that exact kind of environment. I was captain of my debate class and leadership roles came as naturally to me as breathing. I was outgoing and bubbly to a fault. I wouldn't have thought twice about walking up to someone new to strike up a conversation. I was the type that if teachers noticed me roaming the halls, they would pull me into their classroom to help demonstrate a lesson plan- and being up in front of peers like that was when I was really in my element.

Things not always being made of sunshine & rainbows though, the storms of life set in. Things happened. Bad decisions were made. Trust was broken. Deep, invisible, non-healing wounds formed and posed as a constant reminder of a suffering I didn't quite understand. Not having any kind of relationship with God at the time and not knowing how to navigate the treacherous waters I suddenly found myself submerged in, things that went from bad to worse. That vicious cycle trickled into my adult life until I was unrecognizable, even to myself. I became a numb, hollow shell to the once vibrant, full-of-life person I had been. I spent years feeling like I was always swimming against an unrelenting tide and through a constant whirlwind of negative emotions that had me drowning in my own self-induced personal sea of darkness. The idea of people knowing how hurt, lost and alone I felt, terrified me even more than the suffocating emptiness that greeted me each day. I became so absorbed in that fear that I began to build an invisible barrier as a weak attempt to mask my flaws & insecurities. Before I knew it, I completely isolated myself from everyone and everything. Avoidance had become my new normal and I was a far-cry from the energetic, extrovert I used to be.

Just an example of how far adrift I had become: fast-forward to when I joined RCIA in the fall of 2013: I remember getting so excited about different topics of discussion that I would subconsciously start responding. But, like every perfectly placed delayed reaction, it took me a moment to process that I was actually speaking in front of people. Almost instantly, mid-conversation, I would start stumbling on my words to the point I couldn't complete a coherent sentence. I would get so frustrated because I knew what I wanted to say, but couldn't will myself to actually form the words. After some awkward attempts and nothing but inconsistent babble leaving my mouth, I would eventually just sigh, look down and give up. I would stop talking without even trying to finish. This is what I had become. This was how many conversations went for me, and was the reason I did my best to avoid talking to people.

Fast-forward again to the retreat last September, and that's when things really started to turn back around for me. I had a really powerful experience during Friday night's adoration and for the first time in a long time, I felt something ignite from deep within. Some key topics of the weekend were on prayer and discernment, which I took into Saturday evening's adoration and left with a heavy sense that I needed to volunteer and get more involved in events within the Church. This idea absolutely terrified me. As ashamed as I am to admit, instead of having faith in His plan, I instantly started a mental checklist of all the reasons why there was no way I could do something like that: *I can't even talk to people! How am I supposed to be more involved!? Does He really know who I am, who He's asking this of!? Well, much to my surprise, shortly after returning home from this retreat, I was talking to Adam via messenger about what another great weekend it was, etc. Before I knew it (without even bringing it up), he casually mentioned to not be surprised if I'm invited to be on the committee for the next one. Well, at this point, fears aside, with discernment confirmation at hand, it's hard to deny the direction I'm supposed to take. So, here I am, getting ready to help on another retreat and the rest is history.*

It's no exaggeration when I say what a blessing these retreats have been in my life! Since helping with the retreat for the first time this past February, as much as I didn't understand what it could mean for me at the time, I am so grateful for the opportunity I've been given to get more involved! I know I have a long way to go, but with each retreat and prayer service I've been to or helped with, little-by-little, the broken pieces I've kept closed off & hidden away are falling back into place, and the spark I never thought I would see again is slowly coming back to life... all as a direct result of going out of my comfort zone and taking the time to say yes to His call!

Living in such a crazy, busy world that offers so many distractions, it's imperative we take the initiative to carve time out of our busy schedules to spend some quality one-on-one time with the Lord; to give Him thanks and just be in His presence. What better way to do that than through a ready-made weekend dedicated to the Lord with fellow parishioners, where all you have to do is show up with an open heart? As we listen to personal, moving, relatable testimonies and have deep, meaningful conversations that take us from crying one moment, to laughing and having fun the next... it's no wonder the friendships made at these retreats go beyond strengthening community bonds and create more of a sense of family.

I can say with confidence and without a doubt that I wouldn't be where I am today and wouldn't have experienced this much growth and healing if it weren't for these retreats! If you've ever felt the call to attend, create the time, take that leap and come join us on the next one! You never know what the Lord has in store for you and you may not even understand why until down the road, but I do know you won't be disappointed!

God Bless! **Stephanie Kirvan**

### Looking for Volunteers

Have you been wondering how you could help out at MHT? Here are a couple of areas you might think about!

We are in need of someone to assist with weekday mass set-up. Training is provided.

Also, we are looking for a group of volunteers (men & women) that would be willing to help set up tables, chairs, placemats, cups, etc. in the Activity Center for funeral dinners. If you are interested in helping when you are available, please contact the parish office. An email will be sent when there is a dinner, and we would ask that you let us know if you are able to help. Thank you!



### THE MCCARRICK SCANDAL

*I'm sure you've been hearing the horrible and scandalous revelations about Cardinal McCarrick and those who covered up his misdeeds. I found this article by Bishop Robert Barron very helpful and hope it will be helpful for you. Let us pray that*

*the Holy Father and those in charge of the discipline of bishops will follow through in investigating and ridding the church of this darkness. ~Fr Dennis*

When I was going through school, the devil was presented to us as a myth, a literary device, a symbolic manner of signaling the presence of evil in the world. I will admit to internalizing this view and largely losing my sense of the devil as a real spiritual person. What shook my agnosticism in regard to the evil one was the clerical sex abuse scandal of the nineties and the early 2000's. I say this because that awful crisis just seemed too thought-through, too well-coordinated, to be simply the result of chance or wicked human choice. The devil is characterized as "the enemy of the human race" and particularly the enemy of the Church. I challenge anyone to come up with a more devastatingly effective strategy for attacking the mystical body of Christ than the abuse of children and young people by priests. This sin had countless direct victims of course, but it also crippled the Church financially, undercut vocations, caused people to lose confidence in Christianity, dramatically compromised attempts at evangelization, etc., etc. It was a diabolical masterpiece.

Many years ago I was attending a conference and found myself wandering more or less alone in the area where groups and organizations had their booths. I came over to one of the tables and the woman there said, "You're Fr. Barron, aren't you?" I replied affirmatively, and she continued, "You're doing good work for the Church, but this means that the devil wants to stop you. And you know, he's a lot smarter than you are and a lot more powerful." I think I just mumbled something to her at that moment, but she was right, and I knew it. All of this has come back to me in the wake of the Archbishop McCarrick catastrophe. St. Paul warned us that we battle, not against flesh and blood, but against "powers and principalities." Consequently, the principal work of the Church at this devastating moment ought to be prayer, the conscious and insistent invoking of Christ and the saints.

Now I can hear people saying, "So Bishop Barron is blaming it all on the devil." Not at all. The devil works through temptation, suggestion, and insinuation—and he accomplishes nothing without our cooperation. If you want to see the principle illustrated, Google [Luca Signorelli's image of the Antichrist](#) in the Orvieto Cathedral. You'll see what I mean. Archbishop McCarrick did wicked things and so did those, it appears, who enabled him. And we have to come to terms with these sins.

Before I broach the subject of how to do this, permit me to say a few words about unhelpful strategies being bandied about. A first one is indiscriminate scapegoating. The great philosopher René Girard taught us that when communities enter into crisis, people typically commence desperately to cast about for someone or some group to blame. In the catharsis of this indiscriminate accusation, they find a kind of release, an ersatz peace. "All the bishops should resign!"

"The priesthood is a cesspool of immorality!" "The seminaries are all corrupt!" As I say, these assertions might be emotionally satisfying at some level, but they are deeply unjust and conduce toward greater and not less dysfunction. The second negative strategy is the riding of ideological hobby horses. So lots of commentators—left, center, and right—have chimed in to say that the real cause of the McCarrick disaster is, take your pick, the ignoring of *Humanae vitae*, priestly celibacy, rampant homosexuality in the Church, the mistreatment of homosexuals, the sexual revolution, etc. Mind you, I'm not saying for a moment that these aren't important considerations and that some of the suggestions might not have real merit. But I *am* saying that launching into a consideration of these matters that we have been debating for decades and that will certainly not admit of an easy adjudication amounts right now to a distraction.

So what should be done? The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has no juridical or canonical authority to discipline bishops. And even if it tried to launch an investigation, it has, at the moment, very little credibility. Only the Pope has juridical and disciplinary powers in regard to bishops. Hence, I would suggest (as a lowly back-bencher auxiliary) that the bishops of the United States—all of us—petition the Holy Father to form a team, made up mostly of faithful lay Catholics skilled in forensic investigation, and to empower them to have access to all of the relevant documentation and financial records. Their task should be to determine how Archbishop McCarrick managed, despite his widespread reputation for iniquity, to rise through the ranks of the hierarchy and to continue, in his retirement years, to function as a roving ambassador for the Church and to have a disproportionate influence on the appointment of bishops. They should ask the ecclesial version of Sen. Howard Baker's famous questions: "What did the responsible parties know and when did they know it?" Only after these matters are settled will we know what the next steps ought to be.

In the meantime, and above all, we should ask the heavenly powers to fight with us and for us. I might suggest especially calling upon the one who crushes the head of the serpent.

~Bishop Robert Barron



### Blood Drive

Blood Drive at Most Holy Trinity Hall  
August 27, 1:00 to 6:45 p.m.  
Sponsored by VFW Post 3733 in Fowler

### MHT Scrip

Beginning Monday, August 20, scrip will be in the school office, and orders will return to a weekly schedule.

### *Sponsor of the Week*

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

**Dewey's Trading Post**

**Most Holy Trinity Parish Festival 2018 Bulletin Report**

2018 Parish Festival	Income	Expense	Profit	2017	2016
3 on 3 Basketball	\$3,345.00	\$370.08	\$2,974.92	\$3,592.82	\$3,225.41
5 K Race	\$1,882.50	\$649.60	\$1,232.90	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arts & Crafts	\$936.21	\$0.00	\$936.21	\$991.69	\$840.00
Bean Bag Tournament	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$90.00	\$130.00
Bingo	\$336.50	\$5.00	\$331.50	\$451.30	\$393.50
Country Store	\$1,552.00	\$0.00	\$1,552.00	\$1,825.00	\$1,711.28
Elephant Ears	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Euchre Tournament	503.00	0.00	503.00	\$416.25	\$0.00
Festival Donation (off raffle form)	3,637.00	0.00	3,637.00	\$5,075.45	\$3,245.00
Food & Drinks	\$14,504.74	\$5,783.68	\$8,721.06	\$8,137.53	\$7,824.28
Games	\$2,431.75	\$1,837.99	\$593.76	\$762.68	\$1,361.28
Ice Cream	\$381.80	\$0.00	\$381.80	\$217.54	\$293.59
Inflatables	\$1,252.00	\$1,019.00	\$233.00	\$283.00	\$531.00
Kona Ice	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,058.47	-\$2,058.47	-\$1,824.99	-\$2,006.24
Money Raffle	\$29,113.00	\$6,579.00	\$22,534.00	\$19,038.00	\$20,553.00
Movie Concessions	\$299.50	\$0.00	\$299.50	\$353.71	-\$205.00
Parade	\$0.00	\$150.00	-\$150.00	-\$150.00	-\$150.00
Quilt Raffle	\$4,353.00	\$772.00	\$3,581.00	\$3,677.91	\$3,279.04
Social Tent	\$2,300.00	\$1,023.70	\$1,276.30	\$2,051.20	\$2,061.90
Special Raffles	\$229.00	\$0.00	\$229.00	\$195.00	\$524.48
Start up Cash	\$6,205.00	\$6,205.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tent Rental	\$0.00	\$2,535.00	-\$2,535.00	-\$2,485.00	-\$2,185.00
Vegas	\$912.00	\$50.00	\$862.00	\$995.00	\$556.00
Volleyball	\$1,385.00	\$307.23	\$1,077.77	\$754.44	\$1,360.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$76,169.00</b>	<b>\$29,345.75</b>	<b>\$46,823.25</b>	<b>\$44,748.53</b>	<b>\$43,343.52</b>

	<u>Turned In</u>	<u>Not Turned In</u>	<u>Not Picked Up</u>	<u>% Turned In</u>	
Raffle Tickets	530	96	176	66.08%	
	<u>Number of Jobs</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Away</u>	<u>% of Jobs Volunteered For</u>
Workers List	552	482	70	190	87.32%

**Thank you to everyone for making this another successful Parish Festival!**

**Made for Happiness Diocesan Assembly**

**Diocesan Assembly 2018, Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Eucharistic Procession, Inspiring speakers,  
All Diocesan Mass**

Join thousands of Catholics from across our Diocese at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing and the Breslin Center as we gather in prayer, witness, and worship to celebrate the reason God made us: for happiness with Him in this life and the next!

**Intercessory Prayer**

This will be a historic event! Over the past few months parishioners from the Lansing Diocese have been praying and fasting for the success of this event. Bishop Boyea asked for volunteers from every parish to sign up for a day of intercessory prayer leading up to the assembly. He has blessed 4 framed images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, and is asking for these images to rotate between homes throughout the Diocese. **Monday, August 20** has been assigned to us. We invite any parishioner to feel free to stop by our home anytime between 1:00 - 4:00 pm and spend time in prayer; whether it's 5 minutes or an hour. If you have any questions, please call (517) 282-4610.

*Thank you, Jerry & Mary Lee Klein*



**FAQs about our upcoming MHT weekend retreat. We hope this section is helpful as you prayerfully consider attending this parish sponsored event.**

**What do you do on a retreat?** Our three main goals for the retreat are for people to grow in their relationship with the Lord, to provide them with an opportunity to get away and relax for a weekend, and to allow people to build relationships with others from the parish. We schedule a diverse set of activities to accomplish these goals while allowing people to go at their own pace. We have talks, free time, prayer/Adoration, and personal reflection time. We treat people like adults and aren't going to force anyone to do anything that they're not comfortable with.

**What if I don't know my faith well?** Don't let the idea of a retreat intimidate you. We purposely plan this time to have something for people of all levels of faith. We try to keep things at a level that no one will feel overwhelmed. We often have people share with us that they had fears of feeling judged or not being smart enough to attend, but quickly realized once the retreat started that there was nothing to worry about.



 **Wedding Banns**

**Third Publication:** Kevin Koenigsknecht & Olivia Feldpausch

**Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering, especially:** 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, Lynda Esch, Janet Armbrustmacher (Allan), Marie Weber, Jenine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger, Adam Pohl, Jordy Wohlscheid, Jennifer Grace Schrauben, Janet Simon, Dale Young, Brent Baese, Shane Grinnell, Richard Bushamp, Alan & Therese Kramer, Christopher Martin, Mike Heeg, Bev Nurenberg, Duane Mussell, Terry Hodges, Jeff Wadell, 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.*

The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is to pray for peace for all who feel the Holy Spirit has left or forsaken them.



**50/50 Support the Faith Raffle**

Thank you to all who took part in the Knights of Columbus Support the Faith raffle. This week's winners of \$100 each are: **Zachary Snyder, Neil & Joyce Epkey, Marjorie Boog, & Kenneth Wieber.** Congratulations to our winners!



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

**August 11 & 12 Collection ..... \$9,532.55**

**Special Collections**

**Assumption..... \$90.00**  
**ETF ..... \$75.00**  
**Peter's Pence..... \$293.00**

**Readings for the Week of August 19, 2018**

**Monday** Ezekiel 24:15-24; Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21; Matthew 19:16-22  
**Tuesday** Ezekiel 28:1-10; Deuteronomy 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Matthew 19:23-30  
**Wednesday** Ezekiel 34:1-11; Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 20:1-16  
**Thursday** Ezekiel 36:23-28; Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Matthew 22:1-14  
**Friday** Revelation 21:9b-14; Psalms 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; John 1:45-51  
**Saturday** Ezekiel 43:1-7ab; Psalms 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Matthew 23:1-12

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday - August 20**  
 7:00 p.m. + Gerald & Helen Pohl, Including Joan & Living & Deceased Family Members  
**Tuesday - August 21**  
 8:15 a.m. + Erwin Pline  
**Wednesday - August 22**  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration  
 7:00 p.m. + Philip Simon  
**Thursday - August 23**  
 8:15 a.m. + Joanne (Pohl) Hafner & Living & Deceased Members of the Hafner Family  
**Friday - August 24**  
 8:15 a.m. + Genevieve & Clarence Simon & Living & Deceased Family Members  
**Saturday - August 25**  
 1:00 p.m. **Wedding of Kevin Koenigsknecht & Olivia Feldpausch**  
 4:30 p.m. + Roy N Pung (3rd Anniversary)  
**Sunday - August 26**  
 8:30 a.m. + Troy Miller  
 10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

*Ushers*

**Saturday & Sunday, August 25 & 26**  
 4:30 p.m. – Larry Jandernoa, Gerry Arens, Craig Arens, Volunteer  
 8:30 a.m. – Randy Wirth, Glenn Esch, Neil Hufnagel, Ronn Thelen  
 10:30 a.m. – Joe Theis, Terry Theis, Tyler Theis, Jarud Koenigsknecht

*Altar Servers*

**During This Week**

**Mon., 7 p.m.** -Nate & Kate Spicer, Megan Hufnagel  
**Tues., 8:15 a.m.** - Quinten & Nate Esch, Braxton Myers  
**Weds., 7 p.m.** - Braeden & Carly Andros  
**Thurs., 8:15 a.m.** - Emma & Zachary Halfmann  
**Fri., 8:15 a.m.** - Andrew & John Irrer

**Saturday & Sunday, August 25 & 26**

4:30 p.m. - Chloe Hyland, Jonathan Koenigsknecht, Kalani Koenigsknecht, Volunteer  
 8:30 a.m. - Jena, Nick, Grace, & Rachel Epkey  
 10:30 a.m. - Preston Braun, Josie & Cooper Koenigsknecht, Olivia Thelen

**August 19, 2018**

**Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard**

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

**Parish Office: 593-2162**  
**Email: [office@mhtparish.com](mailto:office@mhtparish.com)**  
**Website: [mhtparish.com](http://mhtparish.com)**

**MHT School - 593-2616**