

THE COMPANION



NEWS ABOUT SAINT TIMOTHY PARISH IN UNION, KY

Oct-Nov 2022

What's it Mean Today to be a Priest *By Fr. Rick Bolte*

Things were different when I was ordained (it will be 40 years in June of next year!). Though the Second Vatican Council had happened over a decade before I began training for the priesthood, we were still sorting out what it meant and how it would affect our ministry as priests. Change is hard and we knew it would be difficult at times for some parishioners to accept. Before my time, there was already a decline in the number of vocations. We expected that we would have greater responsibility and work more with staff and volunteers than priests had in the past. Priests were still held in rather high esteem (the abuse issue had not yet surfaced) and we talked more about avoiding clericalism: clerics using their status for their own benefit.

Today much of Vatican II is accepted. Most people like being able to understand the prayers at Mass, the ability of lay people to participate in Mass and other parish ministries, and appreciate the greater depth of scriptural understanding beyond the literal meaning. The priest shortage has gotten worse and priests are becoming pastors with less time as an associate and staffs are larger as lay parishioners do more of the parish work. Priests are not as automatically esteemed in public since the scandal but even in the midst of and since the crisis, people still greatly value the parish priest they know.

Nonetheless, the fundamentals of why one would choose to be a priest have not really changed. It is a ministry – “Ministry is service to others, and specifically NOT authority over others within the church. A “minister” is a servant -- it’s what the word means in the Greek: according to Microsoft Bing Dictionary.

The most basic ministry is celebrating the Eucharist. This has to be the center of a priest’s life. To celebrate day after day the extent of the love and mercy of God never gets old or boring. It’s how a priest and any other minister orients their life. I can’t imagine where my relationship with God would be without it. This sacrament and all the sacraments help bridge that connection between the priest and all he ministers to. In some ways, he is part of everyone’s family celebrating births and weddings, being there in times when forgiveness is needed and when one is passing from this world to the next. Like everyone, a priest’s life can sometimes be lonely. Though our relationship with Christ is central to our lives, the gift of the parish family is a great gift to a priest. I know I have been gifted by so many of you here at St. Timothy!

A priest’s ministry can vary a great deal as well. A priest prepares liturgies, administers parishes and schools or diocesan organizations, teaches in high schools and universities, does outreach ministry, works in hospitals, etc. Though every priest has to do some of each of these, each priest has their own gifts and interests. I have found that usually there are volunteers in the parish who very ably fill in what is missing in a priest’s abilities – as in decorating/designing for me.

Many things vary from time to time, place to place, and priest to priest. Facing the unknown future is part of everyone’s life. As a priest one can expect to learn humility and evermore dependence on God as you face the surprises (happy and sad) that are part of the ministry. I can tell you



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that to be priest is a great joy and very rewarding! Though it is not easy and there are times you can feel overwhelmed (not unique to the priesthood), I can say for me it was the greatest gift I have ever received.

On December 17, Fr. Conor Kunath who is Vocations Promoter for our diocese, will give a reflection and be

able to answer any questions you may have. I encourage anyone to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. I would ask parents, grandparents, family and friends to encourage one another to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Any gift of ourselves that we offer to God is rewarded beyond our expectations!

MAKE PLANS TO COME TO THE LAST MORNING OF REFLECTION FOR 2022

If you have been meaning to come to Father Kunath's Mornings of Reflection, now is the time! This is the last session for 2022, and the number of mornings offered in 2023 will be changing; so, mark your calendar and join us on **Saturday, December 17 at St. Timothy Parish from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.**

Don't miss it!

There will be a new Presentation, Mass, Holy Hour, and Confession available.

Whether to the Priesthood, Married Life, Diaconate, Religious Life, or Single Life, God has a plan for all of us and is calling each of us to be holy in one of these Vocations. Whatever your age, sex, or current path, you are welcome!

As always, the event is **OPEN TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE**, there is absolutely **NO CHARGE** for this Morning of Reflection, and **NO SIGN-UP REQUIRED!**

See you there!

Our Parish Family

Baptisms

Greyson James Dalessandro
Olivia Anne Grad
Amy Beth O'Brien
Chloe Than
Georgia Louise Banks
Franklin David Seitz

Deceased

Margie Gregory
James Kentley
Kathleen Mengelkamp
Dick Middleton

New Families

Norma Bieker
Eric and Anita Bockenstette
Andrew and Tiffany Coholich
Joseph and Stephanie Croswait
Jason and Katie Dietrich
Ryan McGovern
Cody and Elizabeth Story
Victor and Tania Zeferino

View From the Pew

By Mary Jo Rehtin

Advent is upon us, a time of waiting, preparing and anticipating. What kind of a “wait-er” are you? I have spent a good bit of time these last few months waiting—for test results, for blood work, for a call from the doctor on where we go next. Sometimes I am a patient wait-er and at other times I am very impatient. I suggest that, during Advent, each of us work on our patience. The Old Testament peoples waited for hundreds of years for the coming of the Messiah and learned patience as a result. Where could you be more patient—in the checkout line at Kroger, with the driver in front of you who is not going as fast as you might like (it might be me, so be nice) with the server at the restaurant who is stressed because the restaurant is understaffed? How about practicing patience at home with your spouse and your children? The opportunities to practice patience are abundant. Think about it.

Advent is also a time of preparation, preparing ourselves for the gift of the Incarnation. Arrange a little extra prayer time using the Advent booklets given out at church or some other resource like Matthew Kelly’s Best Advent Ever, available daily on video. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Read the Sunday readings ahead of time so you are familiar with them before you hear them at church. Watch Bishop Barron’s

Sunday Sermon for additional insight into the scripture. Be generous with your resources—offer your time, talent and treasure to benefit others. Resolve right now to be a better person by Christmas Day.

Finally, Advent is a time of anticipation. I looked ahead at the Advent readings. The first two weeks are about anticipating the Second Coming of Christ. I have often said be prepared for you know not the day, nor the hour. This was really brought home to me when a friend was killed in the wrong way crash on I-75 a few weeks ago.

She was on her way to join a bus trip with other senior citizens for a bit of fun and went home to Jesus instead. The readings of the last two weeks are anticipating the birth of Jesus, something we look forward to with wonder and gratefulness.

May you have a blessed and holy Advent filled with patient waiting, holy preparation and joyful anticipation of the Birth of our Savior.

NOTE: I realized that I omitted one prayer group from my last article. There is a group that meets after 8 AM Mass every day to pray the rosary and other prayers. All are welcome to join them. I apologize for the omission. MJR



Do You Need VIRTUS Training?

To schedule for an upcoming Virtus training class:

- ⇒ Go to **Virtus.org** and select the green box for “First Time Registrant”
- ⇒ Select option for “View a list of sessions”
- ⇒ Select the organization - **Covington, KY (Diocese)**
- ⇒ Register for an available class
- ⇒ If all classes are full contact Marylu Steffen at the Diocese 859-392-1500



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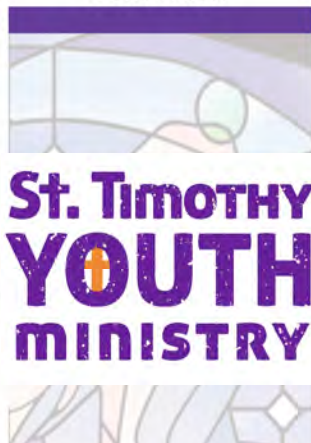
Stewardship of Treasure

October 2022

COLLECTIONS:	\$90,248.64
5% TITHE:	\$4,512.43
City Heights	\$500.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$500.00
Diocesan Collection -	
Seminarians	\$3,512.43

Thank you for your continued support of your parish.





Youth Group Recap and Upcoming Events

By Kristen Meiser, Youth Ministry

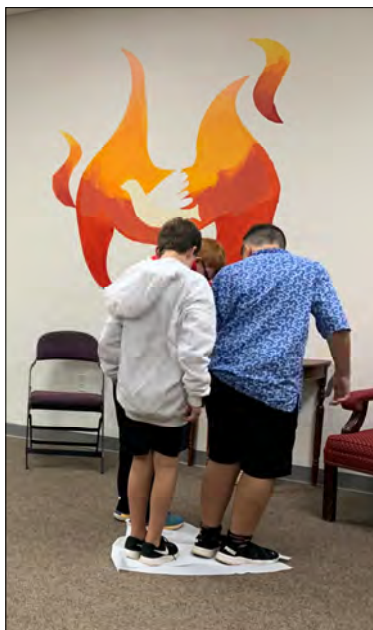
In October, we spent the first couple of weeks playing games and getting to know each other. We also received our t-shirts for the year. Annette Howard did an incredible job capturing our theme of Encounter. You can pick up your own t-shirt during any youth group meeting.



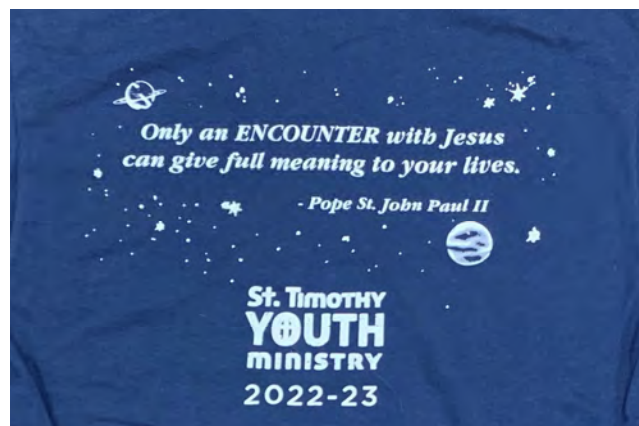
Dear Lord, through the intercession of St. John Paul II, we ask that you come to the aid of our youth. Through the many distractions and confusing messages present in our world, please help the young people hear your voice. May they grow ever closer to you!

St John Paul II., friend of youth, pray for us.

St. Timothy
YOUTH
MINISTRY



Encounter
ENCOUNTER





Play and Praise

Our first Play & Praise events were a great success. The weather was beautiful for a game of Gaga Ball outside. Then we ate pizza and talked about Adoration. I was so impressed with the questions and insights our groups shared. We ended the night with Adoration and Benediction, accompanied by beautiful music provided by Marley Davis and Jake Darnell. Special thanks to Fr. Sam and Deacon Kevin for talking with the teens and presiding over Adoration and Benediction.



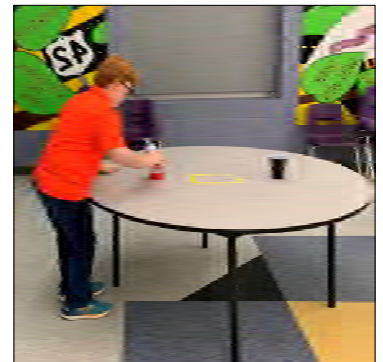
Hallowtide

At the end of October, we celebrated Hallowtide (Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day) with two parties. Our Middle School families enjoyed the Hallowtide Hoopla with a saint-themed meal and activities to celebrate and pray for the members of our Church on Earth, in Heaven, and in Purgatory. Our High School group started with a bonfire, but rain forced us inside to finish carving pumpkins and talking about the saints and our responsibility to pray for the dead.



Philosophy

In November, we got philosophical! We looked at the example of St. Thomas the Apostle to learn the difference between good and bad doubt. Turning to another Thomas, we explored St. Thomas Aquinas' five proofs for the existence of God. Through five fun activities and some awesome conversations, we confirmed that believing in God just makes sense!





Outreach

The youth group is committed to giving back to our parish and community. This past quarter we helped with the Baby Shower Drive by making cards and creating care packages for expectant families. We also sorted canned goods in preparation for Thanksgiving and cleaned up debris around condos in Florence.



It has been a great few months and I cannot wait for all that is to come. Some exciting, upcoming events include:

- **Don't Skip Advent (Youth Group Series)** - Experience all the hope and joy that make the Advent season special with this devotional specifically designed for teens.
- **Cookies and Confession** - On December 18 we will be getting in the Christmas spirit with some cookie decorating! Make a box for your parents, friends, or a family in need, and take advantage of an opportunity to go to confession before Christmas.

Want to get involved? Here is what you need to know!

Middle School meets on Saturday at 5:30 pm in the Youth Room off Brodnick Hall

High School meets on Sunday at 12:30 pm in the Youth Room off Brodnick Hall

Are you a VIRTUS-trained adult? Consider joining our Core Team and help me create opportunities for the Middle School and High School members of our parish to experience their faith each week! Send me an email for more information: kmeiser@saint-timothy.org



The Confirmation Class Christmas Giving Fair

An important part of Service Learning in the Confirmation year is supporting an Outreach Agency.

The Giving Fair was held the weekend of December 3rd and 4th, however you can still support their efforts. Use this link, <https://missionmonday.givesmart.com/> or call the Parish Office to donate.

Please support our Confirmation students in their efforts to help our neighbors.



St. Timothy Catholic School Students are supporting



The Sunday 10 am Class with Mr. Southerland are supporting



The Sunday 8 am Class with Mr. Davis are supporting



The Sunday 10 am class with Ms. Burkart are supporting



The Wednesday night class with Mr. Lense are supporting



The Covington Latin students are supporting



Brighton Center- October 12th

By Pat Seuberling

Several parishioners and children came to Brighton Center to help assemble rolling basket carts. It turned out to be rather comical when the three carts came without instructions. One parent rescued us by downloading a picture so we could fit all the pieces together. Afterwards the staff gave us all a tour of the facility. I know Brighton Center was very happy with the carts we were able to purchase from our grant program and assemble for them. These carts will be easier to move outside allowing the patrons to see the fruits and vegetables they are shopping for. ***Thank you to everyone who came out to help!***



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Touching Hearts

They say there are angels all around us. I got to meet one. I always hope the grants we choose to support touch our parishioners' hearts.

One child in particular was very touched when she saw the food pantry at the end. She decided on her own to hold a food drive to support Brighton Center. She made flyers for her neighbors and passed them out. Then arranged to accept deliveries with monetary donations and a bin outside her house. Her initial goal was to collect 100 items but she surpassed it with 317 items! Eleanor is in 1st Grade at St. Timothy. The Schmidt family have been parishioners for 6 years. ***Way to go Eleanor and the Schmidt family! You are rock star awesome!!!***



Catholic Charities St. Joseph Apartments - Service Project

On October 29th we headed to Catholic Charities St. Joseph Apartments to build 2 gazebos and do a little yard work and light maintenance. It was a gorgeous fall day, perfect for what we had to do. Everyone was assigned their job to complete. Teams were determined to build the gazebos. The rest of us cleaned, raked, painted and served lunch. I heard the residents were thrilled and astonished that people would do this for them. ***Well done good and faithful servants for an OUTSTANDING job!!!!***



Baby Shower

On October 24th we held a baby shower to support CareNet, Madonna House, Rose Garden Mission and New Hope.



**Knights of Columbus
St. Timothy Council 15211**



St. Timothy's Knights of Columbus held their annual coat drive November 5th and 6th. They weighed all canned goods received at 40 Cans for Lent and the foods grown in the garden which are then applied towards discounts on coats purchased from the national organization.

They were able to purchase 160 coats. These coats along with new coats received will go to the families we support for Christmas. All other coats are given to St. Vincent de Paul and redeemed with vouchers by our area residents in need.

SCOREBOARD



On November 8th, St. Timothy's Knights of Columbus unanimously passed a resolution to proceed with the purchase of a Scoreboard for the new St. Timothy Gymnasium Project. The scoreboard will be ordered this month with a delivery date of July 2023 just in time to be installed for the opening of the Gym. The projected cost of this project will be over \$12,000 and is funded by fundraising programs within the

St. Timothy's Knight of Columbus Council 15211.



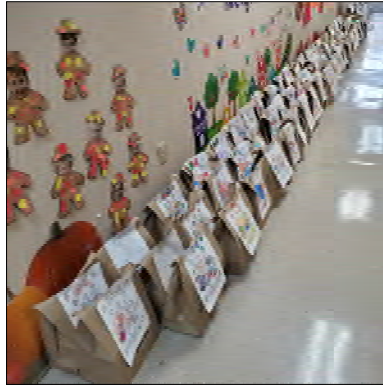
Holiday Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who purchased food for our annual food drive. We had a number of people who came to help sort all the cans and boxes. Thank you to our Youth Group for helping to sort also. ***Thank you, Thank you!!***



St. Timothy Preschool Classes

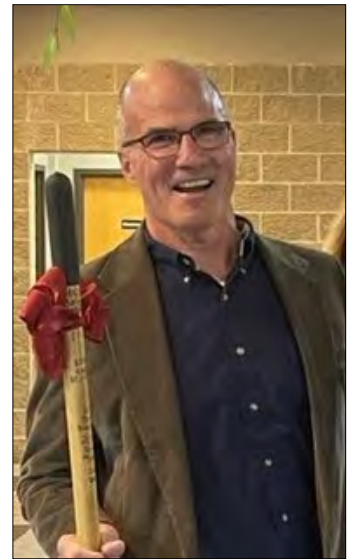
A **great big shout out and thank you** to our preschool classes. Students in each class decorated grocery bags and filled them with Thanksgiving dinner canned goods and nonperishable food items for our SVdP clients for the holiday. This is a small portion of the bags they put together. **Thank you to all the families that supported this holiday project.**



Fr. Ruschman's Garden

The garden began with a planning meal on February 7th, the first planting was in late April, the first harvest was in late May and we closed it down on October 24th. With a small group of dedicated gardeners coming out on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings throughout the season we were able to harvest just over 10,400 lbs of beets, broccoli, cabbage, collard greens, cucumbers, green beans, green peppers, kale, lettuce, okra, onions, jalapeno peppers, red and white potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnip greens, turnips, zucchini, squash and apples. The produce was distributed to Rose Garden Mission who serve 500 families every day and City Heights who served 250 Families. We ended our year with an evening of delicious food, great conversation and awards. Fr. Ruschman, 93 years old, was our honored guest. He shares how the garden was given its name. He loved gardening, so instead

of a farewell thank-you gift, he asked St. Timothy to put in a garden. We did and named it in his honor. We also awarded the **Golden Hoe to John Staff**. John retired this year and was looking to get involved so decided to try out the Garden. We were blessed when he decided to stay and came each week. **Thank you and Congrats John!**



John Staff



Gemma and Emmet Meiser

Our garden is filled with people of all ages. Our **Junior Golden Hoe** went to **Gemma and Emmet Meiser**. Gemma is in preschool and her brother is waiting patiently to start school someday. They are the children of Elliott and Kristen Meiser. These two children spent every Monday and Thursday in our garden harvesting produce alongside their parents and everyone else. They also loved cutting flowers from the flower garden to take home. Each vegetable was a new learning opportunity for them as they asked numerous questions, absorbing all this new information. They now know what is in season and what is not. **Thank you and congratulations to Gemma and Emmet!**



SVDP: You Are Invited

By Mike Vogt

"One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed."
Proverbs 19:17

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is much more than a charity. Volunteers are dedicated to a holier life through charitable works. The spiritual development of our members (always a work in progress) is based, not only on delivering material goods – food, clothing, gas cards, rent money, beds, and furniture— to our neighbors, but also on gently inviting those we help to advance their own spiritual development.

In 1877, SVDP President - General Adolphe Baudon, wrote: "It is laid down in our Rule, ..., that in uniting to serve our masters the poor, as St. Vincent de Paul expresses it, our object is not only to relieve material misery, a very laudable purpose in itself, but to aspire, especially, through the practice of that most sublime of virtues "charity" **to render ourselves better and more fervent Christians, and to make our poor enter on the same path**, if we have the happiness of succeeding."

So, the mission of The Society and its individual members is a way to advance all of us in holiness.

In 1915, the SVDP President-General Vicomte Hendecourt further developed the idea that "The Society has two aims:"

The first is **"to do a great deal of spiritual good to its members** through the exercise of charity." By helping others, we help ourselves. This is a wonderful example of how God has ordered the world so that we benefit ourselves by benefiting others.

The second is **"to do a little spiritual and temporal good to a few poor families** in the name of Jesus Christ." Jesus praised and even demanded charity when he said "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in ..." Matthew 25:35

These two principles complement each other. President Hendecourt's point is that there are plenty of agencies, public and private, that offer aid to the poor. The design of SVDP is different in that by adding the spiritual element we enhance the virtue of charity by raising it above simple materialism.

Mother Teresa says, *"Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things. It consists in accepting, with a smile, what Jesus sends us. It consists in accepting and following the will of God."* These holy Acts of Charity are delivered throughout the year by more than 40 St. Tim Vincentian volunteers (as well as the Knights of Columbus and the parish staff) who visit our neighbors, stock our pantry, organize coat drives, and help in the Call Center. The "holiness factor" is a great benefit and inspiration.

The increasing costs for food, fuel, utilities, and rent have made this year especially difficult for families struggling to make ends meet. We appreciate your generosity. You can be sure that your contributions are carefully managed to get the most out of each dollar.

If you're interested in being part of our ministry, or if you'd like to donate, please contact [Debbie Curtin](#), **513.532.6958**. (You can go on St. Tim's website to donate to SVDP.)

Walking With Moms In Need

Outreach is forming a new ministry "Walking with Moms in Need". Our goal is to support women through their pregnancy and beyond during their children's early years. We are in our "infancy" stage. If you are interested in learning more or want to help with this start up ministry please contact Pat Seuberling in the Outreach Office at PSeuberling@saint-timothy.org.

Angel Giving Tree

Our Angel giving tree is already at work. We have been looking at the children's lists and checking them twice. Several elves showed up to help make the 1500 tags to be used for the 210 children we will be providing Christmas for. Tags were placed on tables in the gathering space and, as of this printing, only a few tags remain to be picked up. **Thank you for helping to make a brighter Christmas for our neighbors in need!**





St. Timothy Parish

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www.saint-timothy.org



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**We are currently in the process of updating
our St. Timothy Guidebook & Directory.**

The last edition was from 2019.

**Please call the Parish Office
if your phone number
or address has changed.**

859-384-1100

