

# St. Mary Church Presenter

November, 2014

## Joint Parish Pastoral Plan is Further Refined

### Inside this issue:

John Mote now candidate for deacon	3
Deacon John Fridley assists parish	4
Around the Parish Pictures	5
Annual Parish Financial Report	6
Parish Milestones	7

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ◆ **Dec. 21 - PSR Children's Christmas Pageant** after the 9:00 AM Mass
- ◆ **Dec. 24 Christmas Vigil Mass** 4:15 PM  
**Mass during the Night** 10:30 PM (Preceded by caroling)
- ◆ **Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass** 9:00 AM
- ◆ **New Years Day Holy Day Masses**  
Dec. 31 at 4:15 PM  
Jan. 1 at 9:00 AM
- ◆ **Jan. 18, 2015 Christian Unity Octave Ecumenical Prayer Service** @ 3:00 PM, Westgate Baptist Church

*St. Mary Church Presenter is published 4 times per year. Comments, suggestions for articles and change of address should be sent to the parish office.*

On August 6, 2011, the Most Rev. Edward K. Braxton, Bishop of Belleville, issued a Pastoral Letter entitled "Embracing the Future With Hope" which introduced to our local church a process for planning for the future of parishes in southern Illinois over which he presides. "The Pastoral Plan" as it is known was designed to have maximum parishioner input into decisions concerning the future of parishes in the diocese while facing the challenge of changing demographics and fewer priests available to serve the Catholics of the diocese.

After initial data was gathered Bishop Braxton issued his "Formal Response" on April 2, 2013. In this document he designated "parish partnerships" and mandated each partnership to develop a plan with specifics indicating how the partner parishes would share a pastor and envision sharing their mission to serve Catholics in their territory in a more collaborative manner. St. Mary Parish in Trenton was partnered with St. George Parish in New Baden.

An ad-hoc committee of parish leadership from both parishes met over the course of several months and developed a plan for this sharing. A final report was sent to the Bishop

in December 2013. Details of the joint plan were shared with both parishes in their newsletters published shortly after each report was completed and sent to the bishop. (See St. Mary Church Presenter June 2013 Vol. 2/No. 4, October 2013 Vol. 3/No. 1 and December 2013 Vol. 3 No. 2).

On June 8, 2014, the Bishop issued a follow up document "The Vicariate Letters: The Bishop's Reflections on the Strategic Pastoral Models of the Parish Partnerships." In this document he asked each parish partnership to "refine" and develop in more detail the plans they had submitted in December 2013 according to his directives written to each partnership. The Bishop instructed the St. Mary and St. George partnership "...you must propose ways in which you can move beyond sharing individual programs and resources. Please take the opportunity to re-imagine what your parishes would look like if you truly shared a common mission: both parishes with a single mission, the mission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all. Look for specific ways to reorganize your parish life for this shared mission. This should include aligning ministry efforts, sharing parish leadership structures, and developing a greater degree of sharing of parish life."

On September 25, 2014 the parishes' joint ad-hoc committee met to attempt to add detail to the previously submitted plan according to the bishop's directives. The following details have been added to our plan in the hope that this is what the Bishop is asking for.

Deacon John Fridley, who is now serving both parishes with the consent of both pastors will prepare a comparison of each parish's current Mission Statements for similarities and prepare a possible draft joint mission statement to be considered by both parish councils. On January 21, 2015 a joint meeting of the two parish's Pastoral Councils will be held with the task of refining and preparing a "joint vision statement" that will address what we would like our parishes to "look like" in 10 years.

Concerning Pastoral councils: The committee had previously discussed but did not describe adequately in their previous plan the following; Each parish's pastoral council will meet every other month, alternating months, so that the pastor and deacon (appointed by the bishop to serve both parishes) will attend only one pastoral council meeting a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Parish Partnership Plan Refined (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

month. The connecting links, to bring the concerns, planned action items and information from one partner parish to the other will be the Pastor, Deacon and proposed jointly shared Pastoral Associate who will attend both parishes' pastoral council meetings. Normally, there would not be a pastoral council meeting in December and July.

There will be an annual joint meeting of both councils or designated representatives to a joint meeting at the discretion of the pastoral councils to consider items common to both parishes that will further the joint vision statement.

The committee believes it would not be advisable to have a joint council between the parishes in the foreseeable future.

Finance Councils will remain separate. Currently Saint Mary's Finance Council meets quarterly. Saint George's Finance Council meets 5 times per year (more often if special need arises). This is a total of no more than 9 meetings per year.

The ad-hoc committee will continue to work on a job description for a potential "Pastoral Associate" that would assist in areas of administration, volunteer recruitment and retention, lay-ministry development and life-long faith formation. The Pastoral Associate would work in collaboration with the pastor, deacon and existing parish Coordinators of Religious Education. Such a staff member will be essential to maintaining our vision of sharing a pastor who must be available for sacramental, pastoral and a ministry of leadership and oversight. Both parishes will continue to discuss and develop stew-

ardship plans to finance the additional position.

A joint Stewardship Committee is envisioned.

The committee anticipates inviting a parish pastor or staff member from another parish currently doing what our parishes are being asked to do to give a presentation and discussion about their "Best Practices" as an example of how our parishes might collaborate on joint vision and mission in practical terms.

Other areas and ministries that the committee anticipates the parishes sharing besides those already mentioned in the previous report of December 31, 2013:

- ◇ Bereavement ministry (currently in existence at St. George, to be extended to St. Mary)
- ◇ Provide links to each other's websites adding a page on each parish's website of joint activities, possibly share a webmaster.
- ◇ Make each partner parish's bulletin available in the other's parish. We believe that at present we are not at a point to have a joint bulletin. We will continue to discuss possibility of a joint bulletin in the future. Add a "flap" page to current bulletins with "what's happening in the partner parish" sent by secretaries to one another.
- ◇ Consider a joint parishes picture directory in approximately the year 2016 or 2017 (both parishes have just completed a directory in 2013, 2014).
- ◇ Plan for more joint social outreach projects, such as holiday meals for needy and shut-ins.
- ◇ Provide workers at each other's summer picnics (e.g. take responsibility for a particular stand or activity)

*Please take the opportunity to re-imagine what your parishes would look like if you truly shared a common mission...*

- ◇ Joint adult formation, small Christian communities, bible studies.
- ◇ While each parish will maintain a separate Parish School of Religion the parishes are planning on inaugurating joint sacramental preparation programs for Infant Baptism preparation (for parents), First Reconciliation & Communion and Confirmation. The programs for children's sacramental preparation would take place outside of Parish School of Religion (PSR) class time on Sunday (e.g. Saturday or a weeknight). All program team members and catechists would be from both parishes.
- ◇ Grade school PSR Staff of both parishes will discuss possibility of "joint activity days" for various PSR classes (retreat day, youth rally type activities). It would be desirable to have joint "catechist formation meetings and in-service planning meetings."
- ◇ A joint High School Youth Ministry initiative will be put in place.
- ◇ Ladies' and Men's Sodalities from both parishes would be encouraged to have an annual joint activity.
- ◇ Both parishes will continue to supply team members for Pre-Cana at the Mater Dei site.

The ad-hoc committee further stated that the parishes would continue to revisit the joint pastoral plan in the future on a periodic basis, and adapt the plan according to the current needs of parishioners.

All reports and pertinent documentation concerning the plan can be located on each parish's web-site. The Saint Mary website is [www.stmarytrenton.com](http://www.stmarytrenton.com)

All parishioners who have questions about the planning process or suggestions for the ad-hoc committee are encouraged to contact the pastor, Fr. Joe Rascher or Mrs. Kim Moss, Coordinator of Religious Education or any member of the ad-hoc committee (Jim Jansen, Karen Pokasta or Jim Cathcart) or any pastoral council member.

## Mote Candidacy for Deacon Ordination accepted by Bishop

Our parish congratulates our member Mr. John Mote who has taken another step on his journey toward the day he may be called by the Bishop to the Order of Deacon in the church. On October 11, Mote along with 9 other men took part in the "Rite of Candidacy" at the Cathedral of St. Peter during a Sunday vigil Mass presided over by our bishop, the Most Rev. Edward

try of the Church? Are you resolved to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his body, the Church?" After each candidate said "I am" the bishop accepted them as candidates stating, "The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment."



**The ten men accepted as candidates for ordination to the diaconate by Bishop Braxton in a ceremony during Mass at St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville on Oct. 11. Mr. John Mote of our parish is in the bottom row, first on the right. 8 men are from the Diocese of Belleville, two from the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese. All are part of the formation program held in Belleville. (Photo courtesy of the Belleville Diocese Newspaper, The Messenger.)**

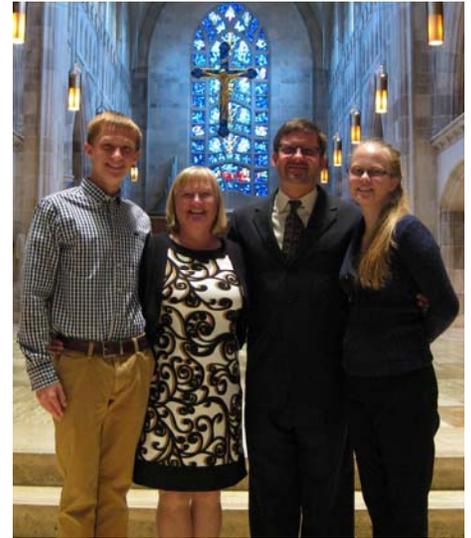
K. Braxton. These men have met monthly for a year to study, pray and discern if they should take the next step in preparation for ordination and be formally accepted into the deacon formation program of the diocese. During the ceremony the men expressed publicly to the Bishop their intention of one day receiving holy orders.

During the rite, the Bishop asks those aspiring to be ordained "In response to the Lord's call are you resolved to complete your preparation so that in due time you will be ready to be ordained for the minis-

try they are able. An annual retreat and spiritual direction is part of their formation. Two other liturgical rites will be celebrated prior to ordination marking their progress, the rites of becoming Lector and Acolyte.

In order to show support of John as he undergoes formation to become a deacon, our

As candidates, John and the other men will meet one weekend per month for four years from September through June for four years of academic study, prayer and classes on practical aspects of ministry. Their wives also take part in the weekends as



**Deacon Candidate John Mote with his family after the Rite of Candidacy. From L to R, son Matthew, wife Jodi and daughter Megan.**

parish organizations have committed to reimbursing the parish for the length of the program the amount it is being asked by the diocese to help fund the formation program. These organizations are also helping John with incidental expenses, like purchasing of books needed for his classes. These groups are the Knights of Columbus, Ladies Sodality, Catholic Knights and Ladies and Mens' Club.

Please pray for John and all the candidates as they continue their journey of faith.



**Deacon Candidate John Mote, his wife Jodi and Fr. Joe accept checks from parish organizations to help defray the cost of John's formation program which the parish and John are responsible for.**

## Deacon John Fridley to assist at St. Mary

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter (*page 1-2*) an important part of “The Pastoral Plan” for the partnering of the parishes of St. Mary, Trenton and St. George, New Baden when the eventual day arrives where one priest will serve both parishes it has been stated by the committee responsible for drafting the plan the ministry of a permanent deacon will be very beneficial. St. Mary parish is familiar with the experience of the ministry of a deacon because of the many years of service by Deacon John Dilly in our midst until his retirement and death. The parish is also hoping that Mr. John Mote will be called to the office of deacon in 2018. In the meantime, Deacon John Fridley, the deacon at our partner parish will be assisting St. Mary pastor Fr. Joe and serving the parishioners on a limited basis at the recommendation of the Bishop. He has stated deacons who are appointed to one parish should also feel free to serve in the partnering parish even before the sharing of a pastor.

Deacon Fridley was ordained to the order of Deacon on May 25, 2013. He and his wife Marlene were married on October 19, 1963. They live in New Baden and have four adult children, 12 grandchildren and four great grandchildren who all live within twenty miles of them. Deacon John has been serving St. George Parish since his ordination. In addition to his diaconal duties he continues to serve as St. George Parish’s Coordinator or Religious Education, a position he held before ordination. He also does volunteer Prison Ministry in the state prisons in our area.

Deacon John joined the Catholic Church in 1987. “However,” he states, “I’ve attended the Catholic Church since 1962. Marlene and I decided early in our relationship that if we were married and had children, we would raise them Catholic.”

After retiring from the military Fridley continued his education and eventually earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education and Educational Administration from SIUC in 2006. He has taught in various higher educational settings and calls himself a life long learner, continuing to take classes he believes will assist him in ministry.

The Presenter Newsletter asked Deacon John to share with St. Mary Parishioners a bit more about himself.

### **Q. What do you look forward to about serving at St. Mary?**

I look forward to serving with Father Joe and assisting the people of St. Mary Parish. Deacons are called to lend a hand in whatever capacity the parish priest deems necessary. There never seems to be sufficient ‘workers in the field’ to get it all done. I am available seven days a week (unless my wife Marlene and I are on a short vacation somewhere). We live about five minutes from the church. If anyone needs to contact me they can call me at home (618.588.4805), through the St. Mary (224-9335) or St. George Parish office (588.4323) or by email at [fridleyj@ezeeweb.com](mailto:fridleyj@ezeeweb.com).

### **Q. What is the most rewarding part of being a deacon?**

I feel the most rewarding part of being a deacon is the opportunity to put your life experiences and recent theological training into practice. Just helping or lending a hand to others in the community where we live, work and play is very rewarding. I especially enjoy the sacrament of baptism and working in the Faith Formation Program(s). Administering a Parish School of Religion (PSR) program and working with our youth is always fun and keeps you



**Deacon John Fridley and his wife Marlene**

young. The adult education classes are always challenging and informative. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program helps me ‘relearn’ our Catholic Faith every week. This year I am involved with three RCIA programs. On Monday I’m at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC) in East St. Louis. Monday evenings I’m with the East end of Clinton County at St. Antony (Beckemeyer). Finally, on Wednesday evenings we have a group on the West side of Clinton County at St. Damian in Damiansville. RCIA is alive and well in Clinton County and I encourage all, including ‘Cradle Catholics,’ to consider presenting or participating in RCIA at least once in their lifetime.

### **Q. Any other thoughts?**

Just being ‘called to serve’ is a humbling experience. I look forward to sharing that practice and ministering to the parishioners of St. Mary and St. George. I eagerly look ahead to the day that deacon candidate John Mote can join us on this great adventure of life. Peace - Deacon John

## Around the parish in October, The Month of the Rosary



On Saturday, October 11, 2014 about 20 members of the parish and visitors gathered in the Trenton Village Park to publicly pray the Rosary. Parishioner Jerry Wieter organized the event at the request of an organization he belongs to, "America Needs Fatima." The time of prayer was offered for our Nation as a public witness to acknowledge our need of God's mercy and guidance.



Parish School of Religion (PSR) students show their rosaries after the "Living Rosary" prayer service held in the Fatima Grotto south of the church on Sunday October 19.



PSR student places a flower before the statue of Mary representing one of the beads of the Rosary during the "Living Rosary."



Parishioners and visitors brave a chilly Saturday afternoon to pray the rosary, lead by Jerry Wieter in the pavilion at the Trenton Village park.

## Pro-Life Events during October

The Knights of Columbus sponsored a "Pro-Life Baby Shower" coordinated by Rich Boien. A baby crib and pac-n-play pen displayed in the church served as a place to put various items needed for infants. The donations were distributed through Clinton County Citizens for Life to agencies that would distribute the items. The Presenter apologizes for accidentally erasing pictures taken of donations at the end of the event from the editor's camera! Also, On October 5, about 25 parishioners participated in the annual National Pro-life chain sponsored by Clinton County Citizens for Life. They stood holding signs with pro-life messages by U.S. 50 and IL 160 for one hour of silent prayer and witness.



Charles and Eleanor Zahn celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at Mass on Oct. 25. They pose for a picture with the pastor.

# Annual Financial Report Summary FY2013-14

## General Fund Income:

Envelope & Loose Collection	192,787
Rental Income	35,560
Bequests/Legacies	6,480
Education Fund Envelopes	2,706
PSR Registration Fees	3,210
Mass Stipends	2,420
Candles & Literature	644
Interest	59

**Total Income for General Fund 243,866**

## General fund Expenses:

Pastoral Ministry Salaries	42,145
Other Salaries	32,428
Social Security, Retirement, Health Ins.	26,046
Office Expenses	9,843
Utilities	23,676
Insurance (property, liability, work comp)	14,277
Repairs & Maintenance	17,197
Mater Dei Assessment	52,559
All Saints Assessment	9,192
Religious Education (PSR, HS expense)	7,546
Real Estate Tax	1,425
Parish Socials & other Misc.	3,883
Liturgical & Church Supplies	7,699
Diocesan Tax Sent to Chancery	17,892

**Total Expenses for General Fund 265,808**

**Net Deficit for General Fund (21,942)**

## Other Income:

Picnic, Breakfast, Feb. Chicken Dinner	22,000
Transfer from Ladies Sodality	8,540

**Net Income for the Year 2013-14 8,598**

## Cemetery Fund Income:

Sale of Lots & Graves	3,680
Donations	350
Interest & Misc.	311

**Total Cemetery Income 4,341**

## Cemetery Fund Expenses:

Mowing of Cemetery	3,600
Repairs & Misc.	300

**Total Cemetery Expenses 3,900**

**Net Profit for Cemetery 441**

## Sister Parish & Special Collections

Sister Parish in Guatemala	9,741
Local Charity Collection (Green Bean Pantry)	630
Special Needs (Inmates tutoring inmates, CSS)	361

**Total Forwarded to Designees 10,732**

## Diocesan Special Collections

The Messenger Subscriptions	750
Other Diocesan Collections	4,983

**Total forwarded to Diocese of Belleville 5,733**

## Capital Improvement Fund

Balance as of July 1, 2013	255,276
Interest Earned	4,503
Balance as of June 30, 2014	<b>259,779</b>

## Investments on Hand as of June 30, 2014

Cemetery Fund	8,404
Capital Improvement Fund	259,779

## Notes about the Financial Report for 2013-14

On the preceding page will be found a summary of the annual report of parish finances. The report is for the fiscal year of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Hopefully, parishioners will see that the pastor and finance council are attempting to practice good stewardship of the treasure shared by parishioners for the mission of the parish and church.

The parish finance council reviewed a more detailed annual report sent to the Diocese of Belleville finance office and approved the publication of this summary report at their quarterly meeting on August 12, 2014. Members of the council are Jim Jansen (Chairman & Lay Trustee), Karen Pakasota (Lay Trustee), Dale Zurliene, Kevin and Carol Weigman. The council advises the pastor in all matters concerning the temporal goods (money and physical property) held in the name of the parish.

Envelope and loose collection amounts saw a slight increase from the previous fiscal year (\$1,383). Overall general fund income was up \$6,988 from the previous year, primarily because the parish received a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of Delores Maue. We gratefully acknowledge her final gift to our parish family.

Parishioners should note two things about the preceding information. First, general operating income is not keeping pace with inflation and rising costs of maintaining parish facilities and operations. Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider if they have increased their level of stewardship of their income returning to God a just amount of that which he has given them. Our pastor asks, "In the last few years has habit lulled each of us into doing the same old thing in our contributions or do we challenge ourselves to trust God more deeply to provide and to show our gratitude by returning a sacrificial offering?" Secondly, please consider including our parish in your will or estate planning. Such gifts can help our parish accomplish special projects beyond general operations.

The good news is that the net deficit between operating expenses and general income was smaller this year than in the previous year. Fr. Joe and the finance council thanks those

who donate their time and talent to serve at fund raising events like the July picnic, February Pancake Breakfast and the new winter season Chicken Dinner and Altar Sodality rummage sales that help make cover the deficit between normal general income and expenses. Also, the parish seems to be handling the loss of rental income from the Wesclin School District. **So far no savings are being used** to balance the current fiscal year budget but that could change with heating expenses and necessary maintenance and more use.

Our parishioners recognize that God expects us to take care of those beyond our own community of faith. Thank you for sharing \$15,715 for the support of God's people beyond the boundaries of our parish in addition to contributions to the Catholic Services and Ministry Appeal which support various ministries of the diocesan church family.

Some parishioners may have misconceptions about how much of their contributions are sent to the Diocese. Because we are members of a church larger than the parish (the Diocese and Universal Church) we have an obligation to support these "church families" beyond Trenton. This is part of being Catholic. The "diocesan tax" is set by the Bishop in consultation with his Presbyteral (priest) and diocesan finance committee which includes laity. Funds are used for the operation of the administrative and pastoral services offices of the diocese. Currently the rate is 13% of our ordinary income, mostly defined as Sunday collections and a few other sources of income. Therefore 87% of your contributions stay in the parish. **Please note, bequests, Mass stipends, picnic proceeds, etc. are not taxed.** A deduction is given for Catholic school subsidies paid by the parish and CRE salary.

Many thanks are also given to our parishioners not only for their gifts of treasure, but of time and talent besides the picnic and fund raising meals; the many liturgical ministers, members of committees, catechists for our parish school of religion and youth ministry, quilters, funeral lunch workers and many others.

### Parishioner MILESTONES

*June 15, 2014 to November 30, 2014*

#### BAPTISM

##### Walden, Reed Shane

Son of L. Shane & Amanda Walden on 7/12/14

##### Florczyk, Amsey Renee

Daughter of Justin & Heather Florczyk on 11/15/14

#### RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH

##### Ryan Robert Olier

Gregg Allan Cox on 09/21/14

#### MARRIAGES

No Marriages

#### DEATHS

##### ◆ Eugene A.

Guentensberger age 85 – 06/20/14

##### ◆ Loretta M. Holubek

age 90 - 06/29/14

##### ◆ Elizabeth A. Deboise

age 90 - 07/26/14

##### ◆ Victor J. Wobbe

age 93 - 07/23/14

##### ◆ Nelson Haas

age 90 - 08/11/14

##### ◆ Virginia L. Kimme

age 92 - 09/10/14

##### ◆ Catherine Buscher

age 93 - 10/23/14

##### ◆ Betty Wagoner

age 94 - 11/1/14



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# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## **Vigil Eucharist**

Wednesday, December 24 at 4:15 PM

## **Mass During the Night (“mid-night”)**

Tuesday, December 24 at **10:30PM**

*includes Carol Singing at 10:00 PM and  
blessing of the parish manger scene*

## **Christmas Morning Eucharist**

Wednesday, December 25 at 9:00 AM  
*(no incense)*

### **St. Mary Catholic Church**

**Office**

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Trenton, Illinois 62293

Fr. Joe Rascher, Pastor

Office Phone: 618.224.9335

Rectory Phone: 618.224.2636

E-mail: [StMary@stmarytrenton.com](mailto:StMary@stmarytrenton.com)

Parish Web-Site

[www.stmarytrenton.com](http://www.stmarytrenton.com)

### **St. Mary Catholic Church MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the parishioners of St. Mary Parish, Trenton, Illinois, are a community of Christians dedicated to Jesus Christ, our families, and all God’s people. United by our Catholic faith heritage, mutual love and hope, and mindful of our stewardship, we strive to be one heart and one mind with a common purpose. The task of serving the parish community is the work of the entire parish under the leadership of the Pastor. Together with the parish staff and the members of the parish councils, committees and organizations, the Pastor works in a spirit of unity to provide the ministries and programs that serve both the mission of the parish, the diocesan church and the universal church.