



# Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Young at Heart Ministry Offers Faith and Fellowship for the Golden Years

Elaine Wellman noticed how Our Lady of Hope offered ministries for young couples and young families. But she knew something was missing — a ministry for older people, or as she says, for parishioners in their “golden age.”

When Elaine told her sister about it, she mentioned a ministry at her parish in Indianapolis for older adults. Elaine then decided to take the steps to put together the Young at Heart Ministry here at Our Lady of Hope, and Fr. Paul Ferguson agreed.

“I thought this would be a good way to get to know one another,” Elaine says. “We had 35 people at our first meeting, so we know this is a well-received idea.”

The ministry members meet once a month, going on trips or sharing in activities together. There’s really just one goal — to socialize. Elaine hopes to bring the group to area churches and historic places and go on other outings that would be interesting to members. For the first meeting, Fr. Juan Ramirez presented on his travels to Europe, where he met Pope Francis. The Knights of Columbus provided lunch.

Elaine looks forward to seeing how this ministry will grow and expand. She’s excited to provide the time and space for people of the parish to share in fellowship and be in community. It’s open to anyone who can meet during the day.

“I’m happy this can provide a place for widows and widowers, especially, to be with other people,” Elaine says. “It’s not good for people to be alone and isolated.”

There is a lot of energy among the group members. People are excited, and some want to help with planning.



*Fr. Juan presented at the first group meeting.*

*continued on back cover*

# THE HEART OF CATHOLIC

## STEWARDSHIP

*Sharing Time, Talent, and Treasure in Gratitude to God*

**S**tewardship is not just a concept; it's a way of life deeply rooted in the teachings of the Church and our faith. At its core, stewardship is about recognizing that everything we have — our time, talents, and treasure — are gifts from God. It's a response of gratitude and an active commitment to use these gifts for the service of God and the benefit of others.

### **Time: A Commitment to Prayer**

Our time is one of the most precious gifts God has given us. In the hustle and bustle of modern life, it's easy to overlook the value of time. Yet, as Catholics, we are called to use our time wisely and in gratitude. This means dedicating time for prayer, reflection, and worship. Time spent in prayer is a powerful way to connect with God. It's not just about asking for things, but also about being in God's presence, listening, and expressing our gratitude. Regular prayer, whether it's personal or communal, strengthens our relationship with God and deepens our faith. Attending Mass and receiving the sacraments is a significant use of our time. It is during these moments that we come together as a faith community to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Worshiping as a community is a vital aspect of our faith, and it reflects our gratitude for God's love.

### **Talent: Sharing Our Unique Gifts**

Each of us possesses unique talents and abilities. Stewardship calls us to recognize our talents as gifts from God and to use them for the greater good. Actively engaging in ministry and service within our parish community is a way to share our talents. Whether it's teaching, singing in the choir, participating in outreach programs, or any other form of service, our talents enrich our faith community. Sharing our knowledge and skills through education and formation is

a form of stewardship. Teaching religious education, leading Bible study groups, or mentoring others are ways we can help others grow in their faith. Offering emotional support, encouragement, and a listening ear are talents too. Our ability to be compassionate and understanding can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

### **Treasure: A Means to Serve**

Our financial resources, though often viewed as a personal possession, are also a gift from God. Stewardship encourages us to view our financial means to support the Church, charitable causes, and those in need. Tithing, the act of giving a portion of our income to the Church, is a tangible way to share our treasure. By doing so, we support the Church's mission and ministries, which include providing spiritual guidance, caring for the community, and spreading the Gospel. Apart from tithing, we are also called to give to charitable causes. Our financial contributions can support organizations that serve the less fortunate, work for social justice, and provide essential services to those in need. As an extension of financial stewardship, planned giving — such as leaving a bequest to the Church or charitable organizations in your will — ensures that your legacy continues to benefit the Church and society even after you've passed away.

In embracing stewardship, we acknowledge that everything we have is a gift from God. By actively using our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude to God, we strengthen our faith, support our faith community, and serve others. This is not merely an obligation, but a joyful response to God's boundless love and generosity. Stewardship is a way of life that deepens our connection with God and empowers us to make a positive impact in the world.

## Celebrating Our Fathers as Role Models in the Faith this Month

Dear Parishioners,

**A**s we approach Father's Day, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this day for our Catholic community. Father's Day is not just a secular holiday for us; it holds deep spiritual and moral importance, reminding us of the crucial role that fathers play in our families and in our faith.

In the Catholic tradition, we are called to honor our fathers and mothers as one of the Ten Commandments teaches us. It is a commandment that carries profound spiritual implications. Honoring our fathers is a reflection of our respect and love for the authority and guidance they provide within our families. It is a way of showing gratitude for their sacrifices, their love, and their unwavering support throughout our lives.

Fathers set a powerful example in the Catholic faith for their children. Just as God the Father is a model of perfect love and guidance for us, earthly fathers are called to reflect this divine love in their families. By nurturing and guiding their children with love, faith, and moral values, fathers become living witnesses to the teachings of Christ. They play a pivotal role in shaping the spiritual journey of their children, instilling in them the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Our faith reminds us that fathers are called to be the spiritual leaders of their families, creating a foundation of love and faith upon which their children can build their own relationships with God. They are entrusted with the responsibility of passing on the traditions and values of our Catholic faith, ensuring that the flame of



faith continues to burn brightly in the hearts of the next generation.

On this Father's Day, let us remember to pray for all fathers, both living and deceased, within our parish community and beyond. Let us express our gratitude for their love, their sacrifices, and their unwavering dedication to their families. Let us also pray for those who may have struggled in their role as fathers, that they may find the strength and guidance to become the fathers that God intended them to be.

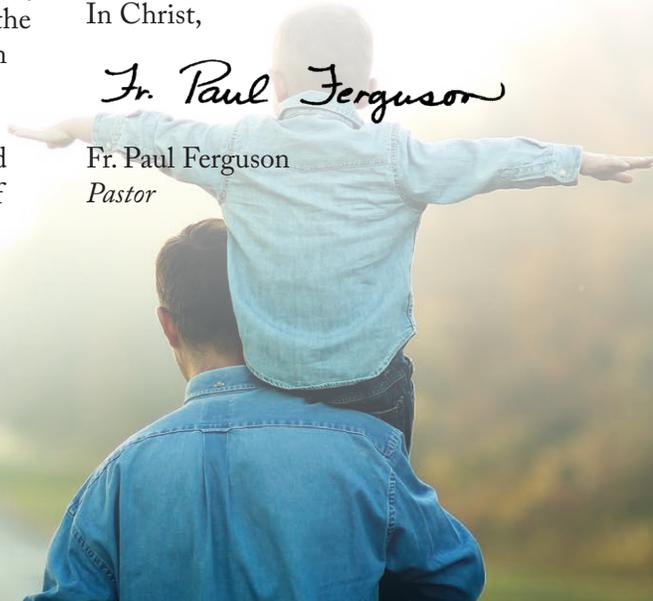
It is a day for us to offer our love and appreciation to our earthly fathers while also recognizing the great example set by our Heavenly Father. As we honor our fathers, we honor God's plan for the family and the vital role fathers play in nurturing faith, love, and moral values within our homes.

I encourage all of you to spend this Father's Day reflecting on the importance of fathers in our lives and in our faith. Let us celebrate their love, cherish their guidance, and pray for their well-being. May God bless all fathers with the strength and wisdom to continue being the spiritual leaders and loving role models our families need.

In Christ,

*Fr. Paul Ferguson*

Fr. Paul Ferguson  
Pastor



## Deacon Tyler Underhill Joyfully Anticipates Priesthood

*Join Our Diocese for the Ordination*

This month, Deacon Tyler Underhill joyfully anticipates a profound, important step on his vocational journey, as he is ordained to the priesthood on June 22. After eight years of intensive formation, Deacon Tyler is so excited to finally be a priest, and he encourages all of us to come celebrate with him.

“Find joy in the fact that someone from Our Lady of Hope is becoming a priest, and please come,” Deacon Tyler says. “All are welcome. Additionally, an ordination Mass is not your typical Mass, so it would be good to experience one if you have not.”

After four years in Rome, Deacon Tyler will return to Indiana to be ordained a priest for our diocese. His priestly ordination takes place on June 22 at 11 a.m. at St. Benedict’s Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Joseph Siegel.

“This Mass at the Cathedral, the seat of the diocese, shows the communion of Catholics across the

Diocese of Evansville with their shepherd, the bishop, along with his priests,” Deacon Tyler says.

Following his priestly ordination, Deacon Tyler will celebrate his first Mass — a Mass of Thanksgiving — here at Our Lady of Hope on June 23 at noon. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Deacon Tyler has spent the last four years studying in Rome, and, while his studies will bring him back to Rome after ordination for one more year of study, Deacon Tyler says he is excited to serve our diocese as a priest.

“What I am looking forward to most as a priest is the ability to celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance,” he says.

Deacon Tyler was ordained to the diaconate



*As a parish community, we are thrilled for Deacon Tyler, and for our diocese at large. His vocation is a gift to us all!*



*The months leading up to Deacon Tyler’s ordination, he says, have been full of many blessings.*

# Anticipates Ordination to the Priesthood

## *the June 22 Celebration*



in September, and he has since been serving the Church as a deacon in Rome. Those months leading up to his ordination, he says, have been full of many blessings.

“The first of many blessings this past year was of course the diaconate ordination,” Deacon Tyler says. “Being able to experience that with my family and friends made it even more special.

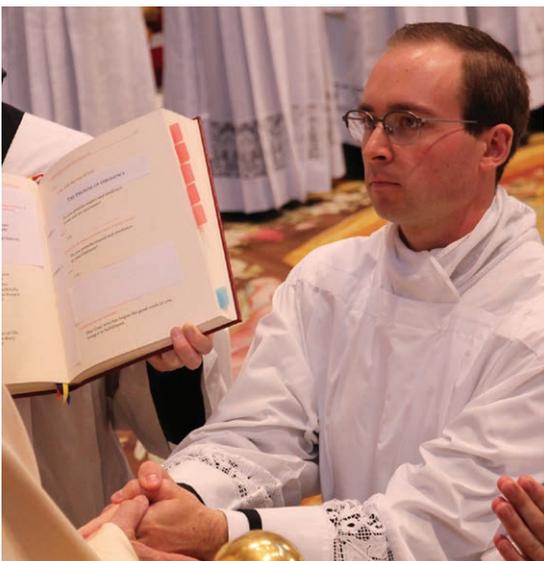
“Another great experience this year has offered to me was the ability to participate in the Holy Week liturgies in a uniquely different way,” he adds. “This being my first time to read the passion narratives on both Palm Sunday and Good Friday allowed me to really take in the words of the evangelists and meditate more deeply on the Lord’s passion.”

Meanwhile, Deacon Tyler’s excitement for his priestly ordination continues to grow as June 22 approaches.

“I am looking forward to simply being a priest and taking on the roles that a priest does,” Deacon Tyler says. “After eight years of formation, it feels both thrilling and shocking that this day has finally arrived!”

Upon his priestly ordination, Deacon Tyler will return to Rome in September for one final year of study. He will earn a license in moral theology before returning to our diocese in the spring of 2025.

As a parish community, we are thrilled for Deacon Tyler, and for our diocese at large. His vocation is a gift to us all! Make plans to celebrate with Deacon Tyler and our entire parish family at either or both of the Masses. Let’s show him our love and support as he gives his life in service to the Church! May God be praised!



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# *St. Anthony of Padua:*

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## *A Beacon of Faith and Compassion*

On June 13, we celebrate the feast day of St. Anthony of Padua, a beloved and revered saint whose life and teachings continue to inspire and guide Catholics around the world. St. Anthony's significance in the Church goes beyond his remarkable abilities as a preacher and theologian; he stands as an embodiment of faith, compassion, and devotion.

Originally named Fernando Martins de Bulhões, St. Anthony of Padua was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195. He entered the Augustinian order at a young age and later joined the Franciscan order, inspired by the martyrdom of five Franciscan friars. It was during his time with the Franciscans that he took the name Anthony.

St. Anthony became known for his profound knowledge of theology and Scripture. His preaching was marked by eloquence and clarity, making complex theological concepts accessible to ordinary people. His ability to communicate the Gospel effectively earned him the title "Hammer of Heretics."

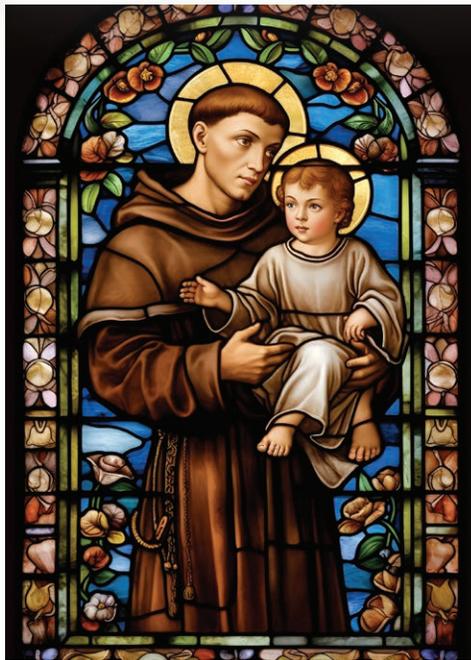
St. Anthony of Padua's importance in the Catholic Church is multifaceted:

### **Patron Saint of Lost Things**

St. Anthony is widely recognized as the patron saint of lost things. This devotion originates from a story of a lost book of Psalms that St. Anthony fervently prayed to recover. His prayer was answered, leading to his association with helping people find lost items. Catholics around the world turn to St. Anthony when seeking lost possessions and, more symbolically, when seeking spiritual direction and a sense of purpose.

### **A Model of Compassion**

St. Anthony's life was characterized by an



unwavering commitment to the poor and the marginalized. He was known for his compassion and his ability to meet the needs of the needy. His example serves as a model of how Catholics can embody Christ's call to serve others, particularly those who are less fortunate.

### **Devotion to the Eucharist**

St. Anthony had a deep devotion to the Eucharist, recognizing it as the true presence of Christ. He often celebrated Mass and spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. His devotion to the Eucharist continues to inspire Catholics to deepen their understanding of this central sacrament of the Church.

### **Powerful Intercessor**

St. Anthony is sought after by many for his intercessory prayers. Whether it's seeking guidance, healing, or spiritual assistance, Catholics turn to him with their petitions, believing in his ability to intercede on their behalf.

### **Holiness in Simplicity**

St. Anthony's life reflects the idea that holiness can be attained in simplicity and humility. He was known for his humility and desire to serve others, and his example encourages Catholics to embrace a life of virtue and simplicity in their own journeys of faith.

St. Anthony of Padua's feast day is a time to reflect on his life, teachings, and the enduring relevance of his message. He serves as a source of inspiration and a reminder of the importance of faith, compassion, devotion, and intercessory prayer in the Catholic tradition. St. Anthony's legacy continues to be a guiding light for the faithful, illuminating the path of holiness, compassion, and service to others.

# PARISH DIRECTORY

## Aims to Bring Parishioner Community Closer Together

If the old saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” then surely it can also mean that your photo in our upcoming Our Lady of Hope parish directory will be worth a thousand opportunities to get to know our parish family better.

Kitty Lawson and Maria Killion are working to organize the information for our directory that will update the previous edition produced in 2018. The photo sessions will begin on July 17 with signups starting on the first of that month.

“We have so many things to catch up in the new directory,” Kitty says. “What the directory will do is help us become a closer family, a closer community, here at Our Lady of Hope. It lets people know of the different ministries going on in our parish. It also generates more interest in our Catholic schools, as it includes the activities for the schools and our youth group. It introduces the school staff, as well as the parish office staff. We have a large Spanish ministry, so the directory will promote our working together as a parish.”

Although the publication date is not set at this time, the directory



*(From left) Maria Killion and Kitty Lawson are co-chairing the Our Lady of Hope Parish Directory project. It is expected that photos for the directory will be scheduled the last two weeks of July.*

committee will be meeting soon with the directory publication representative to set up a timeline.

“The photos will be taken the last two weeks of July, then, we will make the decisions of what else we want to include,” Kitty says. “We have had a number of things happen that we want to include in the directory. For example, several families traveled to Rome when our seminarian graduated there, and we want to include those who will

be attending the Eucharistic Congress. There will be the high school graduation, Vacation Bible School, First Communion, and Confirmation — there are lots of things going on in the parish! Our youth group is getting very active and has established its special Mass one Sunday each month. We have the Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, and our outdoor Mass. There are all kinds of things. We’re a pretty active parish.”

Kitty herself finds having a parish directory helpful in getting to know others.

“Personally, whenever I meet someone at Mass, I can look at my directory and find their photo and associate a name,” Kitty says. “The directory also helps with phone numbers and addresses if you want to send out a card or call someone.”

Although there currently are 18 parishioners who have volunteered to help with the directory, there is a need for more.

*Anyone interested in helping with the directory may call either Kitty Lawson at 812-254-0467 or Maria Killion at 812-486-9559.*

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— Kitty Lawson

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## Young at Heart Ministry *continued from front cover*

“You could say this group is off and running!” Elaine says.

Young at Heart is another avenue for parishioners to gather and grow in faith. Elaine hopes it will be the start of lifelong friendships.

“When you see people at Mass, you can’t necessarily get to know them,” Elaine says. “This is a way to get to know people.”

Members may even spin off and start additional Bible studies or other faith-focused groups.

In the 1980s, Elaine and her husband, Joe, were part of the popular Renewal program. They hosted a group and made friends, and those group members are still friends all these years later.

“Spiritually, it’s good for each of us to have friends we can share the faith with,” Elaine says. “You can count on them.”

“It’s always good to do things socially with those with similar interests, the same faith, and the same belief in God,” Joe says.

Joe and Elaine look forward to seeing what this group can become. They are happy to help get this going as a benefit to older adults and, in turn, the whole parish.

The June activity is a trip to St. Meinrad and Monte Cassino. In July, the group will take a trip to the National Eucharistic Conference in Indianapolis. Future events and outings are in the works.

*For more information on the Young at Heart group, contact Elaine Wellman at [ewellman5@gmail.com](mailto:ewellman5@gmail.com) or 812-698-1221.*