



Our Lady of HOPE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Meet Parishioners Dave and Sharon Carie

Sharing in Lifelong Faith and a Family Devotion to Service

Dave and Sharon Carie are blessed to share a lifelong legacy of faith. They were both raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools in Vincennes. In 1995 they moved, with their family of six children, to live right behind Washington Catholic High School. Their kids were very involved in the school through sports and other school activities, so for Dave and Sharon, this was an easy way for them to get involved in the Catholic Community as well.

“When our daughter, Jacie, was a junior in high school, I helped her class with prom by sewing black curtains to surround the birdcage,” Sharon says. “Dave helped by hanging all the hooks to hang the curtains from. I was approached by Mary Litherland to help transform the middle school gym into a warmer atmosphere for Our Lady of Hope Gala, so I sewed more curtains. Dave and I have been helping ever since with planning the Gala, which is one of our largest fundraisers for our Catholic Community of Washington.”

The Caries were originally parishioners of St. Mary’s, which combined with St. Simon’s in 2008 to become Our Lady of Hope. In addition to being involved at the school all these years, both of them have helped around the parish as well.

Sharon currently directs the Adult Choir and plays

often for Masses. She has also been involved with the Theme Basket Booth at the Summer Social since 2004. Dave has coached Volleyball, Basketball, and Tennis.

He worked every other Sunday Bingo for a long time and was a member of the Parish Council and School Board. Currently, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

“My parents have inspired me in my faith journey,” Sharon says. “I remember growing up, going to Church with my parents, and also attending Stations of the Cross during Lent. I also started playing the organ in grade school. Dave has been especially inspired by his father in his faith journey. His father was a Eucharistic Minister, and would often visit the elderly in the nursing home. How impressive to see someone living their faith through example!”

Dave and Sharon encourage parishioners who are not yet involved in the Catholic Community, to find something that you are passionate about and volunteer. Being on a



Dave and Sharon Carie are blessed to share a lifelong legacy of faith.

continued on back cover

Nurturing *Stewardship* and *Discipleship* in Your Children as a New School Year Begins

As parents, we play a vital role in instilling values and faith in our children's lives. With the start of a new school year, it's an excellent time to focus on teaching them about stewardship and discipleship, two core principles in the Catholic faith. Here are some practical ways to help your kids embrace these values as they embark on their educational journey.

- **Set a Christ-Centered Example:** Children learn by example, and it's crucial to model stewardship and discipleship in your own life. Show them how to be good stewards of your time, talents, and treasures by making time for family prayer, acts of service, and charitable giving. Let them see you living out your faith in meaningful ways.
- **Teach Gratitude:** Expressing gratitude is a fundamental aspect of stewardship. Encourage your children to start each day with a prayer of thanks for the opportunities the new school year brings. Help them recognize that their education is a gift from God, and it's essential to appreciate it.
- **Get Involved in Parish and Community Activities:** Engaging in parish and community service projects can be a great way to encourage stewardship. Participate as a family in volunteer opportunities, such as food drives, community clean-ups, or visiting the elderly. These experiences will teach your children the importance of giving back.
- **Support Their Talents and Interests:** Every child has unique talents and interests. Encourage your children to explore their passions and talents, whether it's art, music, sports, or academics. These pursuits can be a way to practice stewardship by sharing their talents with others and serving the community.
- **Nurture a Prayerful Life:** Help your children build a strong prayer life. Encourage them to pray for their teachers, classmates, and school staff. Regular family prayer times can help strengthen their relationship with God and guide them in discipleship.
- **Emphasize Kindness and Compassion:** Teach your children the importance of treating others with kindness and compassion. Share stories of Jesus' love and mercy and discuss how they can emulate His example in their interactions with peers and teachers.
- **Talk About Their Academic Responsibilities:** Discuss the importance of diligence and hard work in their studies. Explain that stewardship applies to their responsibilities as students, too. Encourage them to do their best, not just for their own benefit, but to honor God and be good stewards of the opportunities they have been given.
- **Share Stories from the Bible:** The Bible is full of stories that illustrate stewardship and discipleship. Read and discuss these stories with your children. For instance, the story of the Good Samaritan emphasizes helping others, while the Parable of the Talents underscores using one's abilities for God's glory.

Incorporating these practices into your family life can help your children understand and embrace the values of stewardship and discipleship as they start a new school year. By fostering a strong connection between faith and everyday actions, you are laying a solid foundation for their spiritual growth and nurturing their sense of responsibility to God and others.

Labor Day and Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the celebration of Labor Day, it is essential to recognize the profound connection between the values of this holiday and our Catholic faith. Labor Day, often seen as a day of rest and recreation, can also be understood as a celebration of stewardship. Our work, our labor, is a sacred gift from God, and it offers us opportunities to fulfill our stewardship commitments to both God and our parish.

Labor Day reminds us that our efforts, the fruits of our labor, are not merely for our own benefit but should be shared with others, in line with the principles of stewardship. Just as the Church encourages us to be good stewards of God's creation, we are also called to be good stewards of the gifts, talents, and resources He has given us.

Here are a few ways we can use the fruits of our labor to fulfill our stewardship commitments:

- **Tithing:** The practice of tithing, giving a portion of our income to support our parish and other charitable causes, is a concrete way to fulfill our stewardship commitments. It reflects our recognition that everything we have comes from God.
- **Volunteering:** Sharing our time and talents with our parish and the wider community is another form of stewardship. Volunteering allows us to contribute our skills and efforts to make a positive impact on the lives of others.
- **Support for the Less Fortunate:** Part of our stewardship commitment involves helping those in need. Consider donating to charitable organizations, volunteering at local food banks, or providing assistance to the less fortunate in your community.
- **Maintenance and Improvement:** Our parish



facilities require upkeep and improvement. Contributing to these efforts ensures that our church remains a welcoming and comfortable place for worship and community activities.

- **Spiritual Growth:** Investing in our spiritual growth is a form of stewardship. This can involve attending educational events, spiritual retreats, or joining parish ministries that help you deepen your faith.

- **Welcoming Others:** Embracing newcomers to our parish and community is a powerful way to fulfill our stewardship commitments. By being warm and inviting, we create a sense of belonging and help others grow in their faith.

Labor Day, then, serves as a reminder that our labor is a sacred endeavor, and the fruits of our work should be used to fulfill our stewardship commitments to God and our parish. It is a time to reflect on the importance of laboring not just for personal gain, but for the greater good of our faith community.

As we celebrate Labor Day this year, I encourage you to consider how your work can be a source of blessings for others. Let us remember that our labor is a gift from God, and by using its fruits wisely, we can contribute to the growth and flourishing of our parish and the greater community.

May your Labor Day be filled with rest, joy, and a deep sense of fulfillment as you continue to live out the principles of stewardship.

In Christ,

Fr. Paul Ferguson

Fr. Paul Ferguson
Pastor



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS *Coming Together in*

In July, nearly 60,000 Catholics from across the nation gathered in Indianapolis to celebrate our Eucharistic faith at the National Eucharistic Congress — and more than 30 Our Lady of Hope parishioners joined them.

They traveled by bus, leaving at 7 a.m. on July 18, spent the entire day listening to talks and worshipping the Lord together, and returned at 11:45 p.m.

“Being there for the day, it was the most powerful feeling that God was with us,” says Halina Smigielski. “Every song I sang and every speech I heard touched me so deeply that it made my faith stronger. And to see so many young people — volunteers and pilgrims — lifted up in spirit was powerful.”

Connie Gray says that she felt it was particularly powerful to see the multitude of priests and seminarians gathered together.

“Seeing all the thousands of priests and seminarians, especially the joy and excitement they were experiencing, was very powerful,” Connie says. “That caused me to realize that our faith is secure through their many sacrifices for us!”

Furthermore, Connie says that spending that time focused on the Eucharist has given her a renewed love for the Blessed Sacrament and increased her

commitment to pray before the Eucharist.

Joe Wellman also says that his experience at the Eucharistic Congress impacted his faith deeply.

“It will cause me to think of the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament even more every time I receive the Eucharist or go to the adoration chapel,” Joe says.

For Joe, seeing so many Catholics come together out of love and adoration for Christ in the Eucharist was awe-inspiring.

“The overall enthusiasm for our faith was evident throughout the day,” Joe says. “Knowing there are so many people all over the country in love with Jesus impacted my own faith. Also, my wife, Elaine, and I volunteered a little time in the Million Meal booth packing up meals for those in need. It was powerful to see how many others were doing the same.”

Indeed, talking to all of those who attended this massive celebration of our faith, the likes of which hasn’t happened in 83 years, it is evident that they were encouraged and supported in their own faith journey, and they left more on fire for Christ and His Eucharistic Presence.

Everyone agrees that the most powerful part of their day in Indianapolis was Eucharistic Adoration and

“Dedicate yourself to the Real Presence, and don’t be afraid to witness our Catholic faith.”

— JOE WELLMAN —



CHARISTIC CONGRESS: *in His Real Presence as a Nation*

Benediction alongside tens of thousands of Catholics in Lucas Oil Stadium.

“The most powerful moment was the last part of our day when the Blessed Sacrament was carried by procession,” Halina says. “Jesus entered Lucas Oil Stadium! I think everyone felt this!”

Linda Ruppel agrees.

“The most powerful part was adoration and benediction,” Linda says. “At the end of the evening when everyone started singing ‘Holy God’ — that was powerful!”

The Our Lady of Hope parishioners who had the opportunity to attend this historic event have returned to us anew — strengthened in faith, more deeply in love with the Eucharist, and inspired to encourage all of us to fall more in love with Christ’s True Presence.

“Dedicate yourself to the Real Presence, and don’t be afraid to witness our Catholic faith,” Joe says.

What an incredible witness! What a grand opportunity! God is indeed with us — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity! May we all harness the excitement of our fellow parishioners and go forth proclaiming this great truth with love and devotion as the Eucharistic Missionaries we are called to be!



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: *A Doctor in the Catholic Faith*

St. John Chrysostom, whose name means “golden mouth” in Greek, holds a special place in the hearts of Catholics worldwide. His contributions to the Catholic Church, profound writings, and unwavering commitment to the faith have made him a revered figure. Each September, the Catholic Church commemorates his feast day to honor his enduring legacy.

St. John Chrysostom was born in Antioch around 347 AD, and his life was marked by a remarkable journey of faith, scholarship, and pastoral service. He was ordained a deacon and priest before later becoming the Archbishop of Constantinople. His sermons and writings are known for their eloquence, profound theological insights, and moral exhortations.

One of the key reasons why St. John Chrysostom is highly honored by Catholics is his unwavering commitment to social justice and care for the marginalized. His famous words, “The poor do not need charity, they need justice,” resonate deeply with Catholic social teaching. He consistently spoke out against the excesses of the wealthy and the neglect of the poor. He believed that it was the Christian duty to provide for those in need, emphasizing the importance of stewardship, charity, and acts of mercy.

St. John Chrysostom’s contributions to the liturgy are also significant. He is credited with several liturgical reforms, most notably his impact on the Divine Liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox Church. His insights into the Mass and the Eucharist have influenced the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice in both the East and the West, making his legacy a unifying force in the universal Church.

His writings, including his homilies and treatises, continue to be a source of spiritual nourishment and guidance for Catholics. His homilies on the Gospel of Matthew, for instance, offer profound insights into the teachings of Jesus and have been treasured for centuries. St. John Chrysostom’s ability to make complex theological concepts accessible to all is a testament to his pastoral care and deep understanding of the needs of his flock.

The celebration of St. John Chrysostom’s feast day on Sept. 13 is an occasion for Catholics to reflect on his life and teachings. It serves as a reminder of the enduring relevance of his message, emphasizing the importance of living a life in service to God and to others. Catholics use this day to honor his dedication to the Church, his defense of the poor, and his contributions to the liturgy and theology.

In conclusion, St. John Chrysostom’s impact on the Catholic Church is immeasurable. His legacy of social justice, theological wisdom, and pastoral care continues to inspire Catholics today. The celebration of his feast day in September is a poignant reminder of the enduring importance of his teachings and the profound impact he had on the Catholic faith. St. John Chrysostom’s example challenges us to live out our faith more fully and to serve others with love and compassion, making his memory an enduring source of inspiration for Catholics around the world.



An Inside Look at Religious Education

Students and Catechists Gear Up for New School Year

Forming our parish youth in the faith is one of the most essential jobs for parents. But here at Our Lady of Hope, we have a program that can help — Religious Education. In the program, there are dedicated parish stewards who take on the role of catechists to assist parents in passing on the faith.

This year's classes will begin for first through eighth grades on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. at Washington Catholic High School. Students in their first year of Confirmation class and the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Washington Catholic High School. Those classes begin on Wednesday, Sept. 18. First Holy Communion is typically received in second grade, and high school students receive Confirmation. Students must prepare for two years before receiving either sacrament.

Kande Batz, Director of Religious Education and Hispanic Ministry, enjoys walking with children and youth through Religious Education. She first wants to thank all those who give generously of their time to volunteer. More volunteers are always welcome!

“Our catechists are very generous parishioners who give their talents and time to our families,” Kande says. “Our parish is blessed with many people willing to help in many ways.”

Seminarians from the Saint Meinrad School of Theology teach students in their first year of Confirmation prep. Those in their second year receive instruction from community and church leaders via interactive talks and outside-classroom experiences. Kande is very thankful to the seminary for sending seminarians to help. Parents with youth in second-year Confirmation and OCIA must attend six classes. Kande hopes this will help them all to develop their faith.

“Knowing more about Jesus, their faith, and their Church will help everyone grow in love for our Church,” Kande says.

As we enter into a new year of Religious Education,

Kande looks forward to watching the students grow in faith and love of Christ. Each year has its beautiful moments.

“We are excited to give our children the opportunity to know and love our God, our Blessed Mother, and the teaching of our Church,” she says. “We — and I speak for our catechists — are excited to help parents and students become more active members of our church.”

Kande hopes to see more families enroll their children and youth in the non-sacramental preparation years. Those are also important to help them develop their faith. They should be receiving instruction all through elementary, middle, and high school.

“Beyond sacramental preparation, a desire to grow in faith through education enriches our souls and helps us in all aspects of our lives,” she says.

Parents should all be helping guide their children in the faith by practicing it at home.

“We ask parents of all students to live their faith proudly at home by praying as a family, talking openly about faith and life in general, and being an example of how to be good Christians,” Kande says.

Kande would love to see more volunteers help with Religious Education. It would even be helpful to have catechists serve as substitutes.



To volunteer or enroll a student, contact Kande Batz at kbatz@evdio.org or 812-254-2883.

315 N.E. Third Street
Washington, IN 47501
812-254-2883
www.ccwash.org

Meet Parishioners Dave and Sharon Carie

continued from front cover

committee and being involved is often seen as time-consuming, but it takes many people from all areas to help the parish thrive.

“You are part of this Church family, and you are able to contribute something,” they share. “We all need to give back in some way. We all need to give back, just as Jesus is always there, giving back to us. It will give you a sense of fulfillment.”

“You are part of this Church family, and you are able to contribute something. We all need to give back in some way. We all need to give back, just as Jesus is always there, giving back to us. It will give you a sense of fulfillment.”

— DAVE AND SHARON CARIE

