The GOOD SHEPHERD Quarterly

October 2026,Volume 5, Issue 4



Love God, Love Neighbor,

Make Disciples

PRACTICING DISCIPLESHIP AT GOOD SHEPHERD

BY MIKE STONE

Did you know there are 47 listed ministries within Good Shepherd Parish? Each one of them is an opportunity to further discipleship, to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by imitating His call to serve others.

There is no priority ranking. However one is moved to contribute furthers discipleship. Some ministries are group efforts. Some rely on individual contributions. All have a part in building the Good Shepherd community and supporting faith in action.

Review the list and perhaps one of the ministries will strike a cord within that will spur commitment. All have worth and contribute to making Good Shepherd Parish our spiritual home. Contact the parish office to inquire more about the ministry, learn the duties, and volunteer.

- ACTS — Adoration, Community, Theology and Service
- Altar Linens, following specific rules for washing the linens used at mass
- Altar Servers
- CCD — formally Confraternity of Christian Doctrine or Catholic religious education
- Carebound, sometimes referred to the Home Bound, providing them with outreach services.
- Catholic Way Bible Studies
- Christ in My Home
- Coffee and Donuts
- Confirmation Preparation
- Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist
- Faith Formation
- Five-Minute Prayer
- FORMED
- Funeral Meals
- Garden Club
- Good Shepherd Catholic School
- Good Shepherd Catholic School Council
- Good Shepherd Catholic School Gala Committee
- Good Shepherd Finance Council
- Good Shepherd Parish Pastoral Council
- Good Shepherd Quarterly
- Hispanic Ministry
- King's Daughters Lunches
- Knights of Columbus
- Landscaping/Campus Beautification
- Laundering Vestments
- Lectors
- Liturgical Environment Team
- Liturgy Committee
- Money Counters
- Movie Night
- Music Ministry
- Our Lady's Blue Army
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Prayer Chain
- OCIA — Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Parish Office Volunteers
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Pen Pal Ministry
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Sacristans
- Stewardship/Greeters
- Stewardship Team
- Stewart Home School Outreach
- Singing Praise Prayer Group
- Stream Team, monitors the live streaming of Mass
- Ushers
- Youth Life



The Christian Path of Ongoing Formation:

The entire Mystical Body of Christ suffers when we don't recognize the gift . . .

Fellow disciples, as our *Be Seeded* campaign will soon end, I reflect on having appreciated the great witness within our community. Where the Order of Christian Initiation, OCIA, is concerned, I reaffirm the beauty in our ministry. We have almost forty people journeying into full communion or initiation with the Catholic Church—and they are hungry!

I have concerns though. As St. Paul wrote the troubled Christian community of Corinth (I Corinthians 12:26):
If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it;
if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

As one of my favorite t-shirts says, "If Paul was still with us, we would be getting a letter." Please, bear with me as I share my concerns:

• With almost 40 OCIA participants, we only have 24 registered participants in our Wednesday night CCD religious education sessions.
• We require a full academic year of religious education before a student is allowed to prepare the following year for First Reconciliation and First Communion—thus it's a two-year program. When a child has not learned about and been led to engage with Jesus, adding sacramental preparation is far too much material to include in the same academic year. Each year we receive push-back from parents who want their child to receive sacramental preparation without ever having participated in religious education. ·This year 15 of our total 24 CCD students are either first or second year sacramental prep students. The other nine students are three kindergartners and six 3rd-5th grade students. That means that only six students have returned to continue their religious education after three-years-worth of sacramental preparation students receiving their Holy Communions.
·We are in our second year of not having a youth group for Middle School 6th-8th grade or High School 9th-12th grade students.

Father John and I tried to meet with our youth, four months in a row last year, with the last two months not having anyone show up. I continue to be at St. Vincent de Paul on the second Saturdays each month so our youth have someone present to try to nurture community with those who are there, and only a few have shown up.

For all that I have shared, I feel guilty—the objectives are my responsibility as Faith Formation Director. I pray that so many who are not participating in religious education are aware that the Holy Spirit is walking with them.

We all give thanks that our greatest opportunity to engage with Our Lord is our participation in the celebration of Holy Mass, but we are called to the mission field as Christians, not just the pews.

Within the Ritual of Infant Baptism:

Priest to the parents:
You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?
The parents respond, I do.

And with all of that shared, I have a heavy heart for the following data from our OSV parishioner database regarding members of "active" families:

- We have 67 children who are between the ages of 5-10 years old in the parish. Considering there are only 24 in our CCD program, I pray the other 43 parishioners in that age group are being served through our Good Shepherd Catholic School (GSCS). (I do not have access to our school's student information.)
- Our parish has 67 active members who are middle-school-aged. We have no youth ministry, so I pray they are all GSCS students.

- High-school-aged students in our parish, 58 of them, are not receiving religious education through our formation programming, other than six preparing for Confirmation.
- Even more concerning are our 77 active parishioners between the ages of 19 and 25 who are in a pivotal time of their lives either as a student in higher education, trade school, or working in the world. And without young adult programing, I pray that they know our parish family is here for them.
- Of my greatest concern are our 26-40 year olds who are starting families (some have begun at a younger age) and who have the idea that religious education is reserved for when they or their children need to prepare for a sacrament alone—baptism prep for parents, and so forth.This is the group that I am most concerned about and we need your help!

Two things you can do:

***Please pray** that the Holy Spirit will enliven the promises made at our baptisms to grow in our Catholic faith.*

***Please offer** one small idea towards our students and families embracing every Christian's path of ongoing formation by either dropping us an email to: FormationDocs@gssfrankfort.org or submitting your idea here:*

https://forms.gle/Qo3xjfCMWDWtgDSS6

Know that the dwindling tradition of ongoing formation is not reserved to our Good Shepherd, but this is happening nationally. And, I should also say that internationally the idea of formation outside of sacramental preparation is not always a tradition.

Most of you know that I am the mother of three adult children and two grandchildren (praying for another grandchild in the next year) who are my greatest treasures outside of my Catholic faith. I humbly admit that I allowed commitments to sports teams override participation in youth groups. And given the circumstances at those times again, I would do the same.

First, there are several programs for youth ministry that I would not and still cannot conscionably use for my or your children. Although I am committed to being faithful to the magisterium, our Lord offers us justice and mercy, and not all of even the most 'popular' programs offer a balance of both that allows for the student to learn how to navigate a world where we are called to be in the world but not of the world, John 17:14.

Second, in the right circumstances sports teams offer real-life and hands-on participation in practicing the virtues, of course that included me knowing the coaches, their own virtues, and how I required my children to uphold those virtues.I could elaborate, and may later, but for now be assured that I understand the demands of family life and the necessity to teach our children to be able to interact as Christians with others from many different back grounds. But, I admit . . . they didn't play sports 24/7.

The point of all of this being, the Mystical Body of Christ at Good Shepherd Catholic Church is incomplete without our children, teens, young adults and young families not being ministered to—or ministered by, for that matter. They are the window of creativity for our growing world and our parish is missing it. And they are missing the wealth that we have to offer them.

God has allowed us a precious gift in our children, youth, young adults and families. It's time for us to accept the grace we are being offered by them. How are we going to do that?

May the Communion of Saints accompany us.
Laura Hack

What Do You Value?

Finance Council Report

Value means the monetary worth, utility, or importance of something, as well as the personal or social principles guiding behavior according to the Cambridge Dictionary. Personal value is more than money. It is principles and moral or ethical standards that guide individual decisions.

The adopted mission of Good Shepherd Parish to live the teachings of Jesus Christ is reflected in the Parish brand or motto: Love God. Love Neighbor. Make Disciples. This is not easy. Jesus told us the path to heaven is hard. How we meet the challenge and the paths we follow provide the legacy of our faith.

Money is not the be-all value. It is not at the top of the list. How we fulfill the commandments. How we treat each other. How we educate, both young and old. How we preserve our environment. How we enrich life for the unfortunate. Those are the lasting values at the top of the list. Are we communicating those values, not only to the broader community, but also, and more specifically, to our fellow parishioners, especially to those parishioners who have fallen away?

One reason the Good Shepherd Quarterly was launched was to serve as a platform to inform parishioners and Good Shepherd Catholic School parents of the values we cherish. It also is why there is a weekly Sunday bulletin and a weekly e-newsletter. Communication is a keystone of cooperation, collaboration, and confirmation.

Good Shepherd and its many services are valuable. Consider the work of St. Vincent de Paul, the charitable contributions of the Knights of Columbus, the faith support and prayers of Our Lady's Blue Army, the reaffirming messages repeated at mass, the education available from Good Shepherd Catholic School, the contributions and achievements both individually and collectively from students and parishioners. There are many, many others, some in action without publicity and in the quiet contributions of many parishioners.

It is incumbent within the mission of loving neighbor and making disciples to communicate the good works to the community and the Parish. That communication should not stop with the publication of the Quarterly, bulletin, or e-newsletter. If an individual or family commits to being a member of the Parish or a parent of an enrolled student, it is worthy to communicate these actions — these values — that ground our faith.

Please share these accomplishments among yourselves and others with whom you talk to in the community. Help them understand the value Good Shepherd contributes to each of us and collectively to the community. Share these accomplishments with those who are members but not participating. Whatever the reason they no longer are active, what Good Shepherd does is for them, too. Perhaps this knowledge will encourage them to relook at Good Shepherd. The reason they no longer participate may not be a reason anymore.

We all know the economic hardships of today with inflation, $4/gallon gas, and an unsettled future. Those are not reasons to stay away. To repeat, money is not the most important value. Practicing Jesus' teachings, helping neighbors, supporting each other are the true values. Let others know what is being done, what is being achieved. Let them know they are welcome. Let them know their voice and help can add to the value of Good Shepherd Parish.

The interesting point is, if we dedicate ourselves to achieving the Parish mission and motto, the fruits of our labor will abound. Good Shepherd will be a beacon of faith. It also will provide the monetary value needed to continue God's will.

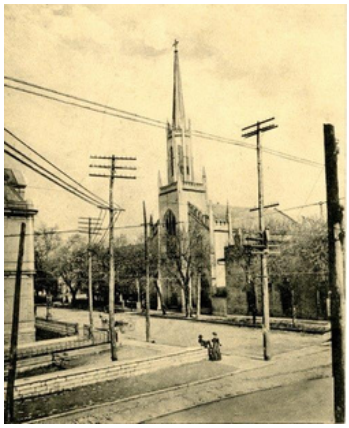
Consider a secular parable. There was a company that developed a second-to-none computer operating system. It was an electronic box that did not add value to the company. Programs were needed to make the system usable and become a valuable tool for individuals and companies. When a program was developed to make the box useful, the program was included free when the box was purchased. The company followed an old concept: Give away your treasure; if it is valuable, the return will be great. The company was Microsoft. Cast your bread upon the waters. . .

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL QUARTERLY REPORT
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026

THANK YOU GOOD SHEPHERD PARISHIONERS! YOU HELPED 984 FAMILIES WITH 1,309 ADULTS AND 849 CHILDREN WITH THEIR FOOD, TOTALING $5,896. YOU HELPED WITH HOUSING, COSTING $1,400. YOU HELPED WITH THEIR UTILITIES TO KEEP THE LIGHTS AND WATER ON, COSTING $1,587. YOU ASSISTED WITH TRANSPORTATION, COSTING $432. TOTAL EXPENSES WERE $9,315. YOUR CHARITABLE DONATIONS TOTALED $34,796. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF YOUR DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TO HELPING THE POOR AND NEEDY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.

"AS YOU DID IT TO THE LEAST OF MY BROTHERS, YOU DID IT TO ME."
MATTHEW 25:40

State of the Campus – Early Winter Edition





November begins with All Saints' Day on November 1, when we honor all those in heaven, followed by All Souls' Day on November 2, when we especially remember and pray for the faithful departed. We close the month with the First Sunday of Advent on November 29, marking the beginning of a new liturgical year and the season of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

As we honor the holy men and women in heaven, including canonized saints and those who lived quiet lives of faith, we give thanks for their witness and the enduring example they provide for our Catholic faith. We also remember and pray for the faithful departed of Good Shepherd. Their dedication and generosity helped build the foundation of our parish and school, making it possible for us to continue worshiping, educating, and sharing our faith with future generations.







First-Quarter Fiscal Year Update

The first quarter of our new fiscal year ended September 30, and we are pleased to report that offertory collections are nearly $34,000 ahead of the same period last year. Other sources of income, including grants and restricted donations, are also ahead of last year's totals. We are grateful for the continued generosity and support of our parish community.

The finish line for our capital campaign and debt-reduction program is within sight, with approximately five years remaining. Although first-quarter debt-reduction collections were lower than during the same period last year, we collected enough to cover our monthly mortgage payment while still setting aside a small amount for future campus repairs.

Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers, and commitment to Good Shepherd. Your support helps us maintain our campus, strengthen our parish and school, and preserve our mission for generations to come.

Knights Show Commitment to Faith, Community, Family, Youth, Fellowship, Respect for Life

Frankfort Knights of Columbus Council 1483 worked diligently to fulfill its six areas of service during July-September 2026. Grand Knight Joe Hoelkinger led Council 1483 in its continuing quest to serve our faith, community, family and youth while practicing fellowship and respect for life.

The Knights welcome practicing Catholic gentlemen to join in their commitment to service. Membership is open and welcome. To become a member or obtain information on Frankfort's Knights and their activities, please e-mail Hoelkinger at phoenixjoe66@gmail.com.

Did you know Good Shepherd has a Safety Team? Organized and funded by the Knights, the Safety Team is vigilant at masses and other large gatherings of parishioners to protect the safety of attendees. Team members observe the attendees, lock the church doors after the start of mass, and are ready to act in the event of a disturbance or medical emergency.

As part of their training, team members Kevin Payne, Bob Bauer, Steve Veno, John Hunt, and Mark Walston attended a "Stop the Bleed" seminar presented by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Parishioners will not notice the Safety Team at church unless they are called to action. Rest assured, they are there.

On Sept. 28, the Knights presented a Benefit Night for members and parishioners. Twenty-six attended the presentation on retirement planning and insurance options. Following a provided dinner, Knights Joe Bilby from Council 1483 and Greg White, KofC General Agent, led the program, which was open to all parishioners.



Knight Rene Rodriguez concluded a series of classes on spoken English for Latino individuals during September. More than 20 Spanish-first speakers participated. The Knights of Columbus is helping further the assimilation of cultures and diverse individuals into the church.

On Oct. 26, the Knights will participate in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at church. Knights will proceed to the church following their regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. Knights are signing up for prayerful hours in the church for the all-night Adoration.

Please know Council 1483 has instituted a new process for donation requests. An official Council 1483 Donation Form is available from Hoelkinger, Recorder Mike Stone (kmstone1951@gmail.com), Budget Committee Chair Greg Darst (gdarst@twc.com) or from the parish office. Donation requests will be considered only after submittal of a completed Donation Form.

The formation of the Budget Committee and institution of the new donation request process is one of several organizational changes implemented under Hoelkinger's leadership. In a quest to become more inclusive, increase membership and actively address all areas of service with dedicated members, a Retention Committee will work to maintain Council 1483 members, and an Admission Committee not only will seek to recruit new members but also provide mentorship to new members and guide them to more involvement in Knights' service projects.

All Knights of Columbus actions are informed by the organization's four core principles:charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Please consider adding your talent to the Knights with your membership.



PPC NEWS

Greetings everyone!

The Parish Pastoral Council has updated their By-Laws and are now in line with diocesan by-law requirements. The new by-laws will be posted on the church website soon.

New liturgical training courses will be scheduled throughout the year, which include two training courses for each ministry per year.

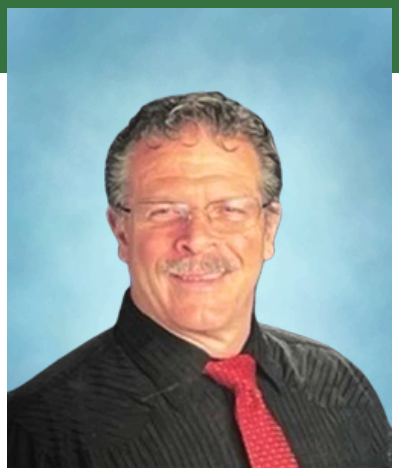
Discussion on new fundraising initiatives for the church and school have been ongoing, with more discussion to be held.

PPC meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month and parishioners are welcome to attend.If you would like to add an item to the monthly agenda, prior notice must be given.

Members of the PPC for the 2026-2027 fiscal year are:
Joan Luther, Bobbie Brennan, Jennifer Laracuente, Father John, Eileen Cackowski, Hugh Mulligan, Karen Pearl, David Artt, Brad Reid, Denise H Johnson, Tova Travis

If you have any concerns or comments, please let us know.

Joan Luther, Chair



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Auer Projects Idealism as Good Shepherd Principal

by Mike Stone

“I am idealistic,” Good Shepherd Catholic School principal Mark Auer admitted in a recent interview. “This is the day that will make a child’s life better,” he explained. “Idealism provides me energy to make a child’s life better.”

The journey toward his concept of ideal for Good Shepherd’s new principal (He started in July.) stems from his upbringing through his own education and professional career. His father, John Auer, now deceased, taught in Catholic schools then served as director of Catholic Big Brothers of Greater Cincinnati. In that position, he helped fatherless boys toward a bright future.

Auer cited St. Ignatius as one of his favorite philosophers of the church. He said the saint’s philosophy and messages about the Bible are repeatable a thousand years later. “Showing people you care is a centering factor in my life,” he explained.

The principal is guided by a principle of shaping children into the best possible person they can be. He wants to help them find the motivation to achieve the goal. He also applies that motivational principle to the teaching staff; to help them achieve their goals, too. Ultimately, he said it’s, “help students figure out how wonderful they are. Help them set up a joyful future.”

His educational philosophy builds off his education, starting with his undergraduate degree from Northern Kentucky University in developmental psychology. He works to fulfill the journey by being a principal. “I’ve discovered the principalship position is more naturally suited to me,” he explained. “I’m able to go in multiple directions to solve problems. I try to use empathy my parents taught me as a young child.” He seeks to blend the different groups he interacts with to make it a better situation for all. He cited eight categories of learning, and Catholic schools incorporate all eight.

He related conversations and observations he had about public schools and Catholic schools in Cincinnati and the impact of best practice programs and suggestions that are implement wholly within a school or across a district. It can be likened to the flavor of the month and it’s applied universally. But he notes situations are different. What he’s learned is that the best practices must be fit individually to the student. Perhaps more important, they must fit the strengths of the teacher. He believes that is where Catholic education has an advantage because of its focus on individual students and teachers. In the end, applying the best practice in this way helps make a more well-rounded student.

Following his undergraduate degree, Auer took classes at Wright State University in STEM (science, technology, education and math) and also took classes at the University of Cincinnati in biology and chemistry. He taught and coached in high school and gained a Masters Degree in Administrative Leadership in Education from Xavier University. All of that led him to consider a job change and relocation.

“I wanted to work outside of Cincinnati, but keeping myself to a 100-mile radius,” he recalled. “When I saw the position advertised, I went on Google Earth and saw the campus was beautiful. After years teaching in the inner city, I thought this would be a great experience.” He researched the school and parish history. He noted new ideas would be welcome. He recognized a Christ-centered atmosphere. Now, the work is putting it all together.

“



“I want to make sure the community knows what an amazing job in education we do here,” he continued. “Get those interested in academic and personal development to attend our school.” He sees that goal realized with community involvement, contacting businesses, and reaching out to other churches and community leaders to invite students from other (locations) to experience the wonderful education at the school. He also wants to get alumni more active both to get ideas from them and to let them know they are not forgotten.

He notes that Good Shepherd is more than 100 years old, there is a collective mission to make it better for parishioners and students. “I find that everyone is welcoming,” he said. “I feel like I’ve known people for a while. They’re looking out for the best interest of others. It’s a caring atmosphere. Everyone is living life geared toward community and Christ.” A painting in his office proclaims: “The Good Shepherd family is like the branches of a tree. We may grow in different directions, yet our roots remain the same.”

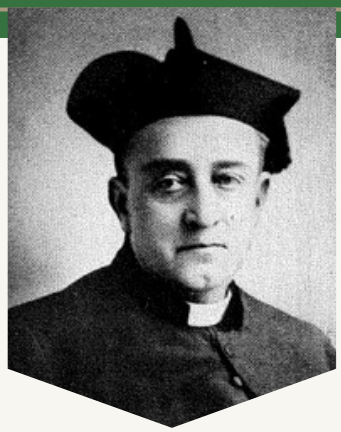
AUER'S ROOTS sprouted in Columbus, Ohio, the son of John and Mary Auer. Mary, too, was a Catholic school teacher and later worked for Catholic Charities. His branches include one brother, Kirk, who teaches at a Catholic School in Portland, Oregon. His youthful memories are of celebrations: holidays, birthdays, everyone from neighbors to relatives coming together to celebrate.

Punctuating his responses with a quick laugh and the frequent smile under his mustache, he relates his educational journey, which included two years of varsity soccer at NKU before knee injury ended his playing. He coached high school soccer as well as youth sports with his children.

He met Theresa, a practicing physical therapist, on a Groundhog Day blind date. He proposed July 4 (his Dad's birthday), and they were married on Sweetest Day. He is proud of their children. Zachary, 24, has a degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati. He is an MP in the Ohio National Guard and will graduate from the Cincinnati Police Academy in November. Zoe, 21, is a hair stylist who her father describes as a beautiful young lady with a wonderful personality. He says she has a beautiful voice and may try a career singing or maybe try teaching. Brandon, 19, is a sophomore at Mt. St. Joseph College. The social media and sports management major is the kicker on the college football team.
At the moment, Auer commutes weekly from Cincinnati, staying Monday-Friday at an apartment. In the future, he will see if the family will join him in Frankfort. His days are filled, but he does read crime novels and augments his work knowledge with educational periodicals and Psychology Today. He also reads Photography Today to feed his photographic hobby. He enjoys sports and coaching. He likes the group atmosphere of sports. He says instructing children in team sports builds self-esteem, helping them prepare for life. Artwork on the office walls and a couple displays of miniature cars and trucks expose his NASCAR fandom.

Life right now is exciting for Mark Auer. "I'm blessed to be here," he stated. "I'm glad God chose this path for me. I thank everybody, the parish and school, for the chance. Every night I'm happy to have been here. Every morning I'm happy to come here. I'm blessed that I can do it."





Part 4: From Cavalry to Clergy: A Sketch of the Life of Rev. Thomas S. Major

by Deacon Tom Kaldy

Final installment in this series on Father Major...

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH, FRANKFORT

1895-1911 Father Major was assigned as the fifth Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish, Frankfort, Kentucky. An interesting technical note, the fifth person assigned as pastor was Rev. William Cassander. He did not like Frankfort, and after several weeks he either requested a transfer or abandoned his position without leave of the bishop. In either case Father Major replaced him as pastor. Lewis Franklin Johnson in his 1912 The History of Franklin County, KY writes that Father Major, "...was well thought of by both Catholics and protestants. Some of his warmest friends were not members of his church." I want to diverge for a moment and quote extensively from Paul Meagher's Church of the Good Shepherd 1848-1948. Meagher actually knew Father Major and his accounts give us a personal insight into Father Major as a person. Also included are some quotes from Roger Futrell who wrote an extensive article on Father Major entitled The Reverend Thomas S. Major: From the Army to the Altar.

QUOTES FROM PAUL MEAGHER

●"Father Major is the first pastor whom this writer remembers.We can see him now, walking slowly down St. Clair Street, a cigar in his hand which he never lit. He was a rather distinguished looking man and retained something of his military bearing, even in his later years."

●"We remember well a visit which Father Major made to our home one night when a member of our family was sick. In the course of the evening he told us the story of his army days; of his capture by enemy troops and his escape from the Columbus prison, and never have we heard a more thrilling tale. Father Major was a fine, kindly man, but in later years of his pastorate his health was bad and he looked after his parish duties with difficulty."

● "It was during Father Major's pastorate that the lot where the present school is located was bought from the Admiral Todd estate for either $3,000 or $3,600. We have been told that the entire corner, including this lot, the Mason property, and the lot back of it where the Averill residence now stands, could have been bought for $9,000, but the church board would not consider this, as there were no funds on hand; in fact, there was considerable criticism of the lot purchase for this very reason. Father Major had his good friend, Mr. T. P. Rogers, buy the lot for the parish."

●"In 1902 the church was re-decorated and improved. New and finer stained glass windows were installed and the old organ, which had to be pumped, was replaced with the one still in use today."

●"The parish had an excellent mixed choir during Father Major's time, the ban on mixed choirs not being issued until later…Father Major loved good music and just before services were to begin frequently would send an altar boy to the choir with the request that they sing Owen's Ave Maria, his favorite number. (The writer knows this to be true, for his brother was that altar boy.)"

Continued next page

QUOTES FROM ROGER FUTRELL

●“Father Major was the perfect ambassador for the Roman Catholic Church. He was a distinguished looking man with an unmistakable military bearing. He took an active role in Frankfort’s civic affairs.He was a frequent soloist for The Capital Theatre Orchestra; participated in Governor William S. Taylor’s disputed inaugural ceremony in 1899; and refurbished Good Shepherd Church.The rank-and-file of Frankfort loved him. Most of his local friends were Protestant.”

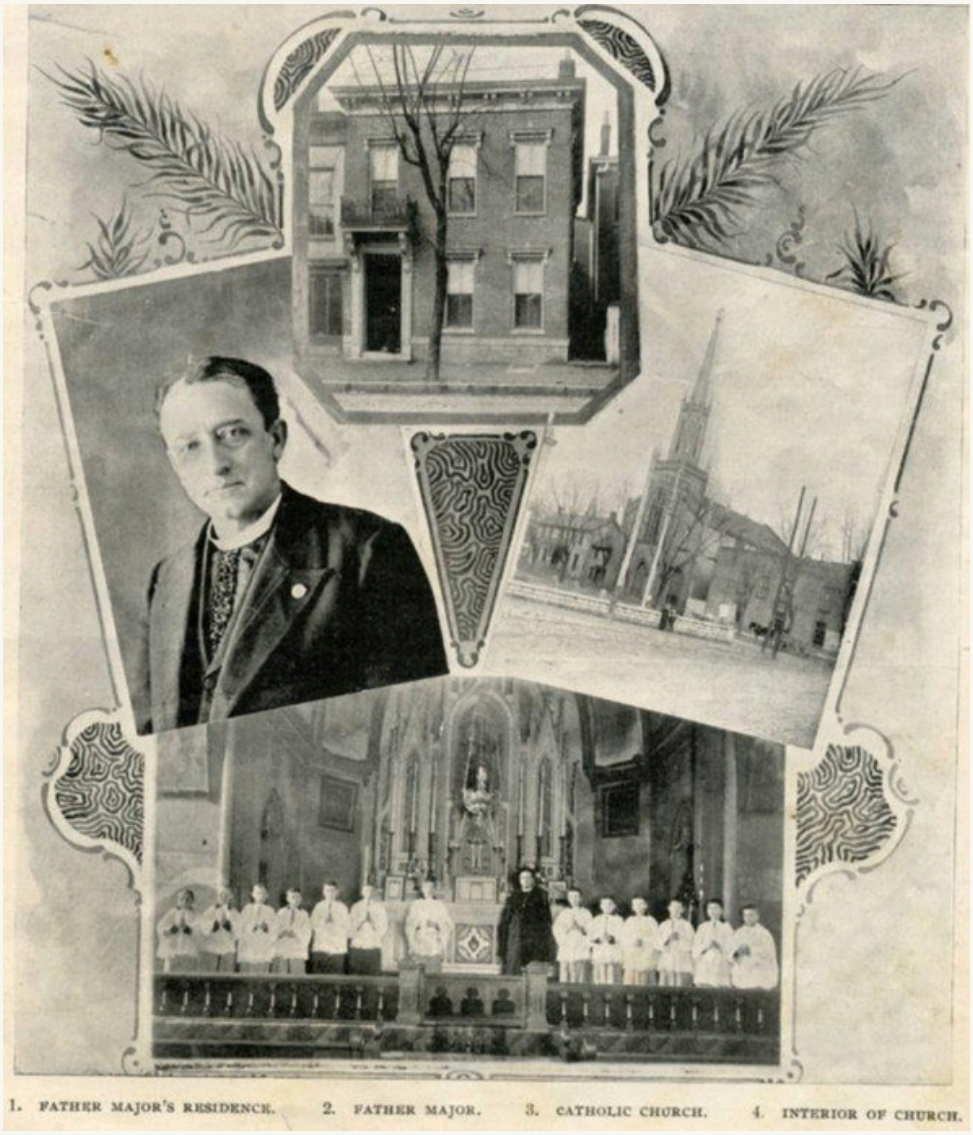
●Roger Futrell reports another interesting fact about Father Major.“Major was a gifted speaker. He perfected a two-hour autobiographical sketch, titled From the Army to the Altar, that he presented on travels around the country. The speech outlined his rationale for becoming a priest. From the Army to the Altar provided him national acclaim.From the Army to the Altar provided him national acclaim, however, no known copy of the talk exists today.”

DEATH OF FATHER MAJOR

Father Major died at dawn on Tuesday, August 22, 1911, at the old rectory at 108, St. Clair Street in Frankfort, Kentucky. The cause of death was listed as uremic poisoning, probably kidney disease. He was sixty-seven years old. The bell of Good Shepherd church tolled his passing. On Thursday morning, August 24, 1911 the Rogers Undertaking Company moved the body from the funeral home to the Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Roger Futrell reports the following. “Several of his former comrades from Morgan’s Raiders walked alongside his coffin. When they arrived at the church, the elderly veterans presented Major’s Cross of Honor to teenage nephew Stuart Auld. Ironically, Stuart’s father had served in the Union Army artillery during the Civil War…The local Knights of Columbus kept vigil while Father Major’s casket lay in state through the night.” The names on the 1910 Charter of the Knights of Columbus located in the trophy case of the Parish Life Center would have been the men who kept the vigil for Father Major that night.

FUNERAL MASS AND INTERMENT

On Friday, August 25, 1911 funeral services began for Father Major. At 10:00 A.M. The Office of the Dead was chanted by thirty-five priests.Beginning at 10:30 A.M. The Solemn High Mass of Requiem, “Coram episcopo” (in the presence of the bishop) was celebrated by the Very Reverend Ferdinand Brossart, V.G. (Vicar General). Father Brossart will become the Fourth Bishop of Covington. Bishop Camillus Paul Maes delivered the homily, praising highly the life and work of the soldier-priest. The interment was made in Frankfort Cemetery, Sometimes referred to as the “Westminster Abbey of Kentucky”, in Section F. The Catholic Telegraph August 31, 1911 reports the following. “The funeral was attended by the Governor, a number of state officials and a large crowd of the people of Frankfort. A body of thirty Confederate soldiers who had served with Father Major was also present.They were headed by Colonel James N. Arnold of Covington, Kentucky and held patriotic services at the grave.His grave sits on a small mound at the entrance to the Catholic section. The marker is placed at the base of a large cross. The marker is a “Grave Ledger”, a solid slab of stone, that covers the full length of the grave. The marker reads: REV THOMAS S. MAJOR, BORN JULY 13, 1844, ORDAINED PRIEST NOVEMBER 14, 1875, APPOINTED PASTOR GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH AUGUST 1895, DIED AUGUST 22, 1911, REQUIESCAT IN PACE, MEMBER OF JOHN MORGAN’S COMMAND C. S. A.The marker contains a monstrance at the top and a Latin cross near the bottom.



1. FATHER MAJOR'S RESIDENCE. 2. FATHER MAJOR. 3. CATHOLIC CHURCH. 4. INTERIOR OF CHURCH.

AFTERWARD

In part 1 of this series I began with the following, “Did you know that located in the basement of the Parish Life Center in an out of the way corner is a statue of Mary holding the Baby Jesus? If you look closely, you will see a small brass plaque attached to the base of the statue. The inscription on the plaque reads, “In Memory of Rev. T. S. Major by the Major Literary Society, 1916.” The statue is still located in its usual corner, but now we know a little bit more about its legacy.

Secondly, this story reminds me of a scripture from 1 Corinthians 3:6. “I planted the seed, Apollos watered the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow.” Someone planted a seed in Private Thomas Smith Major. Maybe it was the “good sisters” or maybe it was the kind Irishman Charles Donnelly. Whoever it was, the seed definitely germinated and grew into an adult plant.This sketch of the Reverend Thomas S. Major shows the growth of that seed. It is also a reminder to us to be seed planters sowing the seeds of the Gospel whenever we have the opportunity.

Around Good Shepherd...



















