



# THE CARPENTER

## ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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### APRIL 2026



### SHUT UP. SUIT UP. SHOW UP.

Fr. Gene Schroeder  
PASTOR

Each Sunday when we gather for Mass, we recite the creed through which we proclaim the beliefs that guide our lives. At least in theory, this is what it is supposed to be. Most of us would be hard pressed to identify any of what we proclaim in the creed as the “stuff” that gives purpose and

meaning to our lives.

But we all live our lives by values and beliefs, even if we are not very conscious of them. It has often been said that all we have to do is look at how we spend our time, what we do with our money, and who we choose to hang around with, and then we will know what our true beliefs are.

For all of us who want to be followers of the Gospel of Jesus, it is important that we be intentional in our life and not just be led aimlessly by the latest fads. We live in a world of ever changing technology when social media and artificial intelligence are manipulating us in ways we are not even aware of. And we live in a world where, as Pope Leo reminds us, the zest for war is on the rise. Values such as compassion and kindness are being dismissed as weak. Seeking the common good through dialogue, we are told, is something only the ignorant and insignificant people do.



The sheer magnitude of information both fake and real that is thrown at us each day, and the volume of the often angry voices shouting at us through social media, is enough to make us feel overwhelmed and helpless. What does a person do in this situation?

How can we be Christ’s presence in the world, and what are the beliefs that will guide us?

I’ve been reading the autobiography of Martin Luther King and I was struck by his comments when we was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Here is part of what he said.

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*After contemplation, I conclude that this award which I receive is a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time - the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression. Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts....Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brother-*

(Continued on page 8)

SAINT JOSEPH HAITI OUTREACH PRESENTS  
**CARIBBEAN Nights**  
Saturday, May 2

AN EVENING OF FOOD, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP TO SUPPORT

OUR MISSION ENDEAVORS IN PLAIN DU NORD, HAITI

Our Haiti Outreach is inviting you to join us for a great (adult) evening as we celebrate the culture and people of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. The evening includes a whole hog roast with all the trimmings prepared by Marx Barbecue and an evening of dancing and fellowship. Included with the evening is a chance to bid on some special items through a live and silent auction.

- 5:30 PM Social Hour
- 6:30 PM Dinner and Desserts
- 7:30–10:00 PM Dancing and Entertainment
- Live and Silent Auction
- Attire Island Casual
- \$50/person \$400/Table of 8
- RSVP by April 18



Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Eric (812) 618-5945 or Monie (812)575-9167. Look for an invitation in your mail.



All the proceeds from this event will be used to help our friends in Plaine du Nord. Despite enormous difficulties just navigating ordinary life, the people of St. James are undertaking several projects. The two things that are their top priority are finishing the church renovation and adding a second floor to the primary school. Plans are to start on the roof of the church during Lent. All the materials are at the parish, having been purchased by funds we sent a few months back. Adding a second story on the school makes sense because they need the room and the current roof suffers from lots of leaks.

Most recently, there has been a lot of rain in the Plaine du Nord area. So much so that school had to be cancelled because so many of the classrooms were flooded.





REMEMBERING

*Ray Hamner*

February 12, 1940-February 5, 2026

Ray was a man with a strong sense of duty, a love of his family and a gentle soul. Ray was born in Evansville, Indiana on February 12, 1940, to the late Lawrence and Drusie (Brisby) Hamner. He attended school here in Evansville and graduated from the original Central High School in downtown Evansville.

A sense of duty and service was something Ray learned as a young boy. No doubt one of the factors that influenced him was the fact that his older brother, was killed in World War II while serving in the Navy during World War II.

After graduating from high school Ray joined the Marine Corps and served faithfully until his honorable discharge. Upon his return home, Ray began a thirty-five year career of serving the Evansville Community first as a member of the Evansville Police Department and later with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff Department. He was also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. His leadership skills were noticed by others and it came as no surprise that during these years of service Ray served both as Chief of Police for Evansville and as Vanderburgh County Sheriff.

Some of the comments that people made at his passing attest to the fact that he was a well respected member of each department.

*Ray was one of the finest police officers and best Chiefs that I had the privilege to work with. He was one of a few (back in the day) who felt female officers deserved the same opportunities as their colleagues. After retiring from EPD and being elected Sheriff, he maintained a great working relationship between the departments.*

*He became a mentor as my fellow officer. Later, we worked on a couple of projects. He was a real policeman, father, friend and Chief.*

*Ray was a good man. And an outstanding police officer. I worked with and for him for many years at the Evansville Police Department. More importantly he was a good husband, father, grandfather, and friend.*

More important for Ray was his family. At the heart of that family was his 62 year marriage to Eloise Thompkins. They were married on June 6, 1964 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in the city of Evansville. In time they would welcome their two sons, Phil and Doug into their family. Later still they would welcome their daughters-in-law, Rebecca and Shelia and later their three grandchildren, Evan, Abigail and Ella.

Ray was a man with a big heart and a deep sense of kindness. He learned that early from the care he received from his mother. It was from her that he learned about planting a from the garden and also about canning all the vegetables that were harvested from the garden. Her gentle spirit would influence him for the rest of his life.

Ray was a big presence in the life of his nieces and nephews as well. *Uncle Ray was always so kind and fun. My sister and brothers would look forward to visiting Ray, Eloise, Phil and Doug during the summer. Ray was always so good to us kids and treated us well. I remember playing baseball he*



EATING IS A MORAL ACT

There was a time when our parish was primarily a rural parish with most of its members living and working on farms. Now we have only a few people who are still involved in farming. But we are all still connected to the land and we need to live in harmony with the world around us. Farmers and consumers need to be in solidarity. We need to once again know and understand who we are as a people of God.

All of us can help steward the landscape by an *ethics of eating*. We should choose those foods that are grown and processed in a responsible, sustainable and just way. Once we grow or produce the kinds of foods that are good for the earth, then we can eat and share what is good to grow. By our ethical food choices, we can shape the countryside in a sustainable way for all. Eating is a moral act!



Let us seek God’s guidance in finding ways to better utilize the goods of the earth that farming can become more sustainable for all who find their vocation on the land. May God’s word take root in our hearts and lives to produce a rich harvest of justice for all creation. Let all who work with the land be blessed with dignity, their homes blessed with health, and their labor blessed with safety.



*would actually spend time with us hitting fielding practice for what seemed like hours. He was a good man.*

Serving in the Police and Sheriff Departments meant that Ray would often encounter people at the worst moments of their lives. What was important for Ray, and other members serving in the law enforcement, was to have a place where they could retreat and restore their spirit. For Ray, this place was the home that he and Eloise built on Henze Road.

They built a home which became much more than a place for the family to live. Ray took great delight in using his own skills in crafting and building the house which became a showplace for his talents. It was also a place that Ray could plant a vegetable garden, cultivate his numerous flower gardens and create a sanctuary for the birds and wildlife that made the backyard their home.

The last few years of Ray’s life have been challenging as he dealt with the effects of a stroke. With the love and help from his wife, Eloise, he was able to continue to live at home. He took great comfort from the care she gave as well as the care that his two sons and their families provided. They were with him to the end as he made his passing on February 5.

We give thanks for the blessing that Ray was to his family, to our parish and to the Evansville and Vanderburgh County communities. We pray that he will now be given the rewards of a good and faithful life and that God’s peace be with Eloise, Phil and Doug and their families.

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## REBUILDING OUR CHURCH UPDATE

Our “Rebuilding our Church” campaign came to an official close this past December 31. Members of our parish made pledges of \$805,572.00. As of December 31, 2025 we received pledge payments of \$815,910.23. A remarkable achievement!

The PTO also gave \$10,000 for the new security gates in the parking lot which was one of the many items included in our “Rebuild the Church Campaign.” The St. Anne Altar Society gave \$5,000 to the general campaign and the Men’s Club contributed \$50,000 toward the repair, resurfacing and sealing of the parking lot which was also one of the projects we undertook through this campaign.



We received \$1,008,536.93 in payment from our property insurance and \$30,000 from a security grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for the new security gates that we installed.

We spent \$1,253,780.57 to replace the roof on our church as well as many other upgrades to the church including such things as new carpet, rewiring the church, interior painting, tuck pointing and sealing the exterior brick as well as many other smaller items. This amount also includes \$3,619 to repaint a small “test” section of the interior walls of the church that suffered moisture damage.

In addition to items related to the church, we undertook several other projects as well. Major items included in this list were parking lot repairs (\$81,613.37), installation of a new cremation columbarium (\$102,590.48), removing old radiators in our school classrooms and installing new cabinets (\$98,487.51), removal of trees and installation of a new culvert in the future cemetery ground ((\$36,906.36), repairs and upgrades to the rectory garage (\$36,007), and initial costs association with upgrading our waste water treatment plant (\$7,950).

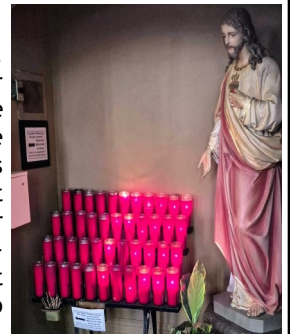
What is left to do? Two things. The first is repairing the plaster and repainting the areas on the upper east and west walls of the church that suffered moisture damage. We have been monitoring the moisture levels in the affected area and they now are getting to the acceptable range where repainting can proceed. It has taken these many months for the moisture to come to the surface and for the brickwork to “dry out” sufficiently. The actual cause for this water damage still remains a mystery. We’ve got some pretty good ideas of what might have caused this moisture problem but perhaps the best opinion was one we heard from one of the contractors working on the steeple repair—“it will take two years for the brick walls to dry out sufficiently.”

We feel pretty confident that we can go ahead with the painting repairs and have been in touch with Sims Painting about the next steps. They were the company that did the previous interior painting.

The scope of their work would involve setting up scaffolding along the east and west walls which would allow the painters and plaster repair folks to access the affected areas. It will likely take two to three weeks to do each side of the

## VOTIVE CANDLES

In almost every Catholic Church, you will find a special place set aside for people to light blessed candles. These candles have become known as Votive Candles. People light votive candles as a way of helping them to remember that God is always with us. Here in our church, these votive candles are located in a special alcove on the east side of the church in which there is also a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These candles are here for your use. The suggested donation for lighting one candle is \$5. **We now have a special box located on the wall by the votive candles where you can place the money for these candles.** Proceeds from the sale of the candles will help buy the missalettes, altar bread, altar candles and other items we use at Mass.



church. We want to be able to continue to have Mass in church, so we may have to all sit on one side of the church while the repairs are being done to the opposite walls. We may even have to sit in the front pews! But don’t panic too much, because it will be a painless experience and you might even come to enjoy sitting in the front of church! We don’t have a specific date for this, but we anticipate that this work will be done by the end of the summer.

The second item is to continue with the work of upgrading our wastewater treatment plant. Our plan continues to be to work

toward installing a presby septic system. To that end we have engaged the services of Niekirk Engineering to do some of the preliminary work which involves soil testing and filling out all the necessary paperwork.



Because of all the rules and regulations involved in building and maintaining a waste water treatment plant, this is likely to be a multi year project.

After we have paid all the bills connected to rebuilding our church and related projects, we have \$194,494.58 in a restricted account. We know that we will incur some costs for repainting the church areas damaged by moisture. Our plan is to use the remaining funds for the upgrade of our wastewater treatment plant. We will have to wait and see if the money available will be sufficient to pay for these costs.

## RUMMAGE SALE ...is coming June 5-6..

So, as you do your spring cleaning and find some unwanted “treasures” keep us in mind. We are inviting you to save your gently used items for the rummage sale.

Rule of thumb—if you wouldn’t buy it at a rummage sale, then don’t bring it. **We regret that we cannot accept electronic items, old computers, TV’s and the like.** There just has not been a big demand for these items at our past rummage sales.



More information to be coming in the weeks ahead. Got any suggestions or questions? Contact Imogene (812) 963-5221. Thanks for your continued support!

**COMING FRIDAY JUNE 6--SATURDAY JUNE 6**

# Up Close and Personal **INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**



*Will Hoffman*

By the time you read this, the boys basketball season will be over for the year. But as we sat down to talk with Will Hoffman, the basketball season was in full swing. The team had three more games to play before they headed in the sectional tourney.

Will is the son of Jennifer (Barnes) and Andy Hoffman. His older brother James is attending

IU pursuing a degree in business. His younger brother Reid is in the eighth grade at Resurrection, and his younger sister Harper is in the sixth grade at Resurrection.

Basketball is a real passion for Will. He started playing in the West Side Youth Basketball League at the tender age of six. He played basketball all through his grade school years at Resurrection and then has continued to play basketball all four years of high school at Mater Dei.

Playing basketball not only requires you to be in good shape and take care of your body, but you also have to learn how to communicate with one another on the team, especially during the game. There are lots of different defensive and offensive schemes to learn. That requires a lot of practice and sheer repetition. As he has gotten older, being a member of the team meant setting a good example for underclassman, and good leaders don't just tell you what to do, they show you how to do it.

During his years in high school, Will has also played soccer and baseball, so he's pretty much been involved in one sport or another the whole school year. There are benefits of spending time with other guys on sports teams: the satisfaction of being part of a team and sharing in the success of that team, the chance to develop great friendships with other guys, as well as the chance to test your own personal limits. Spending time with teammates at practices, traveling to games and playing the game itself are things that Will regrets leaving behind from his high school days.

Will has worked hard on his academic classes as well. Over his years at Resurrection and at Mater Dei, he has been blessed with some really good teachers. Mrs. Donna Lefler who teaches business management, Mr. Jordan Phelps who teaches government, Mr. Cody Hess who teaches social studies, Mr. Nicholas Solman who teaches theology and Mrs. Gerrard who teaches health all have played significant roles in his life. As he recalled, "good teachers are the ones who challenge you, but also give you a sense that you are being listened to."

Next year, Will is planning on attending USI to begin his studies working toward becoming a chiropractor. "They have a three year program at USI where you take all the basic classes and then move on Logan University in Missouri where you complete your work in chiropractic medicine." One of the things that he has been able to do is to shadow a local chiropractor to get a feel for the ins and outs of being a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine.

Will counts his family as his biggest supporters. "Mom and Dad have also been there for me and my brothers and sister, supporting us in all that we do. Some of the special times they have are family gatherings at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. There's always a lot of good food to share. Both my parents have taught me the importance of a

good work ethic and doing what you say

you were going to do. My mom has taught me a lot about caring for others and trying to be understanding. I think the best thing I have gotten from my dad was learning how to be a real gentleman."

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** "I think it is important to try things in life. You have to be willing to put the hard work into the things. When you have to work for things you get a whole lot more satisfaction out of them. One of the biggest challenges I have had in life is when I suffered an injury which prevented me from playing sports. I had to do a lot of rehab to get back to the point I could play again. Doing rehab is not a lot of fun and sometimes you can get to the point where you just want to give up. My mom and dad were both really good about encouraging me to hang in there and reminding me that things will work out. You need that kind of encouragement. Surrounding yourself with some good friends is also important. The best friends are the ones who aren't just there to have fun with but who will support you and challenge you when you need to be challenged."

*Riley Waninger*



It has been a busy four years of high school at Mater Dei for Riley, but that's how she likes it. "I like being on the go!" She is the daughter of Eric and Jill Waninger and older sister of Chase. Her paternal grandparents were the late Leo and Berta Waninger. During her four years, Riley has been a member of the Pep Club responsible for generating school spirit. Aside from highlighting the different athletic and extracurricular teams through the year, they also decorate the senior lockers, rooms and hallways in the months before school begins. This year they used the "Dr. Seuss" theme as their guide for decoration.

In recognition of her academic achievements, Riley was selected for induction into the National Honor Society this past year. Among the special things that members do is additional service hours in the community. Riley chose to work with the people and staff at the Ozanam Family Shelter.

Riley has also served in student government her junior and sen-



**Diocesan policy: Report and inform**

The Diocese of Evansville has in place a policy that requires that any allegation of child abuse must be reported to civil authorities. If an allegation involves the sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan personnel, the Victims Assistance Coordinator must also be informed. Sexual misconduct violates human dignity and the mission of the church. The spiritual well-being of all victims, their families, and others in the community is of particular concern to the church.

**Report child abuse**

Every allegation of child abuse must be reported to Child Protection Services, an agency of Indiana state government.  
CPS Toll-free: (800) 800-5556 Local law enforcement: 9-1-1

**Report and inform**

In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor (a person under 18) by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese:

Toll-free: (866) 200-3004 Local: (812) 490-9565

ior year serving as a member of the police department. This job primarily involves making sure that everyone who is driving to school has a parking permit and that they park in the designated areas. Failure to do so can result in getting a ticket. Has she had to write out some tickets? Well, there have been a few times. “I felt really bad about that, but that is my job.” Having received a parking ticket herself, she knows what she is talking about.

Much of Riley’s free time during high school has been involved with playing soccer. She’s been a member of the girl’s soccer team all four years at Mater Dei and has also been a member of a soccer traveling squad. “We won the sectional championship over Heritage Hills in a shoot out at the end of the game but lost to Lawrenceburg in the regional finals.”

Being part of a soccer team has been a great experience for Riley. “You learn a lot about working together for a common goal. We spend so much time at practice and games that the people on the team become some of your best friends. I’ve been playing with some of the same people all throughout grade school and high school. One of the things I am going to miss from high school is all the special times I had with my teammates.”

Riley has spent a great deal of time with her academic work as well. “I’ve had a lot of good teachers through the years. Some of the best teachers are the ones who really challenge you to do what you don’t always think you can do. At the time it’s hard to appreciate that, but I think they have prepared me well as I get set to go off to college.” Some of the classes that stand out for Riley include her biology and anatomy classes, English classes and a physical education class entitled Lifetime Sports. “That class is learning about different sports you can participate in throughout your life to keep you healthy and active, things like pickleball and badminton.”

Next year Riley plans on attending IU and pursue a degree in business. During her time at Mater Dei she has been able to shadow some other women working in their own jobs. One of those was working with the owners at Thyme in the Kitchen and the other has been working Real Estate Broker, Jodi Fehrenbacher. It’s given her some hands on experience as to what owning a business is all about. “That has been a good experience for me because I have always had this dream of owning my own business someday in the future.”

A key to Riley’s success has been the support and encouragement of her family. “My mom has taught be about the importance of being there for others. My dad and I think a lot alike so we tend to see the world in similar ways. Both my parents have taught me about the importance of a good work ethic and following through on what you say you are going to do. My maternal grandparents are an important part of my life too. I enjoy spending time with them especially during the holidays. I really didn’t know my dad’s father because he died when I was really young. But I remember spending time with my Grandma Berta. It helped that she lived right next door to us, so it was easy to just stop by her house.”

WORDS OF WISDOM: “I think the most important thing I have learned through high school is believe in yourself and not worry about what other people think. Surrounding yourself with a few good friends can really help you do this. Good friends see you as your are and accept you that way. But they can also challenge you to take risks in life and to do things you may not have thought you could do.”



**Who must report incidents of abuse?**

Teachers, teacher’s aides, and counselors in our schools; therapists and social workers in our counseling agencies; nurses and doctors in hospitals; and clergy in parishes or other ministries all have the obligation to report the reasonable suspicion of child abuse to the local police, child protective services, or other appropriate agency. This is true for those ministering in facilities owned and operated by the diocese, as well as Catholic institutions operated privately by religious communities.

**COME SEE WHAT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER TO YOUR CHILD**



**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL—8th GRADE**

Contact Principal Mrs. Kelsey Meier 812-963-3335



**LITURGICAL MINISTERS APRIL 18--MAY 17, 2026**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE?** We are always looking for new people to help serve at Mass by being a Minister of Communion or a Lector. Call/text us (812-499-9074) and we will provide all you need to serve our parish in this way.

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READERS
Saturday April 18, 2026 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson	Toni Askins
Sunday April 19, 2026 8 AM	Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey Terry Drone	Chick Duncan
Sunday April 19, 2026 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Chad Martin
Saturday April 25, 2026 5 PM	Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier Eric and Karen McDonald	Sis Jarboe
Sunday April 26 2026 8 AM	Rodney and Paula Baehl Lisa Cook Darlene Appler	Tom Folz
Sunday April 26, 2026 10:30 AM	<b>SPECIAL MINISTERS FIRST COMMUNION</b>	<b>SPECIAL READERS</b>
Saturday May 2, 2025 5 PM	Butch and Linda Feulner Sis & Katie Jarboe	Susie Schapker
Sunday May 3, 20256 8 AM	Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher Tom and Dolores Folz	Terry Drone
Sunday May 3, 2026 10:30 AM	Amy Cody Rachael Schnaus Jena & Shane Wessel	Jane Scheller
Saturday May 9, 2026 5:00 PM	Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher Donald & Brandon Werner	Jim Hermann
Sunday May 10, 2026 8:00 AM	Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers Chick Duncan Marcia Frey	Tom Blythe
Sunday May 10, 2026 10:30 AM	Becky Doshier Steve Jung Debra Baumgart Al Debes	Shane Wessel
Saturday May 16, 2026 5:00 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson	Toni Askins
Sunday May 17, 2026 8:00 AM	Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey Terry Drone	Josh Baehl
Sunday May 17, 2026 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Doris Taylor Danielle Weledge Debra Baumgart	Chad Martin

## A Journey To Wider Acceptance and Love



*Sr. Tracey Horan SP*

*Sr. Tracey is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana and attended Roncalli High School. Later she joined the Sisters of Providence Community in Terre Haute, Indiana, where she professed her first vows in 2017 and made her final vows in 2022. She currently works for the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, AZ.*

I cannot put my finger on exactly what informed my belief that there should be a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. I remember high school friends using “Mexican” as an insult. I remember that I didn’t know anyone who had migrated. Like most stereotypes, my beliefs about immigrants most likely came from a combination of sources: messages I heard from the news, friends and media that convinced me that immigrants were an inherent threat to my well-being.



View of the border city of Nogales, where Sister Tracey Horan now ministers, from the Arizona side.

What I do know is that by the age of 18, I was adamant and vocal about the need for a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. When I argued this belief in my senior Spanish class, my teacher asked me to research and present an argument against building the wall, since I was clearly familiar with the other side. I was livid at her request. I was also an A-student, and begrudgingly did the research for the sake of my GPA. I started learning why people came to the U.S.: the violence and poverty they were fleeing and the connections with damaging U.S. policies. I had to face the fact that I was clueless about the complexities of why people migrate; that I was arguing to exclude people I had never met, people whose stories and backgrounds I hadn’t considered.

I wish I could say that a high school research project was all it took for me to understand that our immigration system is both broken and complex. That offering welcome to people who have suffered as a result of our foreign policy is the just thing to do. Yet when I discerned to spend a few weeks with Sisters of Charity in El Paso, Texas, after graduating from high school, I still came to the experience with some skepticism. Could it really be that difficult to migrate legally to the U.S.?



*Sister Tracey Horan, SP, left, with her current housemates, left to right, Missionary Sisters of the Eucharist Pina, Engracia and Cecilia.*

It took a series of encounters and relationships for me to come to a new place of seeing and being seen by people who have faced the difficult decision to uproot themselves and their families for a better life, or to save their lives. It took visiting trailer homes in “colonias” outside El Paso, Texas: makeshift neighborhoods where many lived without running water, electricity or legal status and were bussed to local factories that profited from their labor. It took processing the disappearance of one of my eighth grade students my first year of teaching after her family had been targeted by drug cartels in Juarez, Mexico.



View of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico from the street in front of Sister Tracey's house in Nogales, Arizona.

It took studying one-on-one with a teacher in Guatemala who had lived through the horrendous civil war, sanctioned by the U.S. government. Little by little, people invited me into relationships that both softened the walls of my heart and left me with even more questions about the systems that upheld both my own prejudices and a permanent underclass of people contributing to life in the U.S., but forced to do so from the shadows.

Last spring as I discerned a ministry change, my transformational experience in El Paso combined with the United States’ escalating fear-driven policies around immigrant exclusion led me back to the border. As Education Coordinator at the Kino Border Initiative, I am now part of a team of people who facilitate encounters that humanize and complicate perceptions around migration primarily through conversations between migrants and visitors at the migrant aid center and shelter in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. With each immersion experience, we commission another group of people to take back what they’ve learned and make change in their own communities. On a daily basis, we also provide humanitarian aid to hundreds of people who were recently deported or are seeking asylum.

These days both my perspective and the view out my window are dramatically different from my teenage reality. When I walk out the front door of the house I share with three sisters from a Mexican community, I see the border wall at the end of our street. What I wouldn’t give to remove this scar in the earth and the division and fear it represents. Still, remembering my own transformation over the years, I am convinced that change is possible, and that the only way forward is relationship.

**A Franciscan Benediction**

May God bless you with **DISCOMFORT** ...  
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with **ANGER** ...  
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with **TEARS** ...  
to shed for those who suffer from pain,  
rejection, starvation and war, so that you  
may reach out your hand to comfort them  
and to turn their pain into **JOY**. And may God  
bless you with enough **FOOLISHNESS**...to believe  
that you can make a difference in this world,  
so that you can **DO** what others claim cannot be done.

## CHOOSING GRACE AND NOT VIOLENCE



**Shane Clairburn**

Violence is contagious. Violence begets violence. A rude look is exchanged for a cold shoulder. A middle finger for a honked horn. Hatred begets hatred. Pick up the sword and die by the sword. You kill us and we'll kill you. There is a contagion of violence in the world; it's spreading like a disease.

But grace is also contagious. An act of kindness inspires another act of kindness. A random smile is exchanged for an opened door. Helping someone carry their laundry or groceries makes them nicer. Randomly paying someone's toll in the car behind you invites them to pay it forward. A single act of forgiveness can feel like it heals the world. Grace begets grace. Love rubs off on those who are loved....

There's nowhere you can see the battle of grace and disgrace waged more vehemently than in the criminal justice system. When it comes to words like "justice," people can say the same thing and mean something completely different.

Capital punishment offers us one version of justice. There is a sensibility to it: evil should not go without consequence. And there is a theology behind it: "An eye for an eye ... a tooth for a tooth" [Exodus 21:23-24].

Yet grace offers us another version of justice. Grace makes room for redemption. Grace offers us a vision for justice that is restorative and dedicated to healing the wounds of injustice. But the grace thing is hard work. It takes faith—because it dares us to believe that not only can victims be healed, but so can the victimizers. It is not always easy to believe that love is more powerful than hatred, life more powerful than death, and that people can be better than the worst thing they've done.

These two versions of justice compete for our allegiance. One leads to death. The other can lead to life, and to healing and redemption and other beautiful things.

Mercy is a natural outflowing of grace. It's been said, "Mercy is not getting what you do deserve, and grace is getting what you don't deserve." Both are beautiful, but both can also seem like a betrayal of justice. That's why justice can't just come out of our heads, but it also has to flow from our hearts. Grace and mercy are things, just like forgiveness, that exist in the context of evil, and in contrast to it. When all is well, grace and mercy are hard to notice. But when things are rough, they are hard to ignore. They shine brightly. Just as light shines in the darkness, grace is radiant next to evil.



## IT'S LAWN MOWING SEASON...COME JOIN OUR CREWS!

It's time to start planning for the lawn mowing season in our parish. We're looking to add some people who can help mow the large areas of our campus with our riding mowers. And we are looking for folks who can join some of our existing lawn mowing crews. These crews mow the lawn around the rectory, church, school and convent and the cemetery. We provide all the equipment (self-propelled lawn mowers, riding lawn mower, weed eaters, and refreshments for the workers!).

Maybe you could be one of these people. Call the parish office (812-963-3273) or Randy Tenbarge (812-205-5139) to offer your help or for more information. Not only can you help the parish save money, but you can also help in keeping our grounds looking nice, and it's great exercise!

To help us get ready for our lawn mowing season, we ask that you remove any decorations around your cemetery tombstones that might get in the way of our lawn mowing crews. Flowers and plaques must be attached securely to the tombstone or flower vases. Shepherd's crooks, statues, balloons, and the like are not permitted as they are a hazard to our mowing crews. Thanks for your help in keeping our cemetery a place of honor and respect as well as a safe place for our lawn mowing crews.

## HOW I FORGAVE MY DAUGHTER'S KILLER

*Marietta Jaeger Lane's daughter Susie was kidnapped and murdered. She recounts wrestling with the concept of forgiveness to restorative justice educator.*



I grew up in a house where we were never allowed to be angry. I was told that to be angry was a sin.... It took two weeks of sitting at the campground picnic table waiting for any news of Susie for my rage to roil up through the many inhibitions I had placed on it. When I finally allowed myself to get in touch with my anger ... I knew that I could kill the kidnapper with my bare hands and a smile on my face. Even before I knew

what he had done to Susie, I could have killed him for the terror he put her through, for taking her away from us and the effect it had on my entire family.

However, after a major midnight wrestling match with God in which I tried to justify my "right" to rage and revenge, I "surrendered." Because I believe in a God who never violates our freedom or free will, I gave God permission to change my heart. I promised to cooperate with God in whatever God could do to move my heart from fury to forgiveness.

There was a time in the beginning where I felt that if I forgave the kidnapper, I would be unfaithful to Susie. I also struggled with a belief common to victims of violence—that if I could stay angry and get revenge, I was in control.

I was catapulted into a very intense, spiritual journey, and spent many hours in prayer and reading scripture. God spoke to me frequently. It was a long, gradual process but, during that year, I came to realize three things:

- In staying full of rage I was in fact handing my power over to the kidnapper, allowing his actions to change my value system and lead me away from the direction I wanted my life to go in.
- In God's eyes the kidnapper was just as precious as my little girl.
- And if I wanted to live my Catholic faith with integrity, I was called to forgive and pray for my enemies.

As the months went by with no word of Susie, I also prayed to know what God's idea of justice was. I came to understand that if Jesus is the word of God made flesh, then Jesus is the *justice* of God made flesh. As I looked at the life of Jesus in scripture I did not see someone who came to hurt, punish, or put us to death. Jesus came to heal and help us, to rehabilitate and reconcile us, to restore to us the life that was lost by "original sin." God's idea of justice is restoration, not punishment.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE CONFIRMED BY BISHOP SIEGEL ON MARCH 1**



Top: Left to Right: Zachary Baehl, Eve Macke, Ella Kassenbrock, Briley Barkley, Aidan Daza, Sammy Heldt, Henry Raben, Jack Dalrymple, Jack Elpers Bottom: Left to Right: Sophia Schuble, Alexandra Stewart, Bailey King, Lola Elfreich, Etta Wallace, Lily Fehrenbacher, Ellie Bishop, Alice Wilkinson

*(Continued from page 1)* **SHUT UP. SUIT UP. SHOW UP. (cont.)**  
 hood. If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the "isness" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts him. I refuse to accept the idea that man is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life, unable to influence the unfolding events which surround him. I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright day-break of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

**This faith gives us courage to face the uncertainties of the future.**

I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear destruction. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant. I believe that even amid today's mortar bursts and whining bullets, there is still hope for a brighter tomorrow. I believe that wounded justice, lying prostrate on the blood-flowing streets of our nations, can be lifted from this dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down men other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down to-

gether and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid." I still believe that we shall overcome!

This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hoovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, we will know that we are living in the creative turmoil of a genuine civilization struggling to be born.

Martin Luther King wrote these words sixty-two years ago. It was a different time in our nations' history. And, yet, what he says seems to speak to all that we are experiencing today. Much of what he experienced would overwhelm the best of us. But, with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. he continued to show up each day trying to make a difference in the world.

I think "showing up" and "trying" are such crucial things. I like the way one person put it in his daily prayer—"Shut Up, Suit Up and Show Up" These simple words reflect a basic belief system.



Yes, there are terrible things happening in the world. With the benefit of social media we are reminded daily of the awful choices people are making and the disastrous consequences of these choices have for so many people especially those who are marginalized in the world. It does no good to complain about how awful things are now and how good they were in some nostalgic past. It has been that way for every generation. If you want a theological word for this, it would be "original sin."

But God chose to enter into this world, as it is with all of its brokenness and inconsistencies. In doing so, he embraced the very worst of our world—injustice, betrayal, fear, greed, selfishness. He did not return evil with more evil but transformed this brokenness into something that was life giving for

*(Continued on page 12)*

# MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in a sea of indifference.

*Pope Leo*

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



Do you enjoy fresh, chemical-free produce? If so, Seton Harvest, a community-supported agricultural initiative sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, would like to invite you to become a shareholder in our Certified Naturally Grown vegetable farm. For more information, contact Julie Dietz, Community Outreach Manager, at 812.963.7692 or Julie.Dietz@doc.org,

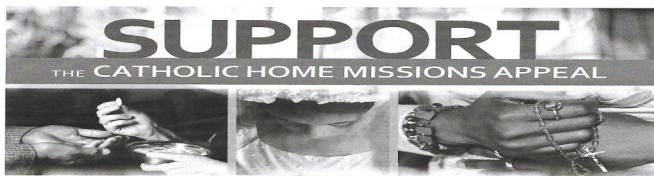
In the past, in a year's time, Seton Harvest harvested 44,284 pounds of produce with 8,877 pounds of produce donated to many shelters, food banks, and church pantries. A portion of each week's harvest goes directly to nearly a dozen different charities serving the poor and hungry including:

- Ozanam Family Shelter
- St. Vincent Day Care
- Evansville Christian Life Center
- Many others

Since our first growing season in 2006, Seton Harvest has donated more than 111,640 pounds of fresh, naturally grown produce. To find out more at Seton Harvest visit their website at [www.setonharvest.org](http://www.setonharvest.org)

## THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL COLLECTION THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

This month we are invited to join with our brothers and sisters throughout the United States in supporting a special collection for mission parishes in the United States and its Pacific and Caribbean dependencies. This appeal strengthens the Church at home by supporting Catholic communities in need. It assists dioceses that serve the pastoral needs of Hispanics and other ethnic groups. It enables Catholic parishes in poor and remote communities to provide Mass, the sacraments and religious education for their people. Once again we have a chance to respond to God's call to love our neighbor. Please be as generous as you can. Get more information on line at [www.usccb.org/hm/](http://www.usccb.org/hm/)



Pray with us! We have family in Israel, Ukraine, Gaza, Iraq South Sudan and Ethiopia!



When you go to do your grocery shopping, adding an extra box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a bag of beans or rice, or a jar of pasta turns your grocery cart into a small act of heroism. Put your items in the food barrels at the church doors. This past month, the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry gave food to over 2700 individuals.

Remember too, the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers who are willing to work a few hours in the food pantry, sorting and packaging food. They can also use help handling the calls for assistance for rent, utilities, and other help.



## TURN YOUR GROCERY CART INTO A SIMPLE ACT OF HEROISM



Help provide affordable



Volunteer Center

housing for those in need. Come join us at the Habitat of Evansville Volunteer Center located at 935 Maxwell right down from Escalade Sports. Work inside. Simple jobs. Bring a hammer and start hammering away. 812-423-5623 for more information



## MAKE RECYCLING A WAY OF LIFE.

We know about recycling aluminum cans and we now have a trailer to collect aluminum cans. We filled it almost twice in the two months that we have used it. But a consciousness for recycling goes beyond this. So when we have a family gathering, or when we are a part of some project in the parish, we can ask ourselves, is there anything that we have used that can be recycled?

What can be recycled? Aluminum cans, plastic jugs, bottles, cups, forks, spoons, knives, and the lids from your cup of coffee or soft drink, tin cans, cardboard of all sizes (even the cardboard left over when we use a roll of toilet paper), glass bottles and jars can—all these things are recyclable.

Creating a recycling consciousness will take a little work. The easy thing is just to throw everything in the trash. After all, my little bag of trash can't really make that big of difference in the landfill where it will go. But when I reduce the amount I throw away and join it with lots of other people who are doing the same thing, it makes a big difference.



**Did You Know?**  
**75% of what we throw away can be recycled!**

*May my mind come alive today  
to the invisible geography  
that invites me to new frontiers,  
to break the dead shell of yesterdays,  
to risk being disturbed and changed.  
May I have the courage today  
to live the life that I would love,  
To postpone my dream no longer  
but do at last what I came here for  
And waste my heart on fear no more  
John O'Donohue*

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 pm  That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study	<b>2</b> <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> Prayer service with Children 8 am  <b>PARISH HOLY THURSDAY MASS 7 PM</b>	<b>3</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Children's Good Friday Services 8,9 & 10  <b>PARISH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 PM</b>	<b>4</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Family Easter Egg Hunt 10 am  <b>EASTER MASS AT NIGHT 7 PM</b> HAITI AND FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION
<b>5</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> MASS 8 & 10:30 Food Pantry And Haiti Collection 	<b>6</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration  NO SCHOOL  Mass 6:30 pm	<b>7</b> 7:30 AM Mass	<b>8</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 Mass  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm  That Man is You 5:30	<b>9</b> No Mass  Altar Society Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>10</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Easter Celebration with Children Communion to the Homebound  Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm	<b>11</b> Food Pantry Collection  Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 -4:40 pm  5 pm Mass
<b>12</b> Mass at 8 & 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection Family Religion Class 9 AM RCIA 9 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 am	<b>13</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm Knights of St. John Meeting 7 pm	<b>14</b> 7:30 am Mass  <i>PRAYER DAY FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM--WEDNESDAY 6 AM</i>	<b>15</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm  That Man is You 5:30	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Boot Camp 5 am  7:30 am Mass  Communion to the Homebound	<b>18</b> Food Pantry Collection  Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 -4:40 pm  5 pm Mass
<b>19</b> Mass at 8 & 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection Family Religion Class 9 AM RCIA 9 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 am	<b>20</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	<b>21</b> 7:30 am Mass  Nut Club Dinner 6 pm	<b>22</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass  Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm  That Man is You	<b>23</b> NO MASS	<b>24</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass  Communion to the Homebound  <i>KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN STATE CONVENTION</i>	<b>25</b> Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 -4:40 pm Mass 5 pm
<b>26</b> Mass 8 & 10:30 am <b>FIRST COMMUNION MASS 10:30 AM</b> 	<b>27</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration  Mass 6:30 pm	<b>28</b> 7:30 am Mass	<b>29</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Pastries with Parents after Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm That Man is You 5:30	<b>30</b> NO MASS   <i>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29</i> <i>BEGINS WITH MASS AT 7:30 AM</i> <i>RECEPTION FOLLOWING</i>	<b>1</b> Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound	<b>2</b> Food Pantry & Haiti Collection  Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 -4:40 pm  Mass 5 pm



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**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday—5 PM**

**Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM**

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

E-mail [gschroeder@evdio.org](mailto:gschroeder@evdio.org)

Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy

E-mail [kgilles@evdio.org](mailto:kgilles@evdio.org)

Mrs. Kelsey Meier—Principal

E-mail [kmeier@evdio.org](mailto:kmeier@evdio.org)

Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary

E-mail [jkempf@evdio.org](mailto:jkempf@evdio.org)

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(Continued from page 8)

the world. Every time **SHUT UP. SUIT UP. SHOW UP.** (cont.) we say at Mass, “dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life” we are proclaiming this belief.

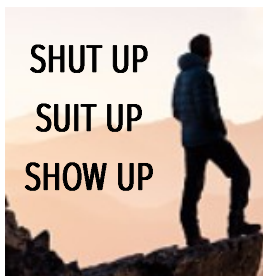
And then Jesus invites us to do the same thing. When Jesus prayed for his disciples he used these words: I do not ask that God will take you out of the world, but that God will keep and protect you. (John 17:15). So we suit up remembering the words of St. Paul that “if God is for us, who can be

against us.” (Rom. 8:31). These words echo the familiar words we read in Psalm 23 “the Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”

And then we show up. We offer our little piece of wisdom. We do the things we can do and resist the temptation to always want to know just how things are going to turn out. And

we trust that in all things God works together with those who love him to bring about what is good. (Romans 8:28).

Saying all this is one thing. Actually doing it is quite another. What is it that we believe in? That can be a pretty risky question to ask. Even more challenging is a willingness to act out of our beliefs. It takes great courage. The disciples knew this all too well and so often they were filled with fear. Jesus understood them and he understands us. He has confidence that we can be his presence in the world, Just as he told his disciples, he tells us as well: “Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and even greater works than these.” (John 14:12). I believe these are the beliefs that sustained Martin Luther King, and they can sustain us as well.



**COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY**

Saturday, March 28 5pm  
 Sunday, March 29 8 & 10:30am



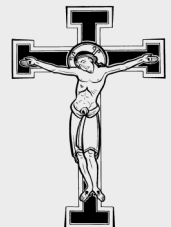
**CHRISM MASS—TUESDAY, MARCH 31**

5:30 pm St. Benedict’s Church



**HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 2**  
 PRAYER SERVICE WITH CHILDREN—8 AM  
 PARISH HOLY THURSDAY MASS—7 PM

**GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 3**  
 CHILDREN’S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES  
 8, 9 & 10 AM  
 PARISH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 PM



**HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
 EASTER MASS AT NIGHT 7 PM



**EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 5**  
 Masses at 8 and 10:30 am

**CHILDREN’S EASTER CELEBRATION**  
 FRIDAY, APRIL 10 7:30 AM

Please come and pray with us at any or all of these services. Please note as well the special Holy Week services with children.