



April/May 2019

Volume 19, No. 2

Heaven on earth: The source & summit of life

The Mass.

Sometimes we take it for granted; sometimes we go through the motions; sometimes we forget that at every Mass we are encountering Christ. The Mass is more than a place to spend an hour; it is, as Vatican II tells us, “the source and summit” of our lives. It is, the document on the liturgy adds, “a foretaste of heaven.” So if you want to experience heaven on earth, come to Mass! Learn about it, live it, and let it become the source and summit of your life.

On May 8, as part of Dynamic Parish, we learned about using the Mass Journal as a transformative habit. If you did not receive one, there are plenty in the church. Also, we will be offering sessions on Bishop Robert Barron’s “The Mass” this summer. Watch the bulletin for details. See you at Mass!



Stewards of the Month

February:

Laura Melancon

Laura Melancon is a devoted parishioner. One passion is her volunteer work with Project Christmas. "I love having a part in making Christmas so special for the less fortunate," she said. Year round, Laura is involved with the school since both of her children attend MQPCS, in 4th (Lainey) and 1st (Zachary) grades. "I enjoy volunteering in their classrooms, going on field trips and getting to know their teachers and other parents." She also has been involved in Girl Scouts and Fleur de Fall.



March:

Don Sustendal

Upon returning home to Louisiana after several years of working in Houston, Don was attracted to Mary Queen of Peace by the presence of 3 grandchildren enrolled in the school, as well as his daughter Courtney and her husband, Craig. Don's activities in the church community include being an active 4th degree Knight of Columbus, launching the "That Man is You!" men's formation program last fall, supporting the St. Benoit partnership Haiti ministry, and helping with maintenance around the campus. Don and his wife Gerry have 3 children and 12 grandchildren.



April:

Brandi Talamo

Brandi, her husband Ty and their three children, Sophia, Andrew and Stella, have been parishioners at Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church since 2009.

Brandi volunteers and participates in various ministries throughout the parish and school community.

She is one of the parish nurses for the Health Ministry and leads Soulcore classes. She also helps facilitate a women's Bible study on Friday mornings.

"The Lord has blessed me and my family abundantly and my heart is so full," Brandi said. "Serving the Lord and helping to bring others to Christ offers me such peace, joy and happiness."



A good steward:

- Receives God's gifts gratefully
- Cherishes and tends them responsibly
- Shares them in justice and love
- Returns them with increase to the Lord

If you have a nominee for Steward of the Month, please contact Karen Baker in the parish office at 985-202-0232 or email kbaker@maryqueenofpeace.org



Altar Server of the Year

Gretchen Dum was honored as Altar Server of the Year from Mary, Queen of Peace at the annual Serra Club awards in April. She is pictured with Archbishop Aymond.

Honoring the Young Church



The annual CYO leadership celebration took place in April at St Louis Cathedral. Gretchen Dum, top right, received the national St. Timothy Award for outstanding leadership and moral values. Above, Hayley Roberts, Mae Frey and Evan Fisher were honored with the Youth Leadership Award. And at right with Fr. Jared, Jonnie Ann and Vince Hebert received the adult service award.



Congratulations to all of our CYO Award winners!!

Alleluia! A Resurrection Party



Our FourTwelve youth group had a Resurrection Party on Wednesday April 24 to celebrate Easter in a big way. Dressed up for the occasion, they danced the night away and gave thanks to the Lord. Alleluia!

WALKING WITH JESUS



Many thanks to our students from Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic School, who led us in an outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 19. The outdoor Stations were followed by the solemn service in church at 3 p.m.





He is risen! Celebrating Easter joy

Those journeying through our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults were welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on April 20. One adult and two children were baptized. Others made the Profession of Faith and were confirmed. Some also, above with teacher Sandy Dombrowski, made their First Communion. For information on the RCIA, contact DRE Jewell Bayhi: jbayhi@maryqueenofpeace.org



Celebrating the sacrament of marriage



Mary, Queen of Peace honored couples celebrating 25, 50 and more than 50 years of marriage during a vigil Mass in February. Fr. John led the couples in a renewal of vows. A reception followed.

Spring cleaning: Thanks to our many helpers!

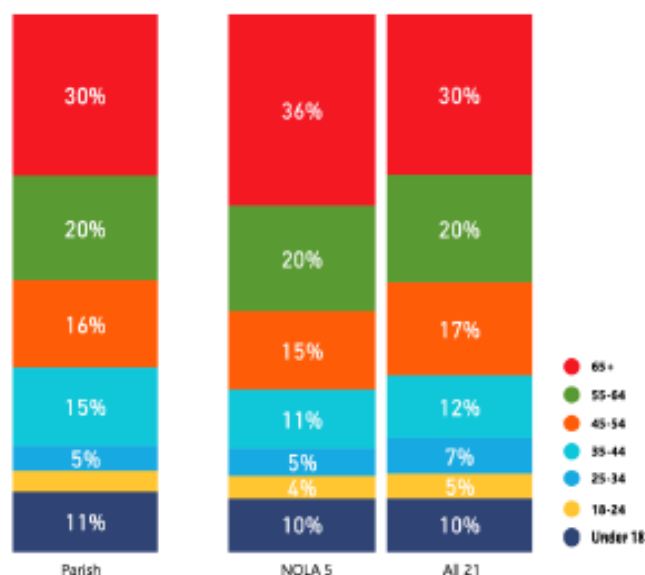
A great group of volunteers showed up on Saturday April 6 to help spruce up our parish campus in preparation for Easter. Many thanks to all who came and helped pressure wash, weed, mulch,



plant and more! Our parish community couldn't do it without you! If you are interested in helping with parish gardening, please contact the office at 985-202-0232.

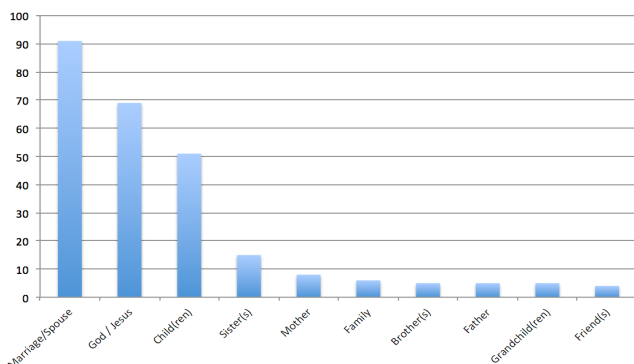
We are Mary, Queen of Peace. Take a look...

May we have your age, in years, please?



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Dynamic Parish



What relationship would you like to work on? Marriage, God/Jesus, Children, Sisters, Mother topped the list. If you need resources, contact the parish.



What one word would describe you as a member of this parish? MQP is blessed with faithful, active, dedicated, devoted, friendly, involved, devout parishioners. This and so much more! We are truly blessed.



What is one word to best describe how you envision this year? At the Dream event, it turned out that our parishioners are full of hope, happiness, holiness, with optimism, joy, and openness to change and growth.

Dynamic Parish



What's one thing you will start doing today to become a better version of yourself? Pray more, listen better, trust in God, Practice Patience were tops. Let's start making those dreams come true.



What's one thing you have to let go of this year? Fear, Pride, Control, Worry, Stress, Guilt, Anxiety, and much more. Perhaps adopting the "pray more" above may help us let go of those things. There are many opportunities for prayer at MQP.

Next up from Dynamic Parish ...

Mary, Queen of Peace will have a fuller report from December's "Bigger Future" survey in the coming weeks. Watch the bulletin and summer newsletter for more information. If you have any feedback on Dynamic Parish, call Karen Baker in the office at 985-202-0232.

A great big thank you!



Mary, Queen of Peace held a volunteer appreciation luncheon in April to say thank you to our many, many wonderful volunteers! You make life possible in our community of faith.





News from our Knights

Our Knights of Columbus served up plenty of fish on Fridays during Lent. Thanks to all those who came out to support the KCs. Meanwhile, thanks to everyone who took part in the annual Easter egg hunt on Holy Saturday.



Haiti: Education is the door to the future

Thank you for your continued support of the Haiti Solidarity Partnership Ministry. Our recent fundraiser 'A Night in Haiti' was well attended and we netted \$29,376.00 for our sister parish, St. Benoît.

These funds will keep the church and school open for approximately 6 months. This event and Monsignor Wildor's appeal in the fall are the only sources of income for St. Benoît. We continue to work with them on sustainable projects such as animal husbandry, microfinance and higher education for the graduating students.

The theme of 'Education, the Door to the Future' can be best shared by the first success story from St. Benoît.

Jean-Bernard Orival, eldest son of Sauveur and Destinette Orival, graduated with his master's degree from the University of Quebec at Montreal in 2018. He was raised with his younger brother, Patrick, in Dessources and could not believe the transformation of the village upon a recent visit home. He stated that growing up in Dessources they had no water source close by, church or school. He is most thankful to Mary, Queen of Peace for your support in creating this opportunity for the parishioners of St. Benoît.

A brief background: St. Benoît was designated a parish in 2009 when newly ordained Father Wildor Pierre was assigned to this remote parish. Then the earthquake struck in January 2010 and the people from the affected areas rushed to the remote areas to find safety.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond suggested that New Orleans area parishes seek a partnership, and former MQP pastor Fr. Ronnie Calkins spearheaded the effort here. With the help of Catholic Relief Services in New Orleans, we set our sights on working with Father Wildor.

It has been nothing but miraculous what has happened on this mountaintop with the support of Mary, Queen of Peace. Father Wildor became Monsignor Wildor in just a few short years as a priest. Bishop Dumas of Haiti counts on him as his right hand man.

During our first visit in 2012, there was a small church with a partial roof. The 50 elementary students were studying in different sections of the church. When it rained, classes were cancelled. To let people know this, the church bells

were silent. There was no call to class. The students walked up to one hour to attend classes. They always carried a gallon of water to school for the rectory and school.

Fast forward seven years and there are now 500 students from Pre-K to high school and a staff of 32 qualified teachers.

Jean-Bernard did not have this advantage. He and his brother attended schools in Port-au-Prince and stayed with family members.

His father, Sauveur Orival, led the communion services for the community for many years in the chapel of St. Benoît before it was designated a church and Father Wildor arrived. His mother, Destinette, would walk up to 2 hours one way to work in an orphanage. She would head out on a Monday and return on Friday.

They still do not have running water or electricity in their home. This did not stop them from working hard to ensure their sons would have a formal education.

It was during Jean-Bernard's first visit to Mary, Queen of Peace in 2012 that he met with the Haiti Solidarity Partnership Ministry and was introduced to Karen and Tom Sheehy. They were excited to see his joy and hope with an opportunity to attend graduate studies in Quebec. However, he had no means for his dream to come true, but somehow trusted in God to provide. The Sheehys opened their hearts and offered to pay for his graduate studies. What a gift! Sauveur and Destinette's prayers had been answered through their son Jean-Bernard.

Jean-Bernard worked hard in his studies and was able to receive a partial scholarship for his studies in his first year. The Sheehys had committed to the funding therefore, three other students were able to attend a university with the savings from Jean Bernard's scholarship. One is in medical school in the Dominican Republic, the second is in school in Haiti studying agronomy, and the third is studying business in Port-au-Prince.

Jean-Bernard graduated in 2018 with a master's degree in computer science from the TRIME lab, a wireless telecommunications lab, in Montreal. He was married to his Haitian sweetheart, Dalida, in February 2019. They now live in Miami





A Night in Haiti

It was a beautiful Night in Haiti, thanks to the volunteers who coordinated the annual fundraiser for our sister parish of St. Benoit.



Haiti: Opening doors to the future at St. Benoit

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and look forward to hosting his parents to live with them.

The progress continues with an initial grant from the Sheehy's non-for-profit The Healing Eyes of Mercy. They have earmarked funds for university studies in Haiti for graduates of St. Benoît. There are currently 12 students enrolled in various universities in Haiti.

As Karen states: "God creates all people with human dignity and one important aspect of this innate dignity is the ability to work and provide for their and their family's basic needs."

As other funds become available we will be able to

send more worthy students on for higher education to reach that door to success.

This program is funded by private donations only specific to this goal and is not funded by the existing ministry funds.

To participate or learn more about the Haiti Solidarity Partnership Ministry, please contact us at MQPHaiti@gmail.com.

Peace,
Muguet Bolotte/Co-Chair, Haiti Solidarity
Partnership Ministry



That Man is You, our early morning men's group, has been meeting faithfully each

Wednesday during the spring. All men are welcome to join the fall session. Keep an eye on the bulletin for details.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas at MQP have been busy with outreach and service projects. This spring, they collected and donated Easter gift bags for Free Indeed.

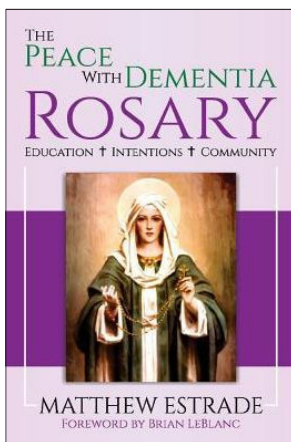
Health Ministry: Praying through dementia

Parishioner Matt Estrade's journey to caring for caregivers began when he saw his mother taking care of his grandfather, who had dementia. "She was an only child, which made it more challenging," he said.

This was in the late 1990s, said Estrade, who is part of our parish health ministry. "I was leaving for college and she was taking care of him. I wasn't able to help because I was at school out of state" at Auburn. "but her experience really stuck with me."

Eventually Matt decided to go to graduate school "to learn more and help others in her situation." That desire to help others led to a master's degree in gerontology and a passion for supporting caregivers of those with dementia.

For the past four years, he has run a caregiver



support group for the Council on Aging in St. Tammany, and his experiences led him to write "The Peace with Dementia Rosary."

"Over the years, I've had people talking about going to church (for support) and that got me thinking about spirituality and religion, specifically the rosary, to be relied upon for strength and guidance."

Matt sees the fruits of his mother's sacrifices. "Going through something difficult can bring good. If she hadn't gone through it, I wouldn't have been able to help people through this."

For a preview of Matt's book and for prayer intentions, visit dementiarosary.com.

If you are interested in a caregiver support group, email Matt at mwestrade@gmail.com



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Thanks to 80 generous #iGiveCatholic donors, our young adult room is almost ready! Some of our young adults, top, tried it out recently as they made care packages for State Police Troop L.



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our young Catholics, who received First Holy Communion on May 4. We pray that they—and each of us—will continue to keep the Lord Jesus at the center of their lives.