



9401 Nesbitt Ave S. * Bloomington, MN 55437 * 952-835-7101 * www.stedwardschurch.org

Pastor's Reflection

By Fr. Brian Fier

Holy Week (April 9-16) is about to begin. Of all the weeks of the year, the Church declares this one to be "holy." The liturgies throughout this seven-day period invite us to reflect on and enter into the Paschal Mystery. Yes, Jesus' life, death and resurrection are put before us in ways not seen during the remainder of our liturgical year.

We begin on **Palm Sunday** with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We stand by the roadside and join in proclaiming: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." Quickly we move to the upper room and find ourselves celebrating the Last Supper. We are troubled by Jesus' words: "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." We rush to deny any disloyalty and to recommit ourselves as followers of Jesus; and yet, we soon find ourselves standing with Peter denying Jesus three times. The Lord's Passion brings us to the gibbet of the cross and our hearts are crushed as we hear Jesus cry out: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" How can we move forward? How can we believe?

We close our Palm Sunday liturgy by once again being nurtured by the Holy Eucharist. Then we are

(Fr. Brian's message is continued on back page)

OUR FOOD OFFERING

The Church of Saint Edward has a lovely garden located on the south lawn that has been providing a plentiful harvest of beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers—some of the most highly requested produce items—to our local food shelf since 2008. Every summer, volunteers brave the heat and mosquitoes to tend and harvest our garden, and then wash, bag and deliver produce to VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People).

This past summer, the Minnesota FoodShare Harvest Campaign recognized parishioners Bonnie & Ron Strand and Sue Bartoletti as "Golden Beet Award" winners for their championship of greater access to fresh, locally grown produce for those in need. Some of you may remember that under the coordination of Sue, Bonnie and Ron, the grand total from our 2016 "Veggies for VEAP" garden was 483 pounds!

Young families and youth are especially invited to work our garden this year. Please visit our web page or call the parish office if you would like to help with this life-enhancing work that provides our neighbors with good, healthy nutritional food.

"Providing fresh veggies to the hungry is something Ron and I are so happy to do. Gardening is so satisfying and surprising; and gardening was mankind's first occupation."

~ Bonnie Strand

Ever wonder how our parish's allocation process takes place for outreach? Money from our annual budget is reserved for the allocation of funds each year.

Generally, an "Affiliated Budget Request Form" is needed to qualify for funds from St. Edward's Social Justice Outreach Fund. For the allocation process, there is an administrative review of all funding requests with the pastor, parish administrator and Social Justice Commission. The following organizations were approved for funding for 2016-17:

- * Loaves and Fishes: St. Stephen's Church & Creekside Senior Center
- * Nursing Home Ministry
- * Catholic Charities
- * Families Moving Forward
- * Sister Parishes: Nicaragua & Dominican Republic
- * VEAP Garden

In addition, half of last year's Feast Raffle proceeds were given to the Hispanic Ministry at Assumption in Richfield. Proceeds for our Feast Raffle are dedicated to Social Justice Outreach, with the exception of 2017 when proceeds will help cover expenses for our 50th anniversary celebration.

A full \$2,475 was turned over to the Dudley Emergency Fund, a way to help parish families who are in need of rental assistance. The Dudley Fund is supported by tax deductible donations from parishioners year round.

Finally, Ascension Place submitted a "Non-Affiliated Budget Request" and their request was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

In addition to Facebook and YouTube, another social media resource is used by our parish—Instagram! Our communications office recently launched a new Instagram that will showcase our very best photos and videos from all programs and ministries at our parish.



- Follow "Church of St. Edward" at "[stedwardschurch_bloomington](#)"
- Follow "St. Eds Youth" at "[steds_youth](#)"

2017 Campaign Status*

Goal:	\$82,764
Pledged	\$23,685
Received:	\$18,235
Average Gift:	\$149.91
# of Donors:	158

The Church of St. Edward had 284 donors for the 2016 Catholic Services Appeal.

**There is a processing time delay, so current actuals could be higher.*

LET'S RAISE \$20,691 FOR OUR PARISH!

Did you know that the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (CSAF) will provide a 25% rebate for every dollar our parishioners donate—once we reach our parish CSAF goal? So that when \$82,764 is raised by Church of St. Edward parishioners for the seventeen ministries the CSAF supports, then a full \$20,691+ would be given to our parish. If we reach 90% of our goal—\$74,488—10% would come back to us! In addition, CSAF is a truly inexpensive income source for our parish since they provide all fundraising materials, pay all mailing expenses, send all reminders, and process all payments. There is no out-of-pocket cost to the Church of St. Edward. Please consider helping over 200,000 people—the homeless, hungry, imprisoned, students in financial need, disabled, hospitalized, seminarians, missionaries, immigrants and American Indians—by making a donation to the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation. Let's be one of the parishes that meets their goal in 2017! Please contact Sherrie Schroeder, Parish Administrator, at 952-835-7101 or sschroeder@stedwardschurch.org with questions.



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS

Our sister parish relationship with Nuestra Senora de Los Angeles (Our Lady of the Angels) in Jinotega, Nicaragua is vibrant, active and interactive. The Church of St. Edward supports, affirms and encourages the good work that is being done at Our Lady of the Angels and its community. Because we could never eliminate their poverty, we give what we can to help them accomplish their goals—sometimes with monetary donations and other times with volunteers from our parish working alongside people from their community. In return they pray for us, especially when we have specific needs and we come to know them as people of great faith within circumstances of extreme poverty.

This relationship began in 1987 during the second half of the Contra Sandinista war. The idea was to let them know we were with them spiritually in their struggles. Since that time we have tried to maintain a spiritual as well as a financial relationship with them. We began helping with various liturgical and social projects after visiting and seeing the challenges they face.

Many Nicaraguans are coffee pickers and work day-to-day during the harvest but then must scratch out a living the rest of the year. The government tries to help solve these problems, but outside help is needed. In 2000 we began a relationship with AVODEC (Asociación de Voluntarios para el Desarrollo Comunitario or Volunteer Association for Community Development) a nongovernment grassroots organization which was already operating and agreed to help us complete various social projects to benefit the community of Our Lady of the Angels.

Additionally, in 2008 we were accepted as a partner of Feed My Starving Children and we now receive two 40 foot containers of Mana Pack food. Although the food is donated, we pay the shipping. This is a great blessing

(continued on next page)



to those living in extreme poverty in the city and surrounding countryside. The food is stored and distributed from a warehouse in the church to our partners, helping to provide nutrition to those in need. We hope to expand this mission in the future.

Some of the current projects we have with Our Lady of the Angels and AVODEC include building and repairing the main Jinotega church along with more than 25 chapels in the countryside; donating accordions, keyboards, guitar strings and other musical necessities for worship; having a dental clinic in the church with donations from the University of Minnesota and the family of parishioner Roger Schultz; working with the Pastoral de los Enfermos (ministers of the sick) who deliver packets of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) food; subsidizing the cost of eco-friendly, safer cooking stoves that save money; and subsidizing administration costs of AVODEC.

Would you like to become more involved with this sister parish relationship by sharing the common bond of faith with our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua and learning about their lives and culture? If so, trips are made to our sister parish. In addition, a variety of mini-projects are planned locally throughout the year. You may also be interested in hosting people who occasionally visit from our sister parish community.

More than 60 people of all ages have traveled from our parish to Nicaragua in the past. Some have traveled four or five times. Many are looking for a way to share our common bond of faith, encounter a new culture, or travel to see firsthand how our projects have been changing lives there. It's definitely adventure tourism without the crowds or tourists. All go because they would like to help people, but all come back knowing without a doubt that they have been the ones who have received the blessings and their lives are changed forever. Please contact the parish office for more information about our sister parish in Nicaragua.



Padre Eliar Pineda, Pastor of Our Lady of the Angels in Jinotega Nicaragua

WHY?

By Sue Kellett, Parishioner
and Mission Trip Coordinator & Traveler

"The reason I continue to be involved with our sister parish in Nicaragua is because I see the needs there and I have family friends and parishioners of St. Ed's here who would like to help in a meaningful way. There needs to be a connection. I am the bridge between all of you and them. I was also interested in helping the poor, but the side benefit of all my visits and projects there is that I have experienced phenomenal personal growth and made friendships that will last a lifetime. I am amazed at the joy and love the people exude even in the midst of their poverty and pain. They are truly happy to see us and they feel special that we have come all that way just to see them. Each trip I take is special and the people I meet are a true blessing to me."



The girls from Teresa Toda are showing off the tambourines they made while studying Miriam, Moses' sister who celebrated crossing the Red Sea by singing, dancing, and playing the tambourine. Amanda Berndt, Michelle Berndt, and Samantha Black are included in this photo from the mission trip in 2016.

TERESA TODA

Teresa Toda is a home run by Carmelite Sisters for very poor girls. The home was started to help girls learn values and skills so they can realize their dreams despite their economic conditions. During the school year, the girls live at the home, visiting their families monthly to maintain relationships with their extended family and their neighborhood. During the summer, the girls live with their families. However, Carmelite Sisters found that the summer away from school was too long. Girls would return with many poverty-related maladies like malnourishment, skin diseases, sores and lost academic progress they had made over the school year. "Campamento" was started so the Carmelite Sisters could check in with the girls midway through summer, conduct a health check and supply nutritional basics. Because the Sisters wanted Campamento to be a special event for the girls, our parish became involved.

Since 2002, the Church of St. Edward has sponsored a group of women (ages 15 and up) who bring supplies and set up a dynamic VBS (Vacation Bible Study) camp for the girls at Teresa Toda each summer. Travelers are recruited from our parish in early January. Planning includes a "Cutting & Kitting Night" along with ample opportunity for non-travelers to support the mission trip by donating needed supplies. This year, the mission group will travel the weeks of July 8-16 and July 15-23. Camp is 100% volunteer run, supported by the Church of Saint Edward in financial and other ways.

At camp, the girls from Teresa Toda are provided with values and companionship that can't come from financial donations alone. They study the Bible, sing, dance, make crafts, explore science and engineering, learn math and English, and build community. Travelers enjoy unique experiences and a break from their daily routine which helps them gain a new, and maybe even more hopeful, perspective. They make surprising new connections with locals and fellow travelers. They are treated like long-lost family. In a truly symbiotic relationship, travelers bring the camp and the girls share their love, enthusiasm, lives, and beach!

(Learn more on the next page)

GET INVOLVED

- **TRAVELERS:** We currently have enough travelers for the 2017 summer mission trip to Teresa Toda, but recruitment for 2018 is wide open!
- **CRAFTING:** Our annual "Cutting and Kitting Night" will take place on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm in the auditorium.
- **DONATE:** Donations like health and school supplies will be collected this spring at our parish.
- **SONG BOOKS:** A brand new way to support Teresa Toda and the mission trip this summer is to purchase a bilingual hymnal for \$15.00. At last year's Campamento the group learned and sang "Digo 'Si' Senior/I Digo 'Yes' Lord". It was a big hit! This year, parishioners, friends, and past travelers may purchase songbooks with even more songs for the girls at Teresa Toda. Each songbook will include a nameplate that reads, "A Gift from (Your Name)". Write a check to "Church of St. Edward" and make sure to indicate that your donation is for Teresa Toda hymnals.
- **CONTACT:** Ann McGuire at 952-239-3488 or annmcguire@gmail.com



WHY?

By Ann McGuire, Parishioner & Mission Trip Coordinator and Traveler

"People have asked me why a mom of two active boys would spend a week in July, a time when the weather is beautiful in Minnesota, on a mission trip out of the country. Neither the girls nor the Sisters speak English, they only speak Spanish; I studied French. We do not visit world famous resorts or pristine beaches. However, over the course of the week, we live and eat with the girls, attend Mass, swim at the local beach, take a cultural excursion and visit families. Some of the reasons I give up one week each July to travel to Teresa Toda is to connect with people in a deep and fulfilling way—at a spiritual level; find commonality with people who are poor for no other reason than where they were born; admire people who work for justice in their countries; bond with fellow travelers who are experiencing new sights, sounds, smells, and emotions; return energized and with a new perspective on my own life; and experience the global Church in an intimate and profound way, by attending Mass in Spanish, with both familiar and new traditions. To learn more about Teresa Toda, please visit my blog at <http://campamento.blog>."

By **Bill Franke**, Stewardship Committee Chair

A story that is found in all three of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Chapter 19; Mark, Chapter 10; and Luke, Chapter 18) tells of a man who approaches Jesus and asks, "... what good must I do...?" Jesus replies, "... keep the commandments." The man says to Jesus, "All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?" Jesus said, "...sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor..."

Wow! Sell all that you have—not 10%, but 100% of what you have. This feels like a lot.

Jesus goes on to tell His disciples, "...it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven." Apparently many of Jesus' listeners must have felt themselves to be rich, for they ask Jesus, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus answers, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

As it does in many other places, the Bible is telling us that by our own efforts we will not gain eternal life; but by the grace of God we may.

In the Church, in our parish, and even at Mass, tithing has been referenced. Tithing means giving away 10% of our income. Jesus did not talk much about tithing; but, as the story of the rich man shows, Jesus asks for something even greater.

Tithing is not a "rule." It is something that is offered as a benchmark because the question is frequently asked, "how much should I give?" Most Catholics give less than 10%. But we can think of 10% as a goal to work toward. It may take a long time—many years or even a lifetime—but a conscious effort to strive for the goal is the first step.

It is important to acknowledge that giving away 10% has very different impacts in different households. For some, it may not noticeably affect their standard of living. For others, giving away even 3% can be a serious hardship. This is another reason why tithing should not be thought of as a rule. In the former household, 10% may not be enough; in the later, it may be an almost cruel expectation.

For tithing at the Church of St. Edward, giving 5% to the parish and 5% to other charities is recommended. Second collections taken from time to time at Mass throughout the year can be opportunities for the 5% to other charities. So are any other charities your household supports. In fact, with all giving, even to the parish, you get to decide. It is important that this is a prayerful and thoughtful decision. You should follow your conscience and not a 10% rule.

Our recently formed Stewardship Committee implemented a Stewardship Renewal this past October (2016). Nearly half of our active members returned Stewardship Intention Cards, with cumulative increases in intended giving at over \$90,000! We are gratified by those results.

Additionally, we have met with a consultant from the Catholic Community Foundation whose expertise is Legacy Planning. We look forward to making use of his talents at our parish in the coming months to encourage members to think of the parish as they update their estate plans.

Please continue to keep our parish and our Stewardship Renewal efforts in your prayers.

WORSHIP & TECHNOLOGY

Last fall, a team was assembled to complete a Worship Technology Assessment (WTA) at the Church of St. Edward. The scope of this project includes evaluation, recommendation and enhancement related to sound, video and lighting inside the church, narthex, social hall, and chapel. This Worship Technology Team includes staff members from music, liturgy, communications and facilities along with parish leadership. They meet once a month. The fundamental goal is to offer a more profound and meaningful experience for those who attend our Masses and liturgies. The timeline is one to three years and the project is currently not funded. Additional members to the team are welcome. If you have expertise in the area of sound, video, lighting, worship or technology and are interested in participating with the work that the Worship Technology Team is undertaking, please contact Craig Walker in the parish office right away.

given three days to conclude our Lenten preparation. We fine-tune our forty-day discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And finally, the hard work of Lent concludes with the beginning of the **Triduum** (i.e., the period from the start of the Holy Thursday Mass through the Easter Sunday celebration).

Holy Thursday brings us back to the Last Supper. We are asked to re-commit ourselves to serving the Lord, the Church and our fellow brothers and sisters. We celebrate receiving and being the Body of Christ. We depart nurtured, yet wondering what this service entails.

Good Friday plunges us back into the mystery of the passion and death of Jesus. How do we embrace the cross? What does the crucifix mean to us? Can we walk the walk of Jesus?

Finally, thankfully, **Holy Saturday** arrives. We begin in darkness. Suddenly the light of Christ shines through our despair to provide us hope. Our Scripture readings traverse our salvation history. We invite others to join us in our faith journey—Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist are celebrated—and new members are welcomed into the Church (i.e., neophytes). For the first time in 40+ days we are allowed to proclaim the “A” word. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Easter Sunday brings our journey through the Paschal Mystery to its final stage as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. We kick off our fifty-day Easter party. What does this gift mean to us? What is the church? As Christians, what are we called to do with this gift?

Yes, my brothers and sisters in Christ, we are about to enter the most sacred of all weeks. May God bless us as we once again embrace the central mysteries of our Christian faith. Please join us!

Holy Thursday: April 13

Confessions: 12-2:00pm
6:30pm Mass

Good Friday: April 14

Confessions: 12-2:00pm
6:30pm Liturgy

Holy Saturday: April 15

Confessions: 12-2:00pm
8:00pm Mass

Easter Sunday: April 16

8:30am & 10:30am Masses

UPCOMING AT CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD

Visit www.StEdwardsChurch.org for the most up-to-date information about our parish or follow us on social media!

Newsletter Note

This newsletter has a focus on Social Justice & Charity and Administration. Our summer newsletter will include valuable information about Faith Formation and Community Life. As you read this newsletter, we hope you learn something brand new about our parish!

50th Anniversary

Please mark Sunday, September 10, 2017 on your calendar! Our 50th celebration will begin with

Mass at 10:00am. Archbishop Hebda will return to our parish to preside and a reception and our annual Feast of St. Edward festivities will follow. Mass will also be celebrated at 5:00pm on Saturday, September 9th, when we plan to honor our founding members. Note: There will be no 8:30am or 10:30am Mass on 9/10/17.

Alcove for Mary

A big thank you to everyone who participated and contribut-

ed to the success of January's third annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, especially the Knights of Columbus! We grossed over \$15,000 and are now moving ahead with our "Alcove for Mary" project in the chapel. Please contact Fr. Brian if you are interested in contributing to this effort to honor our Blessed Mother Mary and our former pastor Fr. Mike Tegeder. The completion date for this project is our upcoming anniversary celebration on 9/10/2017.