

A New Youth Minister am happy to announce that we have hired a new youth minister, Beth Probus. Many of you will be familiar with Beth since she has been a very active member of our parish community for 25 years. She has volunteered with the youth for 14 years at Holy Name. She has gone on mission trips, worked on junior high and high school retreats, and at-tended ODYC, NCYC, New Song, Winter Jam and Lock Out. In the parish she also volunteers as a Eucharistic Minister, a Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader, as a catechist in Faith Formation and working with students preparing for Confirmation. She will begin this month.

We are sad to see Peyton Hutson leave. She has done a wonderful ministry here at Holy Name of Jesus with our youth. She has a great love for the youth and a real commitment to this ministry. Even though it is hard to say goodbye we are happy that she will be able to spend time at home with a new baby and daughter, Campbell.

The Return of the Picture hopefully you notice this past weekend that the picture of Fr. Bradley has re-turned. They were setting up the Church for the Memorial Service last Sunday and found the picture in a closet. We think that someone brought the picture back and put it in the closet because after the picture went missing several people checked this closet well and did not find it. Whatever happened, we are happy that it is back and up on the wall.

Just Faith This morning I finished the second session of Just Faith, a small group meeting to discuss and learn more about living our faith. "This program invites us to enter the stories of those who grapple with various forms of oppression or inequity, and to align ourselves with those whose lives are dedicated to creating alternative structures and systems. This program also invites us to look inward and to locate the spaces within our lives where fresh approaches and a new fruitfulness can blossom in our lives." (From the Just Faith Manual) The past 8 weeks we have had a wonderful opportunity to enter into the stories of those who grapple with various forms of oppression or inequality through two books that we read that I would like to recommend to you.

Just Mercy is written by Bryan Stevenson, a young attorney who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he did not commit. Reading the story of Walter's case and many others I was astounded by the prejudice of color and the deafness to the truth that was at the heart of many of these cases. The day and time of the murder Walter was at home having a family barbecue that most of the neighbors attended even a po-lice officer. His family, his friends and his neighbors told their story that he could not have committed the murder but they were ignored, they were black. The primary eye witness who will eventually confess that he had been coerced to give his testimony could not recognize Walter McMillian and gave a wrong description of the Truck that Walter drove. Walter was sent to Death Row before his trial. Bryan Stevenson through perseverance was eventually able to get Walter McMillian released from Death Row after six years. This is truly a powerful story that takes an inside look at some of the injustices in our justice system. This is not the story of every criminal justice system, most do their very best to make just decisions, but this is the story of a criminal justice system that has lost its way.

Evicted is written by Matthew Desmond, a Princeton sociologist and winner of a Pulitzer Prize for this book. He follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Evicted transforms our understanding of poverty, and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home. In our group we read about Arleen and her two boys, Jori and Jafaris and their struggle to keep a roof over their head. They are evicted and they move from one bad apartment to another, losing more and more hope and furniture on the way. Arleen spends most of her time looking for apartments, applying and being rejected because of her

children, or a previous eviction. The story records the steady decline of families trying to have roofs over their heads and a place to be safe. I know that these books do not seem like light reading or appropriate for the Holiday season right around the corner but they are real stories about real life of our brothers and sisters and are important for us to know.

Fr. Larry McBride