



The Agony in the Garden

(Donated by the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. Flamm, Sr.)

-Dedication written on window

The names listed on the window, "Mr. and Mrs. A. Flamm, Sr.," refer to Adolph Flamm, Sr. and Stephanie Bigler Flamm.

Adolph Flamm was the son of Leonhard and Theresa Flamm. Leonhard emigrated from Germany in 1868; his wife and seven young children, including Adolph, followed in 1869. The family initially settled in Jonesboro before relocating north of Cobden to a farm they purchased from John and Mary Sweitzer on June 9, 1888. That same year, Leonhard became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Stephanie Bigler's parents, Joseph and Mary Bigler, emigrated from Switzerland and Germany, respectively. After meeting and marrying in Pennsylvania around 1850, they moved to Saratoga, east of Cobden, in 1857. Joseph became a naturalized citizen in 1855. Stephanie was born in 1865, and the family eventually moved into Cobden in 1888.

Both families were foundational members of Cobden's Catholic community. The Biglers likely attended the first Mass held at the home of Mathias Clemens in 1861, and both the Bigler and Flamm families were instrumental in the founding of St. Joseph Church in 1879.

In 1893, Adolph and Stephanie married at St. Joseph. They began their life together on his father's 117-acre farm, which Adolph purchased in 1897. Under his leadership, "A. Flamm and Sons" grew into one of the state's largest fruit and vegetable operations. Together, they raised nine of their ten children.

(Continued on back.)

The Priests of St. Joseph

Rev. Uriel Salamanca 2008-Present

When Father Uriel first arrived at Saint Joseph in 2008, he faced a challenge familiar to many, yet unique in its calling: he didn't speak English. Originally from a diocese of in Bogotá, Colombia, he came to Southern Illinois through a three-year agreement between bishops. His initial mission was simple but daunting—serve the Hispanic ministry while beginning the long process of learning a new language and culture.

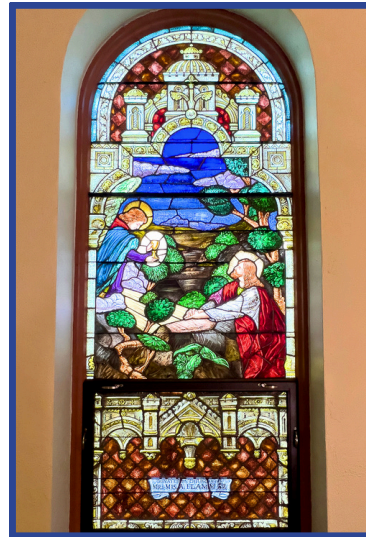
What started as a temporary assignment became a

(Continued on back.)



Father Uriel

The Annunciation



The Agony in the Garden Window was donated by the Children of Mr. Adolph and Mrs. Stephanie Flamm

Father's corner: The Annunciation

Fr. Uriel Salamanca

Today, dear brothers and sisters, I invite you to gaze intently at the stained-glass window depicting Jesus's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Let us draw near for a moment to that difficult hour in the life of Christ—who, amidst His anguish, sweated blood; who invited His disciples Peter, James, and John to pray with Him; and who, above all else, desired only to do the will of His Father.

There are nights when the soul weighs heavier than the body. Nights when prayer becomes a whisper and the weary heart curls up in search of peace. At times we wish to be strong, yet we are overcome by spiritual slumber—that gentle lethargy that extinguishes fervor and lulls our vigilance to sleep.

And then, like an ancient yet ever-new echo, the voice of Christ resounds in Gethsemane: "Watch and pray, lest you fall into temptation." In that silent garden, while the Son sweated blood, His closest friends fell asleep. They were not bad people; they were simply tired. Like you. Like me.

Today, Gethsemane is not a distant olive grove. It is the home where we live, the workplace where hope grows dim, the world that seems crushed by news that tears us apart. It is the sanctuary of the soul where God asks us to stay awake. Yet sleep—that comfortable, tepid, distracted sleep—haunts us with persistence.

What does it mean "not to fall asleep" today? First and foremost, it means keeping the heart sensitive. Spiritual slumber begins when we cease to let

Deacon Pat (CONTINUED)

In the early 1980s two members of St. Joseph's Parish were ordained as Permanent Deacons in the Belleville Diocese, first Garth Gillan and then Pat Patterson. Both were married with young children and both continued to work to support their families, Garth as a professor at SIU and Pat as a manager at Tuck Tape in Carbondale. Deacon Garth, after service to the Hispanic community, moved from the area. Pat, in collaboration with Father Tom Miller, became involved in the prison ministry and served many years as one of the chaplains at the federal correctional facility in Marion.

Pat was involved with a succession of priests at St. Joseph's, beginning with Father Ted Baumann and ending with Father Uriel. After his retirement he became more active in parish ministry co-teaching high school and adult education classes. He assisted at the parish level with the Liturgy Committee, Confirmation, delivering the Sunday Liturgy of the Word monthly, distributed Communion during the pandemic and assisted Father Uriel on the altar and in the community when needed. He assisted at weddings and funerals. He took particular joy in the celebration of the Easter Vigil liturgy.

Pat was woodworker who gifted people with some of the items he made. He assisted people with problems related to emerging computer technology. He lent a sympathetic ear to those who needed one... without boasting, bragging or self-promotion. At the time of his passing in 2024 he was recognized as the longest serving Permanent Deacon in the Belleville Diocese.

(Thank you to Paulette Aronson for this article.)

Father Uriel (CONTINUED)

lifelong calling. "I feel the necessity to stay," Father Uriel says, reflecting on the shortage of priests and the warmth he found in this community. One year after his arrival, he was appointed administrator of Saint Joseph, a role he has now held for nearly 18 years.

For Father Uriel, the priesthood has always been about the joy of service. Though he initially planned to become an engineer, he felt a profound shift during his final year of high school. The Lord, he says, simply changed his mind: "I need you as a priest." Since his ordination in 1987, that desire to serve has never wavered.

Today, Father Uriel continues to shepherd our community with a passion obvious to anyone who meets him. He has a singular focus: "Everything is for the Lord."

Father's corner (CONTINUED)

ourselves be moved. Gethsemane is filled with silent suffering. If I close my eyes, I will not see the one who needs a word, the one who asks for patience, or the one who awaits a call. To stay awake is to preserve tenderness.

Nor should we let simple prayer be extinguished. Sometimes we believe that praying means uttering beautiful words. But in Gethsemane, Jesus simply repeats what causes Him pain and entrusts it to the Father. To "keep watch" today might mean reciting an Our Father at midnight, a Hail Mary in the midst of traffic, or offering a moment of silence when everything feels overwhelming. Prayer is the lamp; slumber begins the moment I cease to light it.

It also means accompanying Christ where He continues to suffer—where Our Lord remains in agony: in every lonely brother or sister, in every broken family, in every prison, in every hospital, and in every forgotten elderly person. Keeping watch with Him means drawing near to those places where love seems to have departed.

Today, Christ makes a humble request of us: that we do not flee from the garden where He has placed us. That we do not sleep precisely when an awakened heart is most needed. To awaken is not to do great things. To awaken is to love. To awaken is to remain. To awaken is to say each morning: "Here I am, Lord. I do not want to fall asleep. I will keep watch with You."



Adolph Flamm & Stephanie Bigler wedding



Front: Adolph & Stephanie Flamm 50th wedding anniversary.
Back: Robert & Martha Flamm, 25th wedding anniversary

Agony in the Garden (CONTINUED)

An article written late in Adolph's life noted: "He was in his time one of the most prominent farmers of the community, and was a very devoted member of the Church. He was noted for his piety. These old settlers were men and women of solid worth. It needed great endurance and ambition to cross the ocean, leaving home and kindred behind, and entering an unknown country, where even the language was strange."

(Thank you to JP Russell for this article.)