

St. Gertrude Chicago

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Combined Bulletin for

July 10 & July 17, 2022

15th & 16th Sundays in Ordinary Time

From Fr. Rich

Pastor's Column

At the end of their regular session in June, the Supreme Court handed down a number of important and nation-changing decisions. To

say the Court has now slid so far right as to be about to fall off the ledge is an understatement. And what is personally distressing to me is that most of that slide has come because of the very right-wing Catholic members of the Court.

Partisans on the right have celebrated some of these decisions and those on the left have decried them. Taking a slight step back, I think it is important to not only consider each of the decisions individually, but perhaps more importantly, to consider them together and what they seem to be saying.

Let me confess up front, I am still having a very difficult time, having watched a number of the Senate confirmation hearings for the last three Justices, now to come away with a strong taste of bile because they either deliberately lied to the Senate, or, at the very least, mid-led their questionnaires when they made clear that they were traditionalists as far as leaving established decisions alone.

Certainly, in the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* they are not traditionalists, they are extremists who, to get the seat they coveted, misrepresented their actual views. I keep wondering how we are ever going to trust anything these people say when they so conveniently lied to get the job. This is not my idea of what an ethical person sitting on the highest court in the land should be doing.

My own read is that they have done irreparable damage to the Court's reputation, and they clearly don't care.

Secondly, while many have said this is a victory for the pro-life movement, I disagree strongly. Overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the arguments they used to render that decision is not pro-life. It is anti-abortion, which, while providing much-needed relief to the large number of lives lost to abortion, is hardly the great victory some want to claim. It is a victory only if your "pro-life" concern is limited to abortion. But if you follow the Catholic moral ethic, we expect pro-life to include every living soul - from the fetus in the womb to the senior citizen on life-support to the immigrant struggling to find a new home to the condemned prisoner awaiting death, and so on.

From Fr. Rich (cont.)

Some of the language I found most troubling after the decision was from those who claimed NOW we will start dealing with unwanted pregnancies by providing health care, etc. to the women who have been seeking abortions. Really? NOW you are going to do that? If this is your argument for this position, what the heck have you been doing for the last 50 years? Sorry, I don't believe you.

Third, I can't separate the two decision that came back-to-back -- now everyone can carry a gun just about anywhere. So, it's okay to let every citizen be armed with as many guns as they want, which will only lead to more violence and death in our nation's streets. But we claim to value life in the fetus and are pro-life. Again, sorry, I don't believe you. Until we are willing to protect all life, we are not pro-life.

Finally, this rightward slide of the Court, selected by a president who never won a popular vote, including a seat the majority leader in the Senate literally stole from the previous president against all Constitutional norms, can only further divide the nation and deepen the polarization. Part of me wants to congratulate the extreme right-wing. They set their target and did everything they had to do for these "victories." And if they rip the nation further apart, they seem to be saying, it is a small price to pay.

These decisions have now politicized the highest Court in the land. I can't imagine this can be remedied in less than a few generations. Until the majority of Americans begin to take their civic responsibilities more seriously and research who and what is on the ballot and actually vote, we will never end this mess.

Reflection for July 9-10

In July 10th's Gospel passage, answering an entrapment question by a scholar of the law about what must be done to inherit eternal life, Jesus explains to the scholar who his neighbor was when he tells the story of the man who fell victim to robbers.

The first people who see the victim are those in positions where it is their duty to help and care for others. But they walked by or avoided the wounded man. But then, in a jarring reproach to the prejudices of the day, Jesus tells of a Samaritan who comes upon the man, cares for him, takes him to an inn, and even assures the innkeeper he will pay whatever costs the stranger might incur for his healing when the Samaritan once again passes through town on his way back.

It is now a regular part of many news programs to end a broadcast with some "feel good" story about one person reaching out to help someone else, usually a stranger, with no expectation of payment or payback -- but simply responding to a fellow human being who was hurting or in need. There have also been stories of those who going through a drive-through pay not only for their own meal but also pay for the stranger in the next car. There are even stories of people in need of a specific blood type, or even in need of an organ transplant who are shocked when a stranger comes forward to offer their own blood or organ to help the person in need.



From Fr. Rich (cont.)

Which all boils down to the simplest of explanations -- in God's eye we are ALL neighbors, sisters, and brothers of one another. And countless encounters with those who are yet strangers afford us the opportunity to act towards them as God acts toward us -- with love and care and compassion.

It requires no more of us to be kind than to be mean. Likely, we have ourselves received such kindness from others, even though we did not know each other. There is nothing to stop us today, and every day, from putting into practice the neighborliness Jesus was speaking of. And whenever we do that, the kingdom of heaven breaks into our everyday world.

Fr. Rich's Reflection for July 16-17

Most of us, and most of our families, have dysfunctional moments, sometimes even years or decades. It is rarely a matter of "if" -- usually it is simply a matter of degree and length of time. So, for all of us who have some awareness of our dysfunctional aspects, today's story of Martha and Mary is a treasure!

Entertaining their friend, Jesus, Mary sat at his feet to hear all he has to say, while Martha was very busy about the obligations of hospitality. Things turn sour when Martha finally can't hold it in anymore and complained to Jesus that she's doing all the work and Mary wasn't helping at all.

Expecting Jesus to quickly agree and send Mary off to help her sister, I have to imagine Martha was quite taken aback when Jesus instead corrects her and explains to Martha that her priorities aren't in good order. But that is no reason for her sister to be denied access to what is more important!

I think the best definition I have heard for "dysfunction" is that it does not mean things aren't happening, it means things are happening, but the one or ones doing those things are in pain or suffering.

Certainly, we can understand that Mary built up an internal storm at what was going on until she exploded to Jesus. There are few things as welcoming as when we arrive at someone's home and they go out of their way to make us comfortable, be sure our needs are met, etc. Probably our parents taught us that requirement of hospitality. And I don't think Jesus is lightly dismissing the need to be welcoming. But the rules of etiquette, as important as they are, are not the single most important activity. In this case, listening to the Lord takes precedence.

Summertime is, hopefully, a quieter, a "down" time for many of us, giving us a chance to relax, ease up, etc. Perhaps this is also a good time to examine not what I think is most important to me, but rather, how I spend my time and my energy which is the actual revelation of what is most important. And if what I say are my top priorities differ in a serious way from how I am actually using my time and energy, maybe it is time to see if I need to make some changes.





Meet Our New Heart to Heart Director!

Hi, my name is Patricia Sullivan, and I received a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies in May 2022, from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. My business background includes database and office management experience in a mid-sized patent and trademark law firm.

Working as a volunteer this past year at the Archdiocese of Chicago Kolbe House Jail Ministry has allowed me to do in jail service, as well as accompanying men released after incarceration. I am an active participant in other organizations like the Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition, the Catholic Mobilizing Network, and Restore Justice Illinois.

I joined St. Gertrude during COVID and felt privileged to be a companion on the RCIA journey this past year, as well as a participant in the Peace and Justice Ministry. I look forward to the new challenge of guiding St. Gertrude's long-standing Heart to Heart Ministry, servicing the Edgewater/Rogers Park communities. For me, growing in faith is a lifelong process moving us to continual and constant development, advancing in spirituality, coming up against social justice issues, and taking action towards improving conditions in our society.

Growing in Faith: *The One Thing Necessary*

Have you ever been happy to discover, while travelling to a certain city, that you would have time to visit a dear friend, but then, when you did, found yourself left alone in the living room, while your friend disappeared into the kitchen to prepare some big meal?

That's the situation we have here in the Gospel, isn't it? Not only that, but Martha, all upset because her extravagant meal will need Mary's help, comes out to scold Jesus because he is holding her up. He should send her into the kitchen! What's wrong with this picture?

We can hear Jesus trying to calm Martha, and his gentle answer presents her with another important option she has not considered: leaving her big plan, which is blocking the sharing of hearts, the reason he came in the first place, and joining them. The "one thing necessary", is their loving relationship.

This story survived because it was copied over and over by the earliest Christians, who treasured this testimony to their individual importance to Jesus, their relationship--the sharing of their personal lives with him, as "the one thing necessary".

This story calls out to me today, not to leave Jesus alone in the living room, but to come out of the kitchen, as I hope Martha did, with a simple tray of the day's bread, some cheese, a jar of wine, and three cups, and sit down with a smile.

~ Sister Wendy Cotter, CSJ, Ph.D.



YOUTH GROUP COOKOUT



**SUNDAY, JULY 10
AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS IN
THE BACK OF THE RECTORY**

Youth Group Cookout is Sunday, July 10!

Join the St. Gertrude Youth Group for food, friends, fun, and faith! Teens in 7th grade and older are invited to the parish youth group cookout, planned for Sunday, July 10 after the 10:30 am Mass in the back of the Rectory.

Additional youth group gatherings have been planned for August 20, September 11, October 15, November 6, and December 10.

For more information, contact Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org.

Edgewater Garden Walk— Sunday, July 10

Edgewater Glen's 48th Annual Garden Walk will be held Sunday, July 10, 2022 from noon to 5:00 pm starting at 1420 W. Glenlake (6100 North). There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult and no charge for children.

Visit <http://edgeglen.com> for more details.



Parish Garden/Compost Project Receives \$1,000 Grant!

I am happy to report that the grant I applied for last May from the Victory Noll Sisters of Huntington, Indiana has awarded St. Gertrude/Northside Catholic Academy \$1,000 to support our garden/compost project. The grant is under the umbrella of Catholic Climate Covenant that encourages Catholic communities to actively get involved with the principles of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home.

This money will pay for our new composter and the veggies and herbs that we are growing for Care For Real and St. Thomas of Canterbury soup kitchen. There is also money to work with NCA to help teach our youth sustainable growing practices and caring for our planet. The Victory Noll Sisters received over 250 applications and we are so thankful that they have selected our program to support. We are looking forward to a very productive summer of growing!

~ Mary Clare Barker

United Power for Action and Justice Event on Sunday, July 17

"Do something. Do it now!" - The President of the United States



Even the Good Samaritan eventually had to stop pulling people out of a ditch and organize to make the road safe from Jerusalem to Jericho. So let's organize with residents of all communities and ethnicities and religions in Chicagoland. Therefore, let us "go and do likewise."

What can we at St. Gertrude's do that might be effective on so many of the seemingly intractable issues facing all of us in Chicago, in Illinois, and throughout the country? Let's get 25 of our parishioners to "Do Something" together on Sunday, July 17 to help make our world more like the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached.

Want to act on injustice and fight for systemic change in housing priorities, economic inequity, mental health, criminal justice, gun violence? Be part of St. Gert's organized people power by grabbing your face mask and getting "on the bus" to the United Power for Action and Justice action on Sunday July 17 at 3:00.

Experience real democracy in action. Join over 2,500 people from 100 member organizations from across the six-county Chicagoland area as we meet with top officials from industry: local, state, and federal government, and religious leaders to get at the root causes of these and other issues.

Let's travel together, leaving St. Gert's promptly at 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 17, for a 4:00 pm action at the House of Hope, 752 E 114th Street, Chicago. Or meet us there (plenty of parking is available). You'll be home before 6:30 pm.

Contact parishioners Kate Hibbs Davis at 434.989.6976 or kate.hibbs.davis@gmail.com or Greg Pierce at 773.590.3801 or gfpierce@aol.com to learn more or to sign up for a ride.



Catechists Needed to Teach Religious Education

We are looking for catechists to teach in our parish's Religious Ed program this Fall!

Catechists are usually not professional teachers, just willing parents and parishioners who enjoy kids and want to help them grow in a personal relationship with God, participate in the sacraments, and develop a mature conscience, and integrate faith in all areas of their lives.

Please consider offering your time and talents to help our young people learn about and grow in their faith.

If you have any questions, please reach out to pastoral associate Eloy Escamilla at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or call 773.764.3621.

Gun Violence Fireside Chat — Monday, July 18

Bring your lawn chair, a beverage of your choice and snacks to share, if you choose, and join with fellow St. Gertrude's around a firepit on the Rectory lawn.

The Peace and Justice Ministry will discuss and explore how our Christian faith informs how we feel about gun violence on Monday, July 18 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Attendees are asked to review the suggested readings and to be mindful of the rules of engagement.

Fireside Covenant

As we engage in conversation, please observe the following:

- **Confidentiality** - What's said here, stays here.
- **No preaching** - We speak from our personal experiences, we are not here to judge, we avoid saying "we should" or "you should".
- **No cross talk** - We listen in silence while others are speaking. We do not comment or ask questions about what others say.
- **Respect time** - Our gathering is 90 minutes. Please respect time so we can all share.
- **All are asked to share** - By coming to this gathering, you agree to participate in some way. Even if it's just your name, we ask you to share something.

Readings

Why Gun Control is a Religious Issue

<https://www.americamagazine.org/content/all-things/why-gun-control-religious-issue>

Religious Organizations are Integral to the Fight Against Gun Violence

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/religious-organizations-are-integral-to-the-fight-against-gun-violence/>



vitalant.

St. Gertrude Blood Drive - Sunday, July 31

The next parish blood drive will be held on Sunday, July 31 from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. The Vitalant Bloodmobile located on Glenwood Avenue in front of the entrance to St. Gertrude Church.

To sign up, visit [Vitalant.org](https://www.vitalant.org) and click on *Donate Now*. Use group code: ORD00591

when searching by group code for St. Gertrude's blood drive to select your appointment time. You can also search by the blood drive date. Walk-ins are welcomed. Masks are highly recommended but not mandatory.

For more information, please contact Pat Knowles at pknowles2@gmail.com.

Meet the Pastoral Parish Council (PPC)

The PPC is a unique, collaborative body made up of faith-filled men and women who work with the pastor in determining the matters that affect the life of the faith community.

We will feature all of the lay members of the PPC in the next few bulletin. Below are some information about our two co-chairs, Bob Backis and Michelle Nickerson.



Bob Backis

I've been a part of our wonderful, Spirit-filled faith community for over 30 years. During this time, I've been a member of previous pastoral councils, a member of the preaching team, RCIA coordinator/team member, Eucharistic Minister, and Lector.

My wife Carolyn is a teacher at NCA. I retired as the Manager of Spiritual Care at Lurie Children's Hospital and now am a Chaplain with the NorthShore University HealthSystem.

I look forward to collaborating with the Pastoral Council in being a resource for all who are part of our faith community to fully live out our baptismal call as disciples of Jesus.

Michelle Nickerson

I have been a member of the St. Gertrude community with my family since 2012.

I'm a native of New Jersey and lived in five different states, including Alaska, before I settled in Chicago. I am a professor at Loyola University, where I teach history and publish research on twentieth-century America.

I also recently taught in Heidelberg, Germany on a Fulbright fellowship. The Catholic church in the United States is one of my areas of scholarly interest.

I love the community at St. Gertrude Parish which has become, for me, one of the best things about living in Chicago.



Summer BULLETIN SCHEDULE

Summer Bulletin Schedule: In July, bulletins will be distributed/printed every other week. The combined bulletin schedule is July 10 & July 17 and July 24 & July 31. We will resume weekly bulletins on August 7.

Information for the July 24 & 31 bulletin must be submitted to stgertbulletin@yahoo.com by 9:00 am on Friday, July 15. Info for the August 7 bulletin is due by 9:00 am on Friday, July 22.



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults learn more about the Catholic Church. This free

program begins in the fall and meets until Pentecost.

Many people who begin RCIA are non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic or at least to explore whether Catholicism might be a good home. Those who complete the process and decide to become Catholic are initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Others who take RCIA are already Catholic but want a deeper understanding of their faith foundation.

The RCIA process does not ask those who have been baptized in another faith to give up their denominational experiences. Rather, the RCIA process seeks to add new colors and designs to their existing faith life tapestry. In addition to attending Mass, the RCIA process includes weekly gatherings of breaking open the Word of God, sharing our stories, and learning about our faith traditions.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the RCIA process at St. Gertrude, contact me at eescamilla@stgertrudechicago.org or call the Rectory at 773.764.3621.

~ Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate

Art & Environment Volunteers Needed

Want to get involved in something? We are looking for parishioners who are interested in being part of an Art and Environment Committee. The team's goal is to create an environment inside and outside the church that enhances prayer and worship according to the liturgical seasons.



A variety of talents are needed. Having a background in art and interior design, woodworking, lighting, sewing, and floral arrangements would be good, but not necessary! The team meets as needed to plan and/or prepare. To get involved, contact Fr. Mike at mgabriel@stgertrudechicago.org.

A Tax-Savvy Way to Support St. Gertrude: Please help us cover our increased operating costs by considering a direct gift of securities or mutual funds. You can reduce or eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer.

To make a stock donation to St. Gertrude, please visit archchicago.org/stockgiftform and complete the electronic *Letter of Intention* form.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Whitehead, Archdiocese of Chicago at 312.534.7461 or kwhitehead@archchicago.org.

Update on Some Repairs and Maintenance Items

Work is well underway on some of the roofing issues we have been dealing with for many years. Replacing the scuppers is nearly done, and that will allow some masonry work to also be completed and then the assorted roof repairs. This combination of all three of these will, we all hope - end the leaks that have been long-term problems.



After this work is completed and given time to prove it worked -- we will do repairs to the plaster and paint damage.



Parish Potluck Planned

All are welcome to attend a parish potluck, planned for Sunday, September 11 from 11:30 am-3:00 pm in the church parking lot.

Bring your favorite side, salads, and desserts to share!

Additional information will be shared in future bulletins.

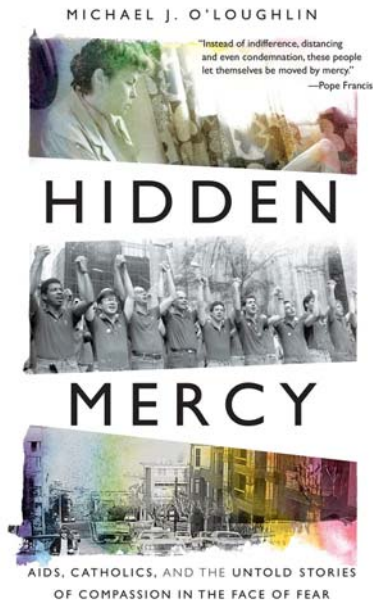
Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass – September 18

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from across the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to gather together for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated by Cardinal Cupich on Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 pm.

The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral. For more information and to register, visit <https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding>.



Help for Ukraine: If you would like to donate to help the Ukrainian people, please consider making a contribution to Catholic Relief Services for emergency aid to the people in Ukraine at <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine>.



Hidden Mercy Book Discussion

Everyone is invited to join in a Summer Book Read. We will be reading Michael O'Loughlin's, *Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear*. We will get together three times later in the summer/early fall to discuss the book.

Then, St. Gertrude parish will jointly host a one-time event with The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University for an evening with the author in the fall.

If you are interested in joining this book group, we have 20 copies of the book - which lists for \$28.99 - available for \$20.00! (First come, first served!)

Books can be purchased at the Rectory office. If you are paying by check, please make out the check to St. Gertrude Parish. The book is also available on Amazon. Dates for the group

discussions will be announced in August -- giving everyone time to begin reading the book.

Baptisms

- Oona Catherine Foley, parents: James and Jama Foley

New Parishioners

- Matthew Levaccare & Anna Russ

Cantors, Ministers of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers

Ministers of the Word:

- Saturday, July 9 at 5:00 pm - Jennifer Kiedaisch
- Sunday, July 10 at 8:00 am - Marty McDermott
- Sunday, July 10 at 10:30 am - Debra Novak
- Saturday, July 16 at 5:00 pm - Patrick Reardon
- Sunday, July 17 at 8:00 am - Kathryn Stimac
- Sunday, July 17 at 10:30 am - Rose Karasti

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Saturday, July 9 at 5:00 pm - Katy Wall
- Sunday, July 10 at 8:00 am - Barb Daly
- Sunday, July 10 at 10:30 am - Carlos Barragan, Victoria Healy, Rafael Melendez
- Saturday, July 16 at 5:00 pm - Kathleen Dawson
- Sunday, July 17 at 8:00 am - Brian DeVarenne
- Sunday, July 17 at 10:30 am - Victoria Healy, Steve Monti, Bob Backis

Cantors and Musicians:

- Saturday, July 9 at 5:00 pm - Kate Hibbs Davis
- Sunday, July 10 at 8:00 am - Jim Manzardo
- Sunday, July 10 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer
- Saturday, July 16 at 5:00 pm - Paula Dempsey
- Sunday, July 17 at 8:00 am - Jon Blake
- Sunday, July 17 at 10:30 am - Matt Heimer

Mass Intentions

- **Monday, July 11:** 7:30 am - Visinto Ayi
- **Tuesday, July 12:** 7:30 am - Sabrina Frias +
- **Wednesday, July 13:** 7:30 am - John A. Petrakovitz +
- **Thursday, July 14:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, July 15:** 7:30 am - Walter De Sloover
- **Saturday, July 16:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners; 5:00 pm - Raymond Garlepied +
- **Sunday, July 17:** 8:00 am - Living/deceased Torreano family members; 10:30 am in Church - Purgatorial Society
- **Monday, July 18:** 7:30 am - Living and deceased parents of St. Gertrude parishioners
- **Tuesday, July 19:** 7:30 am - Jerry Zywer +
- **Wednesday, July 20:** 7:30 am - Mac Davis +
- **Thursday, July 21:** 7:30 am - Communion Service
- **Friday, July 22:** 7:30 am - Living/deceased Torreano family members
- **Saturday, July 23:** 7:30 am - Purgatorial Society; 5:00 pm - Norma & Manuel Viray (56th Wedding Anniversary)
- **Sunday, July 24:** 8:00 am - Parishioners of St. Gertrude; 10:30 am in Church - Michael Jeffers +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)

Please Pray for our Parishioners and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Pamela Sherrod Anderson | • Caloy Desembrana | • Larry McCauley |
| • Helen Banta | • Ann Collins Dole | • Molly Morris |
| • Tomas Bissonnette | • Christine Frisoni | • Karey Myers |
| • Zara Bradley | • Shirley Marie Gonzales | • Tina Piemonte |
| • Sharon Brown | • Gina Heidkamp | • Richard Seitz |
| • Connie Bueck | • Maria Hertl | • Peggy Stoffel |
| • Lilly Buie | • Daniel Hidalgo | • The Sullivan family |
| • Claire Bushey | • Patricia Irwin | • Elinora E. Tolentino |
| • Maggie Callaway | • Bernice Kiedysz | • Manuel & Norma Viray |
| • Aida Calvopina | • Marilyn Klein | • Leon Ward |
| • KC Conway | • Sheila McGuire | • Ken & Vyes Yoza |
| • Connie Cool | • Dean Mattoni | |

Donate to our Parish

Parishioners can donate to St. Gertrude:

- Text the word *Donate* to 1.773.741.9505.
- PayPal link - visit our parish website at www.stgertrudechicago.org
- GiveCentral: www.givecentral.org/location/8/allevnts

Email esoto@stgertrudechicago.org for additional information.

Parish Staff

Rev. Richard J. Prendergast, Pastor
 Rev. Michael Gabriel, Associate Pastor
 Mary Clare Barker, Minister of Music
 Eloy Escamilla, Pastoral Associate
 Maria Garcia, Rectory Office Manager
 Laurie Hasbrook, Heart to Heart Lending Closet Manager
 Andy Mueller, Parish Buildings Engineer
 Tracy Shields, Communications
 Eduardo Soto, Director of Parish Management
 Patricia Sullivan, Heart to Heart Director