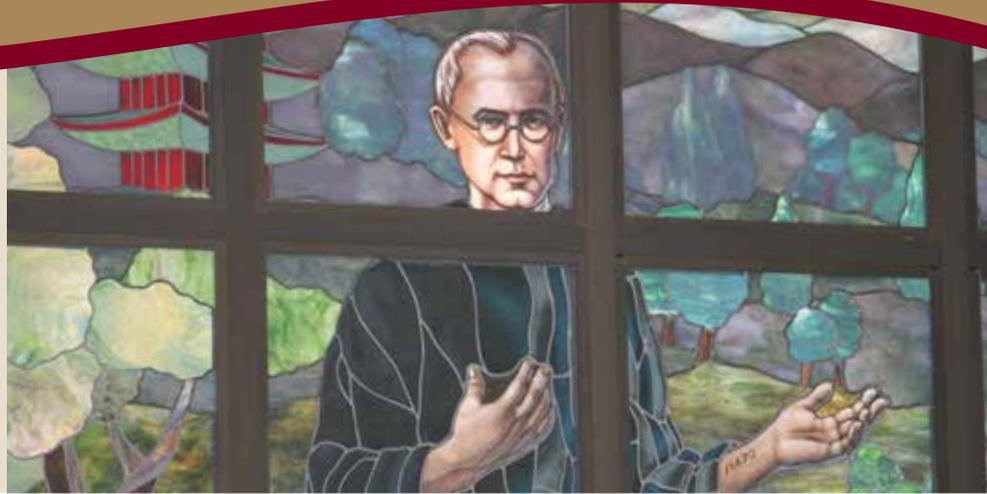


The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING TIME FOR OUR MARRIAGES

Between work responsibilities, our children's activities, and the general hustle and bustle of modern-day living, life is busy. Unfortunately, this can often mean that our relationships with both God and our spouse get put on the backburner, waiting for that elusive day when we'll have "more time." That's why ministries like St. Maximilian Kolbe's Marriage Enrichment are so important, pulling us away from the distractions of daily life and refocusing us on our sacramental vocation as married persons.

"Just like every other good thing in our life, God gave us our spouses," says ministry coordinator Lisa Brown. "So, we need to continuously work to grow our relationship with one another, using our marriage to benefit others. Our marriage is a gift from God and we don't want to neglect it."

Each year, the Marriage Enrichment Ministry offers periodic social and spiritual opportunities, helping couples build up and deepen their marriages within the context of the parish community.

"It helps us refocus on what our marriage is all about, inspiring us to continue working on and strengthening our own marriages," Lisa says. "It also helps connect you with other couples who can also help you build up your marriage. Community is so important and it's such



Married couples enjoying good company with one another during the annual Marriage Enrichment Wine Tasting event

a blessing to be able to interact with other couples who think about marriage and commitment the same way that we do."

The annual Wine Tasting event is one of the Marriage Enrichment Ministry's biggest events. Occurring this year on Saturday, Nov. 4, this is an opportunity for couples to come together for refreshment, fun and fellowship. Best of all, the evening is completely free with babysitting available.

"This way couples are able to engage with one another and form friendships with other married couples," Lisa says. "We have met some of our best friends from

continued on page 3

The MODERN SAINT

A Letter From Our Pastor

The MILITIA of the IMMACULATA – 100 YEARS YOUNG!

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Militia Immaculata began 100 years ago on Oct. 16, 1917, around a table at the Conventual Franciscan seminary in Rome. One of the young friars, Maximilian Kolbe – who was in his last months of study before being ordained a priest and at the same time in the early stages of tuberculosis – gathered six other like-minded friars in the darkness and secret of night before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and drafted a charter that would establish one of the most influential Marian apostolates ever. Despite initial setbacks and discouragement, in time, membership began to increase. In these early years, the primary activity of the Militia Immaculata consisted of private prayer among the members and handing out Miraculous Medals (as we did here in the parish last Christmas). Since its humble beginning, the Militia Immaculata has spread throughout the world and is today present on five continents and in 46 nations with an official membership of approximately four million people!

So what is the Militia Immaculata?

Essentially, it is an international evangelization movement that encourages total consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a means of spiritual renewal for individuals, as well as for society. It employs prayer as the main weapon in the spiritual battle with evil.

Members of the Militia Immaculata also immerse themselves in apostolic initiatives throughout society, either individually or in groups, to deepen the knowledge of the gospel and our Catholic faith in them and in others. Marian consecration is a formal act of self-giving that does not stop at Mary, but is Christ-directed. It is at its core a consecration to Jesus. The Militia Immaculata's mission is to lead every individual *with* Mary to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

(NB Whether providential or planned or coincidental, since the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council, the memorial of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the 17th century French Visitandine mystic who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart, is commemorated on Oct. 16, the date the Militia Immaculata began. But she was not canonized a saint until 1920, four years after the Militia Immaculata began! I vote providential!)

How might we celebrate the centenary of the Militia Immaculata and further its work?

First, since it is an evangelization movement consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are encouraging St. Max parishioners to purchase a statue of Mary to place prominently in your yards where visitors and passers-by will easily see it. Imagine the affect hundreds of Marian statues could have in our neighborhoods and to those passing through our parish boundaries!

Second, we are encouraging every household to purchase a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary and display it prominently in your home, a constant reminder of God's love for us and Mary's role in bringing us closer to her Son.



The MILITIA of the IMMACULATA – 100 YEARS YOUNG! *continued from page 2*

(For more information about purchasing an outdoor statue of the Blessed Mother and/or a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, please surf the web or contact any local church supply store. There are many wonderful and beautiful options for both these images.)

And third, might you consider actually joining the Militia Immaculata? By joining the Militia Immaculata, members become willing instruments of Our Lady as she leads them to personal sanctification, the conversion of opponents of the Church and, ultimately, the establishment of the universal reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Conditions for belonging to the Militia Immaculata involve total consecration to Mary and the wearing of a Miraculous Medal. (The wearing of medals or scapulars, like all sacramentals in our Church, hopefully prepares the wearer to more openly receive grace and dispose them to more eagerly cooperate

with that grace.) For more information on the Militia Immaculata and to receive their communications, visit their official website at www.missionimmaculata.com.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart, consecration to Mary and an ongoing effort for not only personal holiness but also the sanctification of others – this is what the Militia Immaculata is all about. And having been founded by our own patron saint, this is what we who are under his patronage should be about as well!

Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. Mary Immaculate pray for us. St. Maximilian Kolbe pray for us.

God bless one and all!



Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING TIME FOR OUR MARRIAGES *continued from front cover*

this event over the years and in the process we're able to enrich each other's marriages."

Similarly, the ministry hosts its annual Marriage Enrichment Breakfast every spring. This event includes a delicious breakfast, further opportunities for fellowship and, finally, a presentation on some topic pertaining to marriage. Last year, for example, the theme was the five love languages and how learning your spouse's dominant love languages can positively impact a marriage.

"The Marriage Enrichment Breakfast incorporates different spiritual topics, as well, and gives you different ideas on how to incorporate God more fully into your marriage," Lisa says. "It provides opportunities for couples

to grow in their relationship with Christ together."

In this way, says Lisa, couples are able to become more proactive in their marriage, whether they've been married for one year or 50 years. That's why Marriage Enrichment is a ministry for everyone, no matter their particular circumstances or season in life.

"This ministry is meant to provide tools for your marriage, no matter where you are," Lisa says. "It helps us continue to strengthen and

fine tune our marriages, instead of waiting until things are difficult or we're stuck in a rut. That's why I'm always trying to encourage young couples to come, because I think it's so good to take that time from the very beginning to check in with your spouse and to continue growing in love with them. Sometimes, we get locked into the mindset of only spending time with people who are the same age as us, but there is so much that we can learn from each other."

Our hope is that more parish couples will take advantage of the Marriage Enrichment opportunities, helping us grow together in our marital vocations. For more information about upcoming events or to get involved as a ministry volunteer, please contact Lisa Brown at either marriageenrichment@saint-max.org or 513-312-2004.

MORE THAN JUST A MEAL: *Parishioners Serve Food and Provide Love Through*

Maybe it's the smell of fried chicken and creamy mashed potatoes, or the aroma of herbs and cheeses melting together in your grandma's famous lasagna. Perhaps dessert is your favorite part of the meal, and there's nothing like walking into a room and getting a waft of gooey brownies in the oven. Regardless of the favorite foods that make your mouth water, most would agree that there are few things better than sitting down to a good meal, surrounded by people you love.

The enjoyment of food, sitting down to a feast, is one of the images God gives, allowing us a glimpse into what awaits us in eternity – the heavenly banquet. And while some of us may have little glimpses into that everlasting happiness, here on earth, with our friends and family, it's something that may feel a bit more foreign to those living at Tender Mercies in downtown Cincinnati. That's something that St. Max parishioners who serve there hope to change.

Tender Mercies was founded in 1985, with the mission of "transforming the lives of homeless adults with mental illness by providing security, dignity, and community in a place



Every fourth Saturday of the month, St. Max parishioners provide dinner for the residents at Tender Mercies.



Parishioners bring food to St. Max, and group coordinator, Chung Bui, delivers and serves the food at Tender Mercies.

they call home." For a number of years, a group of parishioners from St. Max have sought to help create that sense of "home" by providing meals to residents once a month, fresh from their own kitchens.

"I love to cook, and I like to make these people something homemade, because they hardly

ever get homemade," says Bridgette McGuire, a parishioner who has been involved for the past two years. "I always tell my kids, 'We're going to make homemade – you've got to put your love in it!'"

"Each time I go down there, I serve them the meal and I have the opportunity to see their smiling faces," says Chung Bui, who coordinates the ministry and plans the monthly menu. "They're always happy to see me.

"They say that we always bring a good meal!" he adds, with a smile.

Bridgette values the opportunity to serve those in need, just as she would serve her own family.

"They're children of God, too and I hope that by a little homemade meal, they know that they matter," Bridgette says. "These people are so genuinely grateful and it makes me feel wonderful to do it."

Those who serve hope that their actions will have a positive impact on the lives of those who enjoy the food – not just by filling their stomachs, but also by helping them to know they are loved.

"Each time they see someone come to bring a meal or talk, I hope they can believe that God sent somebody to comfort them and give them what they need,"

Have you moved, or do you have a new phone number or new email address?
Please contact the office at 777-4322 ext. 101 or cgroh@saint-max.org to give us an update!

Celebrating the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church

Tender Mercies

Chung says. "Some people there have no family around, so when they have somebody from outside who comes and brings them dinner and chats with them – I think it's good, and it comforts them. I think they feel better. I think they don't feel so lonely – they still have people who care."

Bridgette and Chung encourage their fellow parishioners to become involved in the monthly meals, served on the fourth Saturday of each month, either by cooking something, picking something up at the store, or going down to Tender Mercies to serve the meal.

"Do it one time and see how grateful these people are," Bridgette encourages. "It gives you such a wonderful feeling."

If you would like to become involved in serving at Tender Mercies, please contact the parish office at 513-777-4322. St. Max volunteers on the fourth Saturday of each month. Food drop-off is at 3:45 p.m., and those who go downtown to serve the meal usually return around 6 p.m. For more information on Tender Mercies, please visit www.tendermerciesinc.org.



In the annual calendar of liturgical celebrations, there are several important days particular to any given parish. These days hold the liturgical rank of solemnity – the highest rank given to days in the liturgical calendar – and can be celebrated either on the day itself, or replace the nearest Sunday in Ordinary Time. The celebration of such local solemnities expresses the significance of the parish community, and its unique place in the local Church (the diocese) and the Church universal. These days are important annual celebrations for any parish and should be marked with solemnity and joy.

One is the parish's patronal feast, celebrated on a Sunday near to Aug. 14, Maximilian Kolbe's feast day.

Another is the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral, celebrated in Cincinnati on Nov. 3. The Church clearly teaches that the basic unit of the Church is a community of faith gathered around its bishop, a successor of the apostles. The symbol of the bishop's teaching authority is the cathedra, or "chair," which resides in the cathedral. The cathedral is a significant building for all members of the Church of Cincinnati, thus we celebrate the anniversary of its dedication.

Finally, a parish should celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of its own church building. Church buildings are important because "that building is both the house of God on earth (*domus Dei*) and a house fit for the prayers of the saints (*domus ecclesiae*)" (*Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship* 6, USCCB). The church building is a home for the liturgical prayer of the parish, especially the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday.

In our case at St. Max, the actual anniversary of the dedication is Dec. 23. Since the Sundays nearest are those of Advent and Christmastide and not possible days to celebrate this solemnity, and it would be difficult for the parish to adequately celebrate such an important occasion one day prior to Christmas Eve, the Church allows us to transfer this celebration to the Sunday prior to the Solemnity of All Saints – Oct. 29, 2017 – helping to connect our worship in this earthly building with the worship of the saints and all those in the heavenly liturgy. Additionally, we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral on Nov. 3, and the anniversary of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica (the pope's cathedral in Rome) on Nov. 9. Celebrating the anniversary of our own church's dedication will likely feel more natural in October than on Dec. 23 or in mid-January.

God's Word: Ever Ancient, Ever New

“The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God’s word and Christ’s body.”

Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), 18 November 1965, #21

PREPARING to HEAR the GOSPELS

Oct. 1 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 21:28-32

This is one of the several parables aimed at the religious leaders of Israel. The polarities of honor and shame were primary ethical guides at this time. The parable reminds us that a change of mind and heart is always possible.

Oct. 8 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 21:33-43

In this parable, another directed to the chief priests and elders of the people, we are reminded of Israel’s history of rejecting and killing God’s prophets. The vineyard of Israel will get new tenant farmers (i.e. leaders) who will produce the fruit of the kingdom of God.

Oct. 15 – Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 22:1-14

In yet another parable addressed to the religious leaders of Israel, the kingdom of heaven is compared to a kind who gives a wedding feast for his son. We are reminded that salvation is not automatic – it involves faith turned into action.

Oct. 22 – Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Mission Sunday) – Matthew 22:15-21

Turning tables from the last three weeks, the religious leaders of Israel are attempting to trap Jesus by luring him into a debate so as to publicly embarrass and discredit him. Jesus escapes the trap and points out that we must always pay attention to the things of God.

Oct. 29 – Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Parish Church – Matthew 16:13-19

Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, reminds us that leadership in the Church is not about power and glory but about faith and service. Even though declared the “rock” upon which the Church will be built, even in his imperfections Peter always “regroups” and continues on the journey of faith.



Wellness Ministry Poised to Nurture Both Body and Spirit

Body, mind and spirit. When all three are working together, the world is a much better place to be. One ministry at St. Max wants to help parishioners feel their best in every way possible.

Having formed just last year, the Wellness Ministry is a relatively new group at our parish – but already, the ministry has provided blood pressure screenings, vaccine clinics and fellowship in the form of exercise.

“We’re just getting our feet wet and seeing what the community would like,” says ministry coordinator Nancy Cushing.

Nancy, an emergency room nurse, is joined in the ministry by fellow nurse Lisa Gallagher, exercise physiology instructor Michelle Suding, and Jane Torner-Brown, also a nurse and instructor in alternative medicine.

“We’re still in the infancy of our program to get information as to what people would be interested in,” Nancy says. “I think what our main thrust is that from the small group we have, we have a boatload of information to share.”

While many churches employ a parish nurse to fulfill the healthcare needs of underserved faith communities, Nancy says that isn’t necessarily the case at St. Max.

“I’m finding with this parish that it’s not in an area where people don’t have healthcare options,” she says. “My thoughts about what to do initially were a little different than what our parish needs. We’d like to do outreach work to some outlying areas that could use more health resources and information.”

In the past year, the ministry has hosted CPR training for staff members, a vaccination clinic that offered pneumonia flu shots, and information on cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure during the parish festival. Blood pressure screenings occasionally offered after Mass afford parishioners the opportunity to check in with their health without a visit to the doctor.

On Saturday mornings, Michelle offers a chance to blend both faith and action with an exercise class based on the Rosary.

“It’s praying the Rosary and it’s light exercise, but you can make it more intense if you want to,” Nancy says. “It’s really nice.”

Going forward, Nancy says she believes the strength of the growing ministry lies in its members, each of whom bring a lifetime of experience to share.

“In January, there’s a health and fitness event that we’ll be hosting,” she ex-



continued on back cover

For more Catholic news and current events check out the websites of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.USCCB.org and of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at www.catholiccincinnati.org.

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Saint Maximilian Kolbe
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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 The MILITIA of the IMMACULATA – 100 YEARS YOUNG!
- 4 More Than Just A Meal: Parishioners Serve Food and Provide Love Through Tender Mercies
- 5 Celebrating the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church
- 6 God's Word: Ever Ancient, Ever New
- 7 Wellness Ministry Poised to Nurture Both Body and Spirit

Wellness Ministry *continued from page 7*

plains. "Lisa says she would love to come speak to a group if they'd like to hear about anything. Jane, who's a cardiac rehab nurse, can speak to the evils of smoking or the benefits of exercise. Jane has a lot of experience in teaching holistic and alternative medicine. We have a lot of information and knowledge to share."



Groups or individuals who would like more information about the Wellness Ministry, or those who have ideas to share with the ministry, are encouraged to contact Nancy Cushing at wellness@saint-max.org.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sun.:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. | **Mon. - Sat.:** 8:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.,
Thursdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.