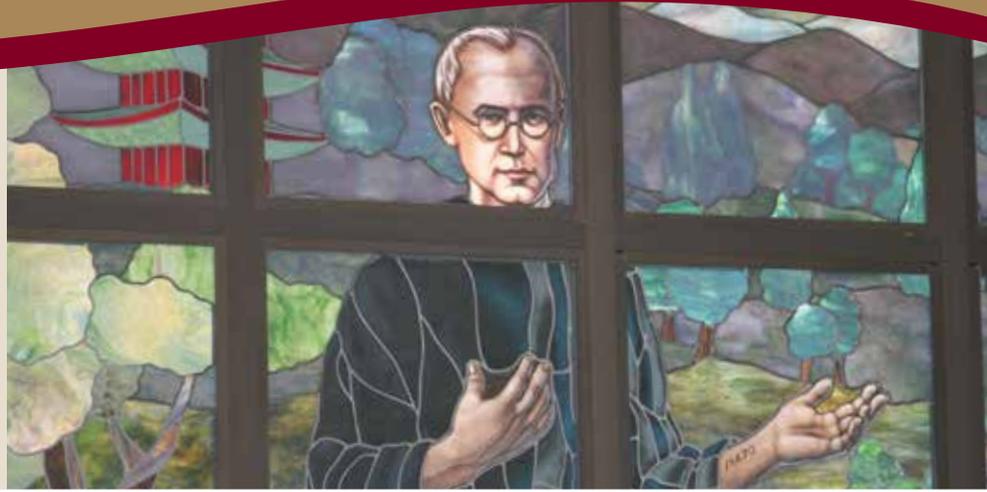


The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Global Solidarity Seeking to Unite Catholics of Every Culture

When we seek the face of Christ in others, it's important to remind ourselves that face doesn't always look like our own. Now in its fourth year, the Global Solidarity Ministry seeks to remind parishioners that our differences make us special and help remind us that we are all citizens of the world.

"We are currently a small group of parishioners who have an interest in diverse cultures that make up the Catholic world," says ministry member Edward Lekson. "We're fortunate to have a large parish, and one of the things it provides is a lot of different people from different backgrounds. We certainly are not all the same, and



Women and girls dressed in traditional Korean clothing smile during the annual World Mission Sunday Mass. During this beautiful and colorful Sunday Mass – attended annually by members of the Global Solidarity Ministry – the clothing, language and traditions of many Catholic cultures are incorporated into the Mass.



Members of the Global Solidarity Ministry gather after the annual World Mission Sunday Mass held this past October. The group strives to educate and embrace cultural diversity among parishioners at St. Max.

this group has gotten together to foster an inclusive community by reaching out to Catholics of all cultures, both within our parish, in the community, and with other parishes in the archdiocese that might be of a predominantly diverse background."

Past group activities have included participating in World Mission Sunday, a beautiful archdiocesan Mass held every October that features traditional cultural dress and intentions read in as many as eight languages.

"A big part of our efforts are around understanding the different

continued on page 2

ARCHDIOCESAN CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

The archdiocesan *One Faith, One Hope, One Love* campaign – a comprehensive, extraordinary and exciting outreach – to raise \$130 million toward securing and growing the vitality of its parishes, schools, social services, and other ministries for decades to come is almost complete! St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, along with a handful of other parishes, will be the last to conduct this campaign in the first half of 2016. St. Max and these other parishes are contemplating a “combined campaign,” where in addition to raising their funding goal for the

archdiocese, will also be looking at executing a capital campaign for the immediate and future needs of the parish. During January, we will be conducting a feasibility study to see if such a “combined campaign” is possible for us. We thank everyone in advance for your participation in this feasibility study. Let us continue to pray for our parish and all other parishes who are participating in this last phase of the archdiocesan campaign. May a true and sacrificial spirit of generosity come upon all of us for the successful completion of this most important work!

Global Solidarity *continued from front cover*

styles of liturgy and worship,” Ed says. “Different cultures – even though we’re all Catholic – we celebrate differently. It’s a Mass, of course, with the sacraments – but there is a different style and ritual.”

Coming soon, the group will team up with the Respect Life Committee to begin hosting a Holy Hour. As ministry member Ana Radcliff explains, the group will gather to pray for the protection of life in all cultures, especially those hard-hit in recent months by terrorism, genocide, or tragedy.

“We are trying to get everyone from different ethnic groups and different cultures,” she says. “We will probably have that in several different languages and we’d like to have a mini-reception afterward.”

Ana stresses that the ministry is for every member of the parish, not just those whose families have recently emigrated – she believes that is something the members of the parish might not realize.

“The parish is not only the different ethnic groups, it’s everybody,” she says. “When you say the word ‘ethnic,’ certain people don’t include themselves but we

want everybody included.”

Ed says he’d like to see the ministry promote opportunities for parishioners to learn as much about their neighbors as they can.

“We’re trying to provide more educational opportunities as we move forward,” he says. “Maybe someone who is Filipino would be willing to give a short presentation or a talk about their Catholic practices in the Philippines, or maybe tie in some fun dinners where we celebrate the foods from Nigeria or Vietnam or Eastern Europe.”

No matter what may come from Global Solidarity in the future, both members agree that seeking the face of Jesus in varied cultures begins with allowing the Holy Spirit to lead them through prayer.

“We want to be a prayer-centered group so that the Holy Spirit is leading us,” Ed says. “We try to promote prayer as much as we can.”

“We have to start with prayer and we have to put prayer first,” Ana Radcliff adds. “We cannot use prayer as a last resort. We have to start out with prayer.”

For more information on upcoming events or Global Solidarity Ministry meetings, please contact Edward Lekson by phone or text at 513-919-4883 or Ana Radcliff at 513-426-8961 or email globalsolidarity@saint-max.org.

Talking to Our Children About Difficult Things in Difficult Times – Part II

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

“**W**hat is same-sex marriage?” “How does a man become a woman?” “How do you sell baby parts? Don’t you have to sell the whole baby?” These are real questions that parents have told me were asked of them by their grade school-aged children last summer in light of the June 26 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex unions in our country, the media attention around Bruce/Caitlyn Jenner, and videotaped conversations about the atrocities carried out by Planned Parenthood.

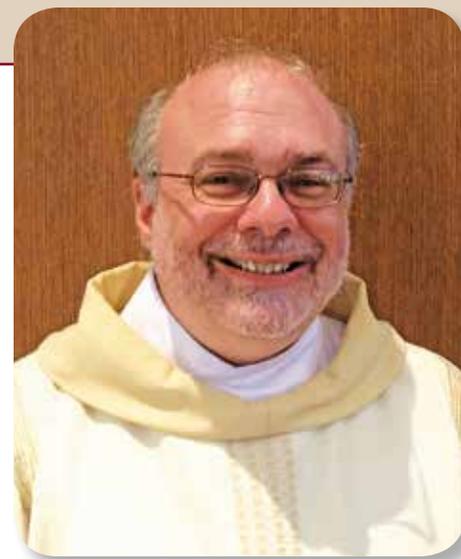
Our children are like sponges! What they hear and see in the media, on the school bus and on the playground is being absorbed into their beings – and more often than not, it seems to be *bad news*. So, it becomes more and more important and necessary that the Church – especially parents as the first teachers of their children and catechists for our youth who support parents in their important role – is prepared to proclaim the Good News! When questions like these are asked by our children, we need to be prepared to give age-appropriate, accurate answers in light of Church teaching, else popular, erroneous answers from non-parental, non-catechetical resources become part of our children’s very beings.

As promised back in October when I first addressed this issue, I am happy to announce that on our website under the “Faith Formation” tab, we now have a page

that identifies “difficult things” with age-appropriate talking points. This webpage will continue to be expanded and updated in the future.

As I shared in October, and rightfully so, many parents attempt to “hide” such issues from their children, to preserve their innocence as long as possible. It is tragic that our society is prematurely ripping our children’s innocence away from them. But when questions are asked, it is most important that our parents and catechists are sources of answers rooted in Church teaching. It is undoubtedly in our children’s best interest that they hear proper Church teaching from their parents and catechists instead of the secular media or their peers.

But we also have to recognize that answers to such difficult questions need to be nurtured for a long time. Borrowing language from sacramental preparation programs, there must be three types of preparation for our youth when we talk to them about matters of the Faith – *remote*, *proximate* and *immediate*. Using First Penance/First Communion or Confirmation sacramental programs as an example, “remote” preparation occurs simply when families go to Mass each Sunday with their infants, toddlers and children. While this continues, “proximate” preparation begins and continues when a child is enrolled in religious education classes and sacraments are discussed



in general. “Immediate” preparation occurs with family participation in the actual “program” for First Penance/First Communion or Confirmation a few weeks before the sacrament is celebrated. Obviously, such a timeline for remote, proximate and immediate preparation to talk about family-marriage-sexuality issues and other Church teachings is not going to look as neat and organized! But I suspect we can all agree that waiting too long, i.e. not being attentive to the “remote” and “proximate” dynamics and just addressing “immediate” issues, is most likely not going to be in our children’s best interest. To that end, we do hope that the new page on our website will be one small step in helping our parents and catechists to talk age-appropriately to our youth about difficult things in difficult times. If there are other topics that you think we could include on this page for everyone’s benefit, please let us know. And if you have some successful experiences in talking to your children about such sensitive issues, we’d also appreciate you sharing these with us as we continually update this resource for the benefit of our parish community.

God bless one and all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Geoff". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor



YEAR OF *Bearing Wrongs*

"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities" (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2447). Throughout the Holy Year of Mercy, each month a work of mercy will be highlighted for both reflection and action.

It is easy to be charitable and patient to those who are pleasant and kind! It is not so easy when we have been wronged in some way. *Bearing wrongs patiently*, a spiritual work of mercy, is an act of love to accept in a loving, non-complaining way any and all annoying, unfriendly, boring, sluggish, and uncouth behaviors we encounter in others. Patience is an expression of God's love – "love is patient" and "bears all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4, 7). We are also called to reflect and discover within ourselves, and make sincere attempts to change that which we do that could be "unbearable" to others.

@ St. Max

Healing Hurting Marriages

Marriage is a place where disillusionment often happens "after the honeymoon is over." Some couples work through this, while others deeply struggle. Hurts may build up over the course of time for a variety of reasons. We should not judge or get angry, but practice mercy – but pride can get in the way and make that practically impossible! Sometimes a spouse may even begin to turn to alcohol, drugs, pornography, or look "outside the marriage" for answers.

The family, as our first teacher, shows us how to bear wrongs patiently. As children, we learn that siblings are different and must learn to get along and respect our differences. Through bearing wrongs patiently in family life, single life or marriage, we harvest the fruits of charity – which are joy, peace and mercy – as we slowly evolve on our Christian journey more and more into the image and likeness of Christ.

Jesus teaches us to go beyond forgiveness and encourages us to leave justice to God and practice humility. This shows strength – not weakness. We should never fight "fire with fire" – retaliation can quickly become a cycle of revenge that reduces the human

dignity of all involved and escalates, not solves, problems. As Christians, we are called to forgive our peers, overcome temptations when we are slighted and pray for "our enemies."

When a marriage seems "at the edge of no return," separation or divorce may seem like the only answer to stop the emotional pain of unmet expectations or serious wrongs. But there is an opportunity for those married couples who are experiencing such painful times. Even though not a specific St. Max Parish ministry, the Family & Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati recognizes and supports **Retrouvaille**, a Christian weekend experience with subsequent follow-up sessions. Many marriages "on the brink of no return" have been saved through this wonderful program! It creates an opportunity for better communication, re-examination of expectations, and a positive way to rediscover Christian marriage. **Retrouvaille** weekend dates in the greater Cincinnati area in 2016 are Fridays through Sundays, Jan. 15-17, April 1-3 and Sept. 9-11. For more information and to register, you can visit www.cincyretrouvaille.org.

EMERGENCY

ngs Patiently

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE – JANUARY 2016

Individual Confessions

Thursday mornings after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.

Saturday mornings after the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Saturday afternoons at 3 p.m.

Any time by appointment

@ Home

- Read the Old Testament Book of Job, whose central figure is a paradigm of patience
- Pray before a crucifix and reflect on Jesus “bearing the wrong” of His death sentence for us
- Help someone find something lost
- Give a small gift or write a brief positive note, email or text to someone who “rubs you the wrong way” (you might even do it secretly!)
- Listen attentively when someone is speaking, even if you do not want to hear what they are saying
- Say a prayer like “God, you love us with unconditional love, help me to love others in the same way.”
- Never go to bed angry at someone
- Pray for patience
- Appropriately acknowledge when feelings have been hurt
- Release frustration appropriately and with kindness
- When there is “an issue,” talk “it” out
- Encourage empathy in others
- Always say “I’m sorry” when we hurt someone
- Always say “I forgive you” when someone hurts us
- Work at being less critical of others
- Overlook minor flaws and mistakes
- Give people the benefit of the doubt
- Consider that people who may have hurt you may have done so unintentionally
- Pray for those who have wronged you



A SAINT of PATIENCE and HOPE – St. Thomais

St. Thomais, a patron saint of married life, led an incredible and virtuous life exemplifying the love, patience and forbearance that should exist between spouses. Born into a wealthy Greek family in the early 10th century, her piety and virtuousness helped her endure the barbaric behavior of her husband, who often beat her severely during their marriage. She countered this outrage with prayer, patience and charity. Legend states that after her death around age 40, her body remained incorrupt until it was lost, when Constantinople was sacked in the early 13th century. Many miracles are attributed to her intercession, the most amazing of which is that of her husband. After her death, her husband – who had become possessed – was healed before his own death when he was brought to her tomb. Her intercession is still sought in the Orthodox wedding service. Her feast day is Jan. 3.

NB – The life of St. Thomais in no way justifies any abuse that anyone suffers at the hands of their spouse. Those who currently suffer any domestic violence – physical, sexual, verbal or emotional – should immediately leave that environment for safe shelter (taking their minor children with them), seek legal advice and, if necessary, alert law enforcement authorities.

The MODERN SAINT

BAPTISM TEAM

Welcoming the Newest Members of the Church

It's probably safe to say that most of us don't remember the day of our baptism. For those of us who were welcomed into the Church as infants, our parents and godparents bore witness and took on the responsibility to teach us about the faith. Here at St. Maximilian Kolbe, the 13 members of the Baptism Team offer support to families and give them everything they need to know about the Sacrament of Baptism and beyond.

Parents who would like to baptize their child should first call the parish office and speak to Carol Heuser, who will schedule them to attend a baptism preparation class. One baptism class is required for all parents who are baptizing a child, and the classes take place on a monthly basis.

"We go over a history of baptism, explaining how it evolved from John the Baptist to what we practice today," says Dale Bottoms, who has led the ministry along with his wife, Annette, for the past three years. "We go over a lot of things from the Bible and the Catechism, and just explain the history."

From there, the class goes over the elements of baptism.

"We have the big four – water, oil, white garment, and candle," Dale says. "But there are many other elements that people might not realize at first – things like the greeting at the door, the sign of

the cross, the godparents, and the procession from the font to the pew, and then from the pews back to the font."

The class also covers the requirements for godparents, who must be at least 18 years old and a confirmed, practicing Catholic. While there has to be at least one Catholic godparent, a practicing member of another Christian community could serve as a Christian Witness alongside him or her. At the end of the class, Dale and Annette also go over the paperwork necessary for baptisms, and what to expect on the actual baptism day. Once paperwork is turned in to the parish office, parents may schedule a baptism date.

Baptisms at St. Max are celebrated on the afternoon of the first Sunday of each month, as well as during Saturday and Sunday Masses throughout the rest of the month. Baptism Team members help to guide the families on the baptism date, and also assist the celebrant during the baptism.

"The team member will usually find the family first, get them situated and give any last-minute instructions," Dale says. "They also usually do the first reading during the service. Then, they're out there by the font, doing things like handing the cruet of oil to Father for the anointing, or the little towel they use to dry the head of the baby. When it comes time to present

the white garment, they'll also sometimes do that. Team members also will light the baptismal candles before handing them to the godparents."

Through this ministry, Baptism Team members have the opportunity both to guide others in their spiritual journey, as well as grow in faith themselves.

"For me personally, this ministry has helped me to learn more about the Church," he adds. "I grew up Southern Baptist, so the baptism ceremony was strange to me. Learning about baptism helped me to learn more about the Catholic faith."

Dale and Annette invite and encourage all parishioners to consider joining the Baptism Team.

"If you want a ministry where you can assist new babies to start their faith walk with Christ; to start them on a journey that takes a lifetime to learn and understand; to help their parents to better understand the Catholic faith – what better place to do that than the Baptism Team," Dale says.

Would you like to learn more about the Baptism Team at St. Max, or become involved in this wonderful ministry? Contact Dale and Annette Bottoms, 513-896-6802, baptism@saint-max.org.

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 culm@saint-max.org to give us an update!



Claire Zink standing in Elizabeth's New Life Center, where she worked on her leadership project for the Stars and Stripes Award for American Heritage Girls.

CLAIRE ZINK

Making a Difference

minister. But in everything she does, it is faith that anchors her.

"In eighth grade, I attended a retreat and discovered that my relationship with God was not just about going to Church," Claire says. "I learned that God can be my friend. And ever since, I have had a passion for growing in my faith, as well as teaching and sharing it with others."

Perhaps one of the biggest ways Claire has been able to combine her leadership skills with faith and service has been through her involvement in American Heritage Girls, Troop OH2513. Over the years, she has progressed through the levels until, just this past October, she was awarded the Stars and Stripes Award – the highest recognition given by AHG. The award not only represents years of achievements and earned badges, it also marks the end of a leadership project that was a year in the making. Having decided to find a project centered on pro-life issues, Claire visited the Elizabeth's New Life Center and realized that their facility lacked space, with a boutique for selling baby items sharing a space with a pregnancy testing station, which was lacking in privacy. She came up with a plan to move the testing station into an unused coat closet – thus providing privacy as well as creating more space for the boutique – and submitted the proposal to AHG for approval. Claire then organized materials and 57 volunteers went to work. Almost a year later, Claire's project was completed and Elizabeth's New Life Center had a spacious boutique with pegboard shelving, freshly painted walls, a

refurbished rolling work cart, and a private testing station.

The project gave Claire insight into the responsibilities of serving as a leader.

"Up until this point, I had never worked with more than 10 people, but during the project I had over 50 volunteers who represented all ages," she says. "I also learned more about my faith. There were points in which I wanted to give up, but each time I would take it to prayer, and God gave me the courage and perseverance to push through."

Claire, who is a homeschooled

continued on back cover



As part of her AHG leadership project, Claire Zink helped reimagine and reorganize the boutique and pregnancy testing station at Elizabeth's New Life Center.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Saint Maximilian Kolbe
Catholic Church

CLAIRE ZINK *continued from page 7*

senior, has already started the college application process, where she plans to major in theology and minor in theater. Claire's goal is to one day work as a youth minister in order to share her passion for God and her love of service.

"If people think that today's teenagers are not contributing to the community, they have not met Claire Zink," says Eric Saddler, who served on Claire's board of review. "Through Claire's personal efforts to fulfill the Oath and Creed of American Heritage Girls in achieving the Stars and Stripes Award, she demonstrated a level of maturity, faith and leadership, and is a great example of why servant leadership is so important to our community and society."

Being a young person today is not easy, and the world offers so many distractions, but Catholic teens everywhere – with a special enthusiasm for their faith – are proving that they have much to contribute, and they are ready to put their faith into action.



The new pregnancy testing station at Elizabeth's New Life Center that was part of Claire's project.

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.

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.