

THURSDAY  
NEWSLETTER

# KNIGHT OF THE IMMACULATA 2.0

*St. Max Youth Ministry*

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## *Reflection: Entering the Church at Easter*

"Ten years ago today (April 3rd), I entered full communion with the Catholic Church. I had grown up a Protestant Christian, and had just married a wonderful woman who had been Catholic since birth. My instruction in the Faith lasted from October 2009 through Easter Vigil 2010, and included an incredible period of learning more about Scripture, the Sacraments, and the practice of what was soon to be my Faith too! I remember that during those months it was really difficult because, although I wanted to be close to Jesus, I was experiencing a bit of separation from Him. I'd gone from a faith background that I could enter into completely, to a period of formation where I was not able to participate as a fully initiated member. I specifically remember missing communion - even though what I received as communion in my Protestant background was different in both belief and matter from what I now know as Eucharist.

It was really great having this instruction as I was also being prepared for marriage. We had a Catholic wedding (I had already been baptized) just two weeks before Easter. Looking back, the two periods of waiting and instruction were very similar. In both, I was preparing to give myself completely and forever to my spouse - my wife Meghan first, and Jesus after that. In the same way that my wife and I are united until death, Jesus and I are united through the Sacraments even more completely and eternally. I still have a vivid memory of walking down the aisle at the same church I'd just been married at. Step-by-step approaching the altar where I would get to receive Jesus for the first time. It was incredibly powerful, and it's only become more so as time has gone on.

I would encourage any person - Catholic or not - to look at the gift of the Eucharist and see a God who loves them completely. Eucharist is the Sacrament of Initiation that we get to keep receiving, which means there's not limit to how much God wants to know and love us. This strange time that the world is in reminds me of that time before I could receive Jesus Sacramentally. However, I am filled with hope. This will not last forever, and whatever Sunday is the next that I get to receive Communion will be its own incredible Easter celebration. May we all stay safe and healthy until then. God bless!

-Bradley Barnes

(Youth Minister at Guardian Angels in Anderson Twp)

## 3 fun things to try this week

1. Write a letter to a friend or family member!
2. Have a photo shoot using random props from your house (a mop, the lamp, your favorite boxed cereals, all the costume stuff in the basement you haven't seen in years, etc!)
3. Learn to write with your non-dominant hand

## "Pontifical Puns"

**Dad Jokes by Pope John**

**XXIII**



When he went to visit a friend at the nearby Hospital of the Holy Spirit in the evening, the nun answering the door said: "Holy Father, I'm the mother superior of the Holy Spirit." He replied: "Lucky you! What a job! I'm just the 'servant of the servants of God.'

Did you know...

Sea Lions can dance to a beat

**Come for virtual high school youth group on Sundays starting at 7 pm! Be on the lookout for the Google Form to RSVP:) bring your friends and snacks! For more information feel free to reach out to me:**

**[rfeldkamp@saint-max.org](mailto:rfeldkamp@saint-max.org)**

*You are in my prayers!*