Sharing the Catholic Journey

Palm Sunday

Discovering faith, joy, and community

April 2014

St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington, IN

Fr. Daniel Mahan, Pastor

Sharing the Catholic Journey is a monthly newsletter for the parishioners of St. John the Apostle Parish. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please write to: sawyerdenise@yahoo.com

Meet....

John and Dolores Neuman

John and Dolores have been married for 57 years. They have 5 children, including a son who passed away, and 15 grandchildren. One grandson is a cadet at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Their two sons live in Indianapolis, one daughter lives in Kentucky, and the second daughter lives in Washington State. Most of their travel today is related to visiting their children.

Both Dolores and John grew up Quincy, Illinois. They met through the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). John's first job after graduating from college was at Central Fiber (later renamed Packaging Corporation of America), where Dolores also worked before they were married. In 1961 John was transferred to Indiana where they lived in Griffith. He worked for the company for 25 years.

After retiring, they moved to Crown Point, Indiana, where they bought a farm and boarded horses. They did this for 17 very satisfying years. John also worked part-time as a postal carrier. However, by 2003, they were ready to retire a second time. Although the farm had been a rewarding life, it was a lot of work. They began to look for a retirement location. They had never been to Bloomington before, but they had read that it is a great place to retire.

They've now been in Bloomington for eleven years. Both of them enjoy playing bridge, and John is a golfer.

Brian, Melissa and Jack Banks

Brian and Melissa were married at St. John's in November of 2010. They have one son, Jack.

They both grew up in Indiana, Melissa in Fremont, Brian in Washington. Melissa went to Butler University, majoring in Marketing. She lived in Indianapolis for nine years before meeting Brian and moving to Bloomington. She has worked for a sports agency, a group of radio stations, and the Indiana Dept. of Education. She got her graduate degree at I.U. and for the past two years has been working as a career coach at the Kelley School of Business at I.U.

Brian came to I.U. in Bloomington for his undergraduate work and never left. He majored in Public Financial Management, and then got his MBA through Indiana Wesleyan University. While still at I.U., he did an internship at Crane and was hired full-time when he graduated. He's been there for 11 years, now as a Logistics Management Specialist in the Spectrum Warfare Systems.

Both enjoy traveling, and have done so extensively. Melissa's interests include cooking, shopping in thrift stores, visiting friends and family, etc. She's also a chapter advisor at I.U. for her sorority, Alpha Phi. Brian enjoys golf, his motorcycle, attending sports/racing events, and volunteering in many events. . Both are involved with St. John's. Melissa is on the Fellowship Commission; her other primary "job' is keeping Jack quiet during Mass! Brian serves as Vice Chairman on the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Fellowship Commission, Strategic Planning Task Force, as well as helping to keep Jack quiet.

Jack loves everything! He loves "cooking" in his play kitchen and using his play tools to help daddy build things. He's already an I.U. basketball fan, and his favorite TV shows are Dinosaur Train and Super Why. In late June, a little brother or sister will be joining the family.

Triduum

Catholicism 101....

by Scott Benningfield, DRE

The Four Principles of Catholic Social Doctrine

There are four main principles to Catholic Social Doctrine: 1) the dignity of the human person; 2) the common good; 3) subsidiarity; and 4) solidarity.

We obviously see the dignity of every human person in the Church's stances on abortion and euthanasia.

But what is subsidiarity and solidarity?

Subsidiarity deals with the "vertical nature of society". There are various groups at various levels. Each should handle their appropriate duties – each particular to its relevant level – and not interfere with the other levels. There is respect and support for each level's responsibility. National defense is not the primary concern of the city of Bloomington and an inoperable street light is not the primary concern of Washington, D.C.

Intermediary communities (through subsidiarity) are important to society because they lead to individual fulfillment (via participation), prevent the centralization of power, and help distinguish society and culture from the state. With various roles at various levels, there is the resultant need for active participation by citizens and the autonomy to carry out these respective duties. The need for responsibility becomes evident. Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI said that subsidiarity "fosters freedom and participation through assumption of responsibility" (*Caritas in Veritate*, 57). Subsidiarity is vital to necessary balance. Without it, the state's power rises and can easily remove man's freedom and distort man's understanding of himself.

Solidarity deals with the "horizontal nature of society". We are equal (in human dignity) as well as united. With transportation and technology, we are united and connected even more than before! The "intrinsic social nature" (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 192) of humanity is essential to the concept of solidarity. This concern for/interaction with our fellow man leads to interdependence, a united human family, and a gratitude to those who have provided for us. Pope Leo XIII referred to solidarity as "friendship" and Pope Pius XI called it "social charity" (*Centesimus Annus*, 10).

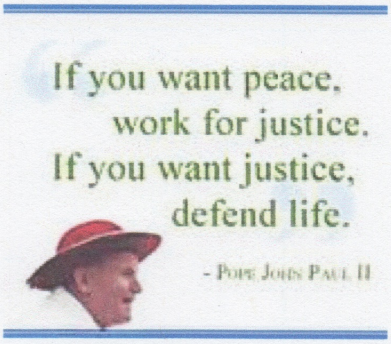
Subsidiarity (as efficient levels) and solidarity (as social connection) complement one another as they build on the corresponding needs of both responsibility and charity. We allow those in power to engage in appropriate action/levels; we also have the freedom to do what is right and reach out to our brethren (equal and united to us). Both are needed.

The Church sees the family as the "first natural society" (*Compendium*, 211). Family has natural rights – not rights simply given by society. Family is applicable to the topics of subsidiarity and solidarity since it has authority, different types of relationships, and real interaction within its structure. Within family, there are roles to play and needs to be met. A toddler will not pay the electric bill but will see the various roles performed and will learn the importance of sharing. Children educated at home learn subsidiarity and solidarity and carry it into adulthood.

We have to allow the right folks to take on the appropriate actions (responsibility) while at the same time promoting a sense of unity to those in need (charity). A good society needs both: responsibility and charity. We can concretely live these approaches out by small things. When we hit a pothole, we should not blame the Governor! (haha) We can also look at ways to find "unity" with our brothers and sisters in need. It is so easy to slip into forgetfulness about the needs of others. Food, shelter, and clothing are the basic needs of all people. We can fast; we can sleep outside for a night or without a bed; we can pack up most of our clothes. These are things that help us *appreciate the struggles* of those less fortunate. Once we appreciate, we are more likely to respond and act.

When I lived in Savannah, a Catholic committee had decided to have a bunch of us sleep in cardboard boxes on the steps of the Cathedral on a Saturday night so that Sunday parishioners would see us and have "a reaction to this reality" – a test of our unity. The heart increases with love when we put these principles (such as solidarity) into practice.

The Church provides a framework for looking at society (i.e. four principles of social ethics) and it constantly strives to guide us in our roles in society (responsibility and charity).



Stories of Faith....

By Jane Reinhart

I am originally from Evansville in southern Indiana. As a cradle Catholic and educated at Catholic Parochial schools my family and friends were Catholic. It was a given, that all Sundays, Holydays, and Lenten observances were attended. Two of my most special moments were making my 1st Holy Communion in 2nd grade and Confirmation in my Catholic faith in the 4th grade. I remember very vividly being proud of the fact of being a "soldier of Christ." My first one day retreat was in eighth grade. In school I was never talked down to, rather, "brought up to" a higher level to aspire to!

My husband Jim and I married somewhat early at least by today's standards. Before our marriage we attended pre-Cana courses to help us prepare for marriage, teaching us life is not only about ourselves. The talks included one by a couple who had been married for many years, as well as one given by a judge about the legal aspects of marriage. It made you sit back and actually discuss practical aspects.

By then, Jim was employed by the Navy at Crane and I had never been away from home, so it was an eye-opening experience. When my husband took trips for his job, I learned to be more independent in my everyday life. After first living in Bloomfield, we moved to Bloomington, then to Iowa, and back to Bloomington again. The one thing that was always a shining light for me was the Catholic Church with Mass, retreats, and a "Marriage Encounter" weekend.

You were promised you and your husband would only get out of the weekend what you were willing to put into it! At the least, you both would be exactly the same as before. We didn't want that! Different people in church and friends and family prayed for all of us during this time. One of the main focuses was writing love letters to one another privately and then exchanging them with each other and discussing them and the meanings behind the words. It was an emotional and gifted Holy Spirit time of our lives. We still have our letters to this day. One important aspect was that before you wrote to your spouse, you prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide you with no harsh or mean words in your letters.

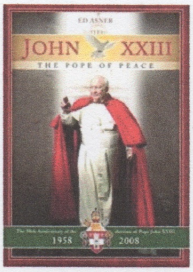
Several years later, we attended two separate weekends at a retreat called a "Cursillo Movement" (short course). Cursillo was started in Spain during the early 1940's as a men's group only. Then women had their own group. The first Cursillo here in the states was in Texas in 1957. The first English speaking groups started in 1961. Prayers were said throughout the day, as well as Mass everyday. In addition, separate groups were formed to discuss such things as "Obstacles to a Life of Grace", i.e., how to bring Christ to our everyday lives and in our communities where each person can make a difference.

When Jim and I moved back from Iowa we bought a house on the west side of Bloomington. I started attending Scripture classes on Wednesday mornings with Mary Flaten, our first Religious Ed. Director at St. Johns. While in this group, there were two new members from a Methodist church and Christian church in the area. We studied the two readings and gospel for the following Sundays. Three people took turns taking a reading or gospel lesson and reading and sharing with one another. Now I can tell you that I learned more from the Bible with the two ladies from the other Christian faiths than I knew up to that point in time. I also felt the work of the Holy Spirit in this group and made some close friends.

My faith for me has been a beacon and a lifeline my whole life. I thank God for being born into my Catholic family. God has always been there for me and Jim, both in good times and bad in the raising of our family. We try to bolster one another in our "downtimes." We both have strived to teach our children and grandchildren about the love of God and our life values

Film Review

By Denise Sawyer



John XIII: The Pope of Peace

Sometimes one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to learn more about our favorite saints and blessed is through watching well-produced feature films about them. This particular film about Blessed Pope John XXIII, who along with Blessed Pope John Paul II, will be canonized on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, is a full-length feature film, available in a two-DVD set. It is an outstanding film, featuring American actor Ed Asner, who makes John XXIII come to life.

Pope John XIII was a humble and unassuming priest, bishop, and cardinal. Elected to be an "interim pope" who would keep the status quo, he surprised many by calling for the convening of the Second Vatican Council. Filmed on location in Italy and covering the whole of his life, the viewers will find themselves captivated by this holy man.