



Sharing the Catholic Journey

Discovering faith, joy, and community

St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington, IN

October, 2015

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



John and Rebecca Williams with children – Isaac, Ezra, Mary, Anne, Margaret, George, and baby, Rose

John was born in Wright, Wyoming, and Rebecca was born in Arcadia, Indiana. They met at a non-denominational church in

Broad Ripple in Indianapolis. She was working at Home Depot and trying to decide what she wanted to do with her life; John was a student at IUPUI. They were married in 2002.

John has his own handyman business, and they now have seven children; the eighth baby is due in January, 2016. Isaac is the oldest at 12; he likes to draw architectural home designs. Ezra is 10; he is the naturalist. Mary is 8 and loves to draw, and Anne, age 6, is a miniature mother. Margaret, age 5, also likes to draw; George, age 3, is simply into boy things. And Rose is simply Rose.

They live in Martinsville and first came to check out St. John when they learned that our church offers a very traditional English language Mass. They had earlier attended the Baptist Church, then the Presbyterian, followed by the Anglican Church. The Anglican Church they attended became a part of the Catholic Church. However, they now consider themselves to be Catholic.

John's hobbies are reading and building things such as furniture, mirrors, etc. Rebecca enjoys crocheting, sewing, and reading.



Mark Hornbacher

Mark came to us from Detroit, Michigan, where he grew up in St. Mary's parish in Royal Oak. He moved to Bloomington in August of this year to continue his work with St. Paul Street Evangelization, which transferred from Detroit to Bloomington earlier in the year.



As an undergraduate, Mark studied theology at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, and then attended the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, where he obtained a Masters Degree in theology. Mark worked in the library at the Sacred Heart Seminary for 5 years and then left to take a position with St. Paul Street Evangelization.

Mark has always wanted to be active in his parish and his list of activities include running a Lectio Divina study group for over 3 years. He has joined the King's Men at St. John and is considering involvement in other activities. Mark is an avid reader and describes himself as a "book worm". His other hobbies include deer hunting and watching movies.



St. Paul Street Evangelization

Building a Bridge of Trust from the Street to the Local Parish.

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Catholicism 101....

by Scott Benningfield, DRE



Synoptic Gospels

We have four Gospels in the New Testament. The word gospel comes from two Anglo-Saxon words “god” (signifying “good”) and “spell” (signifying “tidings” or “news”). Hence, we have the “Good News”. The Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (*euangelion* [transliteration of the Greek into English]) – also meaning the Gospel or Good News – is where we get the word “Evangelist”.

These writings – these Gospels – are in fact ‘Good News’ because they speak of many good things: Jesus is the Messiah or the Christ (that is to say, the Anointed One*) and our Savior who has conquered the power of sin and death. This makes union with God a greater reality! There is tremendous hope with this realization! With this hope comes joy. With a lived relationship – not a mere mental assent to a belief in Jesus but a real relationship in which we are striving to grow in holiness by cooperating with grace (i.e. divine help or gift) – we can remove our enslavement to sin and we can hope for union with God in heaven.

[*Messiah is the Hebrew word for “Anointed One”; Christ is the Greek word for “Anointed One”. The “Anointed One” [i.e. Jesus] was prophesied in the Old Testament.]

The first three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called the “Synoptic Gospels”. The word “synoptic” basically means “seen together”. Why is this so? Most scholars see Mark as the first “written down” Gospel. Matthew and Luke used Mark as a foundation for their Gospels. Due to similarities, these 3 can be seen together. John’s Gospel is obviously about Jesus too but his approach is different. For example, John does not showcase Jesus’ use of parables. John shows Jesus in long discourses – something that the Synoptics do not generally illustrate. John’s Gospel is not considered part of the Synoptic Gospels.

Matthew and Luke also used another source referred to as “Q”. (This “Q” comes from the German word *Quelle* meaning “source”.) In the ancient days, a prominent speaker or leader would have his sayings memorized. People long ago did a better job than us in memorizing things!

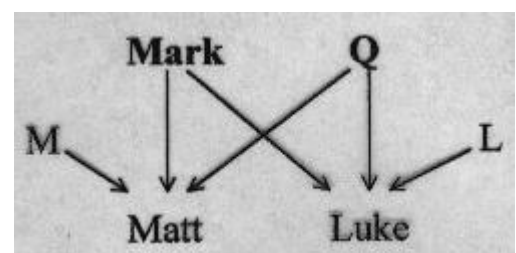
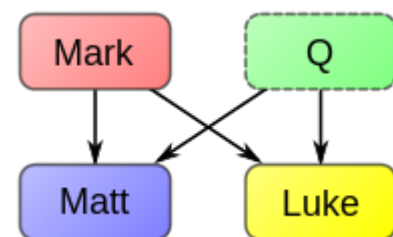
Matthew and Luke also had material that was not found in the others. We have to realize that not everything Jesus said or did could be incorporated into a single book! As John notes at the end of his Gospel (John 21:25): “There

are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.”

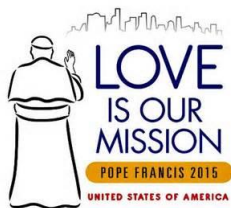
Nearly all scholars agree that Mark was first (written probably in the 60s or early 70s A.D. to Gentile Christians in Rome), followed by Matthew (probably written in the 70s or 80s to Jewish-Christians), and followed by Luke (probably written in the 80s to Gentile Christians in Greece). Note the varying audiences. It’s all about Jesus but what is *emphasized* differs. We relay a particular story to our parents differently from how we relay it to our friends. We keep the essential but emphasize certain details due to our audience.

For Mark, his audience needed to understand Jesus as having power. Hence, Mark emphasizes Jesus’ miracles. For Matthew, he emphasizes the Hebrew prophecies more than the others. He also shows Jesus as the “new Moses”. It is interesting to note the detail of Jesus on a mountain when he gives the Sermon on the Mount. We recall that Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the 10 Commandments. For Luke, he emphasizes the compassionate side of Jesus. Please note that Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles – the account of the early Church. As Dr. Mears has noted, in a very succinct way, we can see Jesus shown as the Powerful Savior (per Mark), the Promised Savior (per Matthew), and the Perfect Savior (per Luke).

Initially, the Good News was spread orally. Eventually, due to the fact that there was a need for clarity and the fact that those who knew Jesus may die before Christ’s return, what was told was written down. It is also important to note that other “gospels” and accounts were written. The Church eventually had to make the decision of what books should be placed in the New Testament.



Pope Francis Visits America....



This was the 10th visit by a pope to the United States, but it was the first for Pope Francis who had never traveled to our country before. His trip first took him to Washington, D.C. to meet with the president and to speak before Congress. Then he went on to New York where he spoke before the United Nations. The final leg of his journey was Philadelphia where he spoke outside of Liberty Hall. In addition, he also celebrated the Mass with thousands of people on each part of his journey.

So, what are a few of the things Pope Francis had to say? When he addressed Congress, he talked about the importance of the Golden Rule and said it has significant pro-life implications. "The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity."

"Ever present within each of them is life as gift and responsibility. The future freedom and dignity of our societies depends on how we face these challenges."

When he addressed the bishops, he listed "the innocent victim of abortion, children who die of hunger or from bombings, immigrants who drown in the search for a better tomorrow, the elderly or the sick who are considered a burden, the victims of terrorism, wars, violence and drug trafficking, the environment devastated by man's predatory relationship with nature – at stake in all of this is the gift of God, of which we are noble stewards but not masters.....It is wrong, then, to look the other way or to remain silent."

Speaking to the men and women who manage the UN's vast network of humanitarian offices, he urged them to challenge "all forms of injustice" and resist the "economy of exclusion", the "throwaway culture" and the "culture of death" which nowadays sadly risk becoming passively accepted".

To the General Assembly, he spoke of the importance of efforts being made to ensure world peace, respect for human dignity, the protection of persons, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and harmonious economic and social development.

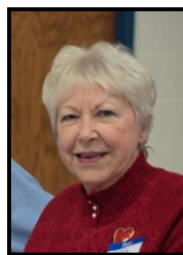
Pope Francis brought a consistent pro-life message to the nation's leaders and admonished members of Congress in a speech to "defend life at every stage of development."

In his homily during Mass at the World Meeting of Families, he said, "Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to become faith."

"“Anyone who wants to bring into this world a family which teaches children to be excited by every gesture aimed at overcoming evil -- a family which shows that the Spirit is alive and at work -- will encounter our gratitude and our appreciation.”"

A Personal Perspective

By Hilda Woodfork



His Holiness Pope Francis first visit to the United States was experienced by my friend Ruth and me. All arrangements were made before we flew to Washington DC on Monday. The

security was very obvious and we went through many check points.

We waited in front of the Capital Building for five hours in a fenced area with 20,000 other people to listen to his speech before Congress. The Pope then came out on the balcony to wave to the masses of people. The audience was very quiet and extremely orderly. As the pope was



speaking, there was a protester a block away with a microphone speaking hatred towards the Pope and Catholics. What a contrast between the love of the Pope and the hatred of the protestor.

We were in DC five days and took every tour we could cram into our days. When we reached the Capital Building, John McCain was speaking before congress against abortion. What an experience!! We also saw the monuments on a night tour. We then visited Arlington Cemetery where Ruth's husband John is entombed in a columbarium. Words are truly inadequate to express the meaningfulness of this trip. I feel very blessed.

St. John and the Monroe County Fall Festival

September 17, 18, and 19

By Denise Sawyer

For the second year in a row, St. John the Apostle had both a booth at the festival and a float in the parade. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to witness to our Catholic faith here in Ellettsville. Four churches were represented at the fair; we were the only Catholic Church. A number of people commented that they were happy to see the Church represented there. We had an ideal location where our tent could be open on two sides – twice as many opportunities for us to evangelize!



Many Catholics are uncomfortable with the idea of evangelizing, but we are doing what Catholics have been doing for nearly 2000 years. Just as in the parable of the sower that Jesus told the crowds in Matthew 13, we are simply planting seeds. When we talk to the people who pass by our booth, offering them a free rosary, sharing a bit of our faith with them, we are planting seeds of faith. Some of it will be forgotten immediately as the people

move on to the next booth. Some will find themselves drawn back for another look at our booth. Some express an interest in visiting our church. And some seeds might germinate in the souls of the people we meet, bearing fruit in some distant time.



Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.

—Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*

Parade Day!

Despite rain in the early morning and overcast skies as the flat bed truck was being loaded with items for the float, the parade went on as scheduled, and everyone who helped to decorate the float and participated in the parade had a great time. Parishioners who took part in the parade ranged from the ages of about 18 months to 96 years. All enjoyed throwing candy to the many children who lined the sidewalks of the parade route.



Above, Christine Pendill and Rose Allen sit in the "chapel" part of the St. John float.



At right, Melissa and Brian Banks with their two young sons, Jack and Cameron.



A big THANK YOU to **Ted Benckhart of Stonebelt Freight Line** for providing us with a flatbed truck to use for our float and for providing a driver for the big day.

Thank you to **Ralf Smith, Jan Lee, and Roger Sawyer** who set up the tent and loaded and unloaded the truck on parade day. And a special thank you to Ralf who was ALWAYS there when we needed him.