



At Mass this weekend we hear readings that emphasize the importance to turn away from our old ways of weakness and put on a new self and with the grace of God to live our lives in righteousness and truth. Think of it as allowing the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and help change our attitude, turning us toward holiness and goodness and away from evil and distractions stunting our spiritual growth.

Saint Paul's letter to the Ephesians (4:17, 20-24) specifically tells us to put on the new self that has been created in God's way.

Then we hear John 6:24-35, Jesus declaring that we will no longer hunger and thirst. For if we have God that should suffice - Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'

Throughout his life on earth Jesus assures us that we should Hear these and all the prayers we make through your Son, the always come to Him - put our trust in Him.

The Eucharist is the ultimate gift we can receive that draws us closer to Him and eternal life. So today and everyday let us raise our voices to sing his praises.

GRACIOUS GOD.

you sent the Bread of Life to nourish us always.

Instill in us such generosity and thankfulness that the bread we offer to those in need may reflect our thankfulness to You for all that we have received.

Let us open our hearts to

Your word and give us the courage to always turn to You.

Let no challenge or struggle distract us, instead help us change our attitudes and let us always use them as opportunities for growth to bring us closer to You.

true bread from heaven, our Lord for ever and ever.

Fifth in a six-part series: Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has reestablished the Diocesan Pastoral Council originally established by Bishop Joseph H. Hodges in 1968. We bring to you a profile of the lay members of this commission. The membership is representative of all six vicariates in the state with three members per. Each series will highlight a single vicariate.

Nedeff, Newhart, Laurine Klug of Parkersburg Vicariate Eager for Diocesan Pastoral Council Tasks

WHEELING – The Parkersburg representatives on the reestablished Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) are rolling up their sleeves to help Bishop Mark E. Brennan and the other five vicariates in the state to enhance the life of the diocese and spiritual formation of the faithful.

Together the trio bring both a youthful and senior prospective.



Nearly four decades ago Linda Nedeff converted to Catholicism and became a member of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg. As a young mother she enjoyed being part of her parish family. She later became a teacher at Parkersburg Catholic

Elementary, where she served for 30 years.

Nedeff's love of her faith and teaching inspired her to volunteer in faith formation classes at St. Francis and eventually lead the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program for 28 years.

"Along the way I taught summer Bible Schools and did whatever the parish needed--cleaning, painting, sewing, cooking, etc.," she said. "I grew up active in my childhood church and cannot imagine not contributing to my church in some way. We all have something we can do, and the parish always has things that need done."

Because of her upbringing and the love, she has for her faith community it was hard "not" to be active in parish life even after retirement.

"When someone nominated me to represent the parish on the vicariate level, I felt I could offer my years of involvement to listen and give input," Nedeff said. "I never expected to also become part of the diocesan council, but now that I am on it for three years, I hope that our combined input can contribute to a dialogue between clergy and laity and help repair some of the loss of trust that has sadly increased over the last decade."

Nedeff will serve on the Lay Life and Ministry Committee on the council.

While she represents a senior voice on the Parkersburg Vicariate's team on the DPC, Colleen Newhart brings a voice



for the younger generations. Newhart, a one-year member of the council, is a parishioner of St. Michael's in Vienna. She grew up in Greenbrier County area and attended St. Catherine of Siena in Ronceverte.

Newhart has volunteered for her Parish School of Religion

(PSR), serves as lector, and helps her community through the local soup kitchen and Gabriel Project.

"I accepted this role, because I feel it is important for the Diocesan Pastoral Council to have members of various age groups to provide information that Bishop Brennan is seeking from the laity," Newhart said. "Every generation has a different perspective of the Church as well as different challenges and needs. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a representative for millennials on the Diocesan Pastoral Council."

Like Nedeff and Newhart, New Martinsville resident Denise Laurine Klug is honored to serve on the DPC and takes pride in doing so on behalf of her Catholic community; and for her that means a family of four local parishes.

"I am currently a member of St. Vincent De Paul in New Martinsville, but with that being said we are a 'cluster' of four Churches and I honestly feel that I am member of each of them - St. Joseph Mission in Proctor, Mater Dolorosa in Paden City, and Holy Rosary Mission in Sistersville," she said. "Each one has its own special and unique feel yet we are one."



Laurine Klug grew up in Weirton in a Catholic and Protestant household. The Catholic faith was prodominant and introduced to her, but it was her ultimate decision to enter the church.

"My three older siblings were baptized Catholic, but by the

time my younger brother and I came along the family dynamic was ever changing for many reasons," she said. While her mother, a Protestant, made sure she and her brother attended Catechism classes at St. Paul's, she left entering the faith fully through the sacraments up to them. "I thank her for that," she said. "My younger brother and I both choose to be Catholic. At that time the late great Fr. Harold "Dinty" Moore was the priest. How could you not fall in love with the Catholic religion with Fr. Moore's teachings? Not only was it what my soul yearned for but also our mom - she converted to Catholicism."

As a teenager, Laurine Klug volunteered for church bazaars and events. She also worked in the parish office in the summer of her teen years, "which apparently must have been where I belong," she said, because she works at the office of the four regional churches she represents. So why does she go above and beyond to volunteer for her Catholic community?

"It's not about me and what I personally receive," Laurine with Newhart.

Klug said. "When you place your trust in God and know that He places you where you need to be and serve to the best of your ability, it is about who in their moment of need receives His Grace and Mercy."

Serving the DPC for her two year term goes hand in hand with that mindset.

"Laity truly have our finger on the pulse of the Church and desire to see positive things happen within her," she said. "It is important for the DPC representatives throughout their perspective Vicariates be able to be visible and approachable as we try to reach all parishioners not only those attending and those that have fallen away, but those who may be future converts throughout our state."

Laurine Klug will serve on the Pastoral Concerns Committee with Newhart.



REBUILDING TOGETHER AT THE MARGINS

By: Katie Hinerman Klug, CCWVa Marketing Communications Specialist



In addition to providing direct assistance to those in need, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) also engages the youth in West Virginia through learning about poverty, its root causes, and efforts to effect change.

Through this year's Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) "Rebuilding Together at the

Margins" art contest, CCWVa engaged students in grades 7-12 to reflect on the vast disparities in our world, and how many of those disparities were amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School (Huntington) student Elexis Spurlock authored a poem addressing the struggles of homelessness. In Spurlock's piece, the person experiencing homelessness only finds escape by going to sleep and dreaming.

"Faith isn't just complete trust in God; it can be complete trust within yourself and others," said Spurlock. "I think when going about this [effecting change] in a communal way, we need to have faith in one another."

With faith in both God and in one another, CCWVa works with people in poverty to find long-term, sustainable solutions.

"At Catholic Charities, we meet each person or family where they are, and we build relationships and provide guidance to empower them to reach their goals," said Beth Zarate, CCWVa President and Chief Executive Officer.

One of these families is that of Katherine Elliott, who found herself without a home for her family, including her 1-year old daughter and her boyfriend, JR, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because Katherine had a child, she did not qualify to stay at local homeless shelters without being separated from her child. However, the Catholic Charities Hospitality House in Wheeling provided transitional housing for her and her family for several months. The Hospitality House enabled the family to stay intact under one roof, while receiving intensive case management services and learning about budgeting and saving money.

"The house was a life saver," said Elliott. "In the midst of COVID, with a child, it made everything so much better. I don't know where I would've been without it."

CCWVa Case Manager Joe Sparksman met with Elliott weekly during her time at the Hospitality House.

"Joe was our mentor. He helped walk us through everything, set us up with the programs we needed to get our life straight," said Elliott. "We were able to save and pay our first month's rent at a [new] house they [CCWVa] connected us with through the Homeless Coalition."

Elliott and her family are thriving in their new home and continuing to work toward their goals.

Read more about their journey and read Spurlock's full poem at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading EXODUS 16:2-4, 12-15

The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "Would that we had died at the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!"

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.

"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God."

In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, "What is this?" for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Responsorial PSALMS 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54

R. (24b) The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

What we have heard and know, and what our fathers have declared to us, we will declare to the generation to come the glorious deeds of the LORD and his strength and the wonders that he wrought.

R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained manna upon them for food and gave them heavenly bread.

R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Man ate the bread of angels, food he sent them in abundance. And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountains his right hand had won.

R. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Second Reading EPHISIANS 4:17, 20-24

Brothers and sisters:

I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; that is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Alleluia MATTHEW 4:4b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel JOHN 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat." So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

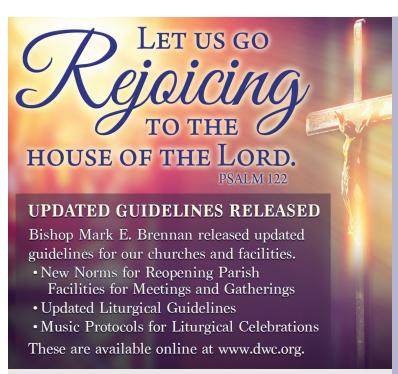
For the Church, that we may be driven to feed the hungry: those afflicted with spiritual hunger, who seek purpose and mission in life, as well as those suffering from material hunger, who long for full stomachs and adequate nutrition, let us pray to the Lord

For our leaders, that they respond to those in need with compassion and assistance, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That God's generosity from age to age to all who call upon the Lord may be a model for us as we are called upon by those in need, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that as we follow Saint Paul's charge to put on our new selves, we may resolve with the grace of God to live our lives in righteousness and truth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

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A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



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Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am; HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: http://catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basillica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSES/