

A Disciple's Journey

Living Beyond
Ourselves

FALL 2015 • ISSUE #10

A Stewardship Newsletter • Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

By Laura Weikle

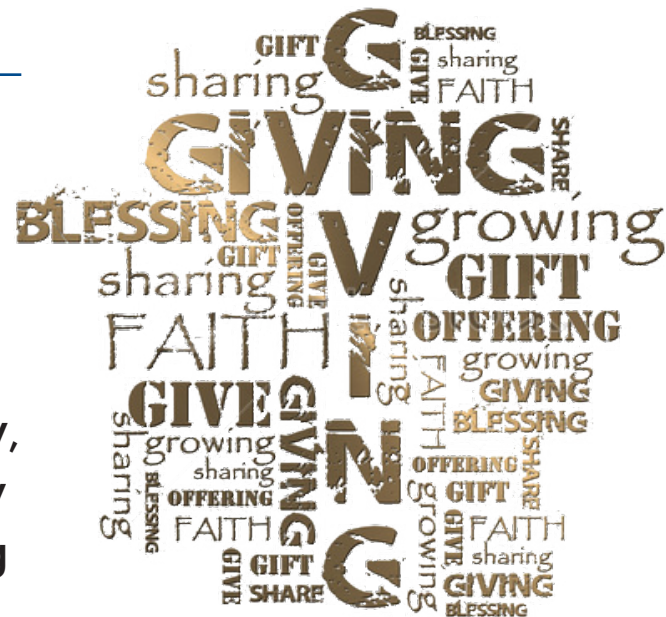
STEWARDSHIP

A Legacy of Leaders

We seek to promote a welcoming environment that encourages discipleship and engages all of our parish community, throughout life's journey by growing our faith and living it beyond the Church.

The St. Mary Magdalene Stewardship Council is comprised of a handful of very hard working and dedicated people you may know. Reason being is that they also are involved in other ministries around the parish. This is a unique characteristic of those who serve on the council – they are involved, and continue to remain involved, even as they roll off the council. Paula Alley, Karen Youger, Cindy Garber, Kathy Holcomb, Dennis Higgins, Brian Fasano, along with Father Terry, currently lead the St. Mary Magdalene Stewardship Council. Over the years it has been more than a dozen strong and other years fewer, but no matter the size, the council still has to take on many very important functions around the parish.

Karen Youger has led the Stewardship Council for three years and was co-chair for another two. She puts a lot of time into keeping the council moving forward with planning, budgeting, training, and renewal campaigns. She works with Father Terry and the parish office staff on all of our renewal and annual appeal efforts, as well as the Liturgy of the Ministries in January, Ministry Head recognition, and Ministry Fairs. Karen is most visible around the parish with her involvement in the Music and Sound Ministry.



It's important to highlight other parishioners who have been a member of the Stewardship Council over the years. Seems many familiar faces have spent time serving the council – some of them include Linda Barry, Mayra Marchand, Barbara Stevens, Shirley Towle, Ed Jones, Lisa Thamert, Mike Mihalek, Lorne Ebel, Mary and Thom Miller (founding leaders), Sharon Burke, Lisa Stanley, Carey Fasano, Bev Darcy and me. As people roll off the council, they don't roll into oblivion, yet the opposite occurs, they seem to find other ministries to become involved in.

Additionally, other ministries work side-by-side with stewardship and the council's work could not be done without them – the parish office staff, all ushers, the Welcome Committee, Faith Formation, Liturgy, the PAC and FAC.

Would you consider joining a legacy of people who have helped to form our parish stewardship efforts? The council can use some help. Reach out to anyone mentioned in this article and they will share their story with you. There are many skills needed to lead this council.

“For it is in *giving* that we *receive*” - St. Francis of Assisi

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours.

(Saint Teresa of Avila)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship
A Legacy of Leaders

Parishioner Spotlight
A Chance of a Lifetime

Focus on the Family
Making Holy Families



By Monique Haskins

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

A Chance of a Lifetime

After two months, I'm still almost speechless when someone asks about our trip to see the Pope! As one young priest we met while waiting for our train to the airport said, "this was the chance of a lifetime." I suppose those are some of the best words to describe our experience.

At about 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, I received a text from a good friend who is also Catholic and lives in Newnan. The text read "I put in for 4 tickets to see the Pope on Thursday in DC with Congressman Westmoreland and got them! Unfortunately I can't make it happen. Before I decline them, are you interested?" My immediate response was "Oh my gosh....let me check!!!" I immediately went through my list of things I had to do during the remainder of the week and realized I had some pretty important commitments, then I thought ... wait, this is the Pope – clear your schedule! Thanks to the Holy Spirit, my husband, and Toni Egan, by Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Hannah, Hayden and I were headed to D.C. to see Pope Francis!

On Wednesday evening, the three of us were joined by Elizabeth Egan, who took a train to D.C. from NYC. We did some sightseeing and then returned to our hotel for a short night's sleep. We were up at 5:00 a.m. to join thousands of others on the lawn of Capitol Hill. Security and smiles were ample and all in D.C. were a buzz about the Pope being in town. As we waited on the lawn, we made acquaintance with those near us, including Fr. Christiano a priest at St. Anthony's in Cambridge, MA, and Aaron, a civil engineer from IL. Although there were thousands on the lawn, you could have heard a pin drop as Pope Francis delivered his first words. I was furiously trying to capture his message in the "notes" of my iPhone and quickly realized, I needed to be present to the moment and enjoy it – I knew I could find the speeches for years to come on various sites online.

Of the few things I did capture, here are the three that struck me. ***"It is hard to judge the past with criteria of the future", "Treat others with passion and compassion." and "Protect human life at every stage of development. Every life is sacred"***. At the conclusion of Pope Francis' blessing from the balcony, we all just stood there clapping and cheering, almost as if we were at a concert, hoping for an encore – when we realized it was really over, Fr. Christiano gave Hannah a special blessing and said he would pray for her as she was preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and Aaron had a huge smile on his face as he said, "this has got to be the best day of my life!"

Often, I find myself in a position where I need to defend my faith or I find the need to share ways to defend our faith with my children or children in our formation programs, but for this 24-hour period in DC, even our taxi driver wished he was Catholic!" In a time when there is so much that divides our country, particularly, in our nation's capital, it was nice to see one holy man, pull everyone together! So, yes, as the young priest we met while waiting for our train said, "This was a chance of a lifetime!"

"Although there were thousands on the lawn, you could have heard a pin drop as Pope Francis delivered his first words."



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Making Holy Families



“Service is the sign of true love. Those who love know how to serve others. We learn this especially in the family, where we become servants out of love for one another.”

-Pope Francis' homily at July 6th, 2015 at Mass at Samanes Park in Guayaquil

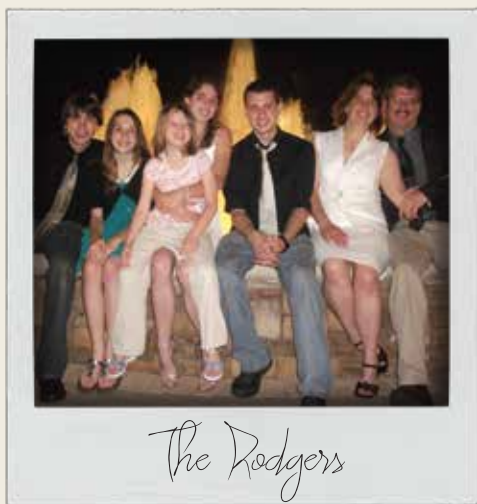
Making holy families — that was the focus of a series of events that have been in the forefront of the universal Church since 2013, when Pope Francis announced there would be an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the topics related to the family and evangelization.

Since then, Pope Francis has placed family matters at the center of his pontificate including during his recent visit to the United States in September 2015 at the 8th World Meeting for Families that took place in Philadelphia, PA.

Reflecting on the Pope's visit to the United States and his focus on the family, we thought it timely to share a little focus on our own, sharing how St. Mary Magdalene families evangelize, disciple and serve others. Having served the Stewardship Council for many years, personally we

have seen individuals and families offer their time and talent to others in our community. Everyone seems to serve quietly, not asking for recognition. Although they don't ask or wish to be recognized, we love to be able to share the stories because we rejoice in their work — we are always amazed at this selfless giving. At council meetings and individually, we offer prayers of thanksgiving for our fellow parishioners.

The following are just a few examples of families serving our St. Mary Magdalene Parish and our local community. Hundreds of people in our parish volunteer annually to serve. Thank you, those who aren't on these pages, for your time, your talents, and your treasure! Let these parishioners represent us all in what we do to serve Christ in our community and our families.



The Rodgers

THE RODGERS

Duane: Rectory lawn care, tractor maintenance, Usher, ECHS band equipment crew member, Vigil fire master each Easter

Laura: Head of Communion Service Ministry, Head of Liturgy, Extraordinary Minister, work as teacher in the preschool, rectory lawn care

Josh: Member of Core Team Youth Ministry

Nicholas: Usher

Emily: Formerly altar server and helps with rectory lawn care

Joanna Rodgers (Jo): Altar Server, Peer Minister youth group, ECHS band member, helps rectory lawn care

Rose: Altar Server, rectory lawn care

Family: Assembles outside creche for church each Christmas

THE VALLADERES

Bill: Elementary Catechist, Breaking Open the Word for Children RCIA, Extraordinary Minister, Knights of Columbus, Children's Liturgy, Advent and Lenten Workshops, Tent Ministry

Kari: Elementary Catechist, Core Team Member Youth Ministry, Advent and Lenten Workshops, VBS volunteer and Director of Abby's Angels

Katie: Assistant to Elementary Catechists, St. Mary Magdalene picnic volunteer, Children's Liturgy, Abby's Angels, VBS crew leader and (*signed up to be an Usher*)

Luke: Helps with VBS, In training for Tent Ministry, (*hopes to altar serve next year*)



The Valladeres



The Claytons

THE CLAYTONS

Chuck: Noon Usher; Boy Scout Volunteer; previous Faith Formation Catechist

Colin: Noon usher; Peer Ministry; Boy Scouts; Eagle Project to support St. Mary Magdalene Pre-school; football team captain at Trinity Christian School

Debbie: Christian City Hospice Center volunteer; Noon usher; Boy Scout parent volunteer; volunteer for Children's Health Care of Atlanta Phone-A-Thon fundraiser

Chris: Eagle Scout; volunteer with Civil Air Patrol;

Family: Contributes resources for Clothes Less Traveled and A Better Way Ministries



The Mihaleks

THE MIHALEKS

Mike: Served Stewardship Council, started up and led Supper Club, Usher, Knights of Columbus. Clothes Less Traveled and counsel GED students at four West Georgia Tech campuses on how to find work when they graduate

Melinda: Started up and led Supper Club. Church Office volunteer and member of the Welcome Committee. Previously worked on the Arts and Environment Committee. Volunteer at Clothes Less Traveled.



The Kellers

THE KELLERS

David: Noon Mass Usher Coordinator & Usher, Chairperson of Finance Advisory Council, Co-President for SVdP & Caseworker, Supper Club, Treasurer for Fayette Flyers Model Airplane Club

Julie: Noon Mass Usher, Co-President for SVdP & Caseworker, Supper Club, Girl Scout Leader, GS Service Unit Cookie Manager

Katherine: Noon Mass Usher, Peer Minister for St. Mary Magdalene Youth Group, SVdP Volunteer, Girl Scouts, Beta Club & NHS Member, 'Gate Girl (*this is like a pep squad at Northgate*)



The Dickinsons

THE DICKINSONS

Kevin: Sacristan, Extraordinary Minister, Children's Liturgy, and Knights of Columbus

Jen: Catechist, Lector, Council of Catholic Women, Nursery, Children's Liturgy, and Welcome-Loaves of Love

Anna: Children's Liturgy, Pre-K faith formation

Ally: St. Mary Magdalene preschool (2-3 year old class)



The Lockards

THE LOCKARDS

Bill: Fellowship, Landscape, Served on the PAC, worked with the FAC, facilitator for Financial Peace University

Mara: Fellowship, Landscape, Music Ministry, Lector

Gabrielle: Altar Server, Usher, VBS Volunteer, Fellowship, Landscape Ministry

Xander: Altar Server, Sound Ministry, Fellowship and Landscape Ministry



The Pizzitolas

THE PIZZITOLAS

Michael: RCIA Inquiry, RCIA Catechist, Knights of Columbus, Ultreya, Elijah Cup

Gayle: Communion Service Minister, Extraordinary Minister, EM to the Homebound, Elijah Cup, RCIA Sponsor, Ultreya, Angel Rides Chair, Dusting Angels, Kitchen Coordinator, PAC, Parish Office Volunteer, Council for Catholic Women, Welcome-Loaves of Love, Adult Bible Study, Picnic Chair, Morning Prayers after Mass



The Garbers

THE GARBERS

Todd: Music Ministry, Knights of Columbus. Previously served on PAC

Cindy: Extraordinary Minister, Stewardship Council, Arts & Environment. Previously taught 3rd grade, Elementary Coordinator, Interim Youth Minister, Chair for Education Commission, Mercy Meals.



The Alleys

THE ALLEYS

Paula: Supper Club, Stewardship Council, Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Choir, RCIA, Ultreya

Roger: Supper Club, Ultreya



THE RODRIGUEZS

Ariel: RCIA, Music Ministry, Knights of Columbus

Valerie: RCIA, Lector, Extraordinary Minister

Isabella: Altar Server

Olivia: Faith Formation

Ileanette: Former St. Mary Magdalene parishioner now living in LaGrange



WE ARE FAMILY

Lord, God, we thank you for the gift of family. We acknowledge that our image and name as family come from you. We believe that within our family lies a homemade holiness. We affirm that it is in this household of faith that we experience your presence, your forgiveness, and your love.

We are Family. We give thanks to you for the many joys and blessings that have come to us through family.

As a family we sometimes feel pain. And so we offer you our disappointments, frustrations, and hurts. Help us to forgive those members of our family, including ourselves, who have caused pain.

We pray for the strength to be a light within our family. May we open our hearts, our eyes, and our ears and carry our light to those in need.

God, Creator of the earth and all its people, help us to be mindful that, as members of one global family, we are equal in your eyes. Help us to continue to appreciate the diversity of persons in our homes and in our world. As members equal in human dignity, may we build a better world and proclaim our willingness to be the holy people you call us to be.

Amen



**Saint Mary Magdalene
Catholic Church**

A
Disciple's Journey

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Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Weekend Mass Schedule:
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil
9:00 AM, 12:00 PM Sunday