



the St. Anthony Parish

VOICE

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Where justice and mercy meet

For over 25 years a group of men have been traveling to the Anamosa State prison for Christian fellowship, holding CEW's in the prison, and providing the RCIA program to those inmates interested in joining the Catholic church.

The chapel at Anamosa is appropriately named the chapel of "The Good Thief." Inside the chapel is a life size painting of "The Good Thief."

Upon first glance many may mistake the man depicted in the painting to be Christ. But when one looks at it closely, you can see he is looking over his left shoulder and towards a bright light. Also, all the soldiers in the painting are facing towards the bright light. Another interesting aspect of the painting is that it was done by one of the inmates!

The group of men who have been going to Anamosa on a weekly basis over all these years have been joined by other Christians interested in seeing and showing the human side of those in prison.

All of us are deeply touched by the faith stories of the men who come to the chapel of "The Good Thief" on a regular basis. Many who struggle with incarceration find a strong faith community in their chapel. A typical stereotype of inmates is that they use a so-called conversion to make themselves look better in front of the parole board.



This couldn't be further from the truth in the men we see on a regular basis. Some of these men are serving life, and for others, frequent use of the chapel and belonging to their faith community there is what helps them maintain sanity in an otherwise somewhat insane setting. They find freedom and consolation even though they remain behind bars or inside the walls of the institution.

For these men who have been convicted of serious crimes, they also are convicted of heart, mind and soul and they find solace in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Through the RCIA program, over 35 men have converted to the Catholic faith.

We want to give the opportunity for their faith stories to touch your lives, much like they have ours. While the Year of Mercy is soon to come to a close, Mercy continues on forever. We will be holding a one day ecumenical retreat on Saturday Dec. 10, 2016, in O'Malley Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The talks during the course of

the retreat will be the words of the inmates as they have written their own faith/conversion stories, and presented by our team members.

There will also be a presentation by a family member who has been harmed by her then husband's offense that resulted in him being sentenced for 20 years in the federal system. She has a powerful message of the struggle to find forgiveness, and the support of her faith community.

There will also be a panel of folks who have "spent time" and are now finding success in our community through Circles of Support, mentors and the Jail and Ministry program in Dubuque.

The Retreat is open to everyone (not just St. Anthony's) interested in hearing these powerful Prodigal Son stories. The cost of the Day Retreat will be a Free Will Offering. A light breakfast lunch will be provided. You can register for the retreat by calling 563-495-5947 or online by email to b.hickson@dbqarch.org

Get to know the Haiti committee

St. Anthony Haiti Committee Members: Carol Brandel, Terri Buss, Mary and Leo Frueh, Joanne Haywood, Al Kluesner, Chuck Kutsch, Ronnie and Mike Larkin, Dee Maahs, Fr. Steve Rosonke, Sarah and Roger Smith, Pam and Brian Unsen, Brian Zeman, Pam Zimmer, Fr. Gene Kutsch – Ex Officio member

Mission statement: *To serve those people in need at St. Montfort Parish in Port-de-Paix by*

Members of committee:

Pam Zimmer

Husband Jay and 4 children
Member of St. Anthony Parish for 24 years and Haiti Committee for 1 year

I have always been interested in St. Anthony's relationship with our sister parish, and I wish to fo to Haiti someday to assist on the medical team.

My involvement at this time is in prayer and helping to promote awareness of St. Montfort's needs.

Chuck Kutsch

Wife Cindy 4 children
Member of St Anthony Parish for 16 years and Haiti Committee for 8 years

The committee has given me the chance to stay involved with the people of St. Montfort's. I was lucky enough to be able to travel to Haiti in 2006 and celebrate with them. It was a life-changing experience. You hear about life in Haiti, but it becomes real when you witness it first hand. I will never forget that trip and the people I met when I was there. I hope to go back again one of these years. Being on the committee gives me the opportunity to help make a small difference in the lives of the people at St. Montforts. We do this by praying for them, supporting them financially, and discussing other ways to help make a difference in their lives. They have so little, but they have taught me so much.

Pam and Brian Unsen

3 children
Members of St. Anthony Parish for 41 years and the Haiti Committee for 17 years.

The committee has given us the opportunity to build valued relationships with not only people from a different country, but within St. Anthony parish.

Joanne Haywood

Member of St. Anthony parish for 14 years and the Haiti Committee for 5 years.

In 2012, I went to Haiti to see for myself what Haiti was like. It is hard to believe how they live and the conditions they live under. Since I help make dresses and shorts for Haiti with Sr. Lillian, I took along what I could for them along with finger nail polish and a few toys for the little ones.

Leo and Mary Frueh

Four grown children and 6 grandchildren
Members of St. Anthony Parish for 31 years and the Haiti Committee for 20 years.

We appreciate the opportunity of an ongoing relationship with the people of St. Montfort's parish and treasure our visits to Haiti. Through prayer, friendship and financial support we came to know people with a tremendous amount of faith and resilience.

Roger and Sarah Smith

5 children
Members of St. Anthony Parish for 50 years and the Haiti committee for 21 years.

Sarah went to Haiti in 1983 and 1984... In 1985 we went to Haiti together. These three trips were led by an area doctor. That was before St. Anthony twinned with St. Montfort

1. Encouraging relationships between our parishes.
2. Encouraging prayerful solidarity.
3. Providing resources and support in worship, education, medical and economic areas as needed.
4. Promoting awareness among Catholics of the injustices present in Haiti and our Gospel call to respond.
5. Develop models for parish action that may be shared with other twinning parishes.

Parish. After twinning with St. Montfort Parish, we both went on a St. Anthony trip in 1998. Then in 2002, Roger was able to go with another St. Anthony group to celebrate the feast of their patron saint, St. Louis de Montfort. It is very important for the Haitians, as we stand in solidarity with them and participate in this celebration. Through these visits we have witnessed the beautiful faith of the people, but also tremendous poverty. We have enjoyed being involved when our friends from St. Montfort come to visit Dubuque. We are impressed with the generosity of St. Anthony parishioners as we in many ways try to help the people of St. Montfort parish.

Carol Brandel

I have lived in Dubuque most of my life and have been a member at St. Anthony's for two years. I have a brother and sister that live in Guttenberg for the summer and Florida for the winter. I am a retired registered nurse retiring in 2006. I went to Haiti in April of 2011, with a medical team from Iowa City and have been a member of the Haiti committee of St. Anthony's for 7 months. Becoming a member of the Haiti Committee helped me to keep focus on Haiti and the many needs there.

Ronnie and Mike Larkin

Mike and Ronnie Larkin have been members of St. Anthony Parish for 36 years and on the Haiti Committee for 20.

"Being involved with the Haiti Committee has enriched our lives in many ways: a personal connection to the people of St. Montfort, an

Haiti committee, cont.

appreciation for the challenges they face on a daily basis, a witness to a deep faith in and love for God, and a parish-to-parish connection that allows us to share our common faith."

Dee Maahs

Single

Member of St. Anthony parish for 25 years and member of Haiti Committee for 20 years.

Being a member of the Haiti Committee and having been to Haiti has had a huge impact on my life. It has opened my eyes to what it is like to live in a third world country. It has allowed me to develop many friendships with people from St. Anthony's and St. Montfort's parishes. It has changed how I look at life and things. What I previously thought were my needs really are my wants. It has impacted me from a social justice standpoint. I have developed a deeper sense of gratitude for everything I have and a drive to help other people. It has deepened my own sense of spirituality. I am so grateful for having the opportunity to be a part of this group.



Follow up to our Faith Formation Committee:

Laura Blum

Family: dog Spunkey
Member of St. Anthony Parish for 13 years and member of Faith Formation Committee for 4 years.

I have enjoyed being on this committee because I feel that I am contributing to helping our parish with faith formation. I enjoy reading the books we get that help to assist us in what we do as a committee. I feel that my role has helped me become more involved here at St. Anthony's and I feel that my contributions help to make a difference in our parish.

An invitation from Sr. Margaret Ann

Visiting the sick - a Corporal Work of Mercy

During this year of Mercy, Pope Francis has asked all of us, "to be a witness of Mercy" by reflecting on and practicing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. The fifth Corporal work of Mercy is *Visiting the Sick*.

What would life be like if you were living in a nursing home, if you were shut-in in your own home or patient in the hospital?

You might be conscious of being physically removed from your loved ones, family and parish community. You may feel lonely.

During times like this, it is very important to maintain ties with family and friends to ensure that the patient has not been forgotten and that relationships will continue — maybe not the same as they were, but will continue.

Visiting someone who is elderly

or sick isn't always easy, but it can be an enjoyable time and a comfort to the patient. It is also a welcome distraction from the reality of what is going on. Our mere presence, as someone willing to be a friend and give a listening ear, can mean much more to them than we can imagine. They will be giving a precious gift to us as well, the gift of growth in the virtue of compassion.

Most people I have spoken to just want and appreciate company. They want to feel loved and thought about. They want to be remembered.

St. A's is a big parish and health and mobility change from week to week and sometimes from day to day. We thank the people at St. A's who are visiting the nursing homes, hospitals and homebound. We ask if this is something you feel comfortable doing, please contact us.

If you do visit, know that you will be adding much happiness and joy to someone's life.

Make it your time...

Consider some time for your spirituality:

- **St. Anthony's Women's Emmaus weekend**

February 17-19, 2017

- **St. Anthony's Men's Emmaus weekend**

February 24-26, 2017

A weekend dedicated to you!



Knights assist Habitat for Humanity

The St. Anthony Knights of Columbus recently assisted Dubuque/Jackson County Habitat for Humanity with construction of a new home. The home is located off University Avenue in Dubuque.

On a warm Saturday this past August, nine of our members devoted their time and talent to this ambitious project. The work site was muddy from recent rains and our Knights trudged through the muck as they labored away.

The structure was fully erected with the roof, doors and windows installed. Our members spent the day helping install exterior siding. Other volunteers from around the community were on site as well.

Given the range of skill levels among the volunteers there was a Habitat representative present to give direction and offer helpful tips. These homes go up quickly, but they want to ensure that everything is done correctly.

Our guys finished the lion's share of the siding with only a small bit left for the next group of volunteers. Thanks to Pat Manders, Jan Tucker and Sr. Margaret Anne, a delicious warm lunch was delivered to all of the workers. All of the food items were donated by various St. Anthony parishioners.

Some interesting details about this project were provided

by Daniel Wahlert, Executive Director of operations for the Dubuque/Jackson Co. Habitat for Humanity.

So far the project has had an average of 15 volunteers on Saturday mornings/afternoons. Construction was started the first week in July. The home is expected to be finished up and ready to move in by the end of October at the latest.

Habitat has a few retired volunteers who do odd tasks during the week to get things ready for the larger group of volunteers on Saturday. The homeowners are also required to put in a minimum of 125 hours per person of sweat equity building the house.

To get a real sense of the impact that Habitat has had in our community over the years, consider that 20 homes have been constructed in Dubuque/Jackson counties since 1991. In addition, volunteers contribute roughly 1,600 man hours in order to complete just one home.

A lot of hours and labor go into one of these projects, and the Knights' contribution represents just a small portion of the total effort required. The real story behind the success of any such endeavor is the unselfish time contributed by a multitude of volunteers. Our hats go off to Habitat, the community, all of the volunteers and our brother Knights for a job well done!

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