

What does Faith Formation mean to you?

By Roger Maiers

Faith Formation.

It's a term we hear a lot, but how does it apply to us? After all, if we've diligently studied our religion in school (parochial or religious ed.), attend Mass on Sunday and listen to the homilies (and hopefully provide some financial support), isn't that enough?

Well, no.

Admittedly, it's a good start. But true faith formation is really a lifelong venture. It involves more than facts and money and Mass attendance. It really gets down to internalizing our faith and developing our relationship with God and each other.

So how do we do that?

Carol Witry, parish Director of Faith Formation, says there are numerous



Carol Witry

ways, but it's up to each of us to pick the opportunities that are meaningful to us.

"Obviously, participating in various parish ministries and committees is one easy way to get involved and

add another dimension to our faith formation. There's virtually something for everyone there. In addition, we offer special programs such as Emmaus weekends, Generations of Faith sessions, That Man is You for men, MOMS for women, bible study groups, small faith sharing groups, etc. And if you enjoy reading, you can subscribe to *The Witness* or browse through our parish library for selections that might interest you. This is by no means a complete list, but examples of how we all can work on our own faith formation."



Sr. Margaret Anne Kramer, PBVM



Katie Pfiffner



Jim Henkels



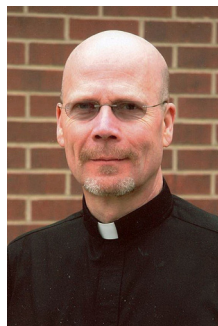
Sr. Nancy Miller, OSF

Another approach, although it may not be for everyone, is formal education.

We are fortunate at St. Anthony's in that all six members of our parish staff have acquired at least a master's degree in some aspect of religious education or training. Besides developing their own faith formation, they can use that knowledge base to benefit us.

Witry, for example, has a Master of Ministry degree from Loras College. Katie Pfiffner, Youth Formation Coordinator, did undergraduate work in religious studies, and has a master's degree in Theology from Loras College. Sr. Nancy Miller, OSF, director of Adult Faith Formation, has a BA degree in Social Work, and two master's degrees; one in Pastoral Ministry/Counseling and another in Franciscan Spirituality. She's also certified as a Spiritual Assistant for Secular Franciscans.

Fr. Steve Rosonke majored in Philosophy at Loras, and has a Master of Divinity degree from St. Paul Seminary. Sr. Margaret Kramer, PBVM, Pastoral Associate, has a master's degree in Teaching and Administration



Fr. Steve Rosonke

from Clarke. She also has an associate's degree in Pastoral Studies from St. Mary's University and is certified by the Archdiocese of Dubuque as a pastoral associate. Her undergraduate studies at Clarke included a minor in Theology. Jim Henkels, Business Manager, took a number of theology courses in his undergraduate studies at Briar Cliff College, and has a master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola of New Orleans. Henkels has also taken 18 hours of business courses at Clarke.

Impressive as that cumulative educational background is, none of them consider their path to faith formation completed. They each, in their own way, continue to study and learn, and gain deeper insights into their faith.

Witry participates in *iLLUMINARE*, an intense lay ministry focus group with which she's been meeting regularly since 2004 at St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul. And her on-going life includes workshops, conferences, retreats, lectures, readings, and Webinars, among many other things.

Pfiffner does adjunct work for the Center of Ministry Development and teaches a religion class at Clarke University. Sr. Nancy participates in several Franciscan leadership activities, both at

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the local and national levels. Fr. Steve attends two archdiocesan "staff study days" each year and also the annual three-day archdiocesan priest convocation at Loras College.

Sr. Margaret regularly attends workshops and study days on various topics, makes a 5-7 day retreat every year, and includes daily prayer and Mass in her life. Jim Henkels says he's "always talking to the boss (the pastor) about religion and faith matters. And just when I think I've got it all figured out, I find there's another dimension I know nothing about."

The point of all this is to illustrate that our staff not only talks the talk; they also walk the walk.

But as Witry says, "Faith formation is more than just information. It must lead people to live what they believe. It involves life-long growth in faith, and is a key part of our parish mission statement. Faith that's not growing is stagnant."

Sr. Nancy has her own personal definition of faith formation. "It's fairly simple," she said. "Faith formation is engaging in developing one's relationship with God, Jesus, and others."

For Sr. Margaret, faith formation "is a life-long journey of growing and strengthening faith through prayer, sacraments, worship, study and community."

So however you define it for yourself, the important thing is to realize there's always more to learn or experience.

There are many faith formation opportunities available right here in the parish and in the greater community. Seek those activities or involvements that interest you.

It's a win-win situation for everyone.

That Man is You at St. Anthony's

By Mark Lansing

One important document produced by the Second Vatican Council of the early 60's was entitled "The Universal Call to Holiness." The main point of this document was that every person is called to holiness, not just priests and sisters.

The challenge for each of us is to live our particular vocations, whether that is single, married, or religious life, so as to grow in holiness and better reflect Christ through our lives.

Helping Catholic men grow in holiness is one of the main goals of *That Man is You*, a Catholic men's leadership program created by Steve Bollman. Bollman is a successful Catholic businessman who recognized the tremendous impact fathers have on the faith life of their families. *That Man is You* began in the Archdiocese of Houston, Texas, with the approval and support of the bishop. It has now been introduced into Catholic parishes throughout the United States.

After participating in the *That Man is You* program for two years at St. Columbkille Parish, I was convinced that we should introduce it at St. Anthony Parish, which we did in the summer and fall of 2011. Over 50 men registered, and the feedback has been very positive. Breakfast is served from 6:45 -7:15, fol-



That Man is You participants discuss the presentation they have just heard.

lowed by a very informative and inspirational presentation and small group discussion, with the session ending at 8:15.

Presentations draw on scientific data, Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the lives of the saints and ordinary peoples, to both enlighten and inspire. Small group discussions help men relate the presentations to their home and family lives.

We invite and encourage more men to participate in *That Man is You* when we resume our Saturday morning sessions on Jan. 7, 2012, at 6:45-8:15 a.m. in O'Malley Hall. There is no charge to participate and no homework. Perhaps you could make a new year's resolution to attend *That Man is You* to help you grow in your faith.

Contact Mark Lansing (583-0457) with any questions and/or to register.

Right to Life picketing schedule change

The Dubuque Planned Parenthood office is now closed on Thursday. As a result, St. Anthony parishioners have changed their committed picketing time to Wednesday, noon - 1 p.m. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

It's still unknown when PP will move to its new site, but there will likely be a public announcement when that happens.

Youth group members Trick or Treat for food

By Katie Pfiffner, Youth Coordinator

The Dubuque Youth Leadership Team, which is made up of high school youth from each parish in Dubuque, held a food collection for the Dubuque Food Pantry on Halloween.

St. Anthony's hosted the event in which 23 students in teams of 2-4 per team distributed, in advance, over 600 grocery bags asking for a donation for the food pantry. We then went back, in costume, to collect the food during trick-or-treating on Halloween.

The students collected over **2,500 items** for the food pantry and had a great time competing with each other to see which team could bring in the most food.

GOF focuses on Mass changes

By Sr. Nancy Miller, OSF
Director of Adult Faith

"The Lord be with you." "And with your spirit."

These words were part of the opening and closing prayer at our fall Generations of Faith when over 300 people of all ages gathered to learn about the recent changes in the prayers of the Mass.

These revisions of the new Roman Missal are closer to the original Latin and are intended to unite us more closely with the larger Roman Catholic family. Perhaps the changes can be an opportunity to reflect more carefully on the Mass prayers, so that we can pray more deeply and embody our prayer in the way we live. As participants heard in the game show, *Match That Latin*, "Lex Orandi!", "Lex Credendi!" "Lex Vivendi!"

In other words, if we pray well, we will believe well, which will lead us to live well.

There is a variety of resources on the Revised Roman Missal in the parish library. Check them out. Mark your



Brian and Deb Howes, and children Julia and Robert, review Mass changes at the fall GOF.

calendars now for the next Generation of Faith entitled, "The Church's Best Kept Secret - Catholic Social Teaching" and will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 29th and Sunday, March 4th.

On behalf of the GOF Team, thank you for your participation in Generations of Faith.

Emmaus is coming!

Following a long Iowa winter can you imagine anything better than the feel of warm spring sunshine and the sprouting growth of new life?

Experiencing an Emmaus weekend might be another possibility. Feeling the warmth of God's love can begin new spiritual growth for each of us.

We invite each of you to participate in this year's Emmaus. Whether it is quiet reflection, sharing with others or renewing your faith journey...there are many opportunities for new growth. Take a break from the everyday routines and stresses of life. You will hear talks, enjoy conversation, and have some fun and a lot of good food.

If you have been hesitant about attending in the past or are considering it for the first time, we strongly encourage you to join us on a wonderful faith journey. Previous attendees are always welcome.

Let the spring of your spiritual life

begin with the 2012 St Anthony Emmaus.

"Bread of Life . . . Cup of Hope" is the theme for this year's Emmaus and the dates are:

Women's: March 9 - 11

Men's: March 16-18

Elaine Lombardi, 2012 Women's Rector

Mike Lombardi, 2012 Men's Rector

For more information, please contact:

Brian & Michelle Covey 583-6509

Randy & Jamie Burger 213-1066

Valorie Zalaznik 815-554-0037

Or go to www.stanthony-dubuque.org/emmaus/index.html



NCYC – Called to Glory!

By Youth Group participants

On Nov. 17th, six of us youth group members (Greta Hartmann, Nathan Koch, Mackenzie Kuhl, Anna Meadows, Lauryn Pfiffner, Kate Uhall) boarded a bus and headed to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis with 1,300 students from the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

It is hard to describe what it was like to walk into the Lucas Oil Stadium with 23,000 high school students and adults, but AWESOME fits pretty well.

While there we heard inspirational speakers such as Valimar Jansen, the emcee for NCYC 2011, who told us through story and song that we are called by God into action for our families and communities.

We went to several workshops based on the theme *Called to Glory*. One speaker, Ted Miles from Catholic Relief Services, shared how we all have a responsibility as disciples to reach out to others no matter how small we think our deeds may be – it all begins with baby steps. And Steve Angrisano, in his workshop "Clearly Catholic," shared that as the young church we are called to be reflections of God's love and presence in the world.

One of the most profound experiences of the weekend came on Saturday night when we celebrated Mass in Lucas Oil Stadium with 8 bishops, 250 priests, and the 23,000 of us! It was amazing to hear everyone singing and responding, and it was interesting to see all the different ways people expressed themselves through different gestures — and yet we were all one!

NCYC gave us the opportunity to meet other high school students from around the country excited about their faith, to hear incredible music and speakers, to be challenged to really live as disciples and to grow in our faith.

Thank you for all the support you gave to us. NCYC was a life changing experience!

Welcome new parishioners

Blaser, Trisha & David, Jr; Jade (12), Madison (6), Landon (1), Ellie Kate (infant)

Burger, Jamie & Randy; Jackson (10); Nolan (8); Carson (6); Addilyn (5)

Cross, Madeline & Kyle; Amy (6 mos)

Driscoll, Melissa & Chad; Chloe (6), Macoy (6 mos)

Eudaley, Janaan & John

Fecker, Barbara & Joseph, Jr.

Frey, Krystal & Shannon, Christopher; Audrey O'Neill (5), Phoebe O'Neill (3)

Fuller, Lora & Adam; Gavin (9)

Johnson, Geraldine & Michael; Sydney Schilling (14), Spencer Schilling (12), Calvin Johnson (10), Addison Johnson (infant)

Johnson, Rhonda & Kevin; Erica (18), Autumn (16), Sean (14)

Kagel, Grace

Knockel, Tina & Jason; Kaiden (8), Anna (6)

Marino, Susan

Norby, Constance

Outcalt, Barbara

Riniker, Holly & David; Alex (8)

Roberts, Gerlinde

Rojeman, Crystal & Kurt; Stella (infant)

Sartori, Melanie & Jason; Corbin (6 mos)

Taylor, Meecie; Chance (14), Chayanne (12)



Past Grand Knight Bob Mollman presents a \$500 check to recently-ordained Fr. Noah Diehm.

KCs wrap up another year

By Jim Henkels, Grand Knight

St. Anthony's Knights of Columbus Council #8384 has completed another productive year.

Since its founding in 1983, the council has developed a regular series of programs and activities that we've become familiar with. Perhaps most well-known are the omelet breakfasts which are run both as public fund-raisers and pro gratis at various spiritual renewal weekends both within and outside our parish.

Of course, there is the annual Tootsie Roll drive for the disabled, and the Roses for Life program. And many of you kick up your heels at the Valentine's Day dinner/dance (mark Feb. 11, 2012, on your calendar right now).

Funds derived from the breakfasts help support a number of causes, including the St. Anthony Tuition Endowment Fund and our "Support a Seminarian" program. We recently completed our financial support of Fr. Noah Diehm, who was ordained in June. Our new seminarian is Joshua Link, who is presently in minor seminary at Loras College.

On Jan. 29, we are teaming with the Catholic Financial Services to hold a matching fund omelet breakfast. We will be open for an extended time that day and hope for a huge turnout. So mark that date at the same time you're marking the dance.

Our council appreciates your participation at our various functions. We're all on the same team, and we need your support to be successful.

Deadline for next issue is **March 2012**

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Last four issues available on St. Anthony website: www.stanthony-dubuque.org

Maintenance Report

By Jim Henkels, Business Manager

One of our business challenges every year is to keep up with the needed maintenance to our buildings and grounds. Usually this goes on quietly, and you are not even aware of it. However, I thought you might be interested in some of the projects completed this past year.

Pastor's house - New siding, gutters and downspouts

Convent building – New roof; remodeling & painting of 2nd floor apartments; new back porch roof. (This is in addition to the Power of Prayer renovations, which were paid for by PoP)

Office building - Replaced downspouts; installed heat tapes where needed; some tuck pointing

Church – Downspouts & heat tape, south side
Future Plans (as funds are available) for 2012:

Church - new sound system; new entrance carpeting; new church & school roof; spot tuck pointing; security system w/ cameras

If funds are limited, we will prioritize these 2012 projects as needed. As you may know, we do not use our general operating funds to pay for these kinds of items. We depend completely on gifts and bequests for all major maintenance and capital improvement projects.

So if you are considering a special gift in 2012, these are some of the ways in which it would be used. Your consideration would be greatly appreciated.