



A Marianist Community

# QAC Spirit



## Community Coordinators' Corner

**Linda Folmar and Joan Ivory**

At our house where I grew up, my mother had a rule: the nativity set doesn't come down until after the Wise Men arrive on January 6. She even would keep the Magi in the back of the tableau, easing them closer and closer each day until they finally advanced to the front of the manger scene on the 6<sup>th</sup>. I don't go that far, but I do honor her memory by keeping my creche prominently set up until after the Feast of the Epiphany.

You all know the story of the Wise Men seeking the meaning of The Star. Here is our own current analogy. This year, QAC has four wonderful young people who are studying and doing some seeking of their own in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in April. I have been inspired and delighted at the enthusiastic participation of Aidan, Cianna, Mia and Gabe, and the kinds of discussion that they themselves initiate. During our very first class in October, I suggested to them that the five of us are a "team" with common goals, interests and pride. We devised a "logo" for our team, which you saw in last



month's Spirit; it is the figure of a star, made up of our five hands. You will see more of this star on a poster that I will be setting up in the chapel's vestibule starting on January 8. Watch for the short excerpts of our lessons thus far, and those to come during our future lessons.

I believe that the Magi did not come to find Jesus alone. People in those days traveled in caravans with fellow travelers and servants and persons responsible for all the necessary supplies for the trip. I'm asking all of you to be members of that "caravan" for our Confirmandi. Give them assistance through your prayers. Supply them by sharing your faith stories. Let them know that they are not making the journey alone. I have pointed out to Gabe, Mia, Aidan and Cianna that their Confirmation rite is not the end of their faith journey; it's just the beginning. We are all seekers, searching for a way to find Jesus and know the wonders of the Holy Spirit.

I wish you all the very best in your own faith journeys. God bless us all!

~ Joan Ivory

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## New Year, New Season!

Happy 2023! As we embark on the nitty gritty, tactical work of building our new season of QAC together, we are holding the tasks ahead of us with hope.

You might remember at one of the first town hall meetings we had as transition coordinators, we asked each person to list something they were excited for in the new season on a yellow card and something they were nervous/hesitant about on a red one. The yellow cards had so many themes of HOPE!

In the three-phased approach we outlined for the transition work, we are now in Phase 2: New Community Formation/Creation Planning. Actions in this phase may include:

- Creation of mission statement, vision and values using the identified needs of the community/what we need and want QAC to be in the future
- Naming the community
- Organizing the structure of the new community
- Creating operating procedures for the new community
- Identifying meeting space based on current/future needs of the community

In mid-January, we'll receive the update from the SM province on the specific timeline for when QAC will no longer be a parish and when/how we'll move into our new missionary lay community. Matt and I will be gathering with a handful of community members who've expressed interest to outline next steps along that timeline.

As we prepare for that work, I'm reflecting on this writing from Sarah Bessey, one of my favorite faith authors. She writes,

*"Somehow or another, we picked up that we don't get to bring our complicated and weird and hurting things with us to the Table. We think we need to get them sorted out, resolved, and have a tidy bow.*

*That it's a grand performance of faith perhaps instead of a messy improv and responsiveness to invitation and promptings the Spirit. Like this whole thing is reserved for the most certain - but if you had certainty, you wouldn't even need faith, so go figure that one out.*

*Yes, I'm hungry and thirsty still. And I still belong.*

*Yes, my relationship with religion is best described as "it's complicated" right now. And I still belong.*

*Yes, I'm hurting and wounded and I have hurt and I have wounded. And I still belong.*

*Yes, I am filled with doubt and disbelief and wonder at the same time. And I still belong.*

*Yes, I don't know what I think about really any of this. And I still belong.*

*Yes, I'm trying to figure out what it means to love God and love people well. And I still belong.*

*Yes, I'm anxious and scared. Yes, I'm sad and I'm lonesome. And I still belong.*

*Yes, I don't know even know how or what to ask and yet I will still receive.*

*I'm thinking of those who are working so hard to love others in a way that they themselves were not loved, who are seeking justice after being treated unjustly. **You're turning your own loss and pain to a shelter for others. You glorious resurrection story, you.***

Our new season of QAC is our shared resurrection story. Let's continue to ground ourselves in hope as we build our new season together. To be sure, there will be hard parts and grieving and letting go. And, there's the beautiful hope of building something new together, too.



The Naveau Family

by Chris Bohmer Stewart

Hunger is a major issue in our world and in our community. Seemingly, every morning paper and evening news has a feature related to hunger and food insecurity – people waiting outside Boston’s Catholic Charities at 4:30 AM in bitter cold for a chance at a Thanksgiving turkey, active duty military families forced to rely on food pantries, an immigrant with two masters degrees standing in line for food to feed his family.



According to Hall Hunger Initiative, Montgomery County has over 96,000 people struggling with food insecurity, with 26,350 of those being children. “That is almost 1 out of every 5 people”, quotes their website. Leaders of various agencies in our area leading the efforts to aid the massive hunger problem cite various factors, all of which feed into each other. Inflation squeezes budgets for families in need, sending more people to pantries, leaves less discretionary funds to be donated, and significant increases in the price of food that those diminishing donations used to be able to purchase. Obvious correlations to food insecurity are race, age, and living in “food deserts.” Factors that may be less obvious include allergies, ability to obtain necessary added ingredients, type of refrigeration and cooking facilities (like only having access to a microwave), and lack of adequate transportation to pantries. Immigrants have additional issues to cope with like language barriers and obtaining the necessary IDs.

Enter **FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY**, an organization founded in 2014, introduced to us by Meghann Naveau, which addresses some of these barriers to our food-insecure brothers and sisters who cannot travel to donation sites or adequately prepare meals for themselves. Food For the Journey brings hot nutritious meals to them by way of a street-level response using mobile kitchens and grilling trailers where they are needed in the community. Their founder, Chuck Wourms, describes it as “offering food and dignity to families, the elderly, the isolated, and marginalized...turning compassion into action and action into hope.” The food is prepared and served by various groups including Chaminade-Julienne students, Marianist brothers, re-entry volunteers from Good Shepherd Ministries and many others. However, the program depends on the wider community to provide the “loaves and fishes” for these hot prepared meals.

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**, January 8, which celebrates the journey of the Magi to honor the birth of the Messiah, is an appropriate day for QAC to host a **FOOD DRIVE** for **FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY**. You will also be providing necessary sustenance to refugees like Mary and Joseph and their baby Jesus as they fled from threats and violence.

**ITEMS INCLUDE:** Canned hams, canned and dry beans, canned fruit and vegetables, noodles and pasta, pasta sauce, mashed potato mix, pancake mix, cornbread and biscuit mix, salad dressings (Ranch, French, 1000 Island), coffee, coffee creamer, chips, hot chocolate mix, foil pans (full and half size). **We are asking everyone in the community to bring at least one item from this list of most needed items on Epiphany Sunday and leave it in the designated area of the vestibule.** Jesus is the Bread of Life, but He made sure the multitudes were generously fed. Please help feed His people on their journey.

### ***ECO-TIP from Social Justice:***

Shop local! This may not sound like an ecological point, but think of all the gas, plastic, cardboard and other pollutants or unnecessary use of precious resources that go into shipping and “ultra-packaging”. Add on top of that all the resources used to return lots of those purchases! While it may be more than a little late for the big Christmas shopping season, we all continue shopping for food and other necessities throughout the year. The Dayton Daily News recently published a couple of articles pointing out how local food vendors, like those at Second St. Market (including Homefull, which QAC helps support) are able to offer competitive pricing to big chains, as shipping and other costs soar. When you shop local, your purchase goes back into our community. You get fresh healthy food at a competitive price. And you help reduce our carbon footprint. Win - win!!!

**Understanding the Nativity Scene**

Most Catholics have grown up associating nativity scenes with Christmas, so it is hard to imagine that the first nativity scene only appeared about 800 years ago and more than 1200 years after the birth of Christ. The story of the first nativity scene is actually an important reminder that we are called to be good stewards.

St. Francis of Assisi staged the first nativity scene in a cave outside of the town of Greccio, Italy on Christmas Eve night 1223. It is said that St. Francis was inspired to re-create the nativity scene because he was disgusted with the greed and materialism that was rampant in Italy at that time. He felt that people had forgotten that Jesus came to us not as a rich king but as a poor child. The nativity scene that St. Francis planned was a live but silent scene. Hay was piled into a cave outside of town and a manger was set up where the Baby Jesus would lay. It was also important to St. Francis that a live ox and ass be part of the scene because he wanted the people of the town to be moved by the reality that Jesus was born among the animals. Just as St. Francis intended, when we look at these animals and the humbleness of the nativity scene, we should be reminded that God did not provide a fancy birth for His Son.

According to stories told about St. Francis, on Christmas Eve 1223 he gathered all of his religious brothers from the places where they served, and together with the people from the town and the hillsides, he led them to the place where he had worked to set up his first humble nativity scene. The people were delighted by this simple scene lit only by the stars above and the lanterns and candles they carried. They celebrated Mass there and St. Francis preached to them, reminding them of how poor and simple the Christ Child's birth truly was.

After the Mass was over and the people all went home, the brothers wanted to clean up the hay, but St. Francis told them to leave it so that it could bring health to the animals of the forest. Legend says that many sick animals came from all over that night to eat the hay and all were cured.

Quickly the idea of setting up live nativity scenes became popular throughout Italy and within a hundred years every church in Italy had a nativity scene.

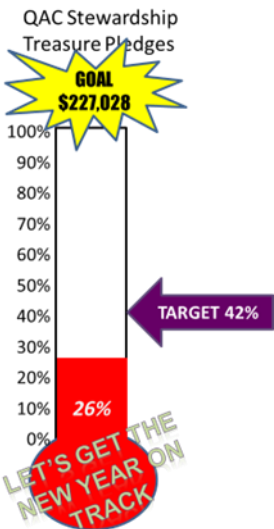
So, as we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season, let's continue to embrace the Infant Jesus with all our love just as St. Francis did in that first Nativity scene and may it continue to be a visible reminder of why we are called to be Disciples of Christ.



Kevin Skinner



Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2010  
THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!  
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QAC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER, 2022			
	Monthly	Year to Date	Year to Date (Budget)
Collections	\$ 9,345	\$ 58,727	\$ 94,596
Other Income	\$ 325	\$ 2,851	
Total Operating Income	\$ 9,670	\$ 61,578	
Operating Expense	\$ 16,115	\$ 85,959	
Income Expense	\$ (6,445)	\$(24,381)	
Thank you for your generosity!			

*This scale shows our weekly offering (Sunday collections) and our planned budget (target) for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which started July 1, 2022. Please remember that 10% our weekly offering goes to our Social Justice Ministry. Thank you for your support!*

*For those unable to attend Sunday Liturgy, please don't forget that we still need your financial support. Please mail in your weekly donations (address on front cover) or better yet, set up Online giving.*

View the instructions to setting up online giving at  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRMfgKncvhM&feature=youtu.be>

**CORRECTION IN VIDEO—QAC Zip Code was changed, so please disregard the last four of the zip code**



Follow us on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Queen-of-Apostles-Community-117192511632358/](http://www.facebook.com/Queen-of-Apostles-Community-117192511632358/)

## 2022 in Retrospect - by Elisabeth and Thomas Hangartner

It has been a busy year for the two of us. Worldwide, it was packed with news, good and bad. In hindsight, the bad news seems to dominate. Let us hope that 2023 will bring peace, especially to the areas ravaged by war, hunger and displacement of people.

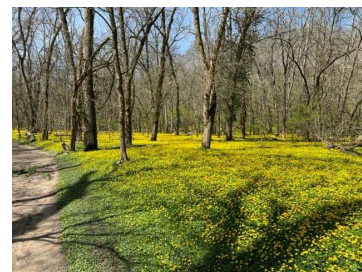
**January:** We always enjoy walking with the dogs in Point Pelee National Park. The park is an hour's drive east of Colchester. This year, Lake Erie is very low; the land at the most southern tip of mainland Canada extends about 1,000 feet farther out than last year.



**February:** Balmy weather in February is much appreciated by the deer as well as Nyasa and Clyde, who ferreted out the forest creatures much before we saw them right beside the walking path.



**March:** Slowly but surely, spring is reaching Southwestern Ontario, adorning the woodland floor with a gilded coat of Creeping Jenny.

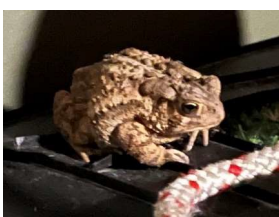


**April:** All over our neighboring communities, yellow-blue signs are popping up reminding us of the war that is devastating Ukraine. Thomas and I decide to open our



home for temporary shelter. We post our profile on a website maintained by Ukrainian and anti-government Belarusian volunteers, and in no time, we are flooded by requests. Most of those seeking help have an emergency visa and a work permit for Canada but no way to get to Canada. We continue keeping our eyes open for a small group of refugees.

**May:** With great joy we accept Sr. Theresa Mfune's invitation to celebrate with her the crowning of her master's studies in Health Administration, made official in the commencement ceremony of Scranton University in Pennsylvania. Sister Theresa is the star scholar of Change and Be Changed, our charity in support of deserving tertiary students residing in Northern Malawi and Southern Tanzania.



**June:** An early summer guest has found a comfortable spot on Clyde and Nyasa's sun deck outside of our main door, wondering if, by mere chance, the two canine owners of the deck left something edible behind.

**July:** After weeks of correspondence with Ukrainian refugees and aid organizations in our area, we are ready to pick up Illia, a 20-year-old student, from Toronto Pearson Airport. Illia arrives on time after a long trip from Poland via Portugal. The first weeks of his stay with us are dedicated to organizing the necessary Canadian documentation and access the financial resources offered to Ukrainian refugees by the government. The days until his starting date at University of Windsor pass very quickly. Illia enjoys accompanying us on our daily walks with the dogs. From first reluctant attempts at negotiating Thomas' bike, he



*(Continued on page 6)*

develops into a respectable, enduring bike rider. In mid-September, Illia moves to the International Dorm of Windsor University and starts the English Language Improvement Program, from which he graduates with credit in mid-December. He is now ready to start the Computer Science Program in early January; it is offered to Ukrainian students free of cost by St. Clair College, Windsor Campus.



**August:** Thomas departs to Malawi. After a stopover in Switzerland, he and our AA friend Toni from Lucerne arrive in Kaseye, tired from the seemingly endless travel but full of ideas and plans as to how to improve the ongoing projects, one of which is the installation of a new x-ray room in a mission hospital in Central Malawi.

**September:** In spite of the time-consuming passage on the humbly furnished Ilala from mainland Malawi to Lake Malawi's only island, Likoma, Thomas follows the call for help from the Anglican Hospital on the island. He needs to take care of the malfunctioning camera trigger of the x-ray system he and a group of students installed in 2019. The first patient arriving after the repair is an elderly lady with a deformed wrist, which turns out to be fractured based on the available x-ray image and is expeditiously realigned and put in a cast, saving the patient and her caregiver a week-long trip to the mainland.



While Thomas is busy with x-ray systems in Malawi, QAC, our faith community in Dayton, celebrates Founders Day and Malawi Picnic on Sunday, September 25. It is a most enjoyable event of worship, picnic, games and music. We are touched by the members and their friends' generosity in support of Change and Be Changed.

**October:** We celebrate the marriage of Angelica to Ian in Chelsea, Michigan on October 14, a cool but heartwarming, most delightful and certainly unforgettable day for us parents. Surrounded by family and dear friends, the pair is glowing of happiness. Observing Angelica radiating from within, we cannot help but think of the Latin adage presented to us in high school: Tempura mutantur et nos mutamur in illis. (Times change and we change with them.)



**November:** We enjoy some short trips to revel in Ontario's lush fall colors bursting forth from the ubiquitous October maple trees. Quite unexpectedly, we venture into a small community named Zurich! The birth of our second grandchild, Nina, is the highlight of the month. Both Lilian and the baby are doing fine and so are the father and little brother; we cannot wait to meet the entire family, grown to four members, in the near future.

**December:** The early, dark evenings are lit up by delightful Christmas displays in Windsor, Kingsville and Amherstburg, just to name a few. We took our guests from Dayton, Marti and Tom, and later Marjo, to the Windsor show in Jackson Park, which is entirely enrobed in bright Christmas colors. With gratitude we look back on 2022, determined to continue assisting those in dire need to the best of our ability, one minute step at a time in the grand scheme of things. Wishing you a blessed Holiday Season and all the best for 2023, we remain



Yours,  
*Elisabeth and Thomas*



## Seniors' Corner

by Chuck Bauer

I hope and pray that everyone had a Blessed Christmas and Holiday Season.

I am actually writing this article December 20, 21 and 22, just over the first day of Winter. In the morning I always check the weather (Weather Underground) on a computer on my bedroom nightstand. It provides some general information like average and record temperatures, and the hours of daylight. The average high temperature for today is 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Tuesday, December 20, has 9 hours 20 minutes from sunrise to sunset. On December 21, daylight will be 4 seconds shorter, it is the shortest day of the year, and the first day of winter. When December 23 comes around, it is 3 seconds longer. The sun is coming back north. On December 21, the sun in Dayton sets at 240 degrees WSW, since the earth at present (varies from 22 to 24.5 degrees over 20,000 years) is inclined 23.5 degrees. It should set on June 21 at 287 degrees WNW. This progression of the sunset with the seasons was marked/measured at Stone Hing, England and even at Sun Watch, the prehistory Indian Park on the Great Miami River in south Dayton. This slow progression across the sunset sky is profound.

I am a great believer in the weather prediction capability of the Woolly Worms (caterpillar stage of the Isabella Tiger Moth). A larger black section indicates a harder winter. A larger brown/rust section indicates a milder winter. The size relation between the head vs. the tail black sections indicates which part of the winter will be harder. There are actually 13 segments; each representing a week of winter. I have examined about 5 Woolly Worms this fall, and all had a large portion of brown. They all had a fairly larger black head section than tail. Two did not have a black tail section. If the weather predictions for Dec 23 hold, it will be 35 degrees BELOW the normal high temperature. We better not have a blackout. In the April/May Seniors Corner I will report how well the Woolly Worms performed.

When this article comes out, we will know how Ohio State did in the college playoff game. Will they continue to the Championship Bowl? I am not a rabid football fan, but around New Years Day, I get the football bug primarily with respect to Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl game. This year I think it is Penn State and Utah. Ruby and I will celebrate News Year Eve with friends. The Rose festivities on TV will be a relaxing Jan 2 (not the first thanks to the NCAA) with Pork and Sauerkraut in the afternoon which is a German Tradition for Good Luck. But with tradition we will have it on the first.

**Check the boards.** I will post WSU Music Department Winter Spring Semester Concerts and Student Recitals. Clifton Opera House generally has Saturday Entertainment. This will also be posted. There are several wine and light restraints that have family entertainment. I will do some research, contact several people and see what we can find.

May the New Year Bring You and Your Family

Good Health, Happiness, and Good Times

Chuck

*Share your creative works with QAC!*

*We would love to feature your artwork, writing, photo or other creativity in an upcoming Spirit.*

*Send your inspiration to [qacspirit06@att.net](mailto:qacspirit06@att.net) by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

## On The Second Day Of Christmas...Two Turtle Doves and a Visit to St. Mary's Church"

~ Colette Misenko



Two Cornish Hens are nestled into my slow cooker with sweet potatoes, red peppers, and apples. They smell delicious and my homemade applesauce with peaches, wild rice and tomatoes will round out the dinner. It will be a few hours more before they are ready. I have enough time, during this Holy Season of Christmas, to attend St. Mary's Open House in East Dayton.

They are proud of their large display of their nativity set - a traditional part of their Christmas Celebration. I spoke with the man who is in charge of constructing it. The Church and the Nativity set, began in 1859, here, in Dayton, Ohio 163 years ago!

- \* 46 years before Orville and Wilbur Wright flew their plane on Huffman Prairie.
- \* 54 years before Dayton's Great Flood in 1913.
- \* 55 years before WW I began, and 80 years before WW II. And so many other events.

During so much history, they still set up their Nativity set. So many of the people there spoke about how their Grandparents would remember this. And how they, as children, remembered seeing it when their Grandparents took them at Christmas or when they attended school there. Sharing their stories felt like Acts Of Love.

Walking into the church, I could feel the care, effort, and pride in their traditional display. I was fortunate to be able to speak with the man in charge of setting it up. He and his wife worked on it for the past 50 years. The display this year is dedicated to his wife, who died in August 2022. The dark material that serves to represent that Holy Night, was created by the nuns who taught at St. Mary's. The school children cleaned chalkboard erasers on the material to create the subtle colors in the clouds.

The wise men, the camel leader, and the camel were made in France and acquired in 1867, eight years after the church began. The brightly colored and shiny shoes of two of the wise men stand out in stark contrast to the other humble figures and animals. Their shoes are the only sign of wealth in the entire display. The shoes of the man leading the camel for the Wise Men are shown below.



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

To the left of the creche, the third Wise Man kneels, while on the right, a shepherd does the same.



Shepherds leading their flock ~ a foreshadowing of future symbolism ~ with their helpful sheepdog. Lots and lots of sheep. Lots of sheep! Some of the sheep were left “out in the field” so to speak and were not brought into the display this year. Some of the older ones are papier mache and were made in France. I was able to hold one, and the caring and skill of the artist’s hands were in the shape and feel of the sheep.

The artist who designs the display set up told me larger pieces are placed closer to the creche and smaller ones further away to create an illusion of distance. He was correct. The placement and bowed poses of the figures creates a palpable feeling of “they came to worship Him.”



Amidst the lots and lots of sheep... a look of Tenderness.

The window above the Nativity scene.



(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



The Christmas altar at St. Mary's ~ with Mary placed at the top.



Her cloak appears to be a light tan, or possibly pink. The atypical coloring adds to the feeling of her watching over us from the Spiritual World.



So often, St. Joseph is only mentioned as a minor figure in the story of Christ's life. At St. Mary's, he has a place. This is his statue.



In addition, one of the large stained glass windows depicts the end of his life.

# January

## Happy Birthday

- 4 SCOTT HUDNELL
- 4 GREG REPASY
- 5 SAM STOUT
- 9 JUDY POTTER
- 10 LORI ORMSBY
- 11 VIRGINIA DUVALL
- 13 RUBY BAUER
- 13 JEFFREY BOHRER
- 18 JOSEPH KEIM
- 18 JOHN WOESTE
- 20 JUSTIN MORAN
- 20 NOAH SEIBERT
- 22 BARB HOSFORD
- 22 LISA NORDMEYER
- 23 BILL IVORY
- 23 DAN NAGLE
- 24 KATE CHESAR
- 27 PHYLLIS GOFFEE SHARP
- 31 CATHERINE KEENAN
- 31 JENNIFER LANDRY
- 31 WILLIAM MEERS

## Happy Anniversary

*Jan 3 - Caitlin and Noah Worthington*

*Jan 20 - Fr. Tom Schroer (1972)*

*Jan 20 - Fr. Gene Contadino (1970)*

*May the  
Lord Bless  
You and  
Protect You*

Dear QACers

Our Christmas Day celebrations have passed, gifts exchanged and loved ones have returned home after celebrations are over. It is sad to see all the decorations taken down either on Christmas Day or the day after, and the Christmas tree dumped in the trash.

But remember, Christmas itself continues on through Epiphany (Jan 6th) - the Feast of the Magi visitation to the Christ Child. This is the time for all of us to think long and hard about what we have given / or will give as our own personal gift to Jesus.

You all have given so much to me through your physical support through my recuperation and you have boosted my spirits through your cards, letters, emails and visits. I, for part, pray for every single one of you for all these kindnesses. You're such a giving Community and I have received the benefits of all of them.

As we approach the beginning of the New Year, may our individual New Year's resolutions for 2023 be of renewal of body, mind and spirit and vow to be the best persons we can be for the love of Jesus. Then, we will truly be the holy people God calls us to be!

May our celebrations continue through Epiphany and beyond,  
and may all our New Years be bright and beautiful.

Deacon Greg



Greg and his Southwest Angels





## THE REFLECTION POND

By Steve Guilfoos

## *Dream my child*



Dream my child

. . . For it is a new year

Old men have dreamed dreams

But their dreams have faded

. . . Like the grapes on the vine

. . . As the winter winds blow cold and harsh

Dawning of the new year

. . . Draped with grand anticipation ... and opportunity

Many will celebrate

With food, drink, and parades

. . . But we know what must be done

. . . Before the spring rains bring new growth

For it is said that each time a star twinkles

A new dream arises

So dream my sweet child, dream

And brighten the sky with your love.

## *Religious Education News....*



Throughout Advent, the RE students gathered at the beginning of class to learn about the Jesse Tree. Each week, we decorated the tree with ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. These ornaments tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

Isaiah 11:1, *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.”*

RE Schedule for January and February:

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| ◇ January 8  | ◇ February 5  |
| ◇ January 15 | ◇ February 12 |
| ◇ January 22 | ◇ February 19 |

## A Letter from Mary Lou Kramer



Dear QAC members,

(For an issue of *The QAC Spirit*)

For a while now this has been on my mind so I am now intent on passing it on. As I am about to reach my 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday I cannot keep it to myself any longer. Last May, while attending Mother's Day Mass at QAC, when it came time for the homily and testimony from young mothers, I nearly ran up to the podium to recite this prayer while pointing to the lovely statue of Mary. I am so afraid it will be lost forever.

When I was a very young girl, probably around 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and a student in a Catholic school in Oakland, California, the nuns used to give holy cards for a good grade or some other type of reward. One such holy card was given to me.

It was a prayer to Our Lady — a poem that I immediately memorized. Even though it is no longer appropriate for me in its simple form, I do not want to leave this earth without passing it along especially since I have never heard it read or seen it in print since I was given the original card — which I can no longer find. But no matter, I know it word for word and after all these years it still touches me.

This prayer is one a mother or father can teach their child and would be a wonderful night time prayer for any child. It can be said or read with so much feeling — stopping briefly for emphasis at the end of a sentence.

I do not believe there was an author's name on the holy card, but if there was, I give that person my heartfelt apologies for not recognizing him or her and my enduring thanks for writing it.

Mary Lou Kramer



### A Prayer to Our Lady

Lovely lady dressed in blue  
Teach me how to pray.  
God was just your little boy  
Tell me what to say.

Did you lift Him up sometimes  
Gently on your knee?  
Did you speak to him the way  
Mother does to me?

Did you hold His hand at night?  
Did you ever try  
Telling stories of the world  
Oh, and did He cry?

Do you really think he cares  
If I tell Him things –  
Little things that happen?  
And do the angels wings make a  
noise?

And can He hear me if I speak low?  
Tell me, tell me for you know.

Lovely lady dressed in blue  
Teach me how to pray  
God was just your little boy  
Tell me what to say.

## *Peggy and Gary Cashero celebrated their Golden Anniversary on December 18.*

Here are some fun facts that they shared with us:

*Peggy writes: We were married in Jacksonville, Illinois, my hometown. We met at Marquette University and Gary joined the Air Force after we graduated. Gary was stationed in California then and the reason we chose that crazy, busy date so close to Christmas is that he had a two week break from his navigator training. But, the upside is that we didn't have to worry about flowers for the church! The altar was beautifully covered with poinsettias, and they had a lovely big nativity scene with fir trees all on the side altar.*

*Another fun fact. Gary almost didn't make it back for the wedding. San Francisco was completely fogged in and flights were cancelled. He had to beg to be put on the first available flight! There was also a big snowstorm in Chicago and his parents and other guests had to search for alternate means of transportation after an accident at O'Hare. It made for quite an anxious start to our wedding plans. Lol. But everything turned out great in the end!*



*Congratulations Peggy and Gary!*

*May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places  
through the Immaculate Virgin Mary*

*Marianist Doxology*

## Update from the Murnanes...

Last month, I told you a little about Majuro. I hope to provide a little more detail this month. For example, last month I mentioned that even though it is only 14.7 miles from the house to the Courthouse, Linda's commute is basically an hour each direction. Here's a little bit of an idea of why.



To start with, the often unmarked, road is not that wide. At points, it is tree lined and often has a sharp drop off or rock wall on one side or the other (or both), and of course, the occasional pot hole.

In addition, day or night, you may share the road with people of all ages, not necessarily looking where they are playing, walking, escaping their mother's grasp and often in dark colors. Or there are often dogs in the street – and not just one dog, but often 5 to 10 at a time. Then there are the occasional pig and piglets (even in town), chicken and chicks, and even a duck. And, I can't forget the 11 inch tall speed bumps enforcing the 25 mph speed limit.

Please remember, year-round, the sun rises between 6 and 7:00 AM and sets between 6:00 and 7:00 PM. Street lighting is not plentiful.



The Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands establishes the freedom of religion and states that no law may discriminate against any person on the basis of religion. About 98% of the Marshallese population considers themselves to be Christian – 80% Protestant; 8.5% Roman Catholic; 7% Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and 1.7% Jehovah's Witnesses.

Gospel Day is a national holiday and commemorates the arrival of the Good News with the missionaries who arrived in 1857.

Religious schools are operated by the Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, Assemblies of God, Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Baptist Church. There is no religious education in public schools, but school events and government functions typically begin and end with a Christian prayer. This is apparently a long-standing practice that is widely accepted throughout the country.

*(Continued on page 16)*

(Continued from page 15)

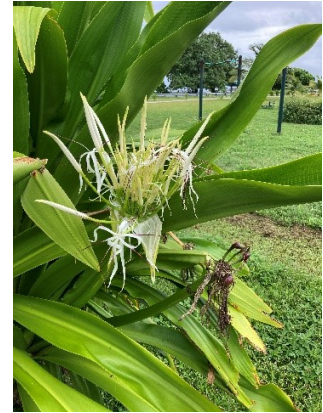
Some may have wondered about our parish here. We attend an English language Mass on Saturday evenings at the Cathedral of the Assumption, which is located about a half mile from the Courthouse. The congregation at this Mass skews Filipino and it seems to be timed so the medical staff of the hospital can attend. The choir sings songs that are familiar to me, though a couple I had not heard in years and had to be reminded of. There are two Masses on Sunday morning, but both are in Marshallese so we have not attended. The weekly first collection has averaged a little more than \$1,000 or \$1,200 and the second collection has been between \$300 and \$500 according to the published amounts in the bulletin. That would be the combined collections from the three Masses.



The altar of the Cathedral of the Assumption. Please note the screen in upper left corner where words of the readings and hymns are projected.



To help with ventilation, the walls are designed to let air flow through from the open porch outside. The electric fans are still much appreciated!



Not sure of the name of this plant, but it is at the Lakwe Katoj Park (which has a walking track)



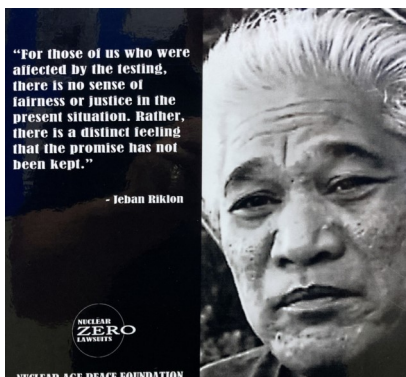
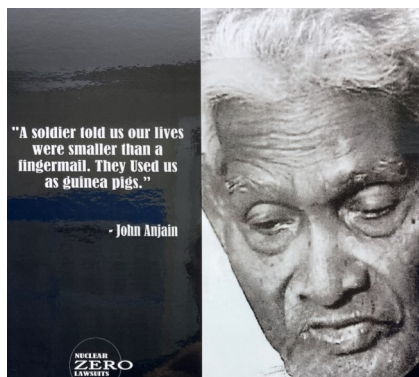
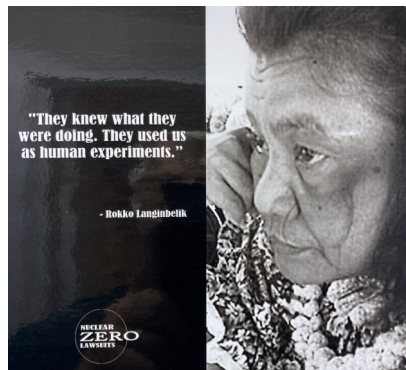
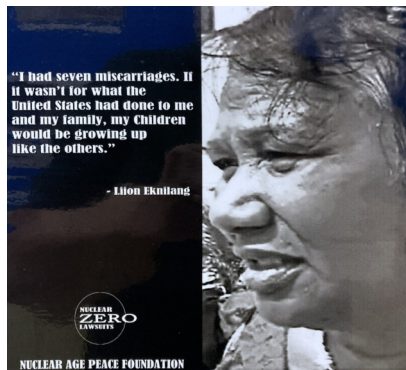
Flying from Hawaii, I happened to look out the window at just the right time to see this way down in the Pacific. I didn't know what it was, so I started looking. This is now Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. However, in the past, this was a very active US military installation – site where countless Japanese, German and US chemical weapons were incinerated.

I didn't know though, that it was also involved in nuclear weapons testing. That started me reading more about the US nuclear testing program, especially regarding the tests in the Marshall Islands. May I suggest "The Forgotten Nuclear War – Bombs on Bikini Atoll" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjqoiT-RS4A> .

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(Continued from page 16)

Whether it was: the arrogance of ignorance; the ignorance of arrogance; or, in the worst case, a combination of both, those entrusted with ushering in the Nuclear Age have not been good to the ancestors and people of the Marshall Islands. On a Sunday morning, following Church services, representatives of the US Army met with the tribal chief and elders of Bikini Atoll. The Marshallese were told that “for the good of all of humanity”, they would have to leave their island for a time. They were promised that they would be allowed to return, but they must leave within 2 weeks.



**A New Year's Prayer**

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

(A modern prayer for the New Year from [www.lords-prayer-words.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words.com))

## Liturgical Dance and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Fr. Tom, Mia Chesar, Claire Holcomb, Cianna Berry and Emma Naveau*



*Christine Mellick, Guest Liturgical Dancer*



*Pictured below: Sharon Herbert and Deacon Greg  
Pictured to the right: The Chesar Family*



# Kid's Corner

## The Kids' Bulletin

The Kids' Bulletins are available every Sunday at <https://thekidsbulletin.com>. Check the website for Gospel readings and more, including fun activities and puzzles!

The Society of Mary, was founded by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, a priest in the diocese of Bordeaux, France in 1817. The Society of Mary, a community of priests and lay religious, is the male religious branch of the Marianist Family. Working closely with Father Chaminade in founding the Marianist Family were: Marie Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous, close friend of William Joseph Chaminade, who worked with Fr. Chaminade to establish the Sodality of the Madeleine, the lay branch of the Marianist family, and Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, who was the foundress of the Marianist Sisters and foundress of the Association. QAC is part of the Marianist Family. Fr. Tom is our Pastor, Fr. Ted celebrates Mass with us, and Deacon Greg is the Pastoral Associate.

Find the words listed below in the puzzle. Words can be backwards or upside down too!

S	A	M	J	B	O	R	D	E	A	U	X
R	L	P	A	L	G	O	D	T	D	L	M
M	A	R	I	E	T	H	E	R	E	S	E
A	Y	I	K	S	D	P	J	Y	A	O	R
R	R	E	L	S	R	A	E	H	C	C	D
I	E	S	C	E	B	S	S	L	O	I	P
A	L	T	E	D	L	T	U	M	N	E	A
N	I	S	L	W	E	O	S	A	G	T	S
I	G	R	E	I	S	R	W	R	R	Y	T
S	I	B	B	L	S	T	E	I	E	O	O
T	O	E	R	L	E	L	O	A	G	F	R
F	U	J	A	I	D	P	W	N	T	M	A
A	S	R	T	A	A	W	Y	I	I	A	L
M	N	S	E	M	D	M	A	S	R	R	A
I	Q	T	S	C	E	A	D	T	I	Y	S
L	C	F	J	H	L	R	N	S	P	T	S
Y	X	R	S	A	E	Y	U	I	S	R	O
F	R	T	O	M	N	K	S	S	Y	I	C
N	L	E	C	I	J	U	R	T	L	N	I
S	P	D	S	N	P	R	A	E	O	I	A
S	O	F	R	A	N	C	E	R	H	T	T
A	C	A	Q	D	S	E	Y	S	Y	Y	E
M	M	A	D	E	L	E	I	N	E	W	M

JANUARY

BLESSED ADELE

BLESSED WILLIAM CHAMINADE

BORDEAUX

CELEBRATES

DEACON GREG

FRANCE

FR TED

FR TOM

LAY RELIGIOUS

MADELEINE

MARIANIST FAMILY

MARIANIST SISTERS

MARIE THERESE

MASS

PASTOR

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

PRIESTS

SOCIETY OF MARY

SUNDAY

QAC

CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST ABOVE? HERE ARE SOME HINTS:

\_\_\_ IS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

\_\_\_ IS JESUS' MOTHER




\_\_\_ IS THE SON OF GOD

THE \_\_\_\_\_ REPRESENTS THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD—THE FATHER, THE SON

AND THE \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to the puzzle can be found at: <http://qac-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/KIDS-CORNER-PUZZLE-ANSWER.pdf>

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Solemnity of Mary</b> 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) Liturgy Planning after Mass 	2	3	4	5 7:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting 7:30PM Choir Practice	6	7
<b>8 Epiphany of the Lord</b> 9:00AM Religious Education 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available)	9	10	11	12 7:30PM Choir Practice	13	14
<b>15 2nd Sunday Ordinary Time</b> 8:45AM Adult Faith Formation 9:00AM Religious Education 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) Donut an Bagel Social/ Community Meeting after Mass	16 	17	18	19 7:30PM Choir Practice	20	21 5:00PM Marianist Founders Day Celebration 
<b>22 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time</b> 8:45AM Adult Faith Formation 9:00AM Religious Education 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available)	23	24	25	26 7:30PM Choir Practice	27	28
<b>29 4th Sunday Ordinary Time</b> 8:45AM Adult Faith Formation 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) Social Justice Meeting after Mass	30	31				