



Community Coordinators' Corner

Linda Folmar and Joan Ivory

Remembering

As we approach Holy Week, my mind has wondered back to the many Holy Week liturgies we have prayed together. I was part of the music ministry for years. From my bird's eye view up front, I could see all of your faces, and hear your wonderful voices raised in song. Your shining faith and heartfelt singing deepened my own prayer experience then and continues to do so still today. When I hear certain songs, my heart remembers the beloved voice of an individual person who is no longer with us. Year after year, I have experienced such joy as the entire choir shares a beloved hymn as prayer through music and lifts all of us to a deeper awareness of the Holy Presence among us.



Over the years we have shared so much love, laughter, joy and sorrow. We have created a home and have known Christ in each other's loving presence. What a blessing! As I reflect, I am so aware of the absence of those we've loved and lost. I share all of this because this week I

became aware of how deeply I am grieving losing our precious community as we have always known it. Though I am filled with hope for what will be, I understand that I need to allow myself to grieve before I can move on.

If any of you are grieving this loss, perhaps we can come together and help each other. Our Ministry of Consoling is planning circles where we can process our feelings by sharing our memories, our hopes, fears and dreams. Let us know if you are interested.

Please know that I am holding all of you in my heart and prayers as we move forward.

~ Linda

Queen of Apostles Community

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Triduum Schedule

Holy Thursday Liturgy, April 6, 7:00 PM
Good Friday Service, April 7 7:00 PM
Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil, April 8, 8:30 PM
Easter Sunday, April 9 10:30 AM

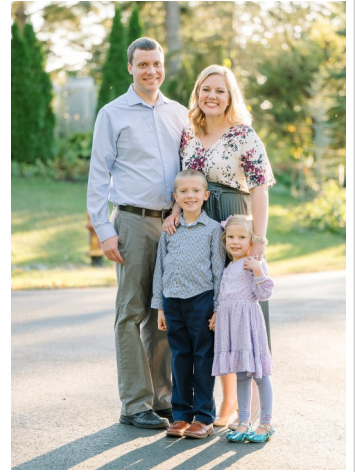


New Seasons Update

By Matt and Meghann Naveau

Let us get down to work with courage and not let ourselves be frightened by the grandeur of the enterprise. Let us concentrate on what we are doing at the present moment, but let us do it well.

- Blessed Adele, Letter 246



The Naveau Family

Do you ever get the feeling that I've done everything right, but I feel overwhelmed? Why can't things be the same? We were all disappointed when we heard that QAC will no longer be a parish next year, and that is a very significant loss to all of us. Just think about all the community members we've lost over the years and how we banded together to lift up family members and ourselves with hope that God has a plan for us.

"...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:5

The New Seasons Committee has been developing a plan to allow us to continue to be a community of believers, open to all who feel a connection with Catholic and/or Marianist spiritualities and ways of life. This new calling will build upon what QAC started 50 years ago and bring a new spark. We *"embraced the mission of renewal proposed by Vatican II"*, and now it is time to be the future of the church that has encountered fewer priests.

This is not a New Seasons Committee responsibility, but a community effort. The New Seasons Committee was tasked to expand the conversations with the Marianists on what it would take to be a Lay Marianist Community and develop a plan on how to get there.

Check out the New Seasons Committee page (https://qac-ohio.org/?page_id=5403) to review the working documents. (You will need to login to this site since we want to limit this information to the QAC Membership.) There is also a **Frequently Asked Questions** page that provides a common area for concerns that have been received from the community, and to address rumors. If you do not remember your login or never received one, please send a note to the New Seasons Committee at gacnewseason@gmail.com.

Moving forward, we will need volunteers to be on various "Task Forces" to help gather information and make recommendations about various focus points for the new community. There are 28 tasks in our work plan that need to be addressed so that the New Seasons Committee can provide a proposal to the community and Leadership Team in accordance with the decision making process. More information about the task forces and how to sign-up will be shared soon after Easter.

As we go forward, please continue to pray and ask questions. This is the only way that we can be a community that God is calling us to be.

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

Marianist Doxology



Earth Day and Arbor Day Remind Us...

We Must Care For Our Planet

By Nimfa Simpson

There are two days in April that include springtime reminders of the importance of taking care of the planet on which we live — April 22 is Earth Day and April 28 is Arbor Day. These two annual celebrations remind us that we must be responsible for the environment and be good stewards of the earth.



The first Arbor Day was in 1872 and focuses on the importance of caring for and planting more trees. A century later in 1970, Earth Day expanded upon Arbor Day's mission by bringing a global awareness to all areas of the environment, including air and water pollution, and by taking action to make the world a better place. Both events play a part in bringing awareness to the environmental health of our planet and the ways we can improve it.

Arbor Day is intended to inspire people to celebrate trees by planting, nurturing and maintaining them. It is also a call for environmental stewardship and leaving a better Earth for future generations. Thus, on this day, there are organized tree planting events that are open for all to participate.

Earth Day has become well known for widespread, impassioned calls for environmental action. This includes advocacy activities like contacting your representative, joining a march for change, or adopting lifestyle changes that cut down waste and pollution - like recycling, using your own grocery bags, and carrying a reusable water bottle or coffee cup.

In his encyclical, *LAUDATO SI*, Pope Francis urges us to go a step further than just being aware of the need to protect our environment. He exhorts us to make conscious efforts to understand how lifestyle changes can positively help our world and that everything is connected. Pope Francis calls for ACTION AND CHANGE in the causes of our environmental crisis, especially understanding how it most severely impacts the poor and vulnerable and those who least contribute to Earth's degradation. The Pope recommends "ecological conversion" in which he invites us to make lifestyle changes and to cultivate ecological virtues by reducing wastefulness. We need recognize how our consumption of material goods and resources impacts our world, and to become aware of those who may be affected by the changing climate. For example, the Murnane's Spirit articles are making us painfully aware of how the islands on which they currently reside will be under water within a decade or two, and that things we carelessly take for granted and often misuse, like electrical power and easy access to food, are often luxuries for the Marshallese. That ACTION AND CHANGE called for in *LAUDATO SI* must be accomplished by us. To quote Jim Vogt, former director of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative and leader in Citizens Climate Lobby, "We think important people take care of the important problems. No! It's up to the little people. Together we have real power."



Pope Francis emphasizes that ecological conversion is not a purely human process, but involves an encounter with God which leads us to a grace-filled change of heart and mind, leading to faith-filled caring actions that heal and renew our common home.

The Marianist Encounters Day of Action is a *LAUDATO SI* creation care program that was brought to our attention by

(Continued on page 4)

(Social Justice Ministry continued from page 4)

Matt Naveau. We will have two opportunities for our QAC community to participate in ecological conversion activities in our own backyard! Information is provided below, and will be in future bulletins as well.

Check out the following events:

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 AT 6:00PM – 7:30PM
Wiggle Worms - Earth Day Celebration Evening Edition
Russ Nature Reserve

[Dayton, OH Earth Your guide to Earth Day celebrations across the Dayton region](#)
[Day Events | Eventbrite](#)

MARIANIST ENCOUNTERS DAY OF ACTION

On April 15, the Marianist Environmental Education Center is offering a Springtime Inspiration Retreat from 12:30PM to 4:30PM. This looks to be a wonderful indoor and outdoor opportunity for ecological learning and prayer in connection with others in the Marianist Family. For more detailed information and to register, go to <https://meec.center/Calendar> and then scroll down to click on **Reclaiming the Sacred: Spring Inspiration Retreat** for a complete description and registration. MEEC has offered to reduce the registration fee to \$15 for QAC members using code FOMSR23.

Also mark May 13 on your calendars for another opportunity to pair up with MEEC and other Marianist volunteers for a land service day at the Mount Saint John native plant labyrinth, starting at 1:00PM. You will be able to provide service to prepare the labyrinth for the program season, further your knowledge of native plants, and touch on the spiritual experience of a labyrinth. As explained in Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations, "...The turning circuits of a labyrinth remind us that life is change, transformation...", an idea and practice particularly relevant as our QAC community works its way towards our New Season. Tools and instructions will be provided. More details to follow.

Contact Chris Bohmer Stewart with questions (937-985-9378 or bohmerstewart_1@hotmail.com).

ECO-TIP from Social Justice:

Lent, a time of abstinence and the church fish fry, is a perfect time to consider this Eco-tip. Cut back on meat long after Lent, especially beef. Industrial meat is a major cause of deforestation, as forests are cleared for cattle ranching and growing animal feed. Cattle are estimated to generate approximately 20% of overall U.S. methane emissions. The total amount of water needed to produce one pound of beef is 6,809 liters, while pork takes 2,180 liters, and poultry takes 1,771 of water. Cutting back on meat consumption is not only a Lenten spiritual preparation, but a permanent step towards a renewal of God's Earth.

LITURGY PLANNING: The next planning meeting is Sunday, April 2 immediately following Mass in the vestibule. We realize that this is also Palm Sunday, but we don't want to get behind in our planning. We will be planning the remainder of the Easter season, May 14, 21, and Pentecost, May 28.

Please join us in the Vestibule following Liturgy.



QAC STEWARDSHIP
A Way of Life

St. Joseph, watchful guardian of the Holy Family. On March 19, we celebrated St. Joseph’s Day, which has a strong significance for Sicilians who attribute help from St. Joseph for saving them from the drought. Many also look to St. Joseph to *sell their house*. So many years ago, I chose St. Joseph as my Confirmation name, because of his continued dedication and stewardship to his family.



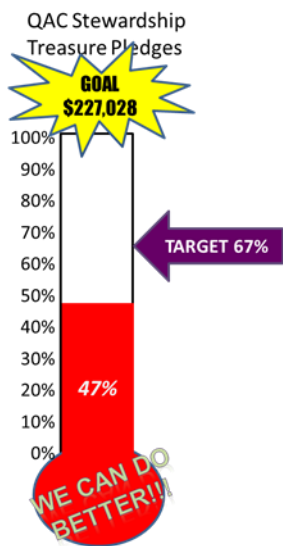
Kevin Skinner

Despite the number of seemingly hopeless situations he faced, St. Joseph always triumphed over them. When he found Mary was pregnant with a child that was not his own, he chose the harder path and took her into his home. When they were on their journey to Bethlehem, King Herod sent his men to kill every baby boy, so Joseph had to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Would he find enough work in Egypt to support his family? He continued to place his faith in God even though the odds were always stacked against him.

Like St. Joseph, we too are on a transition journey, and we may feel hopeless. We may wonder why isn't God listening to us? Well, just maybe it is that we are not listening to God. Like St. Joseph, we all have obstacles to overcome, but we need to trust in God. What would have happened if the poor, silent carpenter from Nazareth were to ignore God’s call and took the easy way out?

The power of faith can sustain us and fill us with hope, no matter what we are facing.

“St. Joseph teach us to live in unwavering hope!”



| QAC FINANCIAL SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 2023 | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Monthly | Year to Date | Year to Date (Budget) |
| Collections | \$ 8,115 | \$106,804 | \$151,354 |
| Other Income | \$ 180 | \$ 4,662 | |
| Total Operating Income | \$ 8,295 | \$111,466 | |
| Operating Expense | \$ 14,387 | \$134,329 | |
| Income Expense | \$ (6,092) | \$(22,863) | |
| Report now EXCLUDES the following YTD non-operating items: | | | |
| Income loss due to investment losses | | \$(18,923) | |
| 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/

EASTER SEASON NEW LIFE

By Chris Bohmer Stewart and Martie Holda

As we celebrate spring and the promise of new life during the Easter season, we ask you to join fellow QAC members in supporting two local resources for families: the Stork Nest Baby Pantry and Brigid's Path.



BRIGID'S PATH

Brigid's Path is Ohio's first newborn recovery center and only the second in the country to welcome families to a homelike environment where babies can get 24/7 care from specially trained doctors and nurses. They also have a team of family advocates to get families connected to the resources they need. This includes an After-Care program to continue helping families with housing, daycare, education, and other needs upon leaving Brigid's Path. Without this help it is estimated that 75% of those babies would have been placed in foster care. Brigid's Path describes its mission as improving "the health of babies and mothers impacted by addiction. We offer grace for the past, support for the present, and hope for the future."

ITEMS FOR BRIGID'S PATH

- WaterWipes (better for sensitive skin and better environmentally)
- Paper towels
- Bottled water
- Antibacterial hand soap
- 8 oz. hand bottled hand sanitizer
- Aveeno Sensitive Baby Lotion
- Desitin Maximum Ointment (purple box)
- Dry snacks (granola bars, etc.)
- Sturdy paper plates
- Baby grooming sets
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Copy paper (any brand)
- Postage stamps
- RTA bus passes or tokens
- Teethers
- Liquid scent-free detergent (Dreft)
- Clorox or Lysol disinfectant wipes

STORK NEST BABY PANTRY

Stork's Nest Baby Pantry continues to serve the entire Miami Valley despite tumultuous times, relying on God and the active love of those who donate and volunteer. Last year their building on Findlay Street went up for auction. The board searched for another location. Meanwhile, on Thanksgiving weekend, a plumbing disaster devastated the second floor where they were located – furniture, shelving, and walls. You can imagine the scene. As far as items the clients needed, thankfully only two boxes of children's books were lost. The new owners allowed them to relocate to the first floor, though the rent was higher. That was a major operation. Service to the community continued, though slowed by the necessity of a new phone message system.



In early March, I had a tour when I took a new client to access this resource. It seemed a wondrous miracle was occurring and the search for a new location ended. The Baby Pantry is permanently relocating to the first floor on Findlay, with top to bottom remodeling. A new ramp is planned for the front of the building where the main reception and offices are located. No more hauling donations up flights of stairs on days when the aging elevator refused to function! No more following signs to one's destination and easy for moms with strollers! Baby showers will finally resume in April, with the *Women, Infants and Children (WIC)* and *Help Me Grow* staff members attending.

The following is an update on statistics for 2022, with an average of 19 visits a week:

- ⇒ Children served: 2,706
- ⇒ Diapers given: 32,138
- ⇒ Formula cans given: 643

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(Continued from page 6)

HIGHEST NEED ITEMS FOR STORK NEST BABY PANTRY

- Toddler clothing, especially boys
- Socks and underwear
- Baby wash and lotions
- Towels and washcloths
- Newborn diapers
- Pull-ups, all sizes
- Wipes, unscented

Organizations like Stork Nest Baby Pantry and Brigid’s Path make so much possible for families, showing them the love of Christ and providing support and hope for some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. In this season of new life, please consider making a donation of needed items. We will collect items from April 16 until May 28 (Pentecost). Bins will be available for each organization in the Vestibule of the Chapel. If you have questions, please contact Martie Holda (937-286-0218 or marthaholda@gmail.com) for Stork Nest or Chris Bohmer Stewart (bohmerstewart_1@hotmail.com) for Brigid’s Path.

Thank you for your generosity!

Miami Valley Immigration Coalition Presentation

On Sunday, March 12, the QAC Social Justice committee hosted a presentation and discussion with three members of the Miami Valley Immigration Coalition (MVIC). Their team of advocates and University of Dayton professors addressed migration as a civil and human right, explained the work of MVIC, and explored options for local action to aid immigrants and asylum seekers. Included below are a few pictures from this informative gathering.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER LITURGIES: We would love the chapel to be full of flowers and color for Easter. If you could donate potted flowers, such as lilies, tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, or any spring flower, you can bring them to the chapel during Holy Week. Place them on the “holding table” in the Vestibule and be sure to put your name on them so you can take them home after Easter to enjoy or plant outside.



Seniors' Corner

by Chuck Bauer

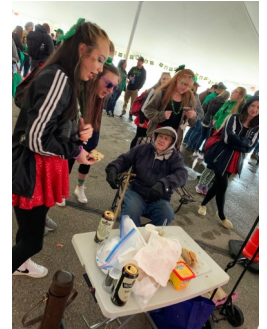


I am writing this during the first days of spring. I checked the rising and setting sun and in fact the sun rises and sets due east and west. As for reporting on the Woolly Worms, and winter temperatures, I have been studying the internet to determine the daily variation of temperature with respect to the corresponding daily historical normal. I can find yearly graphs of the normal temperatures, but I cannot locate the daily history of high and low temperature for the past year. I know this information exists, but finding it is difficult. If I find this information, I will put it on my boards that are on display in the Vestibule of the

Chapel. As I remember, the end of December was considerably low - 20 to 25 degrees below normal. Then in mid-January and February, temperatures were normal to above normal. March came in about normal, but then went considerably below normal towards mid-month - considerably 15 degrees below normal. The week of St Patrick's Day was cold as the pictures depict below. With spring, came 5 to 10 degrees above normal.

St Patrick's Day: A Great Week

- **Carroll High School** on Saturday, March 11, the 5 Band played for a three hour set. This was a very enjoyable time. No true Irish music, but many good songs including six of Johnny Cash's favorites. Leaving the gym, it was cold and windy.
- **Fairborn St. Pat's Fest** on Friday, March 17 had The Dulahans playing for a kickoff two hour set. Oh, it was cold. As I normally do, I made and brought some soda bread and a thermos of coffee. Of course, I shared it with all, made some new friends and had a great time, to which the pictures will attest.



The Wright State University Music Department presents seven recitals and concerts in April. These events are well worth attending. Check the boards for details.

In April, I look forward seeing the Red Buds with Ruby - they are always blooming on our anniversary!

Looking forward to May: I will start collecting all the summer entertainment. Last year, I had twelve venues where I provided a summary of their summer concerts and festivals. Again looking forward to a great summer, full of events.

Remember: Keep Happy, Healthy and Safe

Thinking of You ~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 by the 24th of each month.



Volunteers are needed to help on Friday and Saturday!

Friday, April 7 at 10:00AM to...

- ◆ set up
- ◆ stuff eggs

Saturday, April 8 at 9:00AM to ...

- ◆ set up for breakfast
- ◆ hide eggs
- ◆ Help with cookie decorating
- ◆ cleanup

Sign up sheets will be in the vestibule before and after Mass.

Contact Amie Herbert (amherbert@sbcglobal.net) for more information!

A closer look at the Queen of Apostles Chapel Stained Glass...



From left to right—West side of Chapel: Mary, Queen of the Apostles by Herman Verbinnen.

1) Andrew, 2) Peter, 3) Mary, 4) John, 5) James the Greater, 6) Philip, 7) Matthew, 8) Matthias or Paul; 9) James the Less; 10) Bartholomew, 11) Thomas, 12) Simon, 13) Jude.



From left to right—East side of Chapel: Mary, Queen of the Marianist Family by Herman Verbinnen.

1) A family (father, mother, child [note the bat]) or Laity, 2) Queen of the Apocalypse (Revelation, Chapel 12), 3) Blessed Fr William Joseph Chaminade, 4) Mother Adele de Trenquellion, 5) Marianist Priest, 6) Marianist Teacher Brother, 7) Marianist Working Brother.

April

Happy Birthday

- 1 PATTI ROSNER
- 1 TERI SAND
- 4 JODY PARIS
- 6 MARILYN MCCRATE
- 6 LINDSEY WEISBECKER
- 8 SHARON HERBERT
- 8 MATT WEISBECKER
- 10 JONATHAN BOHRER
- 10 EMMA NAVEAU
- 11 SYDNEY ATKINSON
- 11 KELLY BOHRER
- 14 MARIA RIVERA
- 15 ERIC GROFF
- 16 BEN BOCHENEK
- 17 PATRICIA ACKER
- 17 EMILY BOCHENEK
- 21 ELEANOR HALL
- 21 KENNETH MORAN
- 21 JERRY REICHARD
- 22 GABE PARIS
- 23 JOHN ANDREWS
- 23 MICHELLE WOESTE
- 24 MARY HALLINAN
- 28 STEPHANIE SEIBERT
- 28 PAUL WEISBECKER
- 29 LISA GALE-BERRY

Happy Anniversary

- April 12 - Kate & David Chesar*
- April 21 - Meghann & Matt Naveau*
- April 22 - Chuck & Ruby Bauer (52)*

*May the
Lord Bless
You and
Protect You*

Religious Education News...

In March, the 4th grade and high schoolers joined together, along with their parents, to pray the Stations of the Cross. Our gathering was a simple meditation, geared towards teens.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeDkqlaTEdU>

RE Schedule for April and May

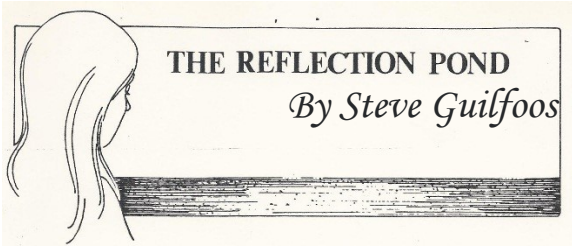
- ◇ April 2 ◇ May 7
- ◇ April 16 ◇ May 14
- ◇ April 23 ◇ May 21

Note: Class will be held on the fourth Sunday, April 23, since we won't have class on Easter Sunday.

Confirmation News...

The QAC Confirmation class has just two preparation sessions left during April. Each of them is enthusiastic and dedicated. Please continue to pray for and support Aidan Holcomb, Gabe Paris, Mia Chesar and Cianna Berry as their special day approaches. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday afternoon, April 30.





A Gift from God

Perhaps it occurred
On a day like any other day
Nothing special ...
 just life ... as it is
But then ... it happened
Unexpectedly
Out of the blue
You're given a gift
A special ... one of a kind gift
... A gift from God ...

Do you know what you would do?
Do you share it with others?
Do you shout from the highest mountain?
Do you draw back in silence?
Do you try to recapture the moment?
Do you try to build upon it?
 ... or do you simply recognize the uniqueness

Perhaps you bask in the sacredness of the gift
 Appreciating it ...
 Letting your soul embrace it ...
And being grateful that your life has changed
Albeit only for a moment
Then realizing that once the moment has passed
The gift is gone and you feel searing pain from the loss
 ... Leaving only its sweet memory

But what if you receive that gift a second time ...



St. Mary Recycling Program

By Marti Quakenbush

You never know what can happen when just one or two individuals see a need and start a project. That's exactly what happened in 1998 when someone was taking trash to a dumpster and found it full of blessed religious items. And so, the St. Mary Recycle Mission Group was formed with this as their Mission Statement: *To Preserve, Protect, Recycle, and Reuse Religious Goods*. They help keep them from being disposed of when they can be used by others who cannot afford new. They originally started by finding perfectly usable items in a church dumpster over 20 years ago and to this day they still find many of these items in the trash when there is no need for it. Their recycling program helps those who cannot afford new items and helps churches with financial needs. They work with their local Knights of Columbus Consul of San Juan Batista Church to help place many items and for restoration.

Late February, this courageous group of ladies packed up old vestments and religious items that were no longer used/needed by our QAC community. Thanks to Fr. Tom, three very large boxes of items were rescued from Siena Woods when the priests and brothers moved to the Franciscan property south of town. The brothers of Meyer Hall contributed a number of "interesting" old vestments too, along with some very heavy Altar Stones! With 50 years worth of "stuff," we had quite a pile. On March 9, a very large van, which was already overloaded, pulled up to Si Lounge to collect everything. With the help of Tom Quakenbush, plus Michael and Kimberly (from the recycling program in Lancaster, PA), we managed to get everything loaded and sent them on their way home.



Our thanks to everyone at QAC who donated blessed items from their homes that were no longer used. Your generosity will send these blessed items on to parishes in need worldwide.

For more information about SMRMG, or to see a gallery of rescued items, please visit <https://stmaryrecyclemissiongroup.com/>.

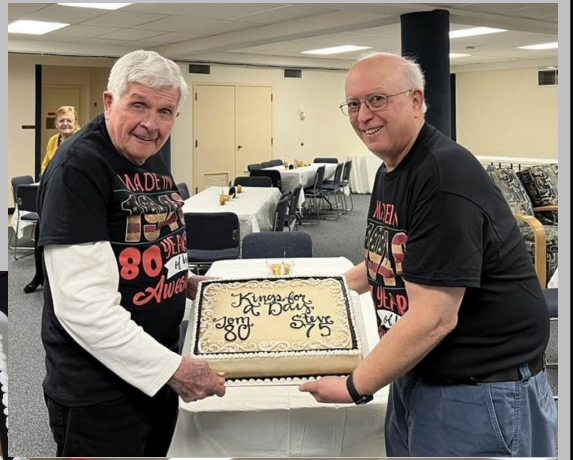
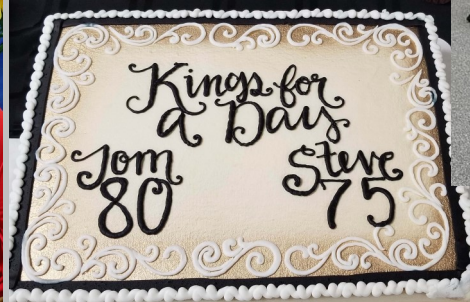
Thank you!

Did you know?

That the Holy Oils that we use during our sacramental celebrations are blessed every year during the Chrism Mass?

During Holy Week bishops bless sacred oils in the diocesan cathedral at a special liturgy known as the Chrism Mass. The oil of chrism is used during baptisms, confirmation, ordination and the consecration of altars. The oil of catechumens is used at the Easter Vigil. The oil of the sick is used to anoint people during the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The oils are then distributed to the parishes for sacramental celebrations throughout the year. As part of the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the renewal of priestly promises was incorporated into the Chrism Mass. The Chrism Mass is an ancient celebration that traditionally takes place on Holy Thursday morning. But in recent years, many dioceses celebrate the Chrism Mass on an evening earlier in Holy Week so that more people can attend.

Birthday celebrations Tom Quakenbush and Steve Guilfoos



Update from the Murnanes...God moves in strange ways.

As this will be printed just before our liturgical calendar moves to Holy Week, and to each day marking the Passion of Our Lord, this Majuro experience demonstrates that.



Here is a picture of our house in Majuro at mid-tide. During low tide the water line is 6 feet or more in front of the porch and at high tide waves can go all of the way up to under the house.

From time to time, the waves bring logs in and they bang around on the piers below the house. Sometimes they just make a loud noise, and more rarely, they shake the whole house.

The morning before Ash Wednesday, when I walked Linda out to the car and waved goodbye for the day, I looked out toward the water. I noticed that the tide was out some and there were some rather large logs I thought I could get out from under the house safely. The first log was about 20 feet long and

I was able to drag it through, past the house. The second log was a 10-foot-long palm stump about 12 or 14 inches in diameter on one end, and a root ball on the other, which I couldn't budge at all. The last log was a 6 or 8-foot-long forked piece about 14 or 18 inches in diameter at the fork. I wrestled with the third piece a bit and decided I could get it out from under the house too. Along the way, I slipped a little and got wet, so I decided to take off my shoes and left them well out of the water's reach with wallet in one and cell phone in the other. I went back to wrestling the log.

By the time the log floated safely past the piers, I knew there had been a couple of big waves. At the time, I was satisfied with myself because I had been able to hold the log for no loss in my effort even against those significantly bigger waves. However, when I turned around, I saw that one or more of the waves had taken one of my shoes! Panic struck and all I could think of was how stupid I had been. I couldn't call her since the shoe that went to sea had my cell phone in it, but I sent Linda an email telling her of my situation and apologizing profusely. I told her I'd looked up and down the beach at least a half mile each direction and all I can figure is that my cell phone decided to mutiny, hijacked my size 15 EEEE shoe as a boat, and set to sea. Linda came home to settle my nerves a little and we built a recovery plan.

In truth, if it had to happen, it was good that it was the shoe with my phone as it would be much harder to replace the IDs credit cards, insurance cards and all of the things in my wallet. So, there is that. However, I was still left with only one shoe and no phone. I had put my spare pair of shoes in the trash a week or two earlier, so truly, I was left with just one shoe.

After organizing our recovery plan, Linda and I headed back to Uliga, the center of town where Linda's courthouse is located. She dropped me at the local market area to see what I could do about replacements. I was wearing her slippers and a pair of socks to avoid shopping barefoot.

At the time, I already knew that in a worst case, I'd be going home to Ohio the last week of March while Linda travels on to speak at The Vatican again.

My first stop was at the National Telephone Authority, where I learned that they would be glad to sell me an out of date iPhone for \$700 but it would have a Marshallese SIM Card. Anyone calling me would pay international rates. It would be a Marshallese phone number so no one would know how to call me in any case.

Since being in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I have a daily call with my 93 year old mother who lives in Westerville in an assisted living facility. To reach me, she simply dialed the same cell phone number that I've had for at least 15 years. Trying to explain to her how we could talk every day if she just dialed my Marshallese cell number was not something I was ready to explain, and so I decided to wait until I went home to get my new phone then. Meanwhile, we rely on Skype and Zoom and still speak every day.

I then turned my attention to getting shoes. As neither of us are really familiar with most of the stores here, Linda asked one of the other judges where to look for men's shoes. He said that he has gotten them at EZ-Price. I went in and verified that yes, they do sell men's shoes – but a men's size 9 is as large as they carry. They very helpfully steered me to the one place they told me might be able to help a person who needed a size 15 EEEE shoe. "Tell the

(Continued on page 15)

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taxi driver, 'Take me to Marie's in Rita. It is just before the Protestant Church.' I wasn't sure if I should really get out when the taxi driver stopped, as I was in front of a drab brown building with no windows and plywood doors reinforced with cyclone fencing. I was relieved when I ventured in and found racks of school uniforms.

Since I didn't see any shoes, I asked an employee. The employee looked at my feet and shook her head. Then another employee spoke in Marshallese and the first disappeared into the back room. I could hear her rooting through boxes and after what seemed 10 minutes or so, she came out with a pair of flip flops and said "last pair". For only \$26, I now had a pair of Marshallese shoes that, while not really my size, my heel doesn't stick too far out the back. So, I wouldn't need to go to Ash Wednesday Mass, the next day, wearing Linda's slippers.



Due to Linda's position in the Court, we had been invited by the Japanese Ambassador to the Marshall Islands to a dinner on Thursday evening in celebration of the Japanese Emperor's sixty-third birthday. As it was a State function, I asked for advice on whether I should miss it given that my only shoes were a pair of flip flops. Linda jokingly suggested I wear my wallet-bearing remaining shoe and we could go to the hospital and ask for a boot for the other foot, telling them I sprained my ankle. We laughed, and decided that they probably wouldn't have a boot my size at the hospital anyway. The Chief Clerk at the High Court is a member of the President's family in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. We refer to her as our cultural advisor, among other important roles she plays. She thought I'd be OK in my new shoes.

When we arrived at the dinner, Linda and I made our way to a table on the far side. We arrived early, since I was self-conscious about my footwear, and by sitting far away, hoped no one would notice. I have probably never, in my life, paid as much attention to men's footwear as I did at that event. To my relief, I saw several other men attending in similar footwear.

A couple of lessons, as I know God truly sent me through this experience. First, it is the first time in my life that I gave up wearing shoes for Lent. It is also the first time since first owning a cell phone that I gave up my cell phone for Lent. I was embarrassed and humbled by allowing my shoe to be lost along with my cell phone in the way it happened. I feel I better understand this Lent than any previous Lent, why we are called to "clothe the naked". While I wasn't "naked", my feet were, and I now appreciate how someone who has holes in their shoes or ill-fitting footwear must feel.

I have to say that I had never paid attention to the shoes that any of the three priests, the deacons or the adult altar server wore at our Church on Majuro until I myself was wearing flip flops, and now I know that on occasion, that is what they wear as well. I was reminded of a young priest at our parish in Northern Virginia, whose name was Father Kevin. He wore designer shoes, which I always thought was problematic, especially since our Lenten mission at that parish was to assist the poor in Haiti. I imagine shoes are in short supply in Haiti, as they are in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Most of all, perhaps I am reminded of the "Washing of the feet", when Jesus stooped to wash the feet of the disciples, and of Mary Magdalene, washing Jesus' feet and drying them with her hair. The rolling waves here wash my feet on the lagoon side regularly.

I know that I probably don't yet know all that God wanted to teach me with this experience, but so far, I may have broken my habit of watching YouTube shorts for an hour at a time. And now that I've walked Lent in the shoes of those around me, I find myself slower to judge a different way of doing things by the clothes, especially shoes, another person wears.

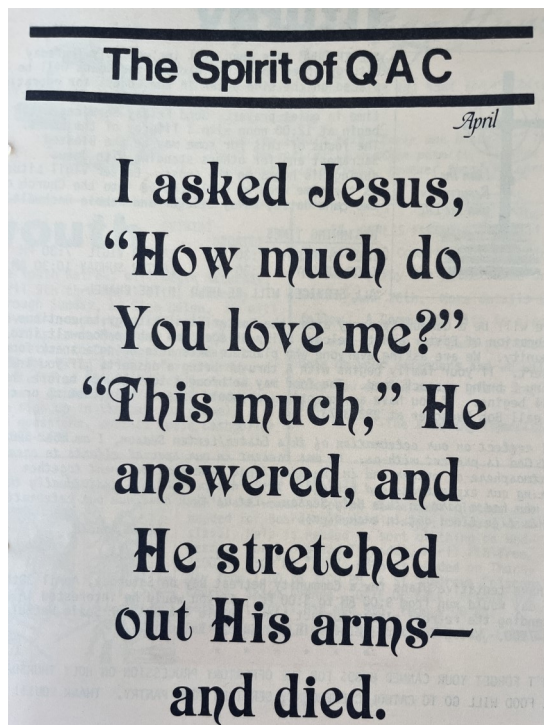


Bloom where you are planted



The picture to the left is the cover
From the April 1979
“The Spirit of Queen of Apostles Community”

The image below appeared on the second page. Ginny Duvall designed the cover and provided an explanation of her design.



GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS
My aim in designing this months Spirit cover was to somehow bring into focus the meaning of Community. The dictionary definitions for Parish and for Community are very interesting. Anyone who dares to think that Queen of Apostles is a Parish, needs to look at himself a bit deeper. Following, are the words very possibly defining where each of us actually is, and who we are.

- COMMUNITY - a unified body of individuals as
 - the people with common interests living in a particular area
 - an interacting population of various kinds of individuals
 - a group of people with a common characteristic or interest
 - a group linked by a common policy
- PARISH - the ecclesiastical unit of area committed to one pastor
 - the residents of such an area
- BANNER - A Community is a group of persons accepting responsibility for one another thru sharing both what they are and what they have in order to bring about the union of mankind.

I personally was given the challenge of acting out the word Community. Never before was I needed as I was needed in January. Within twenty-seven days my brother-in-law Jack had several heart attacks and a stroke. He, my sister Peg, and their four children, needed love and support. I felt the responsibility, I was given the opportunity. I lived thru burdens I had never before thought about. We take life for granted, we take each day for granted, and we assume that tomorrow will be as bright as today. We are so wrong! One moment can and does change everything. Our ill health changes not only our lives, but the lives of all close to us. I saw illness bring people so close to each other. They did not think of themselves or what they were receiving, only of giving, they were accepting responsibility for another. I have seen this at Queen of Apostles Community, but I had to live thru it in Columbus, Mississippi, to believe. I am so proud to be a member of Queen of Apostles Community, and so thankful in knowing this same support awaits me if it is ever needed. I thank God for sparing Jack's life. And I thank you for welcoming me home so beautifully. Greater Love Has No Man Than This.

Ginny Duvall

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!



mandy groce '16

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April 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Palm Sunday 8:45AM Adult Faith Formation 9:00AM Religious Education 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) Liturgy Planning after Mass (Vestibule) | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass | 7 10:00AM Easter Egg Hunt Setup 12:00 Noon Walk for Peace & Justice 7:00PM Good Friday Liturgy | 8 10:00 AM Donuts with the Easter Bunny/Easter Egg Hunt 8:30 PM Easter Vigil |
| 9 Easter Sunday 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) No religious education | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 No Choir Practice | 14 | 15 |
| 16 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:45AM Adult Faith Formation 9:00AM Religious Education 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 7:30PM Choir Practice | 21 | 22 |
| 23 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Religious Education 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) Community Meeting after Mass | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 7:30PM Choir Practice | 28 | 29 |
| 30 4th Sunday of Easter 10:30AM Mass (Live Stream Available) Social Justice Committee Mtg after Mass (Si lounge) | Remember to keep our Confirmation Candidates - Aidan, Cianna, Mia, and Claire - in your thoughts and prayers as they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, April 30!! | | | | | |