

Our Christian Walk

The Gazette Of Grace

Spring Issue Mar-Apr-May 2015

Serving The Community Of Our Lady Of Grace



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My Lord and My God (Anonymous)

Become one of the apostles for a moment. You are a simple person—a fisherman, a tradesman and you have been called by this preacher and healer to accompany Him on a 3 year journey throughout the country. His reception and yours by the people and the Jewish religious leadership has decidedly been mixed.

You are stunned when He begins to tell you that His death is approaching. You are not only bewildered, but afraid when He is betrayed by one of your own companions. Now in the last week He has been tried by a religious court, persecuted by your country's occupiers, the Romans, and finally been put to an inglorious death on a cross.

Tonight, just days after His death on Friday, you are afraid for your own life. You are with your friends in a locked room. Your Master is dead. You have doubts about who He really was. Your life has come to an abrupt halt.

Then Jesus appears to you and shows you His wounds and you banish all doubt and believe again! (All but Thomas, whose understanding needs to wait for another appearance a week later.)

What a story! It is a tale of overcoming fear, of accepting Jesus as the true Son of God, at any cost.

Was it only Thomas who could not believe? Do we weaken in our belief sometimes? Can we accept Jesus' total love for us without seeing Him? Can we see Him in the poor and the marginalized? Can we dispel all doubt and carry His love to others?

Just something to think about!!

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OLG Mission Statement

We are a welcoming community of believers, being disciples of Christ through worship, the Sacraments, ongoing faith formation, evangelization and Christian service to others!

My Ride with God... and Many Others! by Peter Trolie

Over the past two Septembers, I've ridden my bicycle from New York City to Washington, D.C. Really. My son Ben and I have both been part of Climate Ride, a 5-day, 300-mile ride to help spread awareness and to raise needed funding to help organizations working to combat climate change. So, what does this have to do with my faith journey? In a word, "Plenty!"

My road to Climate Ride started with a tap on the shoulder. I truly believe that we get to be involved with worthwhile endeavors because someone taps us on the shoulder and just asks. That someone could be anyone – a friend, a family member or even a stranger. And that invitation is oftentimes God reaching out to us. In the case of Climate Ride, the tap on my shoulder came from Ben. However, the road started long before I registered for the Ride.

Three years ago, Ben had been involved with a program called *New England Climate Summer*. *Climate Summer*, a program of the Better Future Project, a non-profit environmental organization, gives college students and recent graduates the opportunity to work with communities organizing around climate change. Over the past three summers, I've done some volunteer training for the program and I can tell you that the over 90 riders I've met have been some of the most dedicated, inspiring people around. They've come from all over the country to dedicate themselves for an entire summer to traveling over 1200 miles by bicycle only, living on \$5 a day, and volunteering in the communities they visit to build a more sustainable future. So, when Ben tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I would participate in Climate Ride 2013, he shared that it would help support the Better Future Project. It was the inspiration of those 90 riders that helped me say "I'm in!" So, as my title suggests, this was just one way that this has been my ride with God and others.

Once I signed up for Climate Ride the first time, I wondered what had I gotten myself into. Even after being a runner for over 30 years, I had never done anything as intense as pedaling up to 70 miles per day for five days. I've been an insulin-dependent diabetic since being diagnosed at the age of 12. Back then, there were no blood glucose meters and I had to keep to a consistent eating schedule. Today, I manage my diabetes by checking my blood sugar 6-8 times per day, taking an

insulin injection before every meal and one at bedtime. As a newly diagnosed 12 year-old, never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect that I'd be able to do something like Climate Ride. Today, I feel so blessed that I have been able to manage my diabetes and stay healthy for all these years; this ride has been a way for me to celebrate those blessings.

So what is Climate Ride really like when you're in the middle of it? Well, it's not easy. You're mostly on back roads, oftentimes riding alone or with only one or two other riders, and the hills seem to be constant and steep. You find a lot of time to reflect and to pray, sometimes just for the strength to get up the next hill and with thanks when you're over the top! We had three planned stops every day which gave me a chance to test my blood sugar and to get ready for the next 15-20 miles. And those were some of the best times since I got to connect with many of the other riders. But all throughout, whether in the Amish Country in Pennsylvania or in the hills of Maryland, we got to experience the beauty and awesomeness of God's earth. It was a constant reminder of why we were all doing this.

There were three things that were strongly reinforced for me on the ride over the past two years. First, we never accomplish anything by ourselves. Whether we're climbing what seems to be the hundredth big hill of the day (probably only the 15th!) or cruising along a flat bike path outside Washington, God is always with us. And whether it's the almost 70 people who donated to the ride on my behalf each year, the rider who passes me struggling up a hill offering words of encouragement, or the Climate Ride volunteer who finds me every evening at sign-in to hand me my insulin, we always need others to be there for us. It's through others that God is with us.

Second, we always need to be ready to help or maybe even inspire others – we never know when we'll be asked to be there for someone else. On Day 4 of Climate Ride in 2013, I was at the lunch stop giving myself my insulin injection when Hank, one of the riders, saw me. He sits down next to me during lunch and asks, "Hey, are you a Type 1 diabetic?" When I told him I was, he followed with, "And you're doing this ride??" As it turns out, Hank has a 43 year-old son who was also diagnosed with diabetes at a young age; however, he proceeded to tell me that his son wasn't doing well with the disease. We spent that entire lunch together talking, with Hank sharing that he could have done more to help his son deal with diabetes when he was growing up.

(cont'd on page 6, column 2)

Lenten Reflection by Deacon Frank Thomas

A newcomer in the town walked into the neighborhood bar and ordered three beers. The bartender raised his eyebrows, but served the man three beers, which he drank alone, quietly at a table. The same thing happened day after day. Soon the entire town was whispering about the "Man Who Orders Three Beers". Finally, the bartender broached the subject on behalf of the town. I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

The man replied that when his two brothers and he left home and parted way, they promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever they drank as a way of keeping up the family bond.

The bartender and the whole town was pleased with this answer, and soon the "Man Who Orders Three Beers" became a local celebrity.

Then, one day, the man went in and orders only two beers. The bartender poured them with a heavy heart. The word spread around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender said to the man, Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know, the two beers and all..."

The man pondered this for a moment, then replied, You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."!

Lent has arrived! From childhood, often the first question we hear regarding Lent is, "What have you given up?" To this question, the common reply is some form of food or drink. As the story suggests, we may do this wholeheartedly or less so. In either event, **we may overlook that there is more to Lent than fasting.**

Drawing on the Gospel for Ash Wednesday, the Church has seen three inter-related practices as important aspects of Lenten practice: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Fasting should remind us of all that we have and have received from God and make us mindful of those who are hungry because of poverty. In turn, this serves as a foundation for almsgiving. However, not only food, but fasting from activities that consume our time, such as TV or the internet, might free up time so we can be more reflective more centered on God's presence.

Just as fasting is about more than food, almsgiving is about more than money. Giving money from our excess is often easier than giving time or attention to those in need. **We give help and attention to those in need -- asking nothing in return -- because we recognize how much God has given us even though we are not deserving.**

And there is prayer. Of course, prayer in Lent deepens our relationship with God, heightens our awareness of God's presence in our lives and helps us to be more attuned to the world as seen through God's eyes. Only then, in listening to the Lord, do we really understand where God is leading us in our other Lenten practices.

While we often see Lent only as a time of penance, Lent is also a gift and an opportunity to realign our priorities. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we set aside our personal wants and become aware of being part of something larger than myself: the church and its traditions, our relationship with God, and our place in a world of need.

Cheers!

Kids Korner



Hey Kids, have you ever thought about riding your bike with and for God. Next time you are flying down the street, feel the air brush your cheek and imagine it the touch of God. Don't forget to smile ...
gratitude !
 for your ability to ride
 and **be** with Him!

Faith Formation News

by Sue Carbone,
 Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

Writing for the Spring issue of Our Christian Walk is very difficult today as I look out my office window at the piles of snow. Since it is my first winter up here, can someone answer this question - WHEN DOES IT MELT??

During Advent, before these major snow events (but with snow falling), our Gr. 2 students received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. It was a very prayerful experience for all.

Upcoming:

During Lent, our Faith Formation Classes (Grades 1-5) will be praying the Stations of the Cross. All parents and parishioners are invited to join us as we follow Jesus to the cross. Dates and times will be announced in our weekly Church bulletin.

First Communion Retreat Day for all Gr. 2 students and their families will be Saturday, April 18th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. ending with a pizza celebration at noon.

First Communion Celebrations will be Saturday, April 25th at 5 p.m. Mass and on Sunday, April 26th at 10:15 a.m. Mass.

We look forward to these special days for these children and their families.

Let's hang on and get through the rest of this winter. Keep the FaithFormation! SPRING IS COMING!

Just for KIDS

God made the seasons

Warmer weather means summer has arrived! God's beautiful creation is always changing, and we can praise God for every season.

Use this code to finish Genesis 8:22, NIV.

A =	I =	T =	S =
E =	O =	R =	N =
U =	D =		

" I g h h
 m h v
 c l h
 mm w
 y gh
 w ll v c "

Genesis 8:22, NIV

Answer: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."



Is Love Still There?

By Susan Collins

I've been thinking about those times when we do not feel God, and wonder what to do with the emptiness.

Loving God, and feeling God's love is like dating. At first the couple enjoy warm fuzzy feelings. After marriage, the love is there, even deeper, but the feelings are not the same.

Similarly, God always loves us even when we do not feel His presence. When we continue on our spiritual journey the obstacles are always there, so we grow in faith. Feelings come and go, but when they return, we are stronger and feel love more intimately than before. For me, it is a lesson of faith and trust.



Forgiveness

by Janet Troidle

She laid her broken heart
upon an oval mottled platter
and offered it to her God.

He softly whispered,
"I know this broken heart,
I will 'peace' it back together.

We shall sew it with forgiveness
and tie knots at the ends of mistrust."

Wholeness in Me will lighten dark memory
Forgiveness with Me will give new life!"

Don't let your worries get the best of you:

Remember, Moses started out as a
Basket case!

Youth Ministry Updates

By Grace Fay, Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry is continuing to grow. We have six young people who are beginning preparations to attend NCYC this November. Keep an eye out for their fundraisers. We have also just launched our new Youth Ministry website (www.olgsjym.org). It is the place to go for updates on the Youth Ministry program!

This Lent, we are doing a Rice Bowl Picture Contest with prizes going to the youth who takes the most pictures, the most creative pictures, and collects the most money. For more information, visit the website or see the flyer at the church.

It is never too early to talk about summer opportunities. There are many youth volunteer opportunities within the Church...Vacation Bible School and the Service Action Learning Team, to name a few. There is also Music and Liturgy at Pyramid Lake for those who are interested in liturgical music and CLI for those high school youth who want to grow in their faith leadership.

Here are pictures of youth at different events.



Confirmation Candidates walk the Prayer Labyrinth at the Confirmation Day Retreat.



Confirmation Candidates creating posters for the "Soup"er Bowl

The Other Definition of Church: A Building for Worship

By Dorothy Sokol

Many of you know the history of the facilities we call “Our Lady of Grace Church.” But our newer members and friends are unaware of the history of our church building!

As you drive north on 146A from the flashing light at Lake Hill Rd., you need to turn left on Edward St. to find the original church built in the early 1920s. It was and still is a beautiful small country church that we grew out of in the late 1960’s. It now serves the Baptist community.

The property of 73 Midline Rd. was purchased and the original building was completed in 1974. The worship area was what we now call the gathering area. There was seating for about 250, with classrooms upstairs and limited office space. However, there was no residence for the priest. When Fr. Ron Menty came in 1980, he rallied the parish community to add onto the building to provide more office space and a small apartment above the offices for the pastor. We currently have our offices in this space. When Fr. Tony Diacetis was pastor, the house next door became available and was purchased as a rectory.

In 1995, committees began working on another addition that would seat more people. The new worship space that we use today, with some additional classrooms and a new entrance, was completed in 1997.

Like any large building, there is a lot of maintenance. Some rugs are from 1997. Some rooms have not been painted since then. Currently we are looking at replacing the roof from 1997.

As our parish family grows and changes, we adjust our use of the buildings and grounds. Room 4 is now the choir room. Room 3 has been refurnished so it can be used when Fr. Jack or Deacon Frank need to meet with someone privately. We are happy that the Sisters of St. Joseph are residing in the Parish House. The rent pays for most of the maintenance of that building.

Future plans? We’d like to relocate the library, now in the office area, and make it accessible again. We need to continue cleaning carpets, painting and cleaning. And, *we can use any and all help!*

My Ride With God

(cont’d from page 2) by Peter Trolino

Through his tears, Hank said to me, “you’re my hero.” I had no idea that God would put me in the position to be there for Hank that day. It’s just one of many times I had the opportunity to be there for others over the past two Climate Rides.

And last, it’s important for all of us to put ourselves in a position to experience new things. It doesn’t have to be a 300 mile bike ride – it can be something as simple as a walk in the woods, traveling to a new place, or serving a meal at the City Mission. It’s through new experiences that we get new ways to see God in the world and the people around us.

In closing, I’d like to thank everyone from our OLG family who has encouraged me over the past two years of Climate Ride. My wife Margaret will tell you, it’s been quite overwhelming to feel the support of so many of you. You’ve brought quite a few tears to my eyes! My ride with God and many others? The “many others” includes the almost 300 riders I’ve been with over the past two years... and all of you.



**Peace
Starts
With A Smile!!!**



HELPING HANDS!



The clever hands of a marvelous group of women create tables and tables of beautiful knitware for all ages at holiday time. Their winter sales generated \$980 to be donated to the needy.

We thank all of those in this ministry who use their gifts for the greater glory!

Lenten Schedule

- ◆ February 18, Ash Wednesday
Noon Service, 7PM Mass
- ◆ Communal Sacrament Of Reconciliation
⇒ ICC March 4th 2-4PM and 5-7PM, March 24 7PM
⇒ St. Joseph's February 22, 6PM



Look at this happy bunch of crop walkers from 2014! The light walk for hunger is heavy with commitment to help feed the hungry. A dozen different church communities participate and the air is filled with a spirit of comradery.

Come join the fun on Sunday, May 3, 2015
Exercise your soul and body, and

**End hunger
One Step At A Time!**

Holy Week Schedule

- ◆ April 2, Holy Thursday
6:00 p.m. Mass followed by potluck supper
- ◆ April 3, Good Friday
Noon Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Passion of Our Lord
- ◆ April 4, Easter Saturday Vigil
8:00 p.m. Mass
- ◆ April 5, Easter Sunday
8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Masses





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Note From Editor:

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. We would like to use this newsletter to share the faith and Christian action of our parishioners. Please send stories about your ministry, e-mail photos; tell us about a person, or bible passages which have had a positive influence on you or your family, your poetry, your journey.

We are published quarterly, with deadlines as follows:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Dec-Jan-Feb /winter	Nov 5
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Sept-Oct-Nov /fall	Aug 5

Our Cluster Parishes:

Saint Joseph's Website:
<http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net>

Immaculate Conception Website:
<http://www.ic-glennville.com/>

Do you have questions or suggestions you wish raised at the next pastoral council meeting? Contact one of the members listed below.

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The entire staff of OLG extends Easter Blessings to everyone during this Holy Season.

May the Risen Lord shine His light of love in your hearts!

Alleluia!

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