

# Isn't It Grand!

Summer 2017



## Fr. Walsh's Article... **FAREWELL**

After 51 years in active ministry in the priesthood, and the past ten years here on the North Shore, I feel it's time for new blood, new ideas. My body has been catching up with my years, and is shown by my not having the same energy and get-up-and-go that I had when I came to Grand Marais and Grand Portage ten years ago.

I have been blessed with great assignments over half a century as a priest in the Diocese of Duluth. And my ten years at St. John's and Holy Rosary have been wonderful and fulfilling. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your support and cooperation.

Saying farewell gives me the opportunity and, I hope, permission to reminisce a little about my years with you. I take a particular joy in discovering that I have been one of the more long-lasting pastors in the history of these two parishes. I have to go back 40 years to the pastorate of Father Henry Anderl, OSB who served longer than I with his 12 years here from 1967 to 1979. And before him the famous and colorful Father Ignatius Candrian, OSB – another Benedictine, who served here 11 years from 1956 to 1967. Our present St. John's church was built during Father Candrian's pastorate.

In the 128 year history of the Diocese of Duluth 89 of its priests were born and raised in Ireland. The trend started with the first bishop of the diocese, Bishop James McGolrick, who came from Ireland, from a small town near to where I grew up. He became the first bishop of our diocese in 1889. He was in such desperate need for priests for this new diocese that he went back to the seminaries in Ireland again and again inviting seminarians to come here after their ordination. I suspect that over that very long period of time every parish in the diocese has had an Irish-born priest somewhere in its history as its pastor – with one notable exception – our own two parishes. I am the only Irish-born priest to have been the pastor in Grand Marais and Grand Portage in 128 years.

And more than likely I'll also be the last. The last Irish-born priest came to our diocese in 1972 – there has been none since then. As I write, I'm the very last of the Irish-born priests to be still in full time service in the diocese. This makes me both proud and sad. I'm proud because of the huge number of priests from Ireland who helped start the diocese and helped it grow to maturity. Now the diocese looks after its own needs – like the ordinations of three native sons on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Another cause for my joy is that my family has a history of 99 years of priestly service in this diocese. My uncle, Father Henry Spain, was ordained a priest in Ireland for service in this diocese in 1918. He was still in active service as pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Eveleth when I came here as a brand new priest in 1966. With my retirement, I'll be the last of my family to serve here in priestly ministry. I have 34 nieces and nephews, and I've worked on my nephews over the years to think about being priests. But, to date, none of them has taken me up on my invitation.

The great American writer, Eudora Welty, has a thesis and belief in her writings that we are basically formed by the land into which we were born and grew to adulthood. Our geography determines our character, our values, how we see life and live in it. This thesis has caught my attention because my nieces and nephews – and I know my siblings also – get great pleasure as my expense when they tease me about my huge American accent. They firmly believe I'm no longer Irish but American. But over here I hear the very opposite. I'm complimented with some frequency – and can you blame them – for my glorious Irish accent. Who then is telling the truth? But Ireland has formed me. The values and outlook on people and life, and of God Himself, all that comes from my Irish heritage. And I will always proclaim that. That being said, the Diocese of Duluth is now my home, and has been for over 50 years. Here is where I hope to live out whatever length of time God has in mind for me.

In retirement I'll be living in Proctor, MN, where I purchased a place some years ago. From there I'll be helping out with the sacramental and liturgical needs of parishes throughout the diocese. If you're in Duluth there will be a warm welcome for you at **Botanical Gardens, 35 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Proctor**. And I'll be keeping my **cell phone number: 387-4407, and my email address: [swalsh@boreal.org](mailto:swalsh@boreal.org)**

Thank you again for all your kindness and support you have been to me. I pray that God will shower His choicest blessings of health, peace and contentment on you all.

**Father Seamus's last weekend with us will be July 8 & 9th. The priest change over will be July 12th.**

**He will be missed and we thank him for all that he has done and given to our parishes of St. John's and Holy Rosary and the greater community.**

# July

July 2	Daphne Lacina
July 6	Erik Lawler
July 8	William Gabler
	Polly James
July 9	Lisa Furlong
July 10	Colton Furlong
July 11	Pat Hennessy
July 13	Lu Pettijohn
July 15	Mike McEnelly
July 17	Katy Smith
July 18	Chuck Petek
July 19	Mike Tibodeau
July 20	Carline Gresczyk
July 21	Jack Stone
	Donna Wielinski
July 22	Rita Wehseler
July 24	Sharon Dorr
	Paul Spry
July 26	Jessica Anderson
	Hazel Oberholtzer
July 29	Mary Petz
July 30	Phyllis Miron
July 31	Jerry Sivets

**Please contact the parish office if a birth date is missing or incorrect. We will correct the information in our office computer. We can only correct those we know about!**



**IT'S GRADUATION TIME:** We congratulate Hannah VanderHeiden, Erik Lawler, and Sam O'Phelan on their recent graduation from Cook County High School #166. Warmest Congratulations and the best of luck to you all. We are so proud of you all.

# August

August 2	Caiden Spry
August 4	Paul Spry Lander LaBoda
August 5	Kay Sivets
August 6	Joan Burkhardt
	Richard Furlong Jr.
	Kathleen Oberholtzer
August 12	Don Lease
August 15	Kay Rosenthal
August 16	Julie Rannetsberger
August 18	Dick Nelson
August 20	Carol Hackett
	Sheila Wieben
August 21	Dee Phillips
August 22	Mitch Dorr
	Carolyn Higgins
August 23	Sophia Sheehan
August 24	Cy Oberholtzer
August 25	Michaela Peterson
August 27	Joyce Merillat
August 29	John Brisky
August 31	Rachel Dorr

## First Communion

On Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Graham Oberholtzer and Avery Sjoberg were welcomed to the Lord's table for the first time.



**St John's Catholic Church**  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
**May 30, 2017**

**Present:** Father Seamus, Francine Martin, Mike Tibodeau, Deacon Peter Mueller, Bill Parish, Mike Lavigne

**Absent:** Susan Roy, Randy Schnobrich, Julie Rannetsberger, Justin Mueller

**Guest:** Grand Marais Fire Chief, Ben Silence

**New Business:**

The Grand Marais Fire Chief, Ben Silence, was invited to St. John's to look at the exterior doors and determine if they meet fire code regulations. Mr. Silence was given this authority by Thomas Jenson, Deputy State Fire Marshall for the State of Minnesota.

Ben toured the church with Deacon Peter and made the following recommendations:

If doors swing outward when pushed on, they meet code. All the doors at St. John's therefore meet basic code. Ben did recommend that all the main sanctuary doors have a sign posted on them that reads "to remain unlocked when building is occupied".

The basement doors were looked at as well. The new door by the elevator meets code because it was installed with a push bar. The other doors meet code because they open when pushed on even though they may be locked on the outside. Ben did recommend a dead bolt be installed on these doors so they will open without hindrance from the inside. He recommended that signs also be posted on these doors indicating they are to remain unlocked when the building is occupied.

A lighted exit sign should be installed near the new elevator door and a bulb is out over the other back door and needs to be replaced.

The council members accepted the Fire Marshall's recommendations unanimously, and will proceed as he directed.

Bill Parish volunteered to have the "remain open" signs made and purchase dead bolts for the doors. He will also contact the electrician and have him install an exit sign at the new elevator door and replace the burned out bulb at the other door.

**Old Business:**

Julie has not been able to make contact with the painters who will be asked to finish outside now that the elevator is completed.

Mike and Randy are on target evaluate any needs in the Rectory before Father Drew moves in..

Deacon Peter will pull together the Pot Luck for our July 6 council meeting, since Father Seamus will be gone up until that date. Father Seamus will invite Father Drew to join us.

Submitted by Francine Martin

We welcome new Parish Council Members Mike LaVigne and Izabella Sheehan.

**St. John's Catholic Church**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**April 12, 2017**

**Present:** Father Seamus Walsh, Francine Martin, Justin Mueller, Mike Tibodeau, Randy Schobrich,  
Deacon Peter Mueller, Julie Rannetsberger, Susan Roy

**Absent:** Bill Parish

- ◆ Julie called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm, and Father opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Randy.

**New Business:**

- ◆ Father reviewed the church balance sheet of current assets and liabilities. Father pointed out that the Church is in good shape with total assets, both liquid and fixed, of just over 3.5 million dollars. At the same time Father expressed a possibility of St. John's being assessed up to 10% of our liquid assets by the Diocese to help offset the Diocese's bankruptcy.
- ◆ A comment was made regarding the value of the Church bell tower, which prompted a discussion of having a plaque made to commemorate the gift of the bell by the family of Millie Manilla. Justin volunteered to follow up on acquiring a plaque. In other comments regarding the assets of the Church, Father pointed out that a loan that had been made to another church has now been paid off.
- ◆ The income and expense sheet was reviewed. Father pointed out that income has been relatively flat over the past three years. Visitor giving is down, but envelopes are up slightly. Under expenses, Father pointed out that the elevator is not yet completely paid off. Contractors have all been paid, but the money borrowed from the Church general fund has not been completely reimbursed. Gifts are still slowly coming in.
- ◆ Father informed us that the elevator housing on the outside of the Church needs to be painted. The suggestion was made that we contact the contractor who painted the church 2 years ago. Julie volunteered to contact them for an estimate.
- ◆ United Catholic Appeal 2017 will start May 7 and run until December 31. Father informed us that St. John's will be taxed at 18.6% for a total of \$25,949.88. This money goes to the Diocese of Duluth.
- ◆ The Diocese has a checklist for outgoing Pastor's that Father Seamus shared with us. The expectation is that the Rectory will be left in good order with all walls, floor, appliances, plumbing, heating, cooling, etc. to be in good working order. All personal items to be removed, and useable bedding and towels to be left for the incoming Pastor. Mike and Randy will assist Father by going through the house during the first 2 weeks of May to determine if any repairs need to be made.
- ◆ The Cook County Historical Society has sent a letter to the Church detailing the history of St. Francis Xavier Church and their plans for a fundraiser to help with maintenance and repairs of the old Chippewa City church. The Society has asked for support for the fundraiser and after discussion an amount of \$1500 was agreed upon as a gift to the Society.
- ◆ Bill Parish was not in attendance to talk about the issue of/necessity for fire doors for St. John's. Father explained that there has been some discussion regarding this matter. The issue has been brought to the Fire Marshall's attention and his opinion will be formally written in a letter to the Church to be kept on file.
- ◆ New Parish Council Member. Father was pleased to announce that Izabella Sheehan will be joining us next meeting as our newest member.

**Other Business:**

- ◆ Justin reported that he is helping to organize a canoe trip for the Parish youth. The plan is for the trip to occur in early August. Father indicated that the Church will be happy to help out financially.
- ◆ Father informed us that his departure date from St. John's is July 12. At this time, he has no information as to his replacement.
- ◆ The next Parish Council meeting has been set for July 6. It will be a dinner meeting with spouses invited to attend. Unless otherwise decided, we will meet in the Church Hall rather than in the Rectory.

Deacon Peter closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Submitted by Francine Martin

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### The time is NOW!

A group of community members from local churches has been meeting for several years now to focus on social justice issues in our community. We are an ecumenical group that is not attached to any denomination. Thus far we have sought to bring people together to share stories, collaborate, and seek solutions.

For example, last October we hosted a luncheon for city, county & school officials. Inger Andress lead the discussion regarding preventing exploitation of vulnerable local youth. Ideas were shared and we continue to follow through and to raise community awareness.

This April the group sponsored a screening of "With Impunity", a film that challenges "the notion that men's violence against women is an individual problem committed by a few troubled men. The film was designed to challenge society to recognize that our culture produces men who batter, men who rape, men who buy women for sex, and men who consume violent pornography—and to identify possible solutions."

In May we hosted our third annual luncheon for employers of International workers. The agenda included seeking ways to get the word out on available services and the most effective way to reach workers -welcome packets? Update our Facebook page? We are also beginning the process of pulling together advocates for workers having disputes with employers or other people in the county. We talked about creating some intentional outings (i.e. shopping trips to Duluth) to advertise on the Facebook page rather than the "referral" feature which you may have noticed in our bulletin last summer.

As you can see this is a busy group! We are now beginning the process of seeking MN non-profit status. This entails defining our mission, setting up a board of directors, and complying with state and federal rules and reporting.

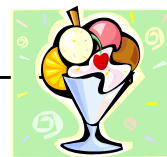
This is a great time to join us-get in on the ground floor, so to speak. If you are interested contact Steve Deschene ( [timing@boreal.org](mailto:timing@boreal.org)).

### UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL:

Many thanks to our parishioners of Holy Rosary and St. John's who have made their gift to this year's UCA.

Your help is essential for the maintenance and progress of so many programs outside our own parishes – like seminary costs for new priests, formation for the permanent diaconate, college participants at UMD, marriage preparation classes, the annual Men's & Women's Conferences, and many others. All these programs help our individual parishes.

To date 7 Households from Holy Rosary have contributed \$2015.00 and 35 households from St. John's have contributed \$8595.00.



### Care Partners' Ice Cream Social

The 2nd annual Care Partners Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 28th, from 2-5 pm at Sydney's Custard! The event will include sundaes for a \$5 donation, a silent auction, and a quilt raffle draw. All proceeds go to support Care Partners services to provide support and companionship for those on the journey of aging, serious illness and end of life.

Join us to celebrate and learn about our growing services such as companion volunteers, Senior Rides, Senior Chore Program, caregiver support and advanced care planning and to help us 'kick off' an important new initiative: Building a Dementia Friendly Community. Supporting our aging population is a community effort—especially with a challenge like dementia that affects so many. The program will train community members and businesses how to interact positively with individuals with dementia.

For more information contact Care Partners' Director, Kay Grindland at 387-3788 or [carepartners@boreal.org](mailto:carepartners@boreal.org)

### Trading out ....



for



**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** So many people are giving up their phone land line and depending on their cell phone only. We are discovering this in the parish office when we try to contact a parishioner, only to discover their land line is no longer in use, and we don't have their new cell phone number. Also, most parishioners now have email as well. It would be of immense help to us in the parish office to have updated phone numbers and email addresses. We would be most grateful if you would take a minute to fill in the yellow information sheet that you'll find at the end of the pews or the back entrance of church. Place completed forms in the basket on the table in the back of church, the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office.

Many thanks to those who have already filled out the form!

## CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Our congregations of Holy Rosary and St. John's are up in years. We don't have many couples with young children in our pews. And when we do, there is always the fear that they will be moving to somewhere else because of job opportunities or other reasons.

This has become painfully clear to me with the news that Anna and Bill Heitzman, and their children, Eleanor and Theodore, will be leaving us for a greater job opportunity in the Cities later this month. And it has been the same with other families in my years here. The loss of these young couples and their children is deeply felt.

*America Magazine* has a survey in its June issue, titled, "How were your children received by your parish?"

The article continues: "Children are vital to sustaining parish life. Seventy-two percent of our reader sample told *America* that for good or ill, the way their children were welcomed had a critical effect on their own relationship with their parish. Fifty-eight percent of our readers told us that their experience of bringing children into their faith community was positive.

*Among these readers, 24 percent described how people had played with, engaged or included their children.*

*Thirty-one percent smiled at their child and a further twenty percent helped with a child. But eight percent glared at a child, another ten percent ignored or avoided a child or children, and eight percent shushed the child."*

It's hard to believe that twenty six percent of a congregation made it clear that children were not welcome. It makes my heart swell with happiness when I see our youngsters at Mass with their parents. Where would our parishes be without Eleanor and Theodore Heitzman, Bea, Mary and Frank Mueller, Edith Anderson, Bryn and Reece Zallar, and at Holy Rosary, the LaBoda children – Lander, Cora and Rolland--all keeping their parents occupied and the rest of us delighted that they're at Mass with us.

## *Isn't It Grand*

is published by

St. John's Catholic Church of Grand Marais  
and Holy Rosary Church of Grand Portage

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(subject to change)

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Parish Webpage: [www.stjohns-holyrosary.org](http://www.stjohns-holyrosary.org)

## Religious Education News & Notes:

### Religious Education Teachers Needed:

We are in need of volunteers to teach Religious Education classes for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are passionate about your Catholic faith and love working with kids, please help us out! Contact Sharon Dorr at [DRE@stjohns-holyrosary.org](mailto:DRE@stjohns-holyrosary.org) or (218)387-5243.

### Planning Ahead:

Religious Education classes for the 2017-2018 school year begin on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. If your child will be in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade for the 2017-2018 school year or you are new to Religious Ed. at St. John's, please contact Sharon Dorr or the Parish Office so that we can add you to the Religious Education email list.

### Built Upon a Rock Fest:

Free outdoor Catholic rock music festival at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Duluth on Sunday, September 17, 2017 from 5pm – 8:30pm.



### Parish Council Members:

Father Seamus Walsh (Pastor) 387-4407 E-mail: [swalsh@boreal.org](mailto:swalsh@boreal.org)

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