

FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH FEBRUARY 15 // 2025

ST. MARY PARISH

312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

BULLETIN

Mass Times

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 7:45am, 9:45am, 5:30pm

Monday 12:05pm

Tuesday No mass

Wednesday No mass

Thursday 12:05pm

Friday No mass

Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-422-4316

Cemetery Info

cacker@stmaryparish.org

cell 920-882-4158

Clergy

Pastor, Fr. Bill Swichtenberg

wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon Gerry Schraufnagel

schraufnagel@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Pastoral Team

Nadine Duncan (Ext. 116)

Director of Pastoral
Administration
nduncan@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-659-1337

Lori Lavalle (Ext. 121)

Minister of Parish Vitality
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Kate Minczeski (Ext. 110)

Minister of Adult Disciples
kminczeski@stmaryparish.org

Tracy Turba (Ext. 119)

Minister of Young Disciples
tturba@stmaryparish.org

Tom Walter (Ext. 114)

Minister of Liturgy and Music
twalter@stmaryparish.org
cell (920)-422-8669

Parish Leadership

Kara Main

Pastoral Leadership
Council Chair
plc@stmaryparish.org

Sarah Higgins

Finance Council Chair
fcchair@stmaryparish.org

Business Office

Chris Higgins (Ext. 102)

Director of Business
Administration
chiggins@stmaryparish.org

Kristina Resterhouse (Ext.

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stmary@stmaryparish.org

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mefisher@stmaryparish.org

Michael Kozoroz (Ext 100)

Communication Coordinator
mkozoroz@stmaryparish.org

Facilities & Cemetery

Chip Acker

cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Chad Tisdell

ctisdell@stmaryparish.org

Important Contacts

Parish Office Hours:

920-739-5119
Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9am-4pm
Wednesday, 9am-6:30pm
Office Closed on Fridays

Sacrament of Matrimony

Getting Married? Congratulations!
Contact Fr. Bill at least 6 months
before your planned wedding date.

Funeral Information

Contact Tom Walter

Mass Intentions

If you have lost a loved one and
would like them to be remembered
in the bulletin, call the parish office
at 920-739-5119

Confession times:

Saturdays 9-10am, or by
appointment

Parish Website:

stmaryparish.org

Cemetery Website:

stmaryparishcemetery.org

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesdays

4:30-8pm

Sign up for a slot to sit with Jesus.
We must have one person
with the Eucharist at all times.

Prayer Requests:

Contact Laurie Richter
lauriejrichter@gmail.com
Mary Jo Zilisch (920-734-1182) or
Ann Walkowski (920-428-0969)



SCAN ME

EVENTS CALENDARS

Week of February 1-7

Saturday, Feb 01

9:00am Confession
9:00am THEO Grief Group/LL1
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Feb 2

7:45am Mass
Coffee and Donuts following Mass
9:45am Mass /Livestreamed
Coffee and Donuts following Mass
5:30pm Mass

Monday, Feb 3

12:05pm Mass
6:30 Handbell practice

Tuesday, Feb 4

9:00am Connect Group/LL7
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Group at St Joe's LL112
1:00pm Book Club/LL7
2:00pm Rosary Prayer group

Wednesday, Feb 5

9:30am Connect Group/LL7
4:30pm 1st Reconciliation - 2nd grade
4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st, 3rd -5th grade
6:00pm Adoration
6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -11th grade

Thursday, Feb 6

12:05pm Mass
1:00pm Hooks & Needles/CR
6:00pm Adult Choir
6:30pm Small Group/LL1
7:00pm Cor Jesu/Church, CR

Friday, Feb 7

Parish Office Closed
8:00am Quilt Retreat
9:00am Small Group



What is the largest denomination in the world?

Week of February 8-15

Saturday, Feb 8

St. Joe's Food Program Collection
8:00am Quilt Retreat
9:00am Confession
4:30pm Mass

Sunday, Feb 9

St. Joe's Food Program Collection
7:45am Mass
Coffee and Donuts following Mass
9:45am Mass /Livestreamed
Coffee and Donuts following Mass
9:45am Confirmation Class
11:00am Flock of Sparrows/LL5
5:30pm Mass

Monday, Feb 10

12:05pm Mass
6:30pm Handbell practice

Tuesday, Feb 11

9:00am Connect Group/Kitchen
2:00pm Rosary Prayer group

Wednesday, Feb 12

9:00am Connect Group/LL7 4:30pm Adoration
4:45pm Beacon Faith Formation 1st -5th grade
6:30pm Beacon Faith Formation 6th -11th grade

Thursday, Feb 13

9:30am CIAFMO
10:00am NEC Support Group/LL7
12:05pm Mass
6:00pm Adult Choir
6:00pm Men's group/LL7
6:30pm Small Group/LL1
7:00pm Cor Jesu

Friday, Feb 14

Parish Office Closed
Microwave Food Drive
9:00am Small Group

Saturday, Feb 15

Microwave Food Drive
9:00am THEO Grief Group/LL1
9:00am Confession
4:30pm Mass



LENTEN SMALL *groups*



24

FEBRUARY
2025

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE

13

MARCH
2025

FIRST NIGHT
6:00-7:30 PM



Lenten Small Group Details

- Five Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 PM, starting March 13
- Each week, enjoy a simple meal, group prayer, Scripture readings, and discussion!
- Content and discussion will revolve around the upcoming Sunday's Gospel Reading and will co-inside with Fr. Bill's homily series.
- All are welcome! Feel free to invite a friend to join you on this Lenten journey.

Why Join a Small Group This Lent?

Grow in Fellowship:

Build meaningful relationships with others in our parish community.

Deepen Your Faith:

Reflect on the Lenten journey through Scripture and shared insights.

Support and Be Supported:

Share joys and struggles in a space filled with compassion and understanding.



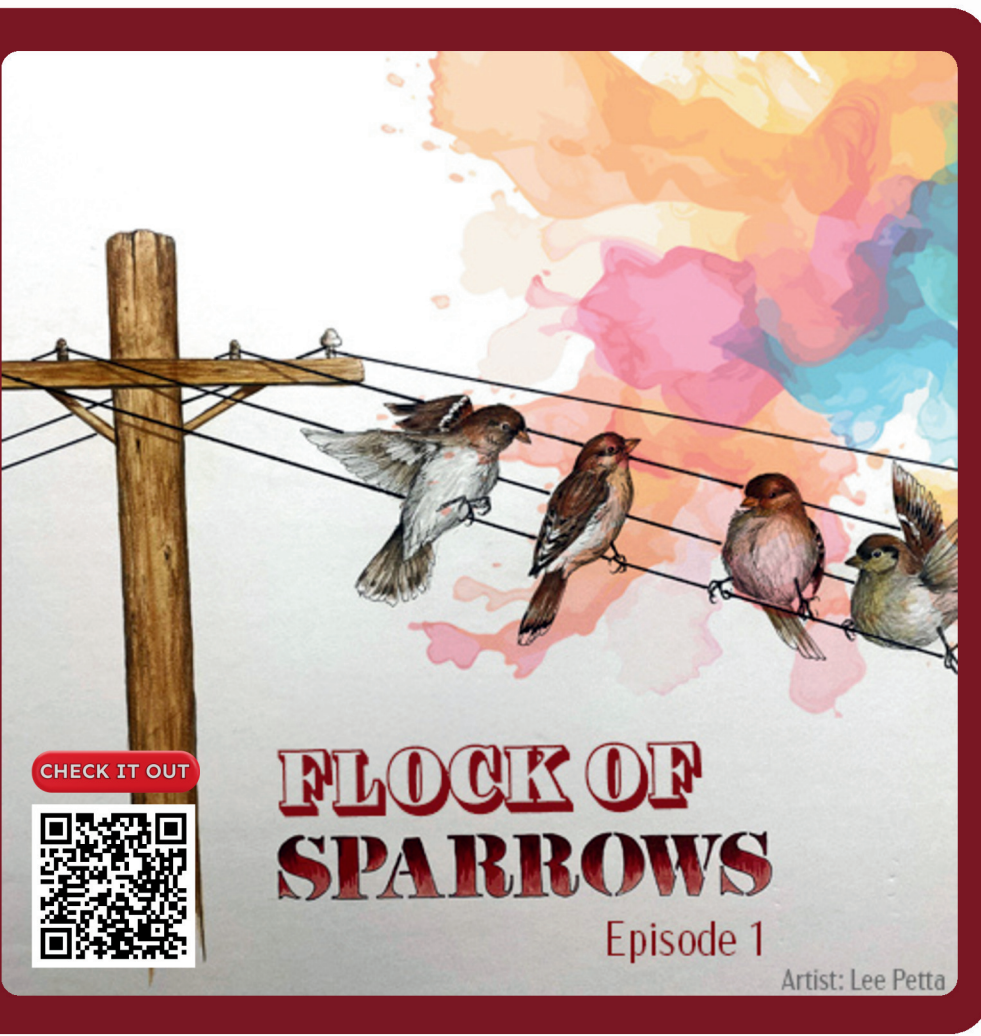
REGISTER NOW

Using the link or QR Code below:

<https://bit.ly/2025lentensmallgroup>



Please contact Kate at the
Parish Office with any questions
(920) 739-5119 • kminczeski@stmaryparish.org



Welcome to
FLOCKS OF SPARROWS

A brand-new podcast featuring fun, heartwarming, inspiring, and silly sketches and stuff, all centered around faith and the love of Christ. Grab your headphones or crank up the garage speakers, gather family, a friend, or anybody within reach, and come along for the journey. It's time to let your faith soar with Flock of Sparrows, where every episode is a reminder that we're never alone, and that God's love is always with us, guiding us through the highs and lows of life.

Mass Intentions

Sat. Feb 1	4:30pm	---
Sun. Feb 2	7:45am	---
	9:45am	Julie Sabish
	5:30pm	---
Mon. Feb 3	12:05pm	---
Thur. Feb 6	12:05pm	Janice Clark
Sat. Feb 8	4:30pm	David Robert Balliet
Sun. Feb 9	7:45am	---
	9:45am	Audrey Melder & Raymond Francis Penske
	5:30pm	No Mass
Mon. Feb 10	12:05pm	---
Thur. Feb 13	12:05pm	Vernon & Alice McGinnis
Sat. Feb 15	4:30pm	Wendy Hafenbreadl
Sun. Feb 16	7:45am	Sharon Bengel
	9:45am	Ben Ruh
	5:30pm	

NEEDS TREE UPDATE

Thank you for your support of the needs tree. Once again your generosity made a huge difference in our community.



ST. MARY - APPLETON

shamrock shenanigans

MARCH 15 | 6 PM

Fox Club @ the Fox Cities
Timber Rattler Stadium
NEW LOCATION FOR 2025!



Donation Information

We're looking for unique items or experiences for the silent auction or as game prizes. Suggestions: a gourmet meal, a pontoon ride on the lake, a stay at a vacation rental, or event tickets.

Donations due to the parish office by March 7.

Questions? Ready to donate? Call Kathie Shadick at 920-427-8282.

Sponsor Information

WHY SPONSOR? We are dedicated to keeping Shamrock Shenanigans an affordable community event, and sponsors help us meet that goal. Thank you!

See your name in lights! Sponsor at the Guinness or Jameson level to have your name featured on the Timber Rattler scoreboard, visible to traffic on Hwy. 41.

Sponsorship Levels

- Blarney \$50-249
- Smithwick's \$250-499
- Guinness \$500-999
- Jameson \$1000+

Mail or return this form to parish office by **FEB. 28, 2025** to be included on promotional materials.

Donor Name

Business Name (if applicable)

Name to be used on promotional materials

Needed for donation receipt

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



FOOD DRIVE

February 8th and 9th

The collection is for canned soup, especially ready to eat or anything to make soup. Thank you for your generosity and care for others.



Congratulations!



Merlin and Joan Brunner Scholarship Winners:

- 4 year scholarship awarded to incoming freshman (\$1000 per year)
- St. Mary Scholarships for Xavier Catholic Schools

Robert Biechler, Sophia Miller, Joy Krull, Lily McHugh

Dr. Charles and Jacqueline Dungar Scholarship Winners:

Michaela LaValle, Lily McHugh

Fr. Michael O'Rourke Education Scholarship Winners:

- \$500 scholarship for 3 middle school students:

Aaron Bires, Finnean Looker, Charlotte Biechler

St. Mary's School / Catholic School Legacy Scholarship Winners:

- Elementary student scholarship (\$2000 total across 3 years):

Emma Barlow, Abraham Dederig

Looking for a Scholarship?

Scholarship applications open now!

- Go to the Xavier Website and go to Xavier Catholic Schools/ Admissions/ Scholarships
- Or Scan the QR code



Microwave

FOOD

FEB 14-28

We are collecting prepackaged microwaveable food items for Appleton Area School students and families facing housing insecurity.



ENTRUST

DISCIPLES ON MISSION RETREAT

During this weekend intensive, attendees will receive the formation and practice for how to walk with others in their journey of faith. Thanks to the generosity of the Bishop's Appeal, this retreat is **free of charge** for staff, volunteers, and parishioners within the Diocese of Green Bay.

ST. BERNADETTE & ST. MARY

Friday, February 21

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 22

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Bernadette Parish

2331 E Lourdes Drive
Appleton, WI 54915



Want to learn more or register?

www.gbdioc.org/entrust

Blessings
of the Throats

Feb 1-2



COFFEE & DONUTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pancake Breakfast

Community Room

Free will offerings accepted

Sunday, Feb 16

8:30-11:30am

All are welcome!



Xavier Theatre Presents

The Adventures of TOM SAWYER



This lively & engaging adaptation of Mark Twain's classic tale with Tom's free-spirited escapades and adventures told in story theatre style is ideal for young audiences.

7:00 pm February 12, 14 • 2:00 pm February 15

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, 1600 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton

www.xaviertheatre.com • (920) 733-8840

A Program of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System

**NO 5:30PM MASS ON
FEBRUARY 9,
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**

ADORATION
WILL BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 5
6 PM - 8 PM

SOUP & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sign-up to make soup
or volunteer!

Thursdays at 5:30pm
Stations first, soup to follow

March 6 – St. Mary
March 13 – St. Joseph
March 20 – St. Mary
March 27 – St. Joseph
April 3 – St. Mary
April 10 – St. Joseph



SIGN UP NOW

Everyone, young and old,
Catholic and non-Catholic, can
take part in this prayerful and
popular Lenten tradition.





Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Putting Our Faith Into Action
920-272-8234

Catholic Charities
Financial Health
920-272-8234

charitiesgb@gbdio.org
or catholiccharitiesgb.org



Elderly Household Assistance Grant

Need Assistance with Housing Expenses?

Assistance Includes:

- Rent/Mortgage Roof Furnace
- Electrical, Plumbing & Water Heating
- Security Deposit And more...

QUALIFICATIONS

- Reside in Outagamie County
- 65+ years old

MUSIC, STORYTELLING & FELLOWSHIP

SARAH HART *Music*



Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today, her songs of faith having touched the lives of thousands.

Holy Cross Catholic Church - 3009 Bay Settlement Road - Green Bay, WI 54311

Music Ministry
WORKSHOP

Saturday, Feb 8th 2025
10am-Noon
Ticket: \$25.00

Evening
CONCERT

Saturday, Feb 8th 2025
6:45pm
Ticket: \$12.00

Fruit of the Spirit
GIFTS & CHARISM RETREAT

Sunday, Feb 9th 2025
1pm-3pm
Ticket: \$25.00

Join UWGB Phoenix Catholic Campus Ministry in welcoming Sarah Hart on Feb 8 & Feb 9, 2025 at Holy Cross Parish, Green Bay! Opportunities include Music Ministry Workshop, Evening Concert and a Fruit of the Spirit Gifts & Charism Retreat.

Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today, her songs of faith having touched the lives of thousands.

Tickets: phoenixcatholic.org/sarah-hart-event

Sponsored by: UWGB Phoenix Catholic Campus Ministry, the Catholic Foundation and the Diocese of Green Bay

CIA+Faith Mission Operatives presents

An evening of tribute with
Vicar General
FR. JOHN GIROTTI
Diocese of Green Bay



February 2025 marks the 15th anniversary of the death of **Fr. Mike O'Rourke**.

A beloved pastor and friend, Fr. Mike inspired both Fr. Girotti's journey to the priesthood, as well as the creation of **CIA-Faith Mission Operatives**, a ministry dedicated to carry on his work to be a *Window for Jesus*.



A good priest is always a miracle of grace
Hans Urs von Balthasar

2024-25 SEASON
BRINGING BACK THE BEST!

OUR SHEPHERDS FOR WHOM WE PRAY

Our priests - past, present & future

In Persona Christi:

to act in the place of Jesus Christ.

This is the job of a priest. But how does a mere human fill the shoes of the King of the Universe? It starts with following Jesus' lead to serve others. Priests are to be *shepherds* who care for the people entrusted to them, just as Christ is the shepherd of the human family.

MONDAY | FEB 3 | 7 PM

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Theatre doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Free will offering encouraged

For details email ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025 | Check website (web search CIAFMO) for winter weather cancellation

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives encourages YOU to
Investigate Your faith!

CHILDREN'S

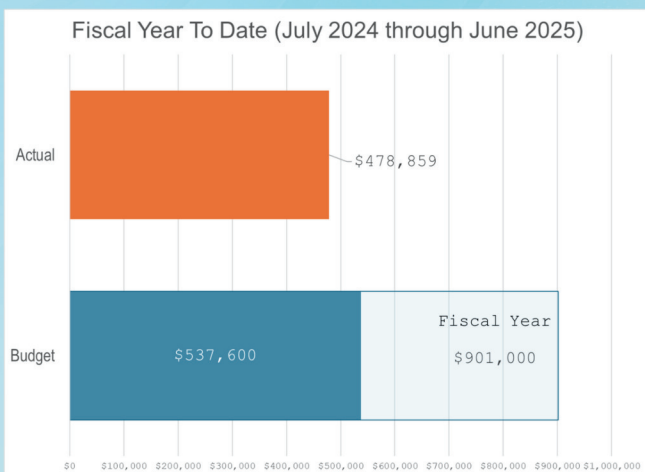
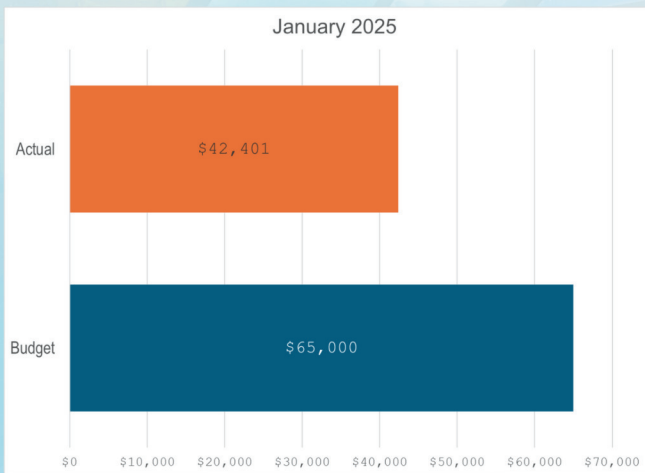
LITURGY



**WILL BEGIN AGAIN
IN FEBRUARY
EVERY WEEK!**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY WILL
BEGIN AGAIN AT THE
9:45AM MASS
FEBRUARY 2ND**

Offertory Information



Bishop's Appeal

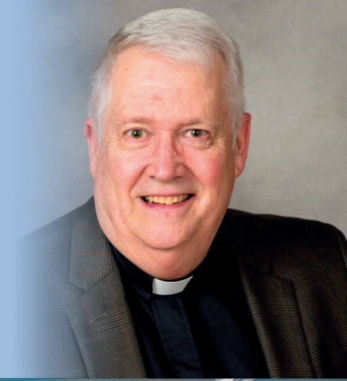


Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2025 Bishop's Appeal at www.catholicfoundationgb.org/give



Our Roman Catholic Church

in Joy & SORROW



I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU THE HOMILY I GAVE FOR THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE DURING THE 58TH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.

I offered the following reflection on Thursday, January 23, in our Church. I am grateful to my fellow Christian ministers who participated in this Prayer Service. They were Pastor Mary Bauer, First English Lutheran Church, Pastor Marcus Wegenast, First United

Methodist Church, Pastor Tim Moffett, Valley Baptist Church, and Pastor Shawn Whitworth, The Mission Church.

Here's what you can expect from this homily tonight: a joke, two images and some encouragement. So, if I can stay on track, you will know when I will be sitting down!

Three women die and go to heaven. Saint Peter meets them at the pearly gates. Peter says to the first woman,

Here's what you can expect from this homily tonight: a joke, two images and some encouragement.

“Welcome to heaven! Back on earth, what denomination were you?” She replies, “I was a devout Presbyterian.” St Peter, “Excellent! Go to door 10, but when you pass door 2, be very quiet.” Peter asks the second woman, “When you were on earth, what denomination were you?” The second woman replies, “I was the pastor of my Methodist Church!” Peter says, “Wonderful! Make your way to door 6, but when you pass door 2, be very quiet.” Peter asks the last woman, “What denomination were you on earth?” The woman says, “I was Lutheran.” Peter says, “You know the drill. Go to door 12, but be very quiet when you go past door 2.” She says, “Why is it we need to be so quiet when we go past door 2?” Saint Peter replies, “Because that’s where the Catholics are and they think they’re the only ones here.”

You may have laughed but I can tell you that no Catholic Christian in the Middle Ages would have laughed but

they would have rather applauded. Thank God we are no longer living in the Middle Ages!

I bet most of us are familiar with the Prophet Ezekiel’s vision of the dry bones, making a ruckus, and coming together in the desert.

But Ezekiel had another vision that few of us are familiar with.

As the People of Israel were so divided, the Kingdoms of the North, ten tribes strong, and the Kingdoms of the South, only two tribes, Ezekiel was directed by the Lord God to obtain two sticks, to write the names of the ten tribes on one stick, and the names of the two tribes on the other, and to bind those two sticks together.

God’s promise to God’s Chosen People was that God would be the agent who restored holy unity

among them. Obviously, two sticks joined together are far stronger than a single stick!

When Pope Francis visited Jakarta, Indonesia, last September, he highlighted for the world to know that there is a *Tunnel of Friendship* that runs underground, connecting the Catholic Cathedral to the Moslem Mosque.

In Pope Francis’ greeting in that holy space, he suggested that “we who belong to different religious traditions have a role to play in helping everyone pass through the tunnels of life with our eyes turned towards the light. Then, at the end of the journey, we will be able to recognize in those who have walked beside us, a brother, a sister, with whom we can share life and support each other.”

In the face of today’s many challenges, we respond with the sign of fraternity

(sorority). Indeed, by welcoming others and respecting their identity, fraternity urges them on a common path travelled in friendship and leading towards the light.” (Pope Francis’ Greeting in the Tunnel of Friendship, Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept 5, 2024)

Two Sticks Joined Together as a Single Stick

The whole is always greater than its individual parts. The Christian Church, the People of God, is always greater than its individual denominations. Unity does not mean conformity and diversity is always to be celebrated.

In the Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism, the Council Fathers wrote of the beauty of dialogue between different Christian communities in which “everyone gains a truer knowledge and more just appreciation of the teaching and religious life of both

“When such actions are undertaken prudently and patiently... They promote justice and truth, concord and collaboration, as well as the spirit of brotherly (sisterly) love and unity. This is the way that, when the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion have been gradually overcome, all Christians will at last, in a common celebration of the Eucharist, be gathered into the one and only Church in that unity which Christ bestowed on His Church from the beginning.” (paragraph 4)

The Tunnel of Friendship

Here in the city of Appleton, we have a group of fellow Christians that have named themselves “Churches United in Care.” Of late, they have been meeting regularly with a critical need on their hearts having to do with providing affordable housing for those without homes, and providing adequate shelter for those who are homeless.

United in a love for the Lord and in a desire to make a difference in the lives of our sisters and brothers who are struggling, they are embodying Jesus Himself alive and present in our community.

The pastoral style of Jesus must be our style. That style is to be close to people, to be tender and compassionate.

We Christians must be convinced that closeness, tenderness, and compassion are constitutive of the Gospel of Jesus. We put Jesus and His Gospel in first place. Jesus and His Gospel must shape our viewpoints and our politics.

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As disciples of Jesus, we are courageous in calling out those people who shape Jesus and His Gospel according to their personal perspectives. To be silent in the face of this reinterpretation of the Gospel is to become complicit in a lie.

Let me finish with these words of the late Congressman John Lewis, who, as a little boy believed that he would one day be a preacher of the Gospel and who would practice by preaching to the animals on his boyhood farm in Troy, Alabama:

"When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something...each generation must do its part to help build

what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

Together, let us be that Beloved Community in Appleton and far beyond!

Fr. Bill +

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