



August 2023 >>>

Contents

- *From Our Deacon*, p.1
- *Human Concerns*, p. 1-4
- *Community Activities* p.4-6
- *Prayer & Worship*, p. 6
- *SCRIP Fundraiser*, p. 7

From Our Deacon >>>

Eucharistic Revival

Deacon Jim Matthias

The St. Sebastian/St. Catherine Community, along with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is officially participating in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) call to have a movement of "Eucharistic Revival" across the nation. We are joining countless bishops, dioceses, parishes, and apostolates to be healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist — and sent out in mission "for the life of the world."

The mission of the Revival is "to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist." You are invited to read [The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church](#), written by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Human Concerns >>>

St. Vincent De Paul Meal Program

Phil Bielefeld, Coordinator SVDP Meal Program

St. Sebastian's will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program in August. Our next date is Friday, August 25. Volunteers are needed to help cook or to serve the meal. Cooks meet in the church hall kitchen at 8:00 am, servers at 4:00 pm. Servers will load up the food to bring it down to All People's Church (2600 N. 2nd Street) to serve the meal.

Donations of apples/oranges, cookies/desserts, and lettuce for salad (bags or heads cut up and ready to go) are also appreciated and can be dropped off in the church hall kitchen anytime on Friday before 4:00 pm.

For more information or to donate food or to volunteer contact Phil Bielefeld at 414-559-0996 or pjb0469@gmail.com. Monetary donations are accepted as well to help offset the rising cost of purchasing groceries.

Thank you to all the cooks, servers, and donors who helped at the last meal program back in June where we served roughly 150 meals...and we expect that number to increase with

the kids still being out of school for the summer. All who were served were very appreciative and thankful for our efforts.



SEA Literacy

SEA Literacy Volunteer Opportunity

Chris Kometer, Human Concerns Committee

The Human Concerns Committee is focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching (CST): “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable”, this new parish year. This month’s St. Sebastian highlighted ministry is tutoring with the **Southeast Asia Literacy**

Project (SEA Literacy). Sebs parishioners have been supporting this important ministry for six years, and SEA Literacy always needs more volunteer tutors!

Leviticus 19:9-10 states: “A portion of the harvest is set aside for the poor and the stranger.” The students who attend tutoring at SEA Literacy are all from families who are refugees. They left their homes to save their lives and came to this country, foreign to them, greeted by a language, money system, foods, clothing, customs, culture all different from what they’ve known their entire lives. They are considered strangers here, and it is our duty to welcome them and help them survive and thrive. There are refugee resettlement programs to assist the families in finding housing and jobs and assisting the adults in getting settled.

Bob Heffernan, founder of SEA Literacy, noticed that the children/students did not have much in the way of support for them to experience success in school. So, he started this program to provide focus, just for the kids, to support their transition to life in this county. As the SEA Literacy website states, “At SEA Literacy, we want our refugee students to express and understand ideas and opinions, to make decisions and achieve their goals, and become successful members of our community.”

SEA Literacy is a program of weekly tutoring for refugee students, mostly from Myanmar (formerly Burma) and more recently from Afghanistan, as well. The students range from Kindergarten to University levels, and tutors work one-on-one with students assisting them with homework, ESL (English as a second language) activities, and developing social skills. In the process, the tutors are also enriched by learning about the students’ culture and their interests, talents, and personal stories.

Tutoring takes place at the Neighborhood House in Milwaukee on Tuesday evenings (6-8 pm) and/or Saturday mornings (10-Noon). More information, volunteer application and donation link can be found on their website at www.sealmke.org.

For more information about the St. Sebastian participation in this ministry, feel free to contact Chris Kometer at cmeter@sbcglobal.net or anyone on the Human Concerns Committee.

August Social Action and Sustenance

Leah Sealey, Facing Racism Social Action Team

Multipurpose Room, August 7, 6-7:30p m

Help document transcriptions for University of WM's "Mapping Racism and Resistance" citizen science study. Please bring your own laptop. Our Facing Racism Social Action members will help you navigate the process. Easy to eat foods are provided.

This UWM study asks us to reveal discrepancies in housing caused by racial covenants which declared that homes could not be sold to "non-Caucasians". You can get a head start by downloading and creating a free [Zooniverse](#) account on your computer.

No need to RSVP, just show up!

If you are unable to join us in person you can also help in these ways ...

1. Familiarize yourself with the UWM study [here](#).
2. Establish a [Zooniverse](#) account, *open it and sign in*, then use [this link](#) to go directly to the MRR transcription project. Here, on Zooniverse, it is titled "Mapping Prejudice". There is a short tutorial before you begin the transcriptions. Please make sure the documents relate to Milwaukee County before you get started.

Contact Leah Sealey if you have any questions leahsealey@hotmail.com.

Celebrating Teosinte's Repatriation

Mary Beth Duffey, Teosinte Committee

On Sunday August 13, we will commemorate the Repatriation of our sister parish from the refugee camp in Honduras to the community now known as Teosinte 35 years ago this August. In solidarity with our sister community, all three Masses will include celebrations of gratitude for the safety and resilience of this community over these years. The Casa Romero Youth Choir will join us at the 6 pm Mass.

The Repatriation Anniversary Liturgy is one of three annual events that focus on our *journeying together*.

Growing in Solidarity with Teosinte: A History

Sue Olson, Teosinte Committee

Here is a little history to explain Teosinte's repatriation. Prior to 1979 a group of families lived along the Sumpul River in a valley region of an area in El Salvador called Chalatenango. When civil war erupted in El Salvador these peaceful people, living a life of sustenance, were forced to flee their homes and communities, eventually finding safety and shelter in a mass refugee camp in Honduras called Mesa Grande. There they lived, made friends, and dreamed of returning to their home along the river.

As the war ended, the government repatriated some of these families to a mountainous area alongside a small stream. Here, this small group of families gathered and learned to live and farm and rebuild a life of peace. Here, they formed the community of Teosinte on August 18, 1988.

In the fall of 1991, our parish formed a sistering relationship with the people of Teosinte, El Salvador. Our relationship is about prayer, sharing stories, personal connections, and financial support. Over the years we have walked in solidarity with our sisters and brothers. Currently the El Salvador Committee offers three opportunities for the entire parish to

3

participate: Way of the Cross, Repatriation Celebration and Las Posadas. Everyone is welcome to participate.

The community of Teosinte will celebrate the entire week of August 13 with parades, community meals, children's activities, and several masses. They conclude their week with a music and dance party on Saturday night. We will celebrate at each mass on Sunday, August 13, with music, song, and a special offertory. The 6:00 pm mass will also include music and song by the Casa Romero Choir. You and your family can participate by bringing forward the special symbols that represent Teosinte. We need several people at each mass to help. If you would like more information or are interested in helping, please contact Sue Olson (susan_olson@att.net). We also invite you to stop by at the Ministry Fair in September to learn more about our sistering relationship with Teosinte.

Community Activities >>>

Family Potluck hosted by the Moms

Group Maggie Shelledy McAsey, Moms Group Co-leader

You're Invited to join us for a family-friendly potluck hosted by the Moms Group on **Sunday, August 13 at 4:30 pm at the St. Sebastian playground**. Please bring a dish to share. You are especially invited if it's your first time at Moms Group event, you have a million kids, or you have no kids. All are welcome!

Please reach out to co-leaders Maggie Shelledy McAsey at shelledym@gmail.com or Chelsea Duffy at Chelsea Duffy chelsea.duffy17@gmail.com with questions or if you'd like to sign up for specific items.

Blood Pressure and Health

Maria Watson, Development Director

Sunday, August 6, 9 am

We have a parishioner, who is a senior nursing student, she has chosen St. Sebastian to complete her community health project. Her aim is to teach the parish about hypertension and ways to keep blood pressure in check. She will present that important information on Blood Pressure and Health, next Sunday, August 6. The presentation will take place in the multipurpose room, starting at 9 am. Additionally, she will offer blood pressure checks, provide educational materials, and share general guidance on health education. Contact Margaret at mlee@saintsebs.org for more details or to answer questions.

Christian Women Boutique

Maria Watson, Development Director

Co-Chairs Needed

The Christian Women of Saint Sebastian are actively seeking enthusiastic parishioners to co-chair the annual Christian Women Boutique in December. This amazing event brings together the women of the parish in fellowship, faith, and holiday spirit! This is a very organized and efficient event and support will be provided. Please reach out to either Patty Walsh

4

(walsh_8100@yahoo.com) or Jenny O'Neil (jso172252@gmail.com) with any questions. We look forward to making sure this tradition continues with and for YOU!

Sparkle Squad

JoAnn Stasiewicz, Saint Sebastian Stewardship Committee

A Saturday morning opportunity to shine!

St. Seb's Sparkle Squad? What's this about? Do we have a new ministry in the parish? Well, not exactly a new ministry but an expansion of our "Spring into Service" annual endeavor. Our parish has traditionally held one day in the month of May for "Spring Cleaning". The Stewardship Committee organized the cleaning of some of the areas of our campus. We were not able to get all the work done in one day due to the number of parishioners that attended and the number of areas that needed cleaning. To get these tasks completed and make our campus shine, the "Sparkle Squad" has been created.

We will meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The upcoming projects are as follows: August 12 - Church Hall; September 9 - Garden; October 14- Prayer Garden Benches; November 11 - School; December 9 - Church.

There will be a Sign Up for each month through Sign-Up Genius. This is a site we will be using to describe the jobs to be done each month. This is the address to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4eafab28a7f58-sebastians#/>

Each job will have a description and list any cleaning tools that will be needed to complete the task. Please consider signing up to make our *campus shine*. Any amount of time you can give will be welcomed. We appreciate your hard work and energy! Thank you for your consideration and willingness to make our campus "Sparkle"!

August 1 Craft Group

JoAnn Stasiewicz, Coordinator joannstaz@gmail.com

Calling all women who like to craft. The Craft Group will be meeting on Tuesday, August 1 at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. This month we will be working on several projects: Beaded Zipper Pulls, Christmas Candy Pillow Boxes and Christmas Gift Tags. As always it will be a time of fun and fellowship. All women are welcome. As an enticement, one of our members usually brings delicious chocolate to nibble on!

Supplies to bring (if you have them): Lobster claw clasps, pretty 4-10 mm beads, round or flat nosed pliers, craft or tacky glue in a fine-tipped bottle, tweezers, some small Christmas rubber stamps, red or green ink pads, 3mm hole punch. If you don't have any of these, don't worry and come anyhow - we'll have plenty to share. Bring friends - there'll be lots to do, and there'll be chocolate to nibble on!

Ladies Night Out

Wine, Cheese and Games, August 17

A long-awaited evening of camaraderie with the Women of Saint Sebastian is in the works to have fun, socialize, and make new friends. This is to be an evening of Wine & Cheese along with playing a board game, card game or any game of your choice. We want to encourage you to come out for the evening to enjoy meeting and talking to our fellow women parishioners.

5

This event will take place in the Multipurpose Room, Thursday, August 17 at 6:30pm. Wine, cheese, and soft drinks will be provided. If you have a special appetizer you want to make and share, bring it along. If you have a game you would like to play, bring that along too. This is to be an evening to relax and throw your cares away for a couple of hours. Don't worry if you do not drink wine or do not like cheese. If you don't have a particular game to share, don't worry, we know there will be plenty of things to do and talk about. So come out and have some fun with women of our parish. If you have questions, you can contact JoAnn Stasiewicz: 414-405-5303 or joannstaz@gmail.com or Sue Olson: 414-331-3358 or Susan-olson@att.net.

Prayer and Worship >>>

Annual Outdoor Mass

Maria Watson, Development Director

Save the Date: September 10

Save the DATE! Our annual Outdoor Mass will be held on September 10, 2023, followed by a Cookout & Potluck Lunch and Ministry Fair.

Mark your calendars for this much anticipated event. There will be no 8 am or 10:30 am Masses on this date. More details to come as we get closer to September 10.

Faith Formation Catechists Needed

Maria Watson, Development Director

As the Faith Formation team is busy getting ready for classes in the fall, we are beginning to look for some new catechists (teachers). We are in desperate need of at least three catechists.

The material is all provided. Please let Morgan Frank at mfrank@saintsebs.org know if you would be willing to share your time and talents with our young students.

Selected Prayers

Jean Kreul, Chair, Prayer & Worship Committee

Grant me, O Lord, to know what I ought to know,

To love what I ought to love,

To praise what delights Thee most, To value what is precious in Thy sight, To

hate what is offensive to Thee. Do not suffer me to judge according to the sight of my eyes,

Nor to pass sentence according to the hearing of the ears of ignorant men;

But to discern with a true judgment

between things visible and spiritual, And
above all, always to inquire what is the
good pleasure of Thy will. Amen. --A prayer
attributed to Thomas à Kempis (1380- 1471)

Author of *The Imitation of Christ*
“Joy is the sheer evidence of God.”
--Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (5/1/1888 –
4/10/1955)

6

SCRIP Fundraiser >>>

Make fundraising part of your everyday life with gift cards purchased through RaiseRight. By using gift cards to pay for everyday purchases, each individual can earn for the parish and to help with school or faith formation fees. No selling. No extra time. No extra money.

[Click here](#) for a look at all the ways to do this. This continues to be a fundraiser for the parish. You can purchase cards either at the Parish House during regular business hours or buy anytime online. For more information, [please check out our website](#). We now carry in inventory Festival Foods. Popular ones carried in inventory include PickNSave, Metcalfes, Kwiktrip, Speedway, Mobil, Amazon, to name a few.

We are also looking for someone to organize volunteers to sell after Masses like we did pre-COVID. If you are interested, please contact Joann and jperleberg@saintsebs.org.

Please continue to read the bulletin; [it's available online](#) or if you would like to have it mailed to you, contact the parish office at 414-453-1061.

