

Call to ACTION...

Brochure Invites Parishioners to Become Involved in Liturgical Ministries

The Cathedral Sacred Worship Committee recently printed brochures that invite parishioners to become involved in the parish's liturgical ministries.

The ministries are Ministers of Hospitality (ushers), Lectors, Mass Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Sacred Music – which includes the Cathedral Gallery Singers choir.

Copies of the brochure are available at some entrances to the Cathedral, and inside this issue of The Worker.

The committee decided to print and distribute the brochures because “The Cathedral would benefit from greater numbers of participants in all of the liturgical ministries,” said committee Chair Dr. Brian Luckner, who also is the Cathedral's director of music and organist. “It is sometimes difficult to find sufficient coverage for certain Masses.”

“Also, the short rosters in each area require people to be scheduled with great frequency,” Luckner said. “More participation would help lighten the burden, because people could be rotated in and out of the schedule from week to week.”

Luckner also said the committee's major objective for this year is the reinvigoration of liturgical ministries. “This has two primary aspects – recruiting broader participation in the ministries, and making an effort to improve the manner in which the various ministries are performed,” he said. “In all areas, those involved are generally doing a very good job, but there is always room for improvement.”

For more information about becoming involved in the liturgical ministries, call the parish office at 608-782-0322, Ext. 0.

Vision Statement Calls for Parishioners to Take *Their Time* Seriously

The Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council's Vision Statement for 2018 calls upon parishioners to take their time in this world seriously, says its author, Sandy Perpich.

The Vision Statement has been authored for more than 15 years by Perpich, who is a council member and chair of the Cathedral Education Committee. She has a doctorate in theology from Marquette University.

“The Diocesan Sesquicentennial Celebration proved the impetus for the reflection, and I hope that the statement invites the Cathedral's clubs and committees to reflect on and build programming around the ideas expressed therein,” Perpich said of this year's Vision Statement.

“We can consider time from the communal perspective of the sesquicentennial; but sometimes, we may benefit from considering time also from a personal perspective,” she said. **“How do I use my time? What should I do?”** Sadly, many people seem to spend more time playing with their electronic devices and less time with others or even alone. Perhaps the statement will prompt them to consider how they should apportion their time.”

For example, Perpich said, “Those who settled this region 150 years ago (and even before then) carried and valued their faith; and through their prayers and intentions and hard work, they built churches and communities that remain vibrant even now. We honor their efforts and courage by paying attention to this anniversary, acknowledging that we stand on their shoulders. The Vision Statement calls us now to reflect on the gifts from the past that continue to enliven us at the level of enduring communal time.”

Perpich added, “Similarly, as individuals, we may wish to apply a solemn appraisal of time to our personal awareness, too. For example, when we act, typically this means that we have made decisions and moved our bodies to realize those choices. This happens within our individual lifetimes, of course, but also in the light of eternity. The Vision Statement mostly will guide parish bodies in their programming for the next year, but I hope that parishioners who read the statement will pay some attention to how they use their time – what they want to achieve, what they ought to achieve.”

Perpich said the Vision Statement offers thematic direction for the parish committees and clubs and thereby builds continuity into the efforts of each group. For example, the Education Committee hosted Soup Suppers on Fridays during Lent and lined up speakers for four of them – Jack Felsheim on the history of the diocese, Jean McDonnell on the diocesan history book that she and Felsheim crafted, Jake Kramer on funeral planning and Deacon Tom Skemp on praying the liturgical hours. “Each of these speakers considered time-related topics pertinent to Cathedral parish, whether communally or personally,” Perpich said.

Ask yourself: How Spiritual am I each day?

2018

Cathedral Vision Statement

The Diocese of La Crosse celebrates its sesquicentennial this year, an occasion that prompts reflection on time and duration.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Catholics who settled in western Wisconsin solidified their intention to remain and achieved diocesan status, a mark of community that continues to characterize us today, particularly here at the Bishop's Church. Surely something has happened during this passage through time, so the question arises: How have this diocese and parish changed and yet remained the same?

The Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council asks its committees and groups to convey a solemn sense of time and its importance to the populations they serve. Pope Francis recommends that, while we human beings journey through finite time, we not permit ourselves to become “imprisoned” by the present moment. Rather, remembering that “I am not the master of time,” each of us should allow this awareness to illuminate our decisions and actions.

Parish committees and groups will develop ways to communicate what Pope Francis calls “a good sense of time,” inviting participants to notice more than just the present moment. Such challenges will help participants connect to the men and women who have come before us and built our diocese, our church.

Attention to time as a continuum within which each of us has a role will remind parishioners that what they think and say and do matters both here and now – but also eternally.

Registration is Under Way for 2018-2019 RCIA Session

Registration is under way for the 2018-2019 session for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at the Cathedral, for those who wish to become Catholic. RCIA classes will begin sometime in September and will end with the celebration of the Easter Vigil on April 20, 2019.

RCIA is intended for adults interested in becoming Catholic. Sessions are intended for those who have never been baptized, those who wish to enter the Church from another Christian tradition, and Catholics who have not completed their initiation sacraments. The sessions cover the basics of Catholic faith

and teachings, as well as encourage regular Mass attendance and Catholic devotional practices. Anyone interested should contact the Cathedral office for registration materials.

Dr. Dean Stroud, who has worked with the Cathedral's RCIA program for 11 years and who has coordinated it for the past five years, is stepping aside after the Easter Vigil on March 31 of this year.

Skemp Takes First Place at Soup-a-Rama

Jessica Skemp's soup took first place among the four soups entered in the Cathedral Education Committee's sixth annual Soup-a-Rama. The event was held on February 3 at Earl's Grocery & Saloon at 401 S. Third St.

Skemp, who is a member of the committee, used the recipe for African Curried Coconut Soup With Chickpeas that can be found on the www.epicurious.com website.

The other soups in the competition were Beer Cheese, Chicken and Dumpling, and Cock-a-Leekie.

As in the past, soups in the Soup-a-Rama could contain meat, or be meatless. For \$5, people could sample as much soup as they wanted and then vote for their favorite. “Many people tried all of them,” committee Chair Sandy Perpich said.

Proceeds from Soup-a-Rama are used to purchase resources for struggling learners at Aquinas Middle and High Schools, she said. This year's event raised \$157. Besides raising money for a good cause, Perpich said, Soup-a-Rama is an opportunity for Cathedral parishioners and others to socialize and build camaraderie. Cathedral parishioners are invited to submit soups for each Soup-a-Rama. And for the first time, this year's event included a soup made by someone from another parish, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

“I think it would be fun” to get other parishes involved in the annual event, Perpich said. “We might try to do that” in the future.

The Cathedral Education Committee also once again held meatless Lenten Soup Suppers in the Cathedral Undercroft, after Stations of the Cross and Benediction, on the Fridays of Lent. All donations from the Lenten Soup Suppers also go toward purchasing materials for struggling learners at Aquinas Middle and High Schools.



From left, Sandy Perpich and Jessica Skemp serve up a bowl of soup at the Cathedral Education Committee's sixth annual Soup-a-Rama on February 3. Skemp's soup took first place in the competition.

Monsignor Charles Stoetzel said Stroud told him February 21 that he wished to step down from the position. As of mid-March, Monsignor Stoetzel had not determined who will head the 2018-2019 session. “I will be looking at several options, too, such as combining with another Catholic parish” to offer RCIA, he said. “Most parishes in the deanery have very small numbers (in RCIA), so it might be advantageous to have one or two programs with greater numbers than to have many with very few each.”



Cathedral Once Again Participates in Mobile Meals Program

The Cathedral is once again providing volunteer drivers for five weeks this year in the Mobile Meals of La Crosse program.

The Cathedral parish is always in need of lunch-time drivers of any age, said Cyndi Withrow, who has been the Cathedral's Mobile Meals coordinator since the late 1990s. "Sometimes it is difficult to cover all the days in our scheduled week," she said.

Whether a parishioner volunteers one or many times, their contribution is greatly appreciated, Withrow said.

Volunteer drivers from the Cathedral delivered meals to the homebound from February 12-18. "This year the Cathedral also will deliver meals during the weeks of June 25-July 1, September 3-9, November 26-December 2 and December 24-30," Withrow said.

Mobile Meals has been serving the La Crosse community since 1971, Withrow said. Each meal is carefully designed by a professional cooking staff, she said, and participants can order one or two meals per day. The one-meal option includes a hot meal with milk. The two-tiered option has an additional sandwich and dessert and usually fruit.

Cathedral members are needed to deliver meals during the weeks of June 25-July 1 ✕ September 3-9 ✕ November 26-December 2 ✕ December 24-30

The volunteers pick up meals at Mayo Health System-Franciscan Healthcare at 11 a.m. and deliver them to people on the city's South Side. After the meals are delivered, the drivers return the insulated containers to the hospital.

"When our delivery week is posted in the (Sunday) bulletin, parishioners may call me to offer a day that is convenient for them," Withrow said. "There are no long-term commitments and deliveries take about an hour-and-a-half on weekdays and 40 minutes on weekends."

A Mobile Meals of La Crosse training video is available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wD_brLajMk. ✕