



The Worker

SAINT JOSEPH ^{THE} WORKMAN | Cathedral

Kotnours Receive Parish's *Family of the Year Award* During December 31 Mass

Active in the Cathedral parish since moving to the area in 2015, the Tim and Linn Kotnour family received the parish's annual *Family of the Year Award* during the 4:30 p.m. Mass on December 31.

"As soon as they registered to be members of the parish, they got involved," Monsignor Charles Stoetzel said, explaining why the Kotnours were chosen for the award. "Tim is a lector and Timothy and Mark are servers. Also, members of the Family Life Committee were impressed by the behavior and reverence of their children at Mass. They set a very positive example to others."

Tim and Linn Kotnour have five children. Their names, ages and grades are Timothy, 16, sophomore; Mark, 14, eighth grade; Maria, 11, fifth grade; Katharine, 9, fourth grade; and Nicholas 8, second grade.

"Our youngest son will be the last member of our family to receive his First Holy Communion, at the Cathedral in April," Linn said. The children are home schooled by Linn, who was a parochial school teacher in Madison.

"Our two oldest boys serve Mass, including the 12:10 p.m. Mass every Friday, and our youngest three are often the gift bearers at the 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass," Linn said.

The family moved to Holmen from the Madison area when Tim became president and CEO of La Crosse-based State Bank Financial in April 2015. He was born and raised in Madison, and Linn was born in Kenosha.

Tim is a lector at the Cathedral. "Being it is the 'bishop's church,' I also serve the Diocese of La Crosse, serving on the bishop's recently-formed Building and Grounds Committee," he said.

"I enjoy serving the Church, and was trustee of the Cathedral when I lived in Green Bay, and when I lived in Madison," Tim said. "I served on the Catholic Diocese of Madison Foundation Board before I moved here."

"Our first visit together to La Crosse was for house hunting," Linn said. "We attended Mass at the Cathedral on the Feast of St. Joseph. I knew instantly that this is where I wanted to attend Mass."

"I enjoy the sacred music and over time we continue to meet more parishioners, so the community part of Sunday worship continues to grow," Tim said, when asked what he most enjoys about being a member of Cathedral parish.

"I love the sacredness of the Mass, the contributions of Dr. Brian Luckner (the Cathedral's director of music and organist) and the wonderful choir, and the faithful priests that have helped me with the religious education of my children," Linn said.

"We are very honored" to receive the *Family of the Year Award*, she said.

"It's always humbling to be recognized," Tim said. "Our entire family likes to serve the Church, in part to give God thanks for all the blessings he gives our family." ✠



The Tim and Linn Kotnour family received the parish's annual *Family of the Year Award* during the 4:30 p.m. Mass on December 31.





Photos by Edward Jones

The renowned Vienna Boys Choir, with conductor Manolo Cagnin, performed at the Cathedral on November 20.

Vienna Boys Choir Performance at Cathedral Impresses Crowd

The November 20 performance by the Vienna Boys Choir at the Cathedral was a great success, according to Dr. Brian Luckner, the parish's director of music and organist.

"We sold about 700 tickets and the nave (the main congregational seating area) was full," Luckner said of the concert, which featured sacred music and lasted about 1 1/2 hours. "The choir was spectacular and the crowd was effusive. Everything flowed very smoothly and the concert was hugely successful." Luckner thanked the many people who were involved in putting on the event.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for people in the La Crosse area to hear a world-famous choir," Luckner said of the Vienna Boys Choir. It's been considered one of the finest vocal ensembles in the world for more than five centuries and frequently visits North America. ✂

Combining Choirs of Two Cathedrals Resulted in 'Terrific Experience' in November

The choirs of the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman and of the Cathedral of Saint Paul in St. Paul, MN, combined to sing at three Masses in November in La Crosse and St. Paul, resulting in twice the normal number of singers.

"It was a terrific experience to combine with another cathedral choir," said Dr. Brian Luckner, the La Crosse cathedral's director of music and organist.

On November 12 in La Crosse, the two choirs provided music for the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the La Crosse cathedral and the 1 p.m. Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

On November 19, the two choirs sang at the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The choral music was the same at all three Masses.

"The members of both choirs had a great




Dr. Sean Vogt, choirmaster of the Cathedral of Saint Paul choir, leads his choir and the Cathedral Gallery Singers (the choir of the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman) during a rehearsal just before the two choirs performed together at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on November 12 at the La Crosse cathedral.

time getting to know one another, and it was a rewarding musical experience," Luckner said. "The St. Paul group loved our choir, the beauty and wonderful acoustics of our cathedral and the shrine, our outstanding organs, and the experience in general.

"Our members thoroughly enjoyed singing with their group as well, and the experience of singing in their massive and extremely impressive cathedral," he said.

Dr. Sean Vogt, choirmaster of the Cathedral of Saint Paul choir, had approached Luckner about collaborating for the performances. Before the three performances, he told *The Worker* that members of his cathedral's music department had traveled to La Crosse a few years ago for a music and spiritual retreat, and toured the La Crosse cathedral and the shrine. Vogt also said he hopes to engage in more collaborations with other cathedrals. ✂

Honoring Our Veterans



- ★ Parishioners look at military memorabilia that was on display in the Gathering Area, while military veterans were honored at a reception after morning Masses on Sunday, November 12, the day after Veterans Day. The Cathedral parish's Family Life Committee hosted the Veterans Day Hospitality Sunday reception and served refreshments. And a special blessing was offered for veterans at all the Masses that weekend.

Nathanael Rhody Succeeds Fred McGovern as Director of Maintenance

After more than 11 years in the post, Fred McGovern retired November 30 as the Cathedral's director of maintenance. He was succeeded by Nathanael Rhody, who joined the Cathedral staff on August 28 to prepare for the transition.

McGovern, who was honored at a reception after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on December 3, began working part time at the Cathedral in 2004. "I was substituting when janitors were on vacation or couldn't be here" for some other reason, he said. And he had been doing volunteer work at the church since 2000.

Before Monsignor Michael Gorman named him to the full-time position of director of maintenance in 2006, McGovern also worked part time at SkipperLiner Industries and at the La Crosse Municipal Boat Harbor. The Peosta, Iowa, native moved to La Crosse from Dubuque, Iowa, in 1986 to work at the boat harbor. He joined the Cathedral parish in 1999.

McGovern served in the Navy from 1966 to 1969, including two naval tours in Vietnam



Fred McGovern



Nathanael Rhody



aboard the minesweeper USS Endurance. He later served in the Navy Reserve from 1983 to 2003.

"I'm getting too old to keep shoveling snow," the 69-year-old McGovern joked, when asked about his decision to retire as the parish's director of maintenance. "There's a lot to do here and a lot of it is heavy-duty, like a lot of lifting, moving tables and chairs, mopping, things like that." McGovern had help from William Moore, a part-time maintenance worker who will continue in that position.

McGovern said he will continue to be a member of the Cathedral Gallery Singers, the parish choir.

His successor, Rhody, is a member of St. James the Less parish and attends 12:10 p.m. Masses on weekdays at the Cathedral.

Rhody worked for River City Lawnscape in Holmen as a landscaper for the last four years. He has a background in carpentry, landscaping and maintenance work. For example, he was a part-time janitor in the Newman Center at Mankato State University in Minnesota, where he received a bachelor's degree in German and in Scandinavian studies in 2013.

Rhody spent the first seven years of his life in the Tomahawk, WI, area, but after that was mostly raised in Central and South America – primarily in Venezuela and Guatemala – where his parents were missionaries. He and his wife Emily, have two daughters. ✂



Men’s Club to Hold Next Pancake/ Omelet Breakfast on February 11

The Cathedral Men’s Club will hold its next Pancake/ Omelet Breakfast on February 11, as a fund-raiser for the Aquinas High School Junior Prom. The club holds four breakfasts during the fall and winter months, on Sundays in the Cathedral Undercroft. Each breakfast raises funds for a particular cause.

The February 11 breakfast will be the third of the four being held this fall and winter. Watch the parish’s Sunday bulletins for an announcement about the date for the fourth breakfast, which is expected to be a fund-raiser for Cathedral School.

The club’s September 17 breakfast raised \$500 for the Aquinas Mission Club, which helps sponsor the Casa Hogar Juan Pablo orphanage in Peru. And the October 8 breakfast raised \$300 for needy families at St. Cecilia Parish in Houston, TX, some whom lost everything to Hurricane Harvey.

The breakfasts are 7:30 a.m. to noon. Prices – \$3 for a pancake breakfast, \$4 for an omelet breakfast, and \$12 for a family.

Aquinas Middle and High Schools students are volunteer servers at the breakfasts. ✕



Education Committee to Hold Soup-a-Rama & Lenten Soup Suppers

The Cathedral Education Committee will once again hold meatless Lenten Soup Suppers on the Fridays of Lent, committee Chair Sandy Perpich said.

And for the sixth year in a row, the committee will hold a winter Soup-a-Rama, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, February 3, at Earl’s Grocery & Saloon at 401 S. Third St. Interested parishioners are invited to enter the soup competition. Soups in that event can contain meat, or be meatless. Donations of bread or desserts also are encouraged. Anyone planning to enter the soup competition or donate bread or desserts can contact Perpich at 787-1775 for details.

“Parishioners are invited to submit soups,” Education Committee member Jessica Skemp said. “This year, we would like to invite folks from other parishes as well. The more the merrier, and it supports a good cause.” At Soup-a-Rama, for a small fee, people can sample soups and then vote for their favorite. The winning soup maker will be recognized.

As always, proceeds will be used to purchase resources for struggling learners at Aquinas Middle and High Schools, Perpich said.

As for the Lenten Soup Suppers, Perpich said, the committee once again will provide simple-but-delicious meatless soups. “We anticipate having speakers, although we might not have one for every Soup Supper,” she said.

Parishioners are invited to attend both the Soup-a-Rama and the Lenten Soup Suppers. Watch upcoming Cathedral parish Sunday bulletins for additional details. ✕

