



The Worker

SAINT JOSEPH ^{THE} WORKMAN

Cathedral

Cathedral Funeral is Set for 1941 Pearl Harbor Casualty George E. Naegle of La Crosse

More than 77 years after he died in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Navy Seaman 1st Class George E. Naegle of La Crosse is coming home.

Funeral services for Naegle will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18 – which also is Armed Forces Day – at the Cathedral. Burial will be in the St. Joseph Mausoleum in Catholic Cemetery along Losey Boulevard, the same cemetery where his parents, George W. and Anna Naegle, are buried.

Schumacher-Kish Funeral and Cremation Services in La Crosse is handling arrangements.

The funeral, burial and funeral home arrangements have been made by Cathedral parishioner Mary Ann Lyden, who is Naegle's niece.

She was only 5 years old when Naegle died at Pearl Harbor, and was only 2 or 3 when he enlisted in the Navy. She has little memory of him, but heard a lot about him as she grew up. 'He was a good guy' with lots of friends, she said.

"I am grateful that he is returning to La Crosse, and that he will have a funeral Mass and burial here after all these years," Lyden said. "I'm happy that he's finally going to be home, and I'm also happy for the sake of his parents and his sister," who had hoped that Naegle's remains might someday be found and returned to La Crosse. Naegle's sister, the late Louise Naegle Weimar, was Lyden's mother.

Last September, the U.S. Defense Department's POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that Naegle's remains have been identified through DNA and other methods of analysis. It said that Naegle, who was 22 and stationed on the battleship USS Oklahoma when he died, was accounted for on August 27.

Naegle's remains were identified with the use of DNA, dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence, DPAA said.

Lyden said Defense Department officials contacted her family a few years ago to get DNA samples from them. She and two of her sons, Randy and Robert, provided the agency with swabs from the inside of their cheeks, as they were asked to do.

Naegle was a 1938 graduate of Central High School, where he was a star football player, according to a story in



This photo of George E. Naegle was taken at the Great Lakes Naval Station in 1941



the December 22, 1941, La Crosse Tribune, which reported that he was still missing. He had enlisted in the Navy in January 1939.

Naegle was on the battleship Oklahoma, which was moored at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, when it and other U.S. ships and aircraft were attacked by Japanese airplanes on December 7, 1941. The battleship was hit by multiple torpedoes, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Naegle.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uuanu cemeteries.

In September 1947, members of the American Graves Registration Service disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In April 2015, the deputy secretary of defense issued a policy memorandum ordering the disinterment of unknowns associated with the USS Oklahoma. And on June 15, 2015, DPAA personnel began exhuming the remains from the Punchbowl for analysis. As of December 2018, DPAA had identified 186 sailors and Marines from the USS Oklahoma who were previously unidentified. As they are identified, their remains are being sent to relatives around the United States for funeral and burial services. ✘

Skemp Again Takes First Place at Soup-a-Rama



Members of the Cathedral Education Committee served up five soups at the committee's seventh annual Soup-a-Rama held February 2 in the Cathedral's Gathering Area.

For the second year in a row, Jessica Skemp's soup took first place in the Cathedral Education Committee's annual Soup-a-Rama. The seventh annual contest was held immediately after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 2, and featured five soups.

Skemp, who is a member of the committee, won this year's contest with a recipe for Roasted Garlic Soup that can be found on the www.epicurious.com website. A year ago, she took first place with a recipe for African Curried Coconut Soup with Chickpeas that also can be found on that website.

The four other soups entered in this year's contest were Italian Sausage and Tomato soup made by Diane Genelin; Kul Beer Chili made by Sara Taggart; Hungarian Goulash Soup made by Sandy and Mark Perpich; and Cream of Tomato soup made by Monsignor Charles Stuetzel.

"As usual, they were delicious," committee Chair Sandy Perpich said of the five soups in this year's Soup-a-Rama. "We had a nice turnout" of parishioners who sampled and voted on the soups.

As in the past, soups in the Soup-a-Rama could contain meat, or be meatless. For a small fee, people could sample as much soup as they wanted and then vote for their favorite.

The event raised \$138. Proceeds from Soup-a-Rama are used to purchase resources for struggling learners at Aquinas Middle and High Schools. Besides raising money for a good cause, Perpich said, Soup-a-Rama is an opportunity for Cathedral parishioners to socialize and build camaraderie.

"I love the fellowship and I like to cook," said Skemp, who besides being a member of the Education Committee also is chair of the Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council. "So it marries two great passions of mine."

Skemp also said the Education Committee is looking for more committee members. "Our main goal is to raise money for struggling learners at Aquinas," she said.

The committee also has once again held meatless Lenten Soup Suppers in the Cathedral Undercroft, after Stations of the Cross and Benediction, on the Fridays of Lent. ✂



Registration is Under Way for 2019-2020 RCIA Session

Registration is under way for the 2019-2020 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 – probably in the first or second week of the month – and will conclude with the celebration of the Easter Vigil in spring 2020, said Deacon Joe Richards, coordinator of the parish's RCIA program. Class times and days will be announced in upcoming Cathedral weekly bulletins.

RCIA is 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 full initiation into the Church. "Others participate who want to

work their faith muscles," Richards said.

"Our RCIA candidate will be wrapping up his program for becoming fully initiated into the Church at 2020's Easter Vigil," Richards said. "Our relationship with God is key: We live the liturgy, we learn about it in the four pillars of the Catechism and pray about it with Scripture, all to live Christ's mandate to 'Go, and announce His Gospel,' in service of Him and of each other," Richards said.

"We have four adults with us (including the RCIA candidate, in the current session) who very faithfully have braved even the foulest of weather, to come into, or else to bone up on, the faith," he said. "Come September, we will flesh out the skeleton we will have put together by then." Richards added, "Our four have responded well to what we are doing. They are great people, who make me a better person. I entertain the idea of doing this year-round, with reasonable periodic breaks, to help them help me."

Anyone interested in registering for the 2019-2020 session can call Richards at 608-780-1669. ✂

Richards, Two Others Look Forward to Transitional Deaconate Ordination

Joseph Richards of the Cathedral parish and two others from elsewhere in the Diocese of La Crosse are looking forward to being ordained to the transitional deaconate by Bishop William Callahan at a ceremony at 10 a.m. May 4 at the Cathedral.

Transitional deacons are ordained with the intention of going on to be ordained as a priest a year later. Richards said he hopes to be ordained a priest in the summer of 2020.

Also looking forward to being ordained transitional deacons May 4 are Sam McCarty and Daniel Williams.

Richards is the son of Deacon Joe and Carol Richards of the Cathedral parish and has a brother, John, and sister, Jeanette. His father is a permanent deacon.

"I first entered seminary right after graduating from Aquinas High School in 2008," Richards said. "I attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, but ended up leaving after a year and a half. I finished up a bachelor's degree in philosophy at St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona, and after working for three years with FOCUS up in Duluth I again took on seminary studies for the Diocese of La Crosse in 2015.

"La Crosse sent me to Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, IL, 20 miles north of Chicago, and I've been studying there ever since. After diaconate ordination, I'll have one year more at Mundelein before the completion of my studies and anticipated ordination in 2020," Richards said.

In March, Richards completed a nine-week Mundelein University curriculum in Israel. "We're splitting our time pretty evenly, taking classes on the Gospel of John and the Old Testament Prophets every other day and touring around to all the Holy Sites on the other days," Richards said two weeks before the classes ended.

"We've been all over the place here, visiting the

From left, Joseph Richards of the Cathedral parish and Sam McCarty pose during a nine-week Mundelein University curriculum module in Israel. They are among three men looking forward to being ordained to the transitional deaconate by Bishop William Callahan at a ceremony at 10 a.m. May 4 at the Cathedral.



Church of the Nativity, little mountain towns in the countryside, Nazareth, and a few dozen other places," he said. "We also got to make our canonical retreat leading up to ordination out at the Sea of Galilee! That was quite a highlight – it was the place where Jesus called together his disciples and the heart of much of his ministry, so praying there as we get ready for ordination was a singular experience.

"Most recently, a few of my classmates joined me for an overnight at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. You show up at 7 p.m. and they shut and lock the doors until 4:30 a.m. in the morning. For that whole time we got to pray in quiet in the place where Jesus died and rose from the dead. Even if it was a bit exhausting, it was powerful being in such an important place all by ourselves!"

Richard said he got "really serious" about the idea of becoming a priest while he was in Duluth working with FOCUS – the Fellowship of Catholic University Students – leading Bible studies, mentoring college students, and doing campus ministry at the University of Minnesota Duluth for a little while.

"Our campus chaplain, Father Mike, is a great example of a man who loves his priesthood," Richards said. "I remember being struck one day when I noticed how much I appreciated the love he had for celebrating the sacraments, counseling students, and helping souls fall in love with Jesus Christ.

"I was even more struck when I realized that was something I could do, too, and that I wanted to spend my life building up disciples. One thing led to another and I ended up back in the seminary again. Since then, I've fallen more and more in love with the Diocese and the people of the Diocese, and I can't wait to be a priest here!" ✂

PCCW to Receive Saint Joseph the Workman Award

The Cathedral Parish Council of Catholic Women will receive the parish's annual St. Joseph the Workman Award at one of the Masses on Sunday, May 5. The PCCW will receive the award for its work, especially in the renovation of the Undercroft, Monsignor Charles Stuetzel said.

An open house was held last October to showcase several pieces of art in the Undercroft that feature St. Joseph as saint, father, husband and worker. The event was sponsored by PCCW, which had recently installed the artwork.

PCCW has made other improvements to the Undercroft in the last few years, such as painting the ceiling and

doors, washing down all the walls, and refurbishing and replacing wood panels.

The Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council chooses the winner of the St. Joseph the Workman Award, which each year recognizes a person, people or group who have done something unselfish for the parish.

"Their work on refreshing the Undercroft exemplifies how they serve the parish," council Chair Jessica Skemp said of the Cathedral PCCW. "The Undercroft is brighter and a more welcoming space, and the addition of the artwork representing the various roles of St. Joseph is stellar."

Skemp added, "I was awestruck by the talent of our parishioners who donated their time and gifts. But just as important is the work that the members of the PCCW did behind the scenes over the last many years to bring this vision to fruition. We felt it was very important to recognize their efforts made on behalf of all of us to improve our parish community." ✂



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 lunchtime 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 to the homebound from February 11-17. This year the Cathedral also will deliver meals during the weeks of June 24-30, September 2-8, November 25-December 1 and December 23-29, Withrow said.

WEEKS THE CATHEDRAL NEEDS MOBILE MEALS VOLUNTEERS
June 24-30 / September 2-8 / November 25- December 1 / December 23-29

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.

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. ✕

