



HOLY FAMILY

Matters

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MY TOP TEN PART ONE

I should be a David Letterman fan.

After all, our birthdays are only a day apart – his on April 12, mine on April 11 – although I am 12 years younger. But mostly because Letterman was born in Indianapolis . . . which makes us fellow Hoosiers. But alas, I have always been a Jay Leno fan.

However, I do enjoy David Letterman's "Top 10" list. I was doing my half hour on the stationary bike when I was inspired to write down my "Top 10" list of being a priest. I quickly ended up with my list.

Unlike Letterman, mine do not come in any particular order. Here are five. I will save another five for next time.

1. EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT.

Have you ever heard that variety is the spice of life? If true, then I lead a very spicy life, as no two days are ever the same.

Celebrating Mass is the only consistent thing on my daily calendar. After that, some days I spend a lot of time in the office, some days I spend all my time out of the office. Some days I spend a lot of time interacting with people, other days are quite solitary. Some days go as **I** plan – other days go as **God** plans. No two days are ever the same.

2. I DON'T HAVE TO DO WHAT I DON'T LIKE EIGHT HOURS A DAY.

Like anyone else, I really enjoy doing some things and I don't enjoy doing others.

I don't like going to meetings, getting lost in piles of paperwork and forms, confronting people about issues, attending to outside commitments away from the parish, spending time on the phone or wading through e-mails, getting involved in finances – to name just a few. Although unpleasant, they are certainly necessary. So I do them, then get on to what I have energy around doing.

3. I GET PAID TO READ AND REFLECT.

I love turning inward reading and reflecting on the Scriptures and other writings – so that I can share that outwardly through my preaching and teaching. And, I get paid to do this!



Obviously, I have energy to do this. Hopefully you receive the fruit of my inward turnings on the weekend. But even while I enjoy reading and reflecting, it takes a certain discipline to do them consistently.

4. I GET TO WRITE A LOT.

Again, this is the fruit of reading and reflecting. I'm sure most of you have noticed that I am not a good

spontaneous speaker. I think anything that is worth saying, is worth saying well.

For me, writing is the process I have to go through in order to say something well. My homiletics professor (the one who gave me Cs in preaching) once told me he thought I would make a good writer, but would never make a good preacher.

The two go together as far as I am concerned. However, it doesn't mean you can just read what you have written and call it preaching!

5. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, GOD PLACES ME IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

On the days I spend way too much time doing what I don't like to do, I go to bed at night wondering just what exactly I accomplished during the day.

But every once in a while, without a doubt, God places me in the right place at the right time.

At a bedside, in a conversation, in an inspired moment of preaching, at a wake, with a stranger or someone I know well. With words, with silence, with a hand held or a back patted. God is working through me and best of all, I know it! These times are worth waiting for. They help to bring everything else that is said and done into perspective.

I will continue next time with another five to complete my "Top 10."

In the meantime, perhaps you can start thinking about your "Top 10" of being a husband or wife, a father or mother, a brother or sister.

WHAT ARE YOUR "TOP 10" REASONS FOR BELONGING TO HOLY FAMILY?

Julie Lemke



When Julie Lemke became involved with RCIA, she was a little scared. She felt she didn't have the background to help people who wanted to be Catholic.

While her older siblings had attended Catholic school in town, Julie and her brother Jim were born later and were not raised Catholic.

Their father was hospitalized before their births. During that time, he had become a Methodist. Their parents allowed them to decide for themselves about their faith.

Growing up, she attended Mass with older siblings, but had not been baptized. After high school, she attended business college where she became friends with young Catholic women. At age 19, she decided to become Catholic. She studied the Baltimore Catechism for her instructions, but the sessions were very short compared to today's RCIA.

"This was the real beginning of molding me as a Catholic," she said.

Early in her marriage to Wayne, she went to church alone. When they had children, she talked to him about the value of religion and attending church as a family. He agreed.

Parish involvement has long been a part of Julie's life. She has been a lector for 44 years and a eucharistic minister for 37 years.

Julie and her family were founding parishioners at Holy Family. She has been active at the parish throughout that time and received the Bishop's Award in 1992.

When Wayne died 25 years ago, she received "love, compassion and care" from staff and parishioners. "I knew Holy Family would be my home away from home."

She served as a eucharistic minister at North Kansas City Hospital for seven years, has been a member of St. Joseph's Women's Group for many years, serving as secretary for 14. She is a greeter and a member of the hospitality committee.

When she worked with RCIA as a sponsor and a team

member, "it opened up my learning. . . . I felt like I was going on the journey with them."

She has continued learning about her faith by taking the course, "Epic: A Journey Through Church History." She is now studying the Acts of the Apostles.

Julie read the entire Bible using a year-long plan. She reads the lector's workbook with weekend readings and commentary before attending weekend Mass. She also uses the Wycliffe Bible Commentary to learn more and has a book of homilies for every Sunday of each liturgical cycle.

Julie has been a member of the prayer chain for many years. She said, "Prayers, no matter how small can make a difference."

Having dealt with several health problems in the past, the 91-year-old attributes her healing to prayers. "I had faith I was going to get well," she said.

Julie starts her day on the edge of her bed with the prayer to the Guardian Angel. She is thankful for safety through the night and asks for help throughout the day. Off and on throughout the day, she prays spontaneously, even as she lays down to rest.

As she looks out the window, she sees all that God has made, including sunrise and sunset. "I know who to thank. You have to give thanks a lot."

In the evening, she uses several resources, including a daily prayer book and others from religious orders.

Since Julie has macular degeneration, she prays to two patron saints of eyes, St. Lucy and St. Odelia.

She prays for people who live alone, for vocations, the missions, addicts, for safe driving. She prays in thanksgiving. She prays to St. Anthony for miracles.

She continuously prays a novena for healing. She prays for healing for herself and for the sick on the prayer chain.

Julie prays to protect the unborn. She finds the statistics on the numbers of abortions "mind-boggling."

Her favorite saint is St. Peregrine, the patron of cancer patients. Her granddaughter Paige died from cancer at 21. Doctors told her parents that she would only live two years after being diagnosed at 23 months. Julie attributed Paige's unexpected life span to prayer from many people.

Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 23, which she knows by heart. "The Lord is my shepherd." She also likes Psalm 37:5. "Depend on the Lord; trust Him and He will take care of you." Another favorite is Psalm 119:105. "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light to my path."

Julie regularly attends Wednesday noon Masses and sometimes the Monday morning Communion service.

ON THE JOB

With Marie Relic
Parish Manager

What's a parish manager?

People often ask Marie Relic this question. She explains that she is Holy Family's business manager.

She administrates parish finances, the physical plant and human resources, among other duties, while remaining aware of legal issues, such as taxes, IRS rulings, city permits, etc.

Marie works with Father Matthew and the finance committee to oversee parish financial activity, including preparing and monitoring the parish budget, all accounting of parish receipts and expenditures, coordinating the parish's major purchases, preparing monthly financial reports and statements, as well as making a yearly report to the diocese. During capital campaigns, she applies all donations to the correct account and prepares analytical reports.

Along with Father Matthew and the facilities committee, she oversees the parish physical plant – all parish property – buildings, grounds and contents. That oversight includes maintenance, repair, new construction and renovation. She requests and reviews bids, making recommendations for parish furnishings, renovations and repairs. Recent work has included replacement of roof, HVAC compressor and windows.

Throughout the parking lot expansion project, she worked closely with Wayne Roy, the diocesan property manager. She found him "very helpful" when dealing with the many hoops the city required the parish to jump through.

A SERIES ON HOLY FAMILY STAFF MEMBERS AND THEIR WORK



Marie supervises Dee Carver, maintenance supervisor, and Lee Ferraro, maintenance assistant. She works with Bill Auffert and Marvin Norton, maintenance volunteers.

She schedules parish hall rentals and other building use requests and coordinates the building schedule with Mary Ludwig-Whipple, parish secretary.

Each year Marie is responsible for the parish inventory, providing a list of contents, which determines the insurance

premium for the coming year. The diocese, which is self-insured, provides coverage to parishes. Thomas McGee, L.C., administers the diocesan insurance.

She supports and serves as a resource for Patty Whelchel, director of stewardship and development. Marie records and accounts for parishioner tithing, as well.

Another area of responsibility includes communications. She supports and serves as a resource and adviser to Suzanne Hill, communications coordinator. Marie also serves as adviser to Mary Ludwig-Whipple, bulletin editor.

In Marie's human resources role, she prepares payroll for parish staff, reviews quarterly and year-end tax documents, maintains personnel records and job descriptions, coordinates employee benefits and assists the pastor in

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As Faith Would Have It: The Power of Prayer

Prayer played an important role in Marie landing her position at Holy Family.

She wanted to return to work after six years off raising her children. She had one in college with another approaching that age. She looked for a year, but those years away from the workplace deterred potential employers.

"I had given up for a while," Marie explained. She realized that she needed to pray for guidance "to lead me where I needed to go." She wanted a position where she could work and still be available to her family.

Her mother saw an advertisement for the position in the Catholic Key on a Wednesday, but the application deadline was that very Friday. She updated her resume

and prepared a cover letter. That Friday, she hand delivered it, but interviews had already been set up.

At the last minute, one of the applicants backed out. She interviewed on a Tuesday and was hired the following Thursday. She began work at Holy Family on January 2, 2008.

"If I hadn't been praying for guidance, I wouldn't have thought much about the timing. . . . It felt like this is where I need to be."

Not only does Marie feel like Holy Family is a good place to work, she also feels it's a great faith community. In October 2011, Marie officially became a parishioner, after a lifetime at another parish.

HAVING FUN AT WORK

HOKANSON IS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AT NEW MARK CARE CENTER

“Not many people can say they play games or visit with people at work,” Megan Hokanson said of her work at the New Mark Care Center.

Megan was the center’s November employee of the month. She is employed as activity/volunteer coordinator for the center’s North Court Rehabilitation Suite.

“I hope I (am) able to bring them a little happiness,” she said, adding, “They have really brought a lot to me. There’s so much to get from the residents. It’s a two-way street.”

As a New Mark Middle School member of the National Junior Honor Society, Megan volunteered at the care center.

Then her mother started working there over 15 years ago as administrative assistant/human resources. She suggested Megan apply for work there after she graduated from high school in 1999.

Megan worked there during breaks from college where she majored in social work. She worked as evening receptionist, daytime receptionist, in the activities department. The last summer she filled in for an employee in social services on maternity leave.

She married Brad Hokanson and they moved to Arkansas. When they returned almost two years later, she began working there again part-time as she looked for work. Their son Jack attended the Nashua Childcare Center attached to the facility. But she didn’t move on to other employment.

“It’s just been wonderful. I was able to fit back in. They happened to need me at the same time I needed them,” Megan said.

“I feel blessed to be able to have fun at work,” she said, adding that daughter Kate now attends the childcare center. Those children attend residents’ activities. Residents know her children’s names. With her children and her mother at New Mark, it *really* is a family environment.

“I feel like I learn something every day from the residents. They are so full of knowledge. I especially love talking to them about events I have only studied in books that they have actually lived (through) first hand: the Depression, WWII, Pearl Harbor, etc. It was such a different lifestyle back then and I love hearing everyone’s



stories.”

Megan coordinates volunteers, entertainment and activities for NCRS, which includes scheduling entertainment for monthly birthday parties and other events.

She is a Eucharistic minister at Holy Family, and recently started ministering to care center residents. She is taking the Monday night Gospel of Mark class.

Parish Manager

Continued from Page 4

hiring and evaluation process as requested.

Marie is the key contact between parish and diocese for the Human Resource Information System (HRIS). This software integrates several systems into one. HRIS manages insurance, benefits, taxes, etc. Employees make their own changes to health and dental selections, and beneficiaries through the system. Marie checks and approves changes.

The parish manager is an administrator, supervising the parish secretary and overseeing maintenance of parish records and databases, checking them for accuracy. She provides parish information and documentation to the diocese upon request, synchronizing records with the diocese through ParishSoft.

Marie is the administrative liaison with Catholic schools regarding parishioner student families. Holy Family has a partnership with St. Charles School. The parish pays the school a fee per each student whose family tithes to Holy Family.

She works with Father Matthew on long-range planning and other concerns the parish council proposes, and with staff, pastor, parish committees and groups on other programs, activities and events as requested.

“I do what I can to help staff with their needs,” she explained.

CALLED To YOUTH ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE GLORY

“As Catholics, we are ‘Called to Glory’ because God has faith in us and together we can build the reign of God,” Kate Sanders explained.

Kate attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis from November 17-19 with other Holy Family youth.

“Called to Glory” was the conference theme. Youth were challenged to search for the glory of Christ, to connect with the glory of Christ and to share the glory of Christ by being church to one another.

Kate was impressed at the opening ceremony in the Lucas Oil Stadium on Thursday with 23,000 youth gathered.

“Most, like me, were staring in awe at the sheer number of people there before sitting down or singing along.”

Youth split into workshop sessions on Friday. Kate attended “Sex in the City of God,” which encouraged chastity, “Picked on for No Reason,” which discussed bullying and how to change those patterns around us, and “Whoop There It Is! – Living the Words of Sacred Scripture,” which explored how the Word of God is alive in us.

“From those sessions I started to look at myself differently. I’d always tried to be good and hide the bad because I thought that was what I was supposed to do. However, now I wondered if maybe I was supposed to accept the bad with the good and use who I am to glorify God. Instead of hiding a part of me because I was ashamed of it, I needed to bring it to light. If Jesus wanted me to walk with my head held high, shouldn’t I?”

Mike Patin, a former high school teacher, coach and youth minister who now speaks to youth about faith, using their gifts and living life fully, spoke on Saturday morning about vocation. He told them that they were iPods, but some were acting as if they were doorstops or paperweights.

“We need to accept what you are and play your music. Even if people don’t like it, play it,” Mike told them.

Afterwards, they broke into sessions again. Kate attended “Truly Woman,” where the speaker asked them to look at how culture drives women to unattainable goals.



This Holy Family group attended the National Catholic Youth Conference. After lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe, they took meals to homeless people on the streets of Indianapolis.

All are pictured from left. Front and center: Riley O’Toole. First row: Jon Schaffhausen, diocesan director of youth ministry, Heather Neds, parish director of youth ministry, Gabriel Unruh, Annie Neds, Cathy Dodge. Squatting behind first row at right: Samantha Fernandez, Carly Hostetter, Jennifer Fernandez. Second row: Diana Nolan, Shannon Nolan, Brianna Hernandez, Maci Halter, Ashlee O’Toole, Amanda Rogowski, Emma McAdams, Maryann Barlett, Karla Halter, Jamie McAdams. Back row: Ron Neds, Dave Rogowski, Silas Barlett, Hank Kaminski, Kate Sanders, Reilly Halter, Joey Hostetter, Aaron Lehman, Adam Rosenbloom, Courtney Neds, Maryssa Loehr, Carissa Dodge, Ed Barlett. Father Matthew is not pictured.

“I took a look at myself again when I heard ‘Don’t define yourself by what’s on the outside. The outside doesn’t matter!’ Again I was being told that God accepts us as we are and his love is in spite of our faults.”

The Holy Family group then met for Mass.

“Mass at NCYC was unlike anything I have ever seen. There were thousands of high school students, and yet, the atmosphere was reverent. Even the common parts of Mass, like the readings and music seemed to be messages aimed straight at me and spoke to me in a different way. It was almost like I could have turned to my left and seen Jesus as easily as any of my friends,” Kate explained.

Then the group left for home, but didn’t make it. The bus started having mechanical problems and pulled into an auto shop at 1:40 a.m. “For over two hours we sat there. We talked, slept and even went into the shop for drinks and games.”

The shop was unable to repair the bus, so they continued on the road until they found a motel.

“The detour allowed our group to come together and to have a story for when we got back. After the experience at NCYC I’m sure that God wanted us to detour because he felt it would help influence us and I believe it did. The National Catholic Youth Conference is a time for 23,000 youths to come together and praise Jesus, but it is also a time to open your eyes and learn something that shapes who you become. It’s a life-changer.”

Faith matters

It's why we believe

God meant very little to my family as I was growing up. Every good thing that happened was dumb luck. If something bad happened, we thought God didn't like us or that God didn't exist.

My family moved from bad situation to bad situation. I grew up with alcoholics, drug addicts, abusers – people with no sense of worth, who didn't value marriage and who thought that the world owed them. We had no hope or sense of faith.

We were always waiting for the next bad thing. How could we have been happy, really, when there was no one from whom all good things come?

Anything good was some crazy, fleeting coincidence. We often said, "I knew it was too good to last." And why should it, when we didn't take time to appreciate it?

For as long as I can remember, I wanted to get the heck out of Dodge – ironic since we lived near Dodge City. I left home after graduating from high school and went as far away to college as my finances would allow – Kansas State.

I met my future husband Bob at K-State. We clicked right away and were together whenever we had free time. I had never met a guy who was so happy and content. For the first time, I had a sense of lightness I could not name, but now I know it was faith.

I could not fathom why on Sundays he would rather get up and go to church when he could sleep until noon. Going to church was not a choice for him; it was an integral part of his life. I did not understand.

He asked me to go with him, but never pushed. Over a year after we started dating, I quit dragging my feet.

I was nervous. I didn't know what to do at a Mass. I had friends who were Catholic, so I quizzed them:

When do I stand? When do I sit? Am I allowed to kneel? Do I go up with him for communion?

I was sure I was making a mistake. I didn't belong. I wasn't good enough. Everyone would know that I had no idea who God was.

I remember two things from that Mass. The first was a feeling like a warm blanket of comfort.

The second was that everyone was holding hands for the Our Father. It was amazing that people who led different lives throughout the week would come together and *hold hands*.

They may or may not have known each other; they may or may not have liked each other, but in that one



Mindy Lehman

moment, they came together and were one in belief and prayer. They were happy. They were hopeful. They were faithful. I had never been around anything quite like it. I wanted it.

I was baptized, received my first Eucharist and was confirmed at the Easter vigil in 1997. I began teaching PSR classes. I learned more than I taught. Faith was my mission, and I fed it every chance I had. Instead of seeing doom and gloom at every corner, I now saw opportunities and grace.

My faith was cemented December 23, 2003. My mom had had a heart attack and only hours later had a hemorrhagic stroke.

The doctor called to talk to me and asked if I wanted them to operate. She had no chance if they did nothing and approximately a 10 percent chance if they did. I told him to operate and I headed to Wichita where she was.

Over the next weeks, I watched. Doctors cut out part of her brain that had choked in the rapidly expanding pool of blood before they could get in. But God was there. They removed part of her skull to give her brain room to expand so it could heal. God was there as I held her hand.

On Christmas Day, I watched as they put her into a state of hypothermia so her body would slow down and her head could start healing. And God was there as I cried.

On New Year's Eve, I watched as they warmed her very slowly so it would not kill her. Still, God was there.

I watched as they thought she would never walk or talk, or even understand me before we knew if she would regain consciousness. God held me up.

I watched as they thought she'd be in a vegetative state for the rest of her life. God stayed with me. I knew that however this turned out, God was leading me through it. Instead of giving in to the desperation, the gloom and doom that marked every moment of my life growing up, I had faith.

On January 26, 2004, my mom woke up. She relearned to walk, talk and a whole host of other skills. She has no vision right of center. She has a noticeable indentation on the left side of her head where they removed a piece of skull. She has an odd gait. Mentally, she is not an adult. But she is here. That she is here is a gift from God, because there is absolutely no reason she should be.

Why does faith matter? Without it, you have absolutely nothing. There is no hope. There is no reason to believe that anything good could ever happen. My mom is here today. Even when things look the most bleak, when there is no reason to hope, God is there telling you it is possible.

MILESTONES

ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAYS

Life is a journey and along the way, people mark milestones. Several Holy Family parishioners celebrated milestones in the past year.

Mutual friends fixed up **Harold and Hazel Couture** in 1944.

Her friend said, “You’ve got to meet Harold.”

Hazel replied, “ ‘Not another sailor.’

“Everywhere you went, there were sailors galore,” she explained.

During World War II, New Orleans was a port city bustling with many Navy and Coast Guard servicemen. Hazel was from New Orleans and Harold was a Kansas farm boy. He was different from the other sailors and he was Catholic, as was she. Almost as soon as they met, Hazel’s friend thought they should get married!

When they did decide to marry, Hazel was in nursing school in New Orleans and Harold was in Kansas City, Kan. They wanted to get married while she was on break, so they got permission to marry during Advent. They were married December 16, 1946, at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Kansas City, Kan. Harold planned the wedding. They both returned to Louisiana, but Harold was unable to find a job that paid well enough, so Hazel left school and they moved to Kansas City, Kan.

The Coutures have seven children. He worked at the Fleming Wholesale Grocers warehouse. They moved to the Northland in 1955. They first attended St. Charles when the church was held in an old Army barracks. The parish had no school, no rectory, no convent. They helped build up that parish, and then started over at Holy Family as founding members.

Hazel was on the first parish council. She admitted they didn’t know what to do. Both Coutures were formerly Eucharistic ministers and money counters. Hazel once served president of the St. Joseph’s Women’s Group. They now live in a retirement community farther away from church, so they are no longer active. But they continue as Holy Family parishioners.

In addition to their four daughters and three sons, they have 18 grandchildren and over 20 great-grandchildren – so many they have lost track!

Like the Coutures, **Kenneth and Gloria Pursell** met when he was in the service during World War II. He was

stationed at East Providence, Rhode Island, as a member of the Navy Seabees. Gloria’s friend was dating a friend of Kenneth’s and introduced them at a restaurant.

They were married January 16, 1946, at St. Francis Xavier Church in East Providence, where Gloria grew up. Kenneth was from Gashland. After the war, he brought Gloria home to live here. He converted to Catholicism seven years after they were married.

Kenneth was a carpenter, first building houses and then later for the Overhead Door Co. for over 30 years. Gloria was a hairdresser at Peck’s Department Store in downtown Kansas City. She stopped working when they had children.

He built the house where they still live 62 years ago. Having grown up in the city, Gloria felt like they were out in the country. That’s no longer the case as shopping centers were built near them.

The Pursells have two daughters and one son, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



John and Catherine Boyle met on a blind date in 1958 on New Year’s Eve. He was a student at Emporia State Teachers College and she was a student nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital in Kansas City. She could not marry until she had graduated from nursing school, so they married April 29, 1961, at St. Charles Church.

Catherine worked 40 years as a nurse. John was a teacher and later worked in the insurance industry. They have three sons, two step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Mike and Teresa Margarita met at the home of mutual friends in Kansas City. Teresa is a first-generation Italian-American and Mike is from Naples, Italy. He was visiting friends he had known in Italy. They were married August 14, 1971, at Our Lady of Lourdes in Raytown.

The Margaritas were blessed with twin daughters, Amy and Cathy. Both are married and live in the Kansas City area. They have two grandsons, Michael and Nathan, and two granddaughters, Sofia and Isabella. Mike and Teresa enjoy attending the grandchildren’s activities, including ballgames, gymnastics meets and



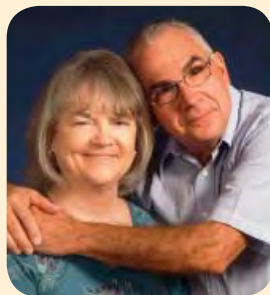
dance competitions.

Mike retired in 2010 from Graphic Packaging International. Teresa is retired from Allstate Insurance Company.

He is an avid cyclist, riding about 200 miles a week. Teresa is the wedding coordinator at Holy Family, assisting Father Matthew with rehearsals and weddings. They visit Italy every few years to visit family and friends. They enjoy oldies music and attending concerts.

"We definitely feel we've been richly blessed," Teresa said. "Life is good."

Rick and Sylvia Wilhelmi met at work in Chicago in 1970 where they worked for North Central Airlines. They started with the airline on the same day, but didn't meet until six months later. She transferred to Chicago from Detroit.



They married July 9, 1971, at St. Jerome's Church in Mohall, North Dakota.

Their daughter Michelle and son Brent live nearby. They have two granddaughters, Madison, 18, and Bella, 2.

The Wilhelmis are founding parishioners. For a few years they attended other area Catholic churches, but came home to Holy Family in 2002.

Rick and Sylvia are sponsors for engaged couples at Holy Family.

Phil and Cindy Pleiss met when they were freshmen in college in 1966. She was attending school in Evanston, Ill., and he was attending in Northern Michigan. Her roommate was from Wilmette, Ill., as was Phil. She set the couple up on a blind date. Their first date was in downtown Chicago where they saw "A Man for All Seasons." They married February 20, 1971, at St. Therese Church in Palatine, Ill.



They have two daughters, Krista and Colleen. Their grandchildren are T.J. and Victoria, students at St. Pius X.

Cindy works part-time as a nurse and Phil is a liaison between customers and manufacturing for a local company. They have been parishioners since 2010. Phil is on the art and environment team and both served on the Giving Tree committee.

They have found that "it's not unusual to be asked what we feel is important in maintaining a happy marriage and we both answer that we continue to really like each other," Cindy said.

Juliana Harvey celebrated her 90th birthday on September 29, 2011. She was born in New Jersey. She came to Kansas City four years ago to be with her family – Kathy,

Kristy and Taylor Goodin, and has been a parishioner since.

Juliana was a Navy nurse who met her husband in California during World War II. He was from Clarksville, Mo., and they made their home in Louisiana, Mo., after the war. She was the head nurse in the obstetrics department at Pike County Memorial Hospital for 40 years, retiring in 1986.



Juliana Harvey

Her family consists of two girls and one boy, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren with another on the way.

She enjoys playing bridge and collecting coins and stamps.

Dorothy Marstall celebrated her 90th birthday on August 23, 2011. Originally from Maysville, Mo., she came to Kansas City to attend the Central Business College. She worked at various businesses throughout the years, including Montgomery Ward and TWA. She retired in 1982 to take care of her mother.

She and her husband Ed once enjoyed bowling – out-living two sets of bowling partners. Health problems forced them to stop bowling. Dorothy used to help the St. Joseph's Women at funeral dinners. They still enjoy playing cards and games.

"You just have to make up your mind (to deal with the problems). It's a life change," she said.

Ed and Dorothy will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on May 26. Both of their previous spouses died when they were in their 40s.



The two families started out at St. Charles when it was a young parish and their children attended school there.

Ed and Dorothy were neighbors and their sons were in school together at St. Charles and played baseball together, so they already knew one another when they started going out.

When they got married, their children were attendants. Dorothy has one son and Ed has three daughters and a son. She helped Ed raise two of his daughters.

Dorothy has two grandchildren and Ed has seven and nine great-grandchildren.

Ed was a machinist for CPC International, a food plant, in North Kansas City. He is 92.

"Neither one of us figured out how we lived this long," he joked.

The Marstalls are founding parishioners at Holy Family. Ed helped Fritz VanKeirsbilck put up the existing Holy Family sign at 96th Street.

Holding on to Memories

THE HOLY FAMILY MEMORIAL GARDEN

By Theresa Edwards

I grew up in a parish church steeped in tradition – with wood pews, a choir loft and stained glass windows memorializing parishioners.

At a tender age, I felt great peace gazing at the windows and reading those names.

As an adult, I think of those stained glass windows often. While I do not remember the names, I do remember the faces of the people at Holy Family who affected my life and my faith in ways I never expected. I often feel their presence as I sit through Mass at Holy Family and gaze at their families or happen upon a memory of that person.

When I look at the heart in the stained glass window on the west side of church, I see a mother who died of cancer just before her daughter graduated from high school.

When I hear a child making noise, I remember a man who taught me a very important lesson as I struggled with my toddler during church. He said, “He may be bothering you, but he’s not bothering the rest of us.”

When I look to the stained glass above the altar and see the symbols of the Eucharist, I remember a kind and gentle man who reached out to shake everyone’s hands as they returned from Communion.

As I gaze upon the crucifix, I am reminded of a little boy whose life blessed a young teenage mom and then was taken from her world much too early. The lessons we were to learn from their deaths will only be revealed upon our own. The lessons we learned from their lives fill our hearts to this day.

Many of these parishioners are remembered not just by their immediate family, but by other Holy Family parishioners. I remember the tears shed and the prayers said, for they were people who made an impact on our parish – large or small – they mattered.

I often thought of creating a space where those parishioners’ names could be remembered and savored. I spoke of creating this space many years ago with a mom who lost her daughter at age four.

I connected with another couple after they lost their child. We began dreaming about creating that space. We

invited others to join us in a committee and began a small campaign to make this space – a memorial garden – a reality. We have planned the space to fairly represent each person and require little maintenance. We hope it brings peace and serenity to parishioners.

When my husband and I joined Holy Family Parish in 1986, we were looking for a place to attend church, continuing in the Catholic faith in which we had both been raised, never dreaming we would find a spiritual home leading us through difficult times and provide so much support from our fellow parishioners.

Unfortunately, we will now memorialize three family members in the garden. Claire was our youngest daughter Caitlin’s, twin. Claire died eight hours after their birth. Sophie, our daughter who would have turned 20 this year, died in April 2010.

Most recently, my mother, Thelma Grothaus, died suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 82. Yes, she lived a vibrant, long life right up to the end, but I’m not sure I was prepared for her to leave me just yet.

Whether your family member attended Holy Family or not, they may be represented in our garden.

Cemeteries, where our loved ones’ bodies are laid to rest, are visited mostly by family members and not often enough. We hope you will come each Sunday and sit on the benches we will place among the stones.

We hope to eventually purchase a statue, representing family. We hope your children will run among the

names and grace the stones with their tiny steps. Most of all, we hope to memorialize and find peace and tranquility as we enjoy the space and remember those members of our family that we miss and hope to see again someday.

We are still accepting orders for memorial stones until March 1. Contact Theresa at 419-8836 or tke147@gmail.com or Patty Whelchel at 436-9200, ext. 30, or patty@holyfamily.com. You are welcome to work out a payment plan as we hope to provide enough flexibility to anyone who wishes to participate in the garden. All stones will be moved to the new parish site in the future.



Actual sculpture may vary from image above.

Confirmation

January 12, 2012



Front row: Annie Neds, Amanda Rogowski, Maci Halter, Brianna Hernandez, Kayla Foley, Danielle Schmidt, Antonia Reek, Dani Moss.

Second row: Emma McAdams, Landon Thomas, Rylee Stoullil, Rachel Thomas, Jensynn Kasper, Gabe Unruh, Meagan Platt, Ryan Dansby, Danny Clare, Vinny Rizzo, Jake Hansen, Taylor Pfannenstiel, Chad Potthast, Bryce Graskemper.

Top Row: Father Matthew Brumleve, Luke Stanley, Trevor Stark, Cruz Esteban, Erin Verstraete, Aaron Lehman, Kiden Pitia, Bishop Robert Finn, Adam Rosenbloom, Carlos Borrero, Donovan Payton, Brock Hanson, Danny Lewis.

All pictured from left to right.

Peggy Petersen Photo.



HOLY FAMILY

EVENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVITIES

SEASONAL CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

ASH WEDNESDAY, 6:30 A.M., NOON,
ECUMENICAL SERVICE, 7 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

PARISH RETREAT 8:30 A.M.
CENTERING PRAYER, LED BY ROB CARR

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

MEN'S CLUB FISH DINNER, 4:30 - 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

SEASIDE ESCAPE: WOMEN'S RETREAT, 9 A.M.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 7 P.M.

WEEKEND, MARCH 10-11

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND, AFTER ALL MASSES

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

MEN'S CLUB FISH DINNER, 4:30 - 7:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

HOLY THURSDAY, 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

GOOD FRIDAY, 7 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

EASTER VIGIL, 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

EASTER MASSES, 7, 8:30, 11 A.M.

WEEKEND, APRIL 14-15

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND, AFTER ALL MASSES

THURSDAY PROGRAMS ON BACK COVER

Men's Club Fish and Shrimp Dinner

Friday, March 2 and 23

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Watch the bulletin for pricing details.

A HOLY FAMILY
TRADITION



Jesus' Passion:

The Story of Redemptive Suffering
A Bible Study for Lent

Mondays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

February 27- April 2

\$15

Contact Peggy at 436-9200, ext. 24,
for more information or to register.

Knights of Columbus

The Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #14266 serves a full breakfast of eggs, hashbrowns, biscuits and gravy, sausage and bacon on the second Sunday of each month.



See schedule in calendar to left.

Free-will offerings are accepted.

The Knights of Columbus is open to all Catholic men 18 years and older. For additional information, please contact Jim Graf at 734-2393 or any Knight.



SPREADING THE WORD

BY SUZANNE HILL, EDITOR

I don't usually attend 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, but this year I helped greet people from the lower parking lot at the door to the parish hall. The crowd of people is hard to comprehend unless you've been there. Not only do we have a full house upstairs, but the crowd was overflowing in the parish hall. (And we had three other Masses!)

We were happy to have the new lot with its 101 parking places available, but there were still too many cars to accommodate everyone. Marie Relic said that another 96 cars were parked in the grass and 20 on Campbell. She directed traffic with the help of Rob Conard, Marvin Norton and Bill Auffert. Rob stayed past 4:30 to set up cones and place handicapped signs on barrels for later Masses. He also directed traffic at the 10 p.m. Mass.

It's not Thanksgiving, but I'm inspired to think of gratitude.

When I talked with Julie Lemke for our People in the Pew series, she spoke of gratitude. While I was not able to get this into the article, I thought it important to share:

"I will always be grateful and appreciative of the opportunity I have been blessed with over the years to be able to participate in the various ministries that have greatly enhanced my prayer life and faith. We are never too old to learn. Thanks to Holy Family."

A friend from my former parish in Washington, Mo., who happens to be parishioner Beth Kasper's father, shared the following with me recently:

"Kathy and I have a third shaker next to the salt and pepper on our table. It is labeled with a large 'G' and has a multicolored luminescent material inside to represent the 'spice' it contains. We use this shaker to add an abundance of flavor to any plate set before us – even if that plate appears to be empty. The spice is 'Gratitude.' God loves us, all of us, without exception."

Father Matthew's Top 10 list of being a priest is a list of gratitude, too.

Did you know that Eucharist means "thanksgiving"? It is derived from the Greek word, "eucharistia."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that in the Eucharist we thank God for "all that God has made good, beautiful and just in creation and in humanity." It is the way the church thanks God "for all he has accomplished through creation, redemption and sanctification.

God gives us the opportunity to be grateful every time we participate in Mass. How about that?

STATEMENT OF PARISH FUNDS ON DEPOSIT December 31, 2011

Emergency Reserves (Diocesan Account)	\$181,675.66
Building Fund (Diocesan Account)	\$1,005,332.14
Sound System (Diocesan Account)	\$34,675.05
Building Fund (Parish Accounts)	\$16,639.86
Total Building Funds	\$1,238,322.71

Holy Family Matters

A quarterly publication of

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Our Mission

Holy Family Catholic Church is a vibrant, spirit-filled faith community. Following the example of the Holy Family, we seek God by celebrating, growing and living our faith.

Adopted April 14, 2010

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Thursday Offerings

FOOD AND GRATITUDE



A FREE SIMPLE SUPPER WILL BE SERVED EACH EVENING AT 5:30 P.M.

MEALS PREPARED BY PARISH GROUPS. PLEASE RSVP FOR MEAL AT 436-9200.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1 – ‘RENDER YOUR HEARTS,’ REFLECTION RETREAT BY SR. JULIE MARSH, PBVM, UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY, 6:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 – ST. JAMES PLACE, WHERE WE OFFER SERVICE AND OUTREACH MONTHLY BY SERVING A MEAL AND DONATING FOOD, 6:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 – RECONCILIATION SERVICE, 7 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22 – WATER WITH BLESSINGS, WHICH RAISES FUNDS AND AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR CLEAN WATER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 6:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 – LOVE INC (IN THE NAME OF CHRIST) SERVES EMERGENCY NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN CLAY COUNTY. HOLY FAMILY IS A CHURCH PARTNER., 6:30 P.M.

Come, be fed physically, mentally and spiritually at Holy Family this Lenten season.

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