



The Visionary

ST. MARY MAGDALEN

APRIL 2008 Volume XV Issue 4

Celebrating The Earth From Angelle Batten

A typical bag of potato chips you buy at the supermarket has been subjected to over 50 chemicals from seed to shelf and can contain up to 75 times the "safe" levels of cancer-causing acrylamide. Did you know that for each 1 percent increase in organic food consumption in the U.S. alone, pesticide and herbicide use is reduced by over 10 million pounds per year? While organic may cost a little more initially, buying conventional produce and foods has a much higher cost on our health and the health of the Earth. Going organic is one of the most important steps you can make toward sustaining your health and improving the environment at the same time. Would you be interested in finding out more about how buying some organic foods will positively impact the health of your family and of the Earth?

Did you know that bottled water costs up to 1,000 times as much as tap water? What's more, bottled water also costs 1.5 billion gallons of fuel oil annually - enough to fuel 10,000 cars for an entire year. Also, 1.5 billion tons of plastic a year worldwide, from water bottles, is clogging our landfills, and these plastic bottles take more than 1,000 years to completely biodegrade. The plastic is also impacting our health as it leaches chemicals into the water that are disrupting our hormonal systems, especially of young people. Drinking water is one of the best things for your health, so what can you do? An effective water filtration system will not only positively impact your health, but that of the earth too. Would you like to find out more about simple steps you can take to improve the health of the earth, as well as that of your family?

Plan to join Pax Christi **after the Masses on Saturday, April 12, or Sunday, April 13**, for some very practical ideas and suggestions. There will also be a short talk about *Living in Harmony with the Earth* on Sunday, April 13.

DSA 2008 From Fr. Dave Howell

Each year, our bishop asks every household to make an additional contribution to support the work of the larger, diocesan Church. Our pledges and gifts support over 120 different services offered by the Diocese of Lansing.

Many of these services enable parishes to better serve their own people, while others provide an important outreach to the larger community. Our pledges and gifts support those men and women who will one day serve us as priests, deacons and lay ministers. DSA also supports those who minister in public hospitals, prisons and on the many college and university campuses of our diocese.

I invite you to join me in making a pledge or gift to DSA 2008!

ADULT CONFIRMATION From Sr. Joyce Hoile, OSF



The Livingston region Catholic Parishes are offering classes for adults who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The sessions will begin Wednesday, April 2 and continue every Wednesday until May 7 from 7 - 8:30 pm at St. Patrick Adult Formation Center on Rickett Road in Brighton.

The celebration of Confirmation will take place at our parish on Pentecost Sunday, May 11. There is no fee for the classes. To register please contact Sister Joyce at 810-229-8624.

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from the PASTORAL COUNCIL

Our Pastoral Council did not meet in March because our meeting date fell during Holy Week.

At our April meeting we will complete our Parish Pastoral Plan. All the goals and strategies will then be published in the *Visionary*.

We will also finish our discussed continuation of our partnership with St. Patrick School. We hope to work out some of the issues and difficulties that are presently a part of the agreement so that it can continue. The agreement only deals with a percentage of the enrollment not the subsidy which would continue no matter what happens with the partnership agreement.

The Members of the Pastoral Council

Jan Baldinger Cheryl Burda Gretchen Buslepp Tom Callaghan Kathy Carney Patti Conahan John Finn Ann Kehn Mike Lamberjack
Rob Lintzenich Nancy Nychypor Mary Beth Rupp Josh Kehn, Youth Rep. Debbie Dehanke, Secretary Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP Fr. David F. Howell

from the FINANCE COUNCIL

July 2007 - June 2008

As of February 29, 2008

<u>REVENUE SOURCES</u>	<u>Feb 29</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Sunday Stewardship	79,379	742,553	1,208,900
Religious Formation/Donations	11,184	79,707	88,800
TOTAL	90,563	822,260	1,297,700

→ **BUILDING FUND: \$1,615,986** ←

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>Feb 29</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Projected Budget</u>
Programs & Staffing	79,193	543,974	837,100
Building Operations	17,547	111,545	160,600
Building Pledge	25,000	200,000	300,000
TOTAL	121,740	855,519	1,297,700
BALANCE (plus/minus)	-31,178	-33,259	

The Members of the Finance Council

Chris Cousins Chris Cramer Dick Demmings Sandra Howe Bruce Heatley Sharon Rossiter Mike Lamberjack Bob Reske
Marianne Quada Kristin Turner Ben Lindamood Sharon Wagner Chair, Deb Guidos Bookkeeper, Dave Wisniewski Fr. David Howell

from the STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Stewardship Council has been working to solicit stories from some of the real stewards of time and talent who do wonderful work for others in our community. They have prepared invitations and outlines for the series called "My Story" so that we can resume the series again in preparation for the Spring Stewardship Fair. Any one who would like to share to share their stories of how and why they share their time and talent with others and how their sharing shapes their lives of faith should contact Sharon Wagner or Sr. Maryetta.

Members of the Stewardship Council

Brigitte Burke Jim Chevalier Barb Colley Eric Feiler Mary Beth Rupp Ann Fraser Joe Martinez Sonia Petrous Rick
Phillips Devon Wolfe Caryn Schmidt Sharon Rossiter Lisa Schifko Sharon Wagner (Chair) Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP
Fr. David F. Howell

RELIGIOUS FORMATION *from Mary Mahar*

I cannot believe it is April already with the end of classes in sight! Our classes have been busy doing many service projects, planning Liturgies, attending Stations of the Cross, visiting a Jewish temple, preparing for Sacraments, attending retreats, collecting and making birthday packages for the food pantry, and much, much more!

April also finds us busy with final preparations for First Eucharist for our 80 candidates! The retreat will be on Saturday, April 19, for parents and candidates in final preparation for this Sacrament!

On April 23/24 for our end-of-the-year celebration, we will all gather together to participate in a closing prayer service. All families are welcome to join us!



April Dates to Remember:

- 20 - Closing evaluation meeting (required) for all full-year Home Study families
Last Class for Kindergarten, Family Program and Confirmation youth
- 21-22 - First Eucharist Pictures in the Church - Anderson Studios (4-7pm)
- 23-24 - Last Class for grades 1-8
- 25 - First Communion Rehearsal in Church 6:30 pm
- 26-27- First Eucharist Liturgies

† **Registration for Religious Formation Fall Classes & Magdalen's Little People Preschool** will be on April 9/10, 16/17, and 23/24 in the gathering area for FALL CLASSES. Members of the Formation Ministry Team will be on hand these Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 - 8 pm. Registration will continue after all the weekend Liturgies on May 10/11, and 18. We recommend that you register early if want your first choice of class time! There are medical forms to fill out or update for each child in case of emergency. Please have your child's medical information available including your health insurance provider and account number.

† Days and Times of Sessions for Religious Formation Classes:

- SUNDAY** Kindergarten during the 9 & 11 am Liturgies
Grades 9 & 10, 5:30 - 7 pm
- SUNDAY** Family Program: 2 times per month on Sunday mornings
- WEDNESDAY** Grades 1 - 8 4:30 - 6 pm OR 6:30 - 8 pm
- THURSDAY** Grades 1 - 8 4:30 - 6 pm OR 6:30 - 8 pm

MAGDALEN'S LITTLE PEOPLE

from Kathie Anderer (810) 229-0010



Living in Michigan, we can not be sure, but I think that Old Man Winter is off to sleep for another year. We sure had a lot of snow this winter. With spring come thoughts of warm weather, flowers blooming and the new life that we receive

through the resurrection of our Lord! The preschool age is full of cherished moments as the innocence of our children is at its peak. It is such a blessing working with the children... a true lesson in life each and every day.

The teachers will attend the Early Childhood Conference in Grand Rapids for three days in April. It is always a great learning experience and we arrive back at school with fully charged batteries and wonderful ideas to share with the children. We are so happy to have this opportunity.

Preschool sign up for the 08\09 school year is now ongoing. The Parishioners from St. Mary Magdalen have first priority, but only if you register by April 1. Also, if you have a child in the 3 year-old class, please notify us as soon as possible, if you intend to keep them in the program next year. Our class lists will be compiled after April 1. We would love to have you join in the fun next year! Thanks & God bless!

† HOME-STUDY FOR YOUR FAMILY! TWO OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE:

Full-year Home Study will be available for children in grades 1-8 only. It will **not be available** for those youth in High School or for those children in any grade who are preparing for a Sacrament.

Short-Term Home Study will be available for youth who need to miss up to 6 weeks of class for an activity such as cheer, soccer or football, etc.

The **tuition** fees are \$65 for one child, \$90 for two children, and \$115 for families with 3 or more children or those in the family program. We ask that, *if possible*, tuition be paid at the time of registration.

COUNCIL COMMENDATIONS

The Council would like to commend all those who have volunteered as substitute catechists in the Religious Education program. One of the greatest substitutes is Joanie Monforton who has come to our aid whenever there was a need. Thanks a million Joanie!

The Council would also like to commend Sue Eagle. Every week Sue has taken the altar linens and washed and ironed them. This ministry is greatly needed and very much appreciated. Thanks for all your time, Sue!



NEWS

from Margaret Callaghan

TEEN

Happy Easter! There is so much to celebrate and so much coming to life this time of the year. We have emerged from our time in the desert; renewed with love and energy to grow and walk in the way of Jesus. May this spring be filled with much joy and newness for you and your family. As we emerge from the winter cold and snow, the grass becomes green and the trees start to bud with new leaves, may your life begin to unravel the mystery of death into life. Become aware of the signs of spring around you and marvel at the mystery of growth.

There is a lot of growth at the Callaghan home with two spring birthdays and much to celebrate. As my kids grow and get big, I find myself looking back at when they were first babies. How tiny and quiet. Now we are riding bikes, playing ball in the back field, planting gardens, getting muddy, and taking walks after dinner. The house is far from quiet and not nearly as clean as it once was. The growth that has taken place in the past eight years is wonderful and awesome. Reflect on the growth in your own family over the years.

Mark your calendar for April 19 & 20. We are participating in a joint retreat with St. Agnes, St. John's, and St. Francis. **Friends, Love and God** (FrLoGo) at **Faith Hope and Love** (FaHoLo) in

Grass Lake. The cost is \$70 for two nights stay, 5 meals, pool time, weather depending go-carts, and open gym time. I encourage you to participate and get involved.

Contact me at margaretcallaghan766@msn.com for registration forms.

EDGE NEWS

(for 6 - 8 graders)

What a great time we had at the Diocese Middle School Rally last month. It was awesome and very inspirational. When we participate in diocesan wide events like these, we are given the opportunity to come together with other middle school students from across the diocese to worship together, play together and to make new friends. The speakers are nation wide speakers who are wonderfully blessed with the talents and abilities to share God's word in a fun and up beat way. We were glad for the opportunity to have spent the day together.

Our last meetings until next year will be Monday, April 14 and Monday, April 28 from 7-8:30 pm. We will end the year with fun time together reflecting on the past meetings and looking ahead to what next year might bring.

OF FAITH & SERVICE from Sr. Joyce Hoile, OSF

SCHOOL FOR DISCIPLESHIP The Spring sessions begin April 7. Father David Howell will be teaching History of Prophecy in Israel on Monday evenings beginning April 7 and Sr. Maryetta Churches will be teaching Apocalyptic Literature & the Book of Revelation on Tuesday evenings beginning April 8. The sessions are from 7-9 pm each evening until May 13. You can register at our website or by filling out a registration form from the pamphlet rack.

BIBLE STUDY: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS We will be using an *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*, a compilation by ecumenical sources that brings together the writings of the theologians of the first several centuries. We will examine Paul's Letter to the Romans using these ancient insights as well as the more modern historical-critical approach to Scripture study. Sessions are Mondays, April 7 through May 12 from 7 – 8:30 pm.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST Come for a relaxing breakfast and the opportunity to better understand the Sunday Scripture readings while sharing your insights on Saturdays: April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17 from 8:30 – 10am at Sister Joyce's.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Come to share breakfast and the Sunday Scripture readings on Saturdays: April 12 & 26, May 10 & 24 from 7:30 – 9 am in the rectory basement.



EASTER JOY *from Diane Kubus*



On Holy Saturday night we joyfully welcomed the newest members of the Church: Kayla Meabrod and Alison Kucej who were reborn through the waters of Baptism and our candidates who were already baptized: Thom Dumond, Kelley Purdom, Kristen Holinski, Debbie Holinski and Christina Stewart. During the Liturgy, they received the gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and shared with us the Eucharist for the first time. They have now entered yet another phase of the journey which is called Mystagogy meaning “the mysteries revealed”.

Mystagogy is in many ways similar to what most of us naturally do after significant moments in our lives like the death of a loved one; being alone for a holiday; celebrating our 50th birthday; sending our daughter off to her first day of school; our son’s first date; our first profession of vows; or just a long afternoon alone with a special friend. To move forward, we look back to gain meaning and understanding. When we look forward, we can anticipate and hope; when we look back, we can appreciate and learn. Looking both ways is essential for creative and rich human living.

First our new ones entered into the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus through the Sacraments. Now they explore the meaning of that experience so that they might fully live the life of a disciple. We will explore what our discipleship in Jesus Christ is becoming for us. Along the way we need to pause periodically to reassess not only where we are, but who we are.

We are not alone, but with a community of faith. Our story of who we are and what we are becoming is part of the story of the Church. We are all on the ongoing journey of faith. So our journey continues, not alone, but alongside others in the parish to help us to stay the course. The summit of our mystagogical experience is the Eucharistic Celebration. Together we reflect on the Gospel, share in the Eucharist, and engage in charitable works. Finally our prayer life, strengthened by prayer with others in the parish, is developed further. Prayer was an essential dimension of coming to faith all during the catechumenate. Then and now our parish prays as one in union with the risen Lord. So, now, may we walk in the newness of life on this timeless journey of faith.

May we always walk in newness of life --- and become that newness of life to others!

A NEW BISHOP † THE DIOCESE OF LANSING

On February 27, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Archdiocese of Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Earl Boyea as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Lansing. Bishop Boyea succeeds Bishop Carl F. Mengeling, who has led the diocese since January, 1996.

Bishop Boyea will be installed as the bishop of Lansing on April 29 at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, East Lansing. On April 28, a vespers service will be held at St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing. **We will celebrate a special Liturgy to welcome the bishop** along with the other seven parishes of the Livingston Region on **Saturday, May 17th** at Hartland High School. All parishioners are invited to attend. Watch for more information in upcoming parish bulletins and here in the Visionary!



THANKS & PRAISE *from Sr. Maryetta Churches, OP*

We would like to thank and praise Nancy Rosso for educating the Charity and Justice Team on all the county services that are available to the people in Livingston County.

We also want to thank our Beatitudes - Pax Christi Group for arranging the presentation of the Livingston County Diversity Council. The presentation was challenging and enlightening and gave all of us food for thought. Thanks for all your efforts!

We give thanks and praise to those who served as sponsors to our candidates and catechumens this past year: Rick Fraser, Denise Putnam, Kelly Prise, Kris Funk, Joey Hommel, Beth Smith and Dynetta Cadaret. Sharing the gift of your faith and your commitment of endless hours is deeply appreciated!

Thanks and praise goes out to John Reineke, Ron Weingartz, Mike Mahar, Kevin Blanck and Nancy Pytlak for taking down the walls and cleaning the hall for Palm Sunday! Great job! Thanks!

THE DEACONS BENCH

from Dave Scharf

Tuesday, March 11, we had our monthly Charity and Justice meeting. Our meetings begin with an educational section and this month our presenter was Nancy Rosso, the executive director of Livingston County United Way. What a wonderful education component. One of the things Nancy did with the group was play a game of "Not-So-Trivial Pursuit". Wow! What an eye opener for us.

Here are a few of the questions that were presented to us (the answers are in parentheses):

- To afford a 2-bedroom apartment in Livingston County a resident would need to earn how much money? (\$15.98/hour or \$33,240/year.)
- What percent of Livingston County households have an income of less than \$35,000/year? (20%)
- From 1999 to 2005 what is the percentage increase in the number of children receiving Medicaid in Livingston County? (166%)
- Where in Livingston County is located the homeless shelter for adults & families? (Nowhere.)
- What is the average Livingston County Department of Human Services Assistance Payments worker caseload? (600 cases to 1 worker.)
- True or False: Livingston County is higher than the state and national average for heavy & binge drinking and high school drinking? (True.)
- True or False: State funding has remained the same for Substance Abuse Services for the last 17 years? (True.)

What percent of children in Livingston County are enrolled in special education? (17.3% vs. 14.9% for the state of Michigan.)

The major themes of Catholic Social Teaching are: Life and dignity of the human person, the call to family, community, participation, rights and responsibilities, option for the poor and vulnerable, the dignity of work and the rights of workers, solidarity and care for God's creation.

THE OTHER BENCH

from Jim Chevalier

We all know people who have lost hope. Perhaps we have felt hopeless ourselves at different times. But whether we have felt this way for a day or a decade, Jesus wants us to know that there is always hope, and that he himself can give it to us. This is something that two of his own disciples learned on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Two disciples separated themselves from the small faith community that had formed around Jesus. But Jesus would not let them go. And how did he turn them around? By rekindling their hope; by telling them about God's plan of salvation.

This is exactly what Jesus wants to do for us. He wants to join us on our journey of life, and convince us that he has a plan for our lives. He wants to help us look at our present situation through the eyes of faith and hope so that we will see that his hand is still upon us and that he can help us. He wants to lift our eyes to heaven and show us that we are part of a much bigger story. And by doing that, he wants to give us a larger, more heavenly perspective on our challenges and trials. He wants to convince us, even against all human logic, that there is always room for hope, and that brighter days really do lie ahead for us.

So whether we are hopeful right now or burdened by fear or anxiety, let Jesus come to us. Let him show us that our future can be just as glorious as his. Let him excite us with the prospects of new life so that we are energized to face whatever challenges life may throw at us. He is with us every step of the way, even when we don't recognize him. Let him heal us, encourage us, open our eyes and feed us with his own bread of life.



THE KNIGHT'S KORNER

from Ron Weingartz

SPRING FEVER - TIGERS & GOLF

The 9th annual St. Mary Magdalen Charity Golf Classic will be Saturday, May 17th at Hawk Meadows Golf Club in Howell. Your \$75 registration fee includes 18 holes scramble golf, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn and awards dinner. All golfers who register and pay before April 26 will be entered into a drawing for 4 lower level tickets to a Detroit Tigers game. Hole sponsors and Prize donors are also needed. For more information visit our website @ www.golfdigestplanner.com/3716-SMMCharitygolf or contact Dave Alfanos 810-229-9914 or Israel Retana 734-765-4102



CHARITY & JUSTICE *from Lisa Klein*

Senior Easter Tree of Life: Thanks to everyone who donated so generously to the Easter Giving Tree. A director of one of the facilities contacted us to say that they were stunned and overwhelmed with the generous donations from St. Mary Magdalen. "It is people like you who give us hope." Your support of our local seniors is, once again, amazing.



We would love for you to join us for the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life which will take place at Brighton High School track on May 16 & 17. Anyone interested in participating in any way can contact Lisa Klein (810) 844-0074, Dianne Sweeter (248) 887-8716 or Deacon Dave (810) 229-8624, or go to www.relayforlife.org and follow the links to St. Mary Magdalen's team.

You are Invited! The 7th Annual Community Resource Fair is scheduled for Friday, April 4, from 4-9 p.m. The event, hosted by the Livingston County Dept. of Human Services, the Livingston County United Way and Citizens Insurance, will be held in the Parker High School Cafeteria in Howell, in conjunction with the Livingston County Home Show. The Community Resource Fair showcases **area services and resources available for Livingston County residents**. It is anticipated that hundreds of programs will be featured with nearly 60 organizations participating. Contact Deacon Dave or Lisa Klein with any questions.

FAIR TRADERS

Mouth-watering chocolates. Aromatic coffees. Health-promoting teas. Child Slavery. Separated Families. Poverty. Cocaine Industry. Dying Rainforests. What do the first three have in common with the latter you may wonder. A lot. Unless you are purchasing Fair Trade Certified chocolates, coffees and teas, you may be contributing to the latter. It's hard to believe that child slavery is taking place in 2008, but sadly it is in the cocoa industry.

As people of faith, a concrete and powerful way for us to take our values to the market place and make a real difference in the lives of people around the world is to purchase chocolate, coffee, sugar and tea that are labeled Fair Trade Certified. (see label below) This label helps ensure that the farmers receive a fair price for their products. The impact of buying these products include bringing an end to child slavery in these industries, keeping families together because they have enough money to stay in their homes and on their farms, sending children to school, stopping farmers from resorting to desperate measures such as growing cocoa for the cocaine industry in order to survive, and protecting the environment for our children and theirs.



Look for this Label!

Fortunately, we don't have to stop eating our chocolate or drinking our coffees and teas. The St. Mary Magdalen staff has decided to begin using Fair Trade Certified coffee. If you go to www.transfairusa.org you can learn more about this issue and be linked to websites to purchase Fair Trade Certified products online. Be sure to look for the label and to ask your favorite stores and coffee shops to carry some Fair Trade products if they don't do so currently. Pax Christi Contact - Angelle Batten at 810.333.6288

THANK YOU !

We would like to thank our **YOUTH GROUP** for their participation in so many charitable activities. Thank you to those who participated in God's Kitchen, the Souper Bowl collection, helping at the Women's Center in Flint, Gleaner's Food Bank, Osman Hope and for all of your many other charitable and kind deeds. You brighten our hope for the future!

NEW TO OUR PARISH IN MARCH

Sara Gellner
Hailee & Connor McCririe

David & Amy Ketelaar
Marlee, Morgan

Donald & Mary Tremel

The addresses and phone numbers of new members have been omitted in compliance with internet privacy law.

MARKING THE CALENDAR

April 7 (Monday) THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Using an *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*, we will examine Paul's Letter to the Romans using these ancient insights as well as the more modern historical-critical approach to Scripture study. The sessions are on Mondays, beginning April 7 until May 12, from 7 – 8:30 pm

April 12\13 (Saturday/Sunday) LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH

Displays will provide some very practical suggestions for simple ways of living in harmony with the earth. There will also be a short talk about *Living in Harmony with the Earth* on Sunday afternoon.

April 19/20 (Saturday/Sunday) HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

We are participating in a joint retreat with St. Agnes, St. John's, and St. Francis. Friends, Love and God (FrLoGo) at Faith Hope and Love (FaHoLo) in Grass Lake. The cost is \$70 for the two nights stay, 5 meals, pool time, weather depending go-carts, and open gym time.

April 19 (Saturday) FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT

This is a retreat day for all parents and candidates for First Eucharist. Using prayer and activities, we hope to help all participants have a deeper understanding of the Eucharist! (9 am – 12:30 pm)

REGISTRATION for RELIGIOUS ED. AND MAGDALEN'S PRESCHOOL

Register now for FALL Religious Ed/Formation and for Magdalen's Preschool! Members of the Formation Ministry Team will be on hand in the gathering area on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** from 4:15-8 pm. and in the parish social hall after the Liturgies on the **weekends** of April 9/10, 16/17, and 23/24. Those who register early have the first choice of times and days for Religious Formation!

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