



St. Anne

Catholic Church

Summer 2016

"I Had a Peace and Joy"

Brianna Noonan Discerns Her Call to the Religious Life

While on a personal pilgrimage in Rome this past December, Brianna Noonan experienced a clear call to discern the religious life.

"I had discerned about five years ago and came away with very rational reasons for why God had called me to the married life," says Brianna, St. Anne's Youth Minister. "But while in Rome, God broke down the walls I had put up."

In August of 2014, Brianna moved to the area to join St. Anne's as the Youth Minister. Since then, she has coordinated faith formation for our young people from pre-kindergarten age through 12th grade. She also worked with families preparing their children for all the sacraments that take place during those years of life.

"What I most enjoyed about the job would be witnessing kids and families grow in love with our Lord and our Church," Brianna says. "I witnessed the joy that they have in finding the beauty of it all."

This past winter, Brianna had the opportunity to travel to Rome with several members of St. Anne's faith community. During her time in the Holy City, Brianna spoke with a sister about how she believed she wasn't called to the religious life. How the sister responded was a key moment to Brianna.

"She said she knew she was called to the religious life because God placed things on her heart that she knew didn't come from her," Brianna says. "The same thing happened to me. I was thinking things that I wouldn't have on my own. I had a peace and joy, and it must be from God."



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STEWARDSHIP
GIVING DURING THE
*Summer
Season*

“We’ve stopped delivery of the newspaper and mail. We’ve taken the dog to the kennel. The iron is unplugged, and the stove is turned off. Is there anything else we need to do before we leave on vacation?”

Aren’t you forgetting something? Did you remember to write a check to your parish for the Sundays you’ll be gone?

“But I won’t be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can’t I skip those envelopes when I’m away? After all, I’ll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn’t that enough?”

Many Americans, whether we have school-aged children at home or not, mentally operate on a school year calendar. We assume our organizations operate September through May and then take it easy during June, July and August. And to some extent, many parish activities do function on such a schedule. Our parish may not hold Religious Education classes during the summer. Our choirs frequently take a break. Even many of the parish staff members take summer vacations! Can’t our giving take a vacation during the summer, too?

Even as we form the question in our mind, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer long is that God doesn’t go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are

called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

God’s steadfastness in giving to us is the primary reason for us to respond by being faithful in our stewardship toward Him. But there is also a practical reason why we need to keep up our pledges of time, talent and treasure throughout the summer – the Church needs our involvement year-round.

Even though some parish activities are reduced during the summer months, the parish’s expenses are not. After all, there are still Sunday Masses and weekday Masses, too. The parish staff members still need their salaries. And of course, we need to run the air conditioning in our church during the hot summer months. Despite the fact that some parish functions are suspended, other activities may take place, such as Vacation Bible School. And although the regular parish Religious Education program may be suspended, the summer expenses are often the highest, as textbooks and other supplies are bought for the upcoming school year. Our parish has to pay its bills on a year-round basis, just like your family.

Our parish plans a budget for the year, taking into account the commitments that you, the members, have made. If parishioners do not live out their financial commitments to the parish, the budget will not balance.

Our giving needs to be maintained throughout the summer, just as God maintains His generosity to us. Our stewardship is a response to God’s gifts. And God pours out His gifts and His grace upon us all year long.

Prayer – By Us and For Us

Dear Parishioners,

Pope Francis has certainly had an impact on our Church, and maybe even on each of us individually. Do you recall his first words to the world and to us when he appeared on the balcony following his election as pope? He said quite simply, “Pray for me.” That is a feeling I share sometimes when I consider what needs to be done, and what I personally need to do. It may be a feeling each of us has – not just now and then, but relatively consistently.

Prayer – one of the four Pillars of Stewardship – is foundational to our faith and the practice of it. It is through prayer and the sacraments that we prepare ourselves to accept God’s plentiful gifts and blessings.

Each of us needs to develop a consistent prayer life. We should set time aside each day to pray. It is through prayer that we cultivate our personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We provide many opportunities for prayer as part of our parish life. This includes time for us to pray as individuals and time to pray as a community.

Our prayer lives culminate at Mass in the Eucharist. The Eucharist, prayer and stewardship are interconnected. In *Lumen Gentium*, we are reminded that the Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our Catholic faith. With the gift of the Eucharist and an active prayer life, we are better equipped to carry out the other three Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Formation and Service. You might say we pray to help us seek and find how to serve the Lord and others.

This is a time of year when we enjoy numerous opportunities to kick back and relax. One of the best ways to spend time is in prayer. In both our individual and communal prayer, we turn to God to perceive our gifts and talents – and then, as stewards, we need to place those gifts at the service of one another, and especially of the Lord.

You and I are on a journey together – a journey toward holiness. That journey involves an existence of daily conversion and an awareness of how grateful we need to be. Through prayer, we can better see ourselves as God sees us, and we can seek to find who God is calling us to be.

I want to assure you of my constant and daily prayers



for you. Like the Holy Father, however, I also must admit that I need you to “pray for me.” I thank you for your prayers. I am blessed to be your pastor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Kastl

Rev. Gary Kastl
Pastor





“A Chance for Us as Men in the Parish to *Guys Night at St. Anne*”



Since January, Drew Fenton and his wife, Allie, have been designated as Parish Missionaries at St. Anne. In that role, the Fentons are working to enhance our sense of stewardship and our feeling of community. One idea they have brought to fruition is something simply called “Guys Night,” intended for the adult males in the parish.

“We see Guys Night as an opportunity for adult men of the parish to come together for fellowship, to get to know one another better,” Drew says. “There is no formal program or any hidden agenda; it is just a chance for us as men in the parish to form a closer sense of community.”

The first Guys Night was held in February with 75 men participating. Fr. Kastl hosts the evening at the rectory. The men gather after the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday – approximately at 6 p.m. – and after a social period of beverages and camaraderie, they share a meal. It is simply a way for the parish to show hospitality to the men in our faith community.

“We felt that there seemed to be a lot of things for the women, but perhaps not as much for the men, especially something more or less unstructured,” Drew says. “Our first time out was extremely successful, and I really think all of us had a great time. I need to emphasize that there is no cost to attend this – it is a gift of gratitude from the parish to these men for all they do.”

Hospitality is one of the Four Pillars of Stewardship – along with Prayer, Formation and Service. And as Jesus reminded us, “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Lord made it clear that whenever we welcome one of our brothers and sisters, we welcome Jesus Himself. As a stewardship parish, we need to see the face of Christ in one another. One of the best

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to Form a Closer Sense of Community” St. Anne Catholic Church

ways to do this is at events where we have the chance to visit and become better acquainted. That is a major motivation for Guys Night.

However, there is another reason to have this event. There is a well-known passage from the Book of Proverbs, which reads, “As iron is sharpened by iron, one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17). The meaning behind these holy words is somewhat obvious, especially when you consider the historical context in which Proverbs was composed. To sharpen an iron tool or instrument, people had learned that rubbing two of them together was beneficial to both – when two iron blades are rubbed together, each becomes sharper and more efficient. Men can reap

the same benefits through meeting, prayer, sharing, fellowship, and interaction. It is important to come together in God’s name as brothers in Christ.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has called us to evangelize and to go and make disciples in Jesus’ name. He recently said, “Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. An evangelizing community gets involved in word and deed. An evangelizing community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always.”

Guys Night here at St. Anne is an occasion for the men of the parish to share, celebrate, enjoy, and seek Christ in one another. We hope to see you there!

The next Guys Night is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, taking place at the rectory following the 5 p.m. Mass. There is a special meal in store at the July event. Thanks to a generous parishioner, we will be roasting a lamb on a spit as the main course – for those who may not be fond of lamb, there will be racks of ribs, as well, cooked on the grill. Sign-up sheets will be available at Masses throughout the month of June, or anyone interested in attending can contact Drew Fenton at 714-904-1346 or defenton@stanneba.org.

A Look Back on First Communion at St. Anne

We congratulate our students who received their First Communion at St. Anne this spring!





A Catholic's Guide to Good Summer Reading

Have you been wondering what to read during vacation this year? Why not give spiritual reading a try?

There are thousands of titles out there – too many for any one person – just waiting to make a positive impact on your faith life. Reading is a fantastic opportunity for general spiritual direction and good practice for every searching soul.

Choose a title from “you can’t go wrong” authors such as Louis de Wohl, G.K. Chesterton, Peter Kreeft, Francis de Sales, C.S. Lewis, and Scott Hahn. Their works alone should take you well into the summer, and possibly through to the next decade.

Or, choose from this list of great Christian books, in no particular order:

The Story of a Soul by St. Therese of Lisieux

In this autobiography and all-time favorite Catholic book, St. Therese teaches her “little way” of spiritual childhood. Millions of copies have been sold worldwide.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

One of the most popular introductions to the Christian faith ever published, this series of broadcast talks has been collected into book fashion. *Mere Christianity* sets out to “explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.”

Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism by Scott and Kimberly Hahn

This offers a conversion story of a brilliant, anti-Catholic Scripture scholar and his wife to the Catholic faith. Now well-known speakers and Catholic apologists, Scott and Kimberly recount their story with simplicity and love.

The Good News about Sex & Marriage by Christopher West

This down-to-earth application of Pope John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* is an easy to read yet insightful account of the Church’s teaching on sex and marriage.

God is Love by Pope Benedict XVI

The first encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI highlights the love of God and explains how to spread that love to others. This can be read for free online.

The Virtue Driven Life by Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel

In his charming, conversational style, Fr. Groeschel challenges us to rediscover virtue and its proper place in the modern world. One by one, he explains prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, faith, hope, and charity – but not without wit and wisdom!

What Catholics Really Believe by Karl Keating

Addressing 52 of the greatest misconceptions of the Catholic faith, Keating draws upon Scripture and Tradition to dispel errors and explain the rationale behind Church teaching.

No Greater Love by Mother Teresa

This anthology collects the teachings and sayings of Mother Teresa. Founder of the Missionaries of Charity and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa speaks joyfully about her work with the poor and God’s call in our lives.

Surprised by Truth edited by Patrick Madrid

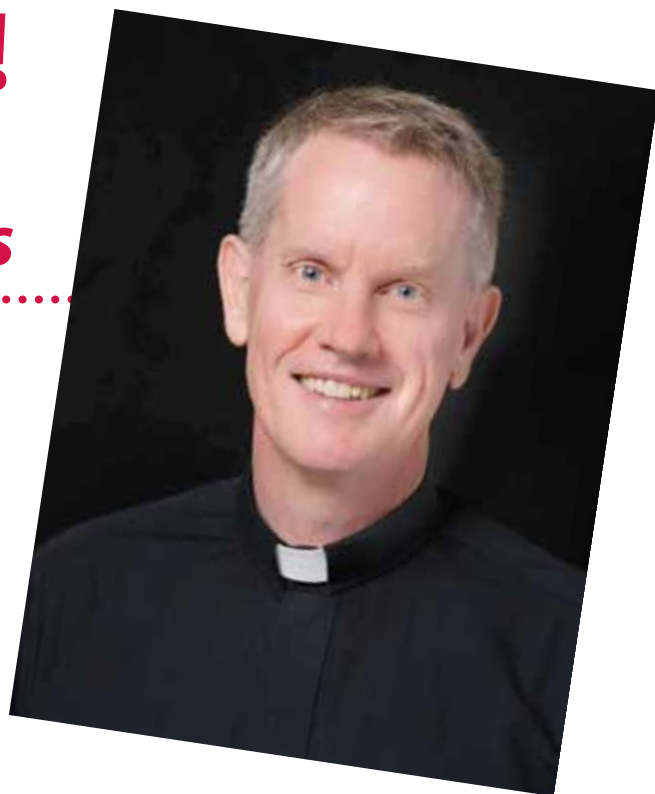
Eleven converts give their Biblical and historical reasons for becoming Catholic. These unique personal testimonies continue to transform hearts throughout the world in an insightful read for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Happy summer! Happy reading!

Save the Date!

Mass and Blessing of New Parish Facilities

Bishop-elect David Konderia – who will be our new bishop effective June 29 – will be joining us on Tuesday, July 26, the Feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim. We will have a special Mass and dedication at 6:30 p.m. with a reception afterwards. Please plan to join us!



Save the Date

St. Anne Feast Day Parish Picnic!

Get ready for the St. Anne Feast Day Parish Picnic – July 23 at 6 p.m., immediately following 5 p.m. Mass. The event offers fun for all ages! And be sure to bring lawn chairs or blankets (BYOB)! Food and beverages are provided.





St. Anne Catholic Church

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Brianna Noonan Discerns Her Call to the Religious Life

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When she returned home, Brianna visited the Religious Sisters of Mercy in Alma, Mich., and the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará in Washington, D.C.

"In Washington, the Lord and Our Lady of Częstochowa gave me such clarity," Brianna says. "They led me to St. Anne's almost two years ago and led me to this order, as well. It is beautiful how they have guided me."

The Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará began in response to Pope St. John Paul II's call to the New Evangelization, in which he exhorted the faithful to go out and spread the Gospel in new ways.

"I desire to be more fully part of that family in Washington and a part of their joy," Brianna says. "They are missionaries and go where they are called and where they are needed. Even their detailed habits are an evangelization tool, since people ask them about what they mean."

Brianna's last day at St. Anne's will be on July 15, and

she anticipates traveling to Washington shortly thereafter to begin a three to four-year period of formation. Afterwards, she will be sent out to evangelize and share the love of Christ with others.

"My faith journey really started in my high school years," Brianna says. "In more recent years, it has been a deep call in my heart to share the joy of our Lord through how we treat others."

Brianna would like to thank the faith community of St. Anne's because the community has truly embraced her like a family, and it will be in her prayers as she discerns her call to the religious life.

"I came here to lead the kids in their faith and to bring them closer to our Lord, and ultimately they have led me closer to Him," Brianna says. "I ask for your prayers. Know that you will all be in mine because you have given me such a great gift."

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