

HELP WANTED!

The *On Eagles Wings* Ministry needs volunteers. Your commitment would be about 4 hours every three months. This would make a wonderful family activity. Please join us!

Call Jody Babbits at 934-7220.



Attention All Ministry Leaders!

Please take a moment and e-mail some jpeg photos regarding your ministry to Ted Lapponi at lapponta@middough.com and also e-mail them to Mike Uzelac at muzelac@roadrunner.com. The SEE Committee is building a photo library of our many wonderful ministries to be used in the development of our ministry videos... we don't want anyone left out! Thanks so much for helping us with this!

St. Julie Billiart's
Stewardship
Herald

THE JULIETTE

ISSUE

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Birthday Blessings

As I reflect on the years that God has blessed me with, I am totally amazed and so grateful to celebrate my 75th birthday on August 20th. I have enjoyed and experienced so much since my ordination to the priesthood on May 19, 1962, and it has been a wonderful journey. I have been blessed with parents who supported my early call to the seminary when I was just a teenager entering high school. My parents made many long trips for six years to Cincinnati when I entered the minor seminary. My brothers and sisters really didn't see much of me in the 12 years that I studied for the priesthood, but I knew that they prayed for me and were very proud that a member of the Gonser family was called to the priesthood.

Of the five assignments that I have served in the diocese, St. Julie Billiart has been the most challenging and rewarding. I am one of the few chosen priests that can be called a founding pastor of a brand new parish. In 1978, I was appointed by Bishop Hickey to establish our parish in North Ridgeville. Over the last 33 years, I have met totally committed, faith-filled men and women who worked side by side with me to create a church community that has grown to over 700 families.

During that time, I have been able to continue my education and theological updating by attending two continuing education programs in Louvain, Belgium and Rome, Italy. I continued my studies in 2000 by spending three years part-time at St. Mary's graduate school of theology and received my doctorate in pastoral theology in 2003.

God has blessed me with good health and athletic abilities that enable me to enjoy golf on a regular basis. I have many priest friends who share my love of golf and, most of all, their enthusiasm and zeal as spiritual leaders. I treasure as well the many lay men and women, and religious men and women, who have mentored and welcomed me into their lives. Without such support and friendship, I would have been unable to minister with understanding, empathy, and patience.



This year is not going to be an easy one to live through, as I realize that the time is coming for me to retire as pastor and let a younger, more dynamic pastor take over the reins of our great parish. I am confident that the Holy Spirit, who has guided the growth of our parish, will give you a priest that will be a great blessing.

I am dealing with a few health issues that will slow me down a little, but that is part of the aging process. In the meantime, I will continue to minister here at St. Julie's to the best of my ability to reach out to men and women that are searching for a vibrant, hospitable, and spirit-filled faith community. I thank God every day at Mass for the blessings of my faith, my priesthood, my parishioners, and my many friendships that I have made since I entered the seminary 61 years ago. I look forward to someday reuniting with all of them in Heaven, and will continue to share all the memories and joys that were the foundations of my life in Christ.

FOR THE E-MAIL LOVERS...
The Juliette can be sent to your home via e-mail. Please send your e-mail address to the parish office if you would prefer the e-mail version.



Diocese of Cleveland
St. Julie Billiart
Catholic Church
5500 Lear Nagle Road • North Ridgeville, OH 44039
(440) 327-1978

Welcome to the *Ministry Minute*, where the SEE Committee spotlights the thriving ministries here at St. Julie's. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in one of our many ministries, please check your parish directory for a full ministry listing and contact person for each.



Ministry Minute

ON EAGLE'S WINGS—through the eyes of Beth Bunevich and Mom

Beth: My mother and I have been a part of *On Eagle's Wings* for the past 3 years. Our journey began one Sunday morning during ministry week. I was looking for a way to become involved in the church and help out the community at the same time. When I looked into *On Eagle's Wings*, I thought, "Hey, I can do this!" It only requires a commitment of one Saturday afternoon every 3 months or so depending on the pool of volunteers available.

Mom: Beth Ann brought this idea to me, and after talking it over, we decided to do it as a team. On our scheduled delivery day, my husband, Bill, and I head up to Giant Eagle early in the morning to pick up the donation of bread and bakery items, which Giant Eagle sets aside specifically for our ministry each Saturday. We then head back to the house to sort and pack the items.

Beth: My husband, Mark, and I meet at my parents' home. We have a list of the delivery locations with the number of persons in each household. We label each box with the delivery address and an *On Eagle's Wings* label, provided by the ministry. Then, we begin separating and packing the boxes according to the number of adults and children in the homes. For instance, if a household has children, we are sure to give them first the sliced breads and any goodies for their lunches. The number of items each household receives is based on the number of persons living at the address.

Beth: Once we have distributed all the items, we load up our vehicle to begin deliveries. Deliveries normally take about 2 hours. Your total Saturday commitment is typically about 4 hours; more or less depending on the number of donation items received that day. This is something that you may team up with someone as we have and split the tasks: one picking up and sorting, one making actual deliveries.

Beth: *On Eagle's Wings* is an easy way to become involved in St. Julie's and the community together and make a difference. It may also encourage you to become involved in other ministries, as it has for us, when you get to know people and enjoy being part of the wonderful, caring family we have here in our parish.

Mom: Please consider joining our ministry, we could use a few more dedicated people! Feel free to speak with us or our committed coordinator, Jody Babbitts. Thank you for your time.

We Celebrate

By Amy Gaffney

On August 15, 1978, Father Richard Gonser celebrated the first official Mass of the parish of St. Julie Billiard. We were in the gym of Lear North School, unofficially known from that date on as St. Lear North. Our mascots on the rear gym wall, a butterfly and a frog, graced our presence for the next three years.

Father Gonser was a young 41 years old when he stepped into our lives. For those of us founding parishioners, who have remained at St. Julie's for the past 33 years, we now realize how young he really was, as most of our children have already passed that number.



We all know the stories of how Father Gonser was given the deed to 14 acres, a bill for the property, a list of parishioners, and a pat on the back. What most of you don't know is how Father Gonser rang 200 doorbells, and welcomed families who would be displaced from St. Peter's, to become his very own parishioners. And here we are, 33 years later, with almost 700 families—new families that Father Gonser once again welcomed individually into his parish, his life, his ministries.

Who can believe that this young priest is turning 75 years old? He's as active as ever, as involved as could be, and he still swings a golf club better than most.

As the founding pastor of St. Julie's, Father Gonser was allowed to remain the shepherd of his flock for all these years. We are blessed to have been graced by his ministry, and we wish him continued good health in the years to come. May God bless him as he looks forward to celebrating 50 years as a priest next May, and a well deserved retirement.

We'll be celebrating St. Julie's 33rd Anniversary on Sunday, August 14, with "Mass on the Grass" at 10:30 a.m., and refreshments afterward to celebrate Father Gonser's 75th birthday. Please join us for a spirit-filled afternoon!



by Tony Frameli

~ ~ ~ A Family's Success ~ ~ ~

One spring day a few years ago, I came home from visiting my mother in PA and decided to get something to eat and catch a movie. I went to the Bob Evans in Westlake, was seated, ordered, and started to read my paper as I usually do. A few booths away from me was a family enjoying a meal and good times together. Suddenly, I looked up, and there was the dad smiling at me. He shook my hand and asked if I was from St. Julie's. I said yes. He then told me he was in our Interfaith program and remembered me from an evening of fellowship.

He told me his family, thanks to the program and St. Julie's, were able to get back on their feet. They have a nice home, a good job, and things are great. Just the fact that a family of 4 can go out and enjoy an evening in a restaurant told me they were doing well. I always heard that our program enjoyed an 87% success rate, but here were real people... a real family... not a number. I was proud that I could be a small part of their wonderful story. They blessed me and said they would pray for my mom.

As I left the restaurant, I waved, they smiled and said, "God bless you." As I walked to my car, I wondered why was I blessed by God to see how our church has affected people's lives in a positive fashion. Certainly, I'm not the person who makes this program go, there are many fine people—too many to mention (you guys know who you are)—that do way more than I do. This was my first adventure into stewardship for St. Julie's. I've been a parishioner since 1990, but basically I came to church on Sunday and then went about my daily activities during the week.

I don't have the answer, but I was honored that God chose me to see this beautiful God-loving family, and to witness first-hand the effect that our parish has upon the people of our community.

God Bless,
Tony

KIDS' CORNER!

Painted Toast Shows Your Thankfulness the Most!



INGREDIENTS

- 8 tablespoons milk
- Food coloring
- White sandwich bread

Place 2 tablespoons of milk in 4 separate containers. Add a few drops food coloring to each, making each cup a different color. Stir. Using clean paint brushes, have the children paint pictures of the blessings they're thankful for this summer (time with grandparents, a pet, sunshine, vacation with family, beach, nature, hugs, seashells, etc.). Toast in a toaster, thank Jesus for the wonderful blessings and yummy breakfast, and ENJOY!