

# St. Robert's Guild Gazette

Spring / Summer 2017 - 2018 ~ Rose Cuka, Editor



Happy Spring Ladies!! While long in coming, it is blooming forth beautifully! Thank the Lord! We have been having a very busy few months with several big events including the Mother/Daughter Paint the Town Pizza and Painting event, the parish evening social 'Vegas Night,' the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Throwback Thursday Card Party, Mahjong lessons, Blood Drive, the Holy Thursday Seder Meal, Morning of Reflection plus the individual Circle activities and of course monthly Donut Sunday! Whew! We were busy! But always having fun while working together! THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make these events successful. You are truly appreciated!

We would like to congratulate Diane Mohatt as our St. Robert Bellarmine Woman of the Year. Diane was honored at the annual Omaha Urban Council of Catholic Women's luncheon on May 3. Diane exemplifies the woman who is willing to serve as well as lead. She is the recent past President of the Guild. In addition to her Guild volunteering, she continues to help with girls' volleyball, and the parish picnic while offering her services to community charities. Congratulations Diane!

The Spring Luncheon on May 4 was also a great success. The Regina Minton Scholarship winners were announced that day. The scholarship of one year's tuition for a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl in the St. Robert Bellarmine Religious Education program and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl attending the St. Robert Bellarmine School is awarded each year in honor of the Guild's first president, Regina Minton. We congratulate Breeana Kastelic (Religious Education) and June Mullen (SRB School). These girls exemplify leadership with kindness and faith. Thank you to Joan Shields for organizing the luncheon and to the Scholarship committee which included Nancy Kuhl, Julie Kaminski, Abby Blair and Diane Mohatt.

Also, several changes to the Guild as recommended by the Focus Group that was formed in January to revise the by-laws, were introduced. Changing from a calendar based on the school year, to one that follows the calendar year is being recommended. Another change will organize standing committees that do similar work together. These categories will be referred to as "Pillars of Faith and Fellowship." This will also add a needed layer of leadership to the Board. The revised by-laws will be emailed to all Guild members. A general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday May 23 at 7:00 in the Guild Room (#3) to vote on the proposed changes.

Veronica Wright ~ Guild President



Diane & Tim Mohatt

Congratulations are in order for Diane Mohatt our parish 2018 Catholic Woman of the Year. Our Ladies Guild, as well as our parish has benefited greatly from her service and dedication.

Diane and Tim have 2 daughters and have been parish members since 1994. She is a recent Guild Past President and has served our parish in many capacities. She has not hesitated to volunteer for the many parish needs, Religious Education, Youth Group, Winnebago Mission trip, National Catholic Youth Conference chaperone, Volleyball commissioner and coach as well as the

children's choir. She also assists the K of C with their many activities and serves on the stewardship and parish picnic committees. Diane has put a great deal of her heart and effort into the Parish and Ladies Guild and she finds true joy in helping others. **Congratulations Diane...from all of us!**

## Circle # 1 "Celebrate & Serve"

Mahjong lessons were enjoyed in March with proceeds going to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Mother Nature forced the Easter Bunny to hide eggs indoors this year but everyone enjoyed the search. This month you'll find these gals at Tan-ners celebrating the end of the Guild year. They continue to offer hot meals for new moms and families.

## Circle #2 "On a wing and a prayer"

A fun game night was held in February and on March 14<sup>th</sup> they met with the Wisdom Circle at the Servite Center for prayer and reflection. On April 25<sup>th</sup> they served dinner at the Hospice House. Approximately 40 guests were served delicious chicken casseroles, salads and desserts

## Circle #3 "Been There Done That"

Once again Rosie and Bernie Wilson (and family) served a delicious lunch at the EPS Irish themed luncheon on March 15<sup>th</sup> to approximately 100 ladies. Entertainment was provided by the Creighton Prep Choir and a record \$12,000 was collected for EPS.

## Committees

**Guild Socials:** Vegas Night on April 20<sup>th</sup> was attended by approximately 140 players. All foods, chips, snacks, sodas, meatballs and pulled pork, were donated. A popular signature drink was also served. Raffle baskets were available and 5 jewelry pieces were donated by Sols (John & Suzanne Dineen). Many Thanks to them.

**Margaret of Cortona** group works in conjunction with the VNA to provide household items to transitional families. They are always in need of sheets (queen), pots and pans and kitchen items.

**Marthas** have served nearly 1100 meals this year. Bereaved families are most grateful for this service.

## Morning of Reflection

Sharon Doran was our guest speaker on March 26 to begin Holy Week with a reflection on two princesses...Mother Theresa and Princess Diana. A light snacky breakfast was served following the 8:30 a.m. Mass with over 100 attendees. Sharon is the coordinator of the "Seeking Truth Bible Study". Thanks to Laura Kwong for coordinating the event.

**Mother/Daughter** ~ Saturday, April 7 ~ "Paint the Town" was the theme of this event. Following the 5:30 Mass gals and moms gathered in the Mainelli Center for a fun night of Pizza & Painting.



*We Love our Weekend Celebrants... Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*



**Fr. Andy Alexander** has volunteered as Weekend Celebrant and Saturday Confessor for our parish for 18 years following the death of his father. We remember Deacon Fred Alexander who was the very first deacon ordained in the Deaconate program in 1974. Fred and Grace Alexander were charter members of St. Robert's, coming from the St. John's Creighton Community in 1963. Fr. Andy grew up in that parish, attending the elementary school program along with his sister, Linda. Their home was a gathering place for many of the Jesuit Community during those early years, and surely an influence for his later vocation. He was a member of the speech and debate team at Creighton Prep graduating in 1966. He then entered the Society of Jesus and spent the next four years at a secluded college 'in the woods', near St. Bonifacius, Minnesota. The following three years he studied Philosophy at St. Louis U., earning a Master's Degree in Ignatian Spirituality. He then moved on to St. Francis and Holy Rosary Missions on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations in South Dakota for 3 years. He was also directing retreats around the country during this time. Theology in Toronto was his next stop where he worked as a student therapist at the Addiction Research Foundation for the Government of Ontario during his final year.

He became Director of Vocations for the Wisconsin Province following his Ordination in 1979. Four years later, he served as Assistant Provincial for the Province for several years and then on to Director of Formation for all Jesuits in studies for the next 3 years. His next assignment was Pastor of Gesu Parish, a large downtown Milwaukee Parish. He returned to Omaha in 1996 and was able to help care for his ailing father while serving as Vice President for University Ministry. During this time he co-founded the Online Ministries web site, along with Maureen McCann Waldron. This service extends around the world providing spiritual reflections and support. Ignatian Retreats are also offered. Online reflections and resources are always uplifting for the time and fit the Liturgical Seasons. Access the webpage at: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

Fr. Andy has also traveled to third world countries in his various ministries. In addition to the Online Ministries work, he serves as Director of Collaborative Ministry Office at Creighton University, continuing his service with faculty and staff at Creighton on the Mission.

Fr. Andy enjoys cooking, which he gets to do with his cousin, Mary, whom he is often able to bring to Mass at St. Robert's on Sundays.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 1951, **Frank & Jean Scheibhofer proudly welcomed a son, Rob.** Several years later a daughter completed the family circle. Rob's elementary years were at Blessed Sacrament, Holy Angels and St. Richard's. Upon graduation from Archbishop Rummel High school in 1969 he joined the Christian Brothers. This took him to Memphis where he began a theology program and also worked as organist-choirmaster at an Episcopal church. He returned to Omaha and served as organist at Holy Cross, Sts. Peter and Paul and All Saints. He received his Theology degree from UNO. Later, he also received a Masters in Social Work and worked in that capacity for twenty years. In the meantime, he met Patty, married and a son was born. His next stop was St. Barnabas Episcopal Church at 40<sup>th</sup> and Davenport in Omaha.

St. Barnabas was founded in 1869 as an Anglican Church with a goal of unifying with the Catholic tradition. They struggled for years, overcoming many obstacles and finally under the guidance of Fr. Rob they achieved this goal. The entire congregation voted to withdraw from the Episcopal denomination and accept the Catholic tradition. This special event occurred on July 10, 2013 when they were confirmed and granted full communion with the Catholic Church by Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson, Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.

Fr. Rob was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Eldon Curtiss on July 26, 2013 and a few short weeks later, on August 10, was ordained a Catholic priest by Archbishop George Lucas. He had previously resigned his Anglican orders.

A new pastor was appointed to St. Barnabas in January 2017, which prompted Fr. Rob's retirement in July. Just a few months later he was approached by Fr. Stillmunks to fill in as Weekend Celebrant at St. Robert's. Not content to be idle he graciously accepted and has been involved in the parish ever since. Although titled as Weekend Celebrant he does so much more. Daily Mass is usually on his schedule as well as serving in the confessional. He also provides Chaplain services for Christ the King at Methodist hospital.

In his spare time he enjoys reading (especially cozy mysteries), making rosaries, practicing/learning new music.

**Past Presidents** evaluated over 25 essays to select two 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls for the Regina Minton scholarship for next year's tuition. Awards were presented at the annual Guild Luncheon on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to June Mullen (daughter of Mary Anne & Matt Mullen) - 5 day school and Breeana Kastelic (daughter of Cindy & Carl Kastelic - CCD).

**Prayer shawl Ministry:** These ladies meet every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. to knit and crochet shawls for the sick. They completed and distributed 220 shawls this year as well as 250 fleece blankets for our military. Included with the fleece are a rosary and an angel pin. All items are blessed by Deacon Michael Fletcher before leaving the premises.

**Pro-Life:** Ann Bauer kept us updated on all the community Pro-Life events. St. Robert parishioners participated in the Forty days for Life Campaign held in February and March.

**Receptions** committee hosted the reception following the Easter Vigil for our Neophyte Catholics. Family and friends numbering over 200 attended this celebration.

**Seder Service:** We began the Easter Triduum with our Holy Thursday Seder Service on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Fr. Scheibhofer led this very prayerful and meaningful service attended by 180 parishioners. Thanks to Susie Stolinski and her committee.

**Special Events**

To conclude our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year an afternoon card/game party was held on April 12. A box lunch was provided at a cost of \$10. This event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Watch the Bulletin for upcoming Guild events and information.

**FYI: upcoming birthdays**

Fr. Andy ~ May 28<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Rob ~ July 10<sup>th</sup>

**Have a wonderful summer!**