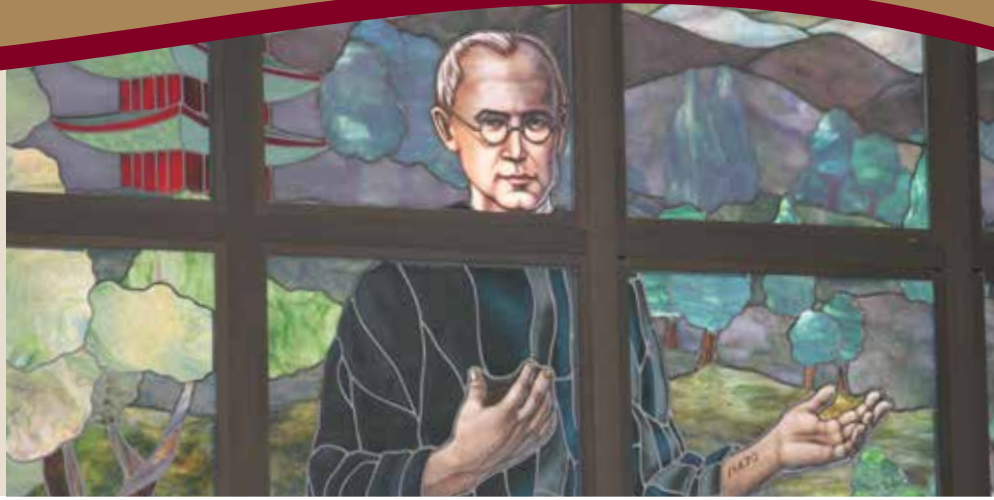


The MODERN SAINT



SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CATHOLIC CHURCH

P A R I S H P I C N I C

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE IS GEARING UP FOR THIS YEAR'S

September is officially upon us, and that means something great here at St. Maximilian Kolbe – it's time for the annual Parish Picnic! This year, our picnic will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Niederman Family Farm venue. This annual gathering is a favorite tradition at St. Max, and we hope everyone will come out again this year to enjoy great fun and fellowship with our parishioners!

Karen Borgemenke and her family love attending the Parish Picnic each year, spending some quality time with each other and with fellow parishioners.

"Over the years, we've been very involved and have volunteered to do something," says Karen. "My kids love to work the snow cone machine! The Niederman Farm location is great because there is a wide range of things for all ages. You can sit and listen to the live music, there is volleyball for older kids, and there is a playground and petting zoo for younger ones. There is just a lot for everybody."

The Parish Picnic has been a tradition at St. Max since the church was first built. In past years, the picnic was held on the parish grounds. The event was moved to Niederman Farm to celebrate the parish's 25th anniversary a few years ago, and the exciting new venue was such a hit with families that the picnic has been held there ever since.

In addition to the many amenities and different forms of entertainment provided at the farm, this location also makes for a no-stress family outing.

"It's nice the way it's offered at the farm, because



(From left) Max, Nick, Noah, and Anna Borgemenke sit in an oversized rocking chair at Niederman Family Farm during last year's Parish Picnic

"It's just an extended fellowship and it's nice for community building. It's a way of feeling a part of your parish family. We're all here to help each other along to get to heaven, so I just think that it's important – especially in today's secular world – to have like-minded people that you can connect with to help you along on this journey."

– Karen Borgemenke

continued on page 3

The MODERN SAINT

A Letter From Our Pastor

TGIM – Thank Goodness It's Monday!

The following is based on my 2016 Labor Day homily. The TGIM idea was not my own but something I read online when looking for ideas for a homily on the dignity of work.

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

At the dawn of creation, God made man the steward of his handiwork and charged him to cultivate and protect it. Human labor is part of that creation and continues God's creative work. This truth leads us to consider work as both a gift and a duty. Indeed, labor is not a mere commodity but has its own inherent dignity and worth.

- POPE FRANCIS, 28 MAY 2014,
ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Most of us have heard of the phrase "TGIF" – "thank goodness it's Friday" – as we end our work week. Yet, as Christians, we should really be thinking "TGIM" – "thank goodness it's Monday" – as we begin our work week! Why would we think such a thing?

Each year on the first Monday in September, we reflect upon the value of human work and recall its essential role in our lives. Human labor is a holy undertaking and a central part of humanity's destiny in God's divine plan. The basis of this central truth is that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Human beings are the only part of creation who share God's image and likeness, the only ones capable of work in its proper sense.

We see in the divine act of creation our loving God "at work." Thus, human work is one of the ways in which humanity is in the image of God.

Laborem exercens is an encyclical (papal letter) on work written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1981. Part of



the larger body of Catholic social teaching, this encyclical was published in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum novarum*, a foundational document of Catholic social teaching, which addressed the conditions of the working classes in the late 19th century. Let us now recall the words of *Laborem exercens*, section 25: *The word of God's revelation is profoundly marked by the fundamental truth that man, created in the image of God, shares by his work in the activity of the Creator and that, within the limits of his own human capabilities, man in a sense continues to develop that activity.* In creation, humanity is given dominion over creation and commanded to subdue it. Thus, as humans are commanded to work, our work is in and of itself holy

since we are fulfilling a divine mandate in our work. Consequently, work is a means for humans to become holy – it is a sanctifying activity.

How often do we reflect upon our work being a vehicle through which we and those we serve are sanctified?

**HAVE YOU MOVED, OR DO YOU HAVE A NEW
PHONE NUMBER OR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?**

Please contact the office at 777-4322 ext. 101 or cgroh@saint-max.org to give us an update!

TGIM *continued from page 2*

How many of us approach work with the attitude that we are acting in the image and likeness of God by working, and that in our work fulfills the divine command given to humanity at creation to exercise dominion and subdue the earth? This Labor Day, let us remember that we are called to perceive work in this manner. Let us remember that we are called to be transformed and made holy in and through our work.

St. Joseph, patron of workers, pray for us. And let's remember each and every time we begin our work week, TGIM – thank goodness it's Monday!

God bless one and all!

Fr. Geoff

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Pastor



Blessing of Tools • Labor Day • Monday, Sept. 4, 2017 – 9 a.m. Mass

At our Labor Day Mass, all are invited to bring tools with them that represent their work. The blessing of tools, a metaphor of our own sanctification, consecrates tools for work, helping us live in the image and likeness of God and promoting our obedience to God's command to fill the earth and subdue it.

St. Maximilian Kolbe is Gearing up for This Year's Parish Picnic! *continued from front cover*

there is no pressure to bring a dish and you don't have to pack anything up – no picnic basket or folding chairs or anything," Karen says. "There are minimal volunteer shifts to fill, and it is for things like scooping ice cream and working the snow cone machine, so it's actually really fun! Everything is provided and done, so it's just a nice afternoon to come enjoy the fellowship of the St. Max family, meet new people, and catch up with the ones you see coming in and out of Mass."

With nine children ranging in age from 25 to 7 years old, the Borgemenkes have been attending the Parish Picnic as a family for many years. For Karen, the opportunity to

strengthen ties between her family and fellow parishioners is the greatest benefit of this beloved St. Max tradition.

"It's just an extended fellowship and it's nice for community building," she says. "It's a way of feeling a part of your parish family. We're all here to help each other along to get to heaven, so I just think that it's important – especially in today's secular world – to have like-minded people that you can connect with to help you along on this journey."

We hope that everyone will join us for what is sure to be another wonderful time of fun and fellowship at this year's Parish Picnic!



(From left) Max and Nick Borgemenke enjoy the pipe swing at the St. Max Parish Picnic on Niederman Family Farm

For more information on the Parish Picnic, visit the St. Maximilian Kolbe website at www.saint-max.org/picnic. You can use this site to RSVP to the picnic and to sign up as a volunteer.

God's Word: Ever Ancient, Ever New

"The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and Christ's body."

Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), 18 November 1965, #21

PREPARING *to* HEAR *the* GOSPELS

Sept. 3 – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus shockingly confides in His disciples what it means for Him to be the Messiah, a suffering Messiah. Peter, having just confessed Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God and having been appointed to a special position among the apostles as the foundation on which the Church is to be built, reprimands Jesus for proclaiming such "nonsense." This message goes against everything the disciples had been taught.

Sept. 10 – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 18:15-20

The basic threefold process on how to reconcile a member who sins into good standing with the Church is presented. The approach for dealing with Church members who have sinned is personal, sensitive and rooted in the desire for reconciliation. Exercising such love, care and healing is an imitation of Jesus' own ministry.

Sept. 17 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 18:21-35

Peter is prepared to be what would have then been considered magnanimous in the forgiveness of another. Jesus shocks His listeners in replying that there is no limit on how many times we forgive each other. We must be willing to forgive others in the very same way God forgives us.

Sept. 24 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 20:1-16a

The parable about workers and wages is seemingly disturbing since the landowner does not seem to treat his workers fairly. The parable challenges our contemporary view of justice and reinforces the consistent teaching and experience of God's abundant generosity.

Sacramental Preparation Orientation Meetings

First Penance/Communion and Confirmation at St. Max

Join our Sacramental Preparation staff for one of these **required*** meetings to find out how your family can begin preparing this spring or next year with your second or eighth-grader for the Sacraments of First Penance/First Communion and Confirmation.

You'll get an overview of the Sacramental Preparation process here at St. Max, learn how to get signed up for formation programs, and have an opportunity to ask questions of our ministry staff.

While normal ages for children in our parish to celebrate these sacraments are second and eighth grade respectively, younger children may be ready and older children may need to "catch up." Take this opportunity to find out more and talk with our pastoral ministers.

If you want your child to prepare for and receive sacraments this school year, this is your last opportunity for

orientation. These meetings will be held again in the Spring for families wishing to prepare Fall 2018.

Friday, Sept. 29, 9:30-11 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5, 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 9:30-11 a.m.

- **Current** second and eighth-grade families
- Families with older children who never celebrated these sacraments
- Others with questions and concerns about preparing for sacraments

*Parents who have already attended this orientation do NOT need to attend again; call the office to verify. All those who have already attended will be invited to pre-register for upcoming formation in the coming weeks.

SERVICE

The Fourth Pillar of Parish Stewardship

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are numerous references to service. There is the parable of the vigilant and faithful servants who await their master's return from a wedding, "ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks" (Lk 12:35-40). There is the story of the good Samaritan who was moved with compassion to help the victim of a violent robbery (Lk 10:25-37). And there are several examples of Christ serving those around Him – feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, and even turning water into wine at a wedding banquet.

As a stewardship parish, service must be at the heart of everything we do. The parish community is the bastion of service within the Catholic Church, as we serve one another and are also served by our brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Diocese of Wichita's document, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, states, "Like a blood family, the parish family stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or celebrate special events in their lives."

It is good to recognize the parish community as a

place where service is appreciated and can be utilized for the good of the Church. However, it is not enough for us to simply serve other members of our parish family. As disciples of Christ, it is our obligation to serve people in need everywhere they exist – in our families, our greater community, our country, and throughout the world. This can be a challenging concept, as it is often much more comfortable and convenient to serve those who are close to us than it is to reach out to "outsiders." But, as *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* eloquently points out, "Failure to have this understanding leads to a selfish parochialism, which is life draining to a parish stewardship way of life."

Think of ways that you can serve others around you, both within our parish family and in the greater community. Once you serve, you will find that you will reap numerous rewards in return, much like the faithful servants who doubled the talents their master had entrusted to them: "Well done, my good and faithful servant" (Mt 25:21).

Bringing Christ and Seeing Christ

Ministries of service – especially those reaching out to those in need – are essential for so many reasons. In particular, these ministries provide an important opportunity for people to truly connect on a personal level.

“I think there’s power in the personal contact,” says John Stengel, who serves as the President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, or SVdP, at St. Maximilian Kolbe. “We just sit and we’ll talk. We determine where they’re at and how we can best help. We’re looking for the face of Christ in these people and in their need, and hopefully they can feel a bit of that in us, too.”

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833, with a vision to care for the poor. The first conference in the United States was founded in 1845, and since then, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been one of the primary ways that the Church has served those in need within their local communities. The SVdP’s main mission is helping those in need, generally, within the parish boundaries. The type of assistance provided ranges from help with rent and utilities, to providing food and clothing for those who are struggling.

“Our primary focus is to provide



emergency temporary assistance,” says John, who has been involved for the past five years. “A lot of times, they’re facing an eviction or utilities are being disconnected. We try to offer the assistance they need to get over that hump.”

Unlike many agencies or other forms of assistance, SVdP places great emphasis on the importance of personal connection – members go out in pairs to meet those they serve and get to know them.

“Some people really need someone to talk to, rather than just going to an agency or something like that,” John says. “I think the

personal contact makes a difference, to let them know that somebody cares about their situation. We’re there to be a witness to Christ. We try to offer them a little bit more, a little bit extra.”

John notes that, importantly, SVdP members often bring grocery gift cards or personal care packages with them on visits.

“A lot of times, if you’re struggling to feed your family, you can’t buy deodorant and little things like that really touch people,” John says.

It is the hope of those who serve with the SVdP that their actions will

“Some people really need someone to talk to, rather than just going to an agency or something like that. I think the personal contact makes a difference, to let them know that somebody cares about their situation. We’re there to be a witness to Christ. We try to offer them a little bit more, a little bit extra.” – John Stengel, SVdP President, St. Maximilian Kolbe

: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



help those who are struggling to know that they are not alone.

"We want them to know that there are people who care about their situation," John says. "We're not just an agency, but somebody who is truly interested in helping them. We can't solve all their problems, but we're interested in listening and caring."

John has found that he has grown spiritually, both from the encounters he has had with those he visits, as well as through meeting with other members of SVdP.

"A lot of times I feel like I get more out of the encounter than I've been able to offer," he says. "You'll meet somebody who is struggling to make it every day – yet, they've taken in a family member or a family member's kids because they are worse off. They're struggling – and yet, they're still reaching out to help somebody else. That's the kind of thing that really stands out. It's like the widow putting the two coins in the temple treasury, not just people giving out of their abundance."

"One of the primary focuses on SVdP is to grow spiritually," John continues. "A third of our meetings are spent on prayer, reflection and spiritual growth."

For John, the experience of being involved with SVdP has really opened his eyes.

"It helps me grow in looking for the face of Christ in other people," he says. "Seeing these different situations, and what people are going through – it can't help but change you."

John encourages those who are interested in learning more to come to one of the SVdP's bi-weekly meetings, held on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the church. Active members participate in meetings and home visits, and associate members attend meetings and commit to provide spiritual and prayer support for the mission.

"We encourage people to come to a meeting or invite them to go on a visit and experience what that's like," John says. "Pray about it. Take that step out of your comfort zone. It's important to fulfill the mission that Christ gave us, to reach the poor, to have that encounter. You get back so much more than what you give."

For more information, or to become involved with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please contact John Stengel at 513-509-0525. SVdP is supported by generous donations from parishioners, whether through the monthly envelope collection for SVdP, or through donations designated through our online giving option, Faith Direct.

Building Community Among Young Adults Within the Parish



At a service event with Matthew 25 Ministries – (from left) Anna Frantz, Beth Kindel, Mary Holt, Adam Martin, and Josh Plandowski

The phase of life known as “young adulthood” is a uniquely complex one. Often defined as young people in their 20s and 30s, it marks a tremendously important time in one’s life. Careers are chosen and pursued, individuals are financially independent for the first time, and new families are formed. For many, this is also a time of intense searching — seeking to find one’s place and overall purpose in life. That’s why it’s so important to provide a sense of community among young adults, creating a space where they feel truly welcomed and supported within the Church.

“We’re at a time in our life when we are growing and are trying to form our own identity,” says parishioner Anna Frantz. “We need a community to support us in this journey, but also to keep us tied to the Church. When you’re growing up, you tend to go to church because that’s where your family attends. But this phase of life is an opportunity for us young adults to develop our own sense of Church.”

The West Chester Catholic Young Adult Ministry, or WCCYA, is designed to help welcome local young

adults into our faith community by providing them with regular opportunities for fellowship, faith formation, and service. In the process, it helps bridge the gap for parishioners who often struggle to find their place in parish life.

“When you look at a parish, there is youth group stuff, groups specifically for families, and even for older adults,” says parishioner Lisa Krass. “But a lot of times, the young adult group doesn’t quite fit into those other segments. This is a way for us to keep them connected with their faith so that they don’t feel like they need to wait until they’re older to get plugged back into the Church.”

Currently, the WCCYA meets every first Thursday at 7 p.m. for their Adoration and Applebee’s event. The group begins by attending a holy hour together in St. Maximilian Kolbe’s Adoration Chapel, and then travels to a local Applebee’s for food and fellowship. Then, on the third Wednesday, the group comes together for their monthly faith discussion, beginning at 7 p.m. and alternating between St. John the Evangelist and

continued on page 9

The West Chester Catholic Young Adult Ministry welcomes new members and anyone who may have fresh ideas on how to continue meeting members’ needs. To learn more about this ministry, you can visit their website www.wccatholicya.org, join their active Facebook group, or contact wccatholicya@gmail.com.

Building Community Among Young Adults Within the Parish *continued from page 8*

St. Maximilian Kolbe parishes. Finally, every fourth Saturday of the month, some type of service, faith event or social is offered.

Through these events, young adults are able to come together on a regular basis, building lasting friendships and finding their place within the faith community.

"I've been blessed with some wonderful friendships and opportunities to deepen my faith," Anna says. "I joined this ministry when I was new to the parish, so it was kind of a door into the parish for me. It really helped me find friends of like mind and to truly feel comfortable at a Church that is as big as St. Max."

"It's has truly connected me into the parish," Lisa adds. "Some of my very best friends in the area have come from this group and I would never have met them without it. It's great to be able to continue growing in my faith and to have those fellow young adults keeping me connected."

Both Anna and Lisa also feel that being part of the WCCYA has helped them become better stewards, finding ways to become more involved through acts of service and spiritual development. Through their time on the ministry Core Team, they've become more



The West Chester Catholic Young Adult Ministry core team – (front row, from left) Anna Frantz, Matt Polakowski, Lisa Krass, and Andy Rupley; (back row, from left) Miriam Efken, Zack Hinger, and Josh Plandowski

aware of the needs of others, most especially fellow young adults who may be new to the community.

"It helps me to have a better understanding of other people's views of our faith and to be there to serve the Church more as a whole," Anna says. "It also makes me work harder to be welcoming to other young adults who may be in similar shoes to what I was."

“I’ve been blessed with some wonderful friendships and opportunities to deepen my faith. I joined this ministry when I was new to the parish, so it was kind of a door into the parish for me. It really helped me find friends of like mind and to truly feel comfortable at a Church that is as big as St. Max.”

– Anna Frantz

To stay up to date and informed on Vatican news, check out the Official Vatican Network at www.news.va.

YOUR ST. MAX PARISH STAFF...

Parish Phone 513-777-4322

Parish emails – first initial last name@saint-max.org (for example, gdrew@saint-max.org)

CLERGY

Fr. Geoff Drew	Pastor	Ext. 102
Fr. Ron Piepmeyer	In residence	513-777-4322
John Paul Back	Permanent Deacon	513-226-3428
Mike Hinger	Permanent Deacon	513-779-1586
Mike Lippman	Permanent Deacon	513-252-4898

COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Merkel	Pastoral Associate (<i>Bulletin, Modern Saint newsletter, Social Media, Website & Facility Scheduling</i>)	Ext. 121
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EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

Zack Hinger	Pastoral Associate – High School Youth & Young Adult Ministry	Ext. 107
Mary Lou Baker	Religious Formation of Youth (RFY)	Ext. 120
Robin Burbrink	RFY Educational Consultant Grades 6-8 – Junior Youth Ministry	Ext. 124
Marlene Doughman	Family Life & Adult Faith Formation	Ext. 118
Charlotte Flanagan	RFY Pre-School Educational Consultant (<i>including Childcare</i>) – Vacation Bible School	Ext. 129
Denise Jasek	RFY Educational Consultant, Grades K-5	Ext. 119
Debi LaFrankie	RFY Educational Consultant Grade K – Special Needs Instruction	Ext. 120
Ally Wheeler	High School Youth & Young Adult Ministry	Ext. 128

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Larry Witsken	Pastoral Associate	Ext. 110
Bill McDowell, John Schmidt	Facility & Maintenance Staff	Ext. 110

OUTREACH

Holly Moran	Pastoral Associate (<i>Bereavement, Charitable Works, Homebound, Hospitals & Stephen Ministry</i>)	Ext. 116
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PARISH LIFE & STEWARDSHIP

Lakmé Kodros	Pastoral Associate – Business Manager	Ext. 105
Cindy Groh	Office Manager & Administrative Assistant	Ext. 101
Stephanie Houlding	Administrative Assistant	Ext. 104
Katie Keenan	Administrative Assistant	Ext. 111
Ruth Trentman	Bookkeeper – Child Protection Coordinator	Ext. 112

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Jeremy Helmes	Pastoral Associate – Music Ministry – Infant Baptism	Ext. 103
Robin Burbrink	Youth Confirmation	Ext. 124
Mike Lippman	Adult Initiation	Ext. 137
Rebecca Peltier	Youth First Communion (<i>including First Penance</i>)	Ext. 106
Mary Ella Wielgos	Music Ministry (<i>all Liturgical Ministry scheduling</i>)	Ext. 109

... IS HERE TO SERVE YOU!

St. Maximilian Kolbe's RCIA Ministry Team

"A Faith-Renewing Process"

As being with children helps us rediscover the "wonder in our world," helping adults inquire into and embrace the Church revivifies the faith of all those involved.

That's how Deacon Mike Lippman describes the rewarding experience of being part of the RCIA Ministry Team.

"In answering questions and providing instruction, we deepen our knowledge of the faith," says Deacon Mike, Coordinator of the RCIA Team. "Accompanying these adults as they go from asking questions to learning to experiencing the joy that comes from sacramental union with Christ and His Church is a faith-renewing process."

The RCIA Ministry Team consists of faith community members who support those seeking to join the Catholic faith through St. Max's yearlong RCIA process, which stands for the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults."

"Our team serves many roles throughout the process," Deacon Mike says. "Some focus on hospitality, some on catechesis, some on formation, and some help out in multiple areas. Many of our team members came to the Catholic faith through the RCIA process themselves."

Team members meet with those inquiring into the process, provide weekly catechetical sessions, conduct formation events that include a yearly retreat, assist in finding sponsors and assist in preparing adults for the rites involved in becoming Catholic. Additionally, the team provides ongoing support to these adults when they are newly Catholic.

"The call to become Catholic is a life-changing process that cannot be taken lightly nor embraced without some cost," Deacon Mike says. "Without the time and prayerful support of many parishioners, these adults would not be able fully to accept and live out their new faith."

Deacon Mike and his family have been members of St. Maximilian since its founding, and he first began working with the RCIA team when he played guitar for the yearly retreat. He gradually began helping with catechesis and the inquiry process, and about five years ago he formally joined the team. His involvement

continued on back cover



The Easter Vigil fire at St. Maximilian



After the Rite of Election



A catechetical session

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"In answering questions and providing instruction, we deepen our knowledge of the faith. Accompanying these adults as they go from asking questions to learning to experiencing the joy that comes from sacramental union with Christ and His Church is a faith-renewing process." – Deacon Mike Lippman, Coordinator of the RCIA Team

St. Maximilian Kolbe's RCIA Ministry Team "A Faith-Renewing Process" *continued from page 11*

increased from there.

Parishioners are welcome to join the RCIA Ministry Team and become involved in any part of the RCIA process.

"We are always looking for faithful Catholics to be companions to those who are in the RCIA process," Deacon Mike says. "Every current and past RCIA team member will tell you that you will receive far more than you will give. If you are interested, please send me a note or give me a call!"

Since St. Max has been a parish, it has established a robust RCIA process that has helped hundreds lead "fulfilling lives of faith."

"This would not happen without the countless hours of effort provided by so many volunteers over the years," Deacon Mike says. "The parish is grateful, I am grateful and most especially, these many new Catholics are grateful for your time, effort, witness, and prayers."

For more information about the RCIA process and the RCIA Team at St. Maximilian Kolbe, please reach out to Deacon Mike Lippman at mlippman@saint-max.org or 513-252-4898.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sun.:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. | **Mon. - Sat.:** 8:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.,
Thursdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass & 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.