



THE MODERN SAINT

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish is a Roman Catholic Christian community which unselfishly ministers to all people through hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. Eucharist centered and led by the Holy Spirit we strive to be grateful stewards of all God's gifts.

APOSTLES FORMING APOSTLES LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

By: Jo Zink

Apostles didn't walk the earth only in Jesus' time and in the years of the early church. They exist in today's world, working to build and spread God's kingdom here on earth. We are all called to discipleship and to build the Kingdom through our baptism. But how does one go about this work? This is one of the many things the Legionaries of Christ are called to help with. Their motto is, "Thy Kingdom Come!" and they take this seriously. It's at the heart of what they do.

The Legionaries of Christ is a Roman Catholic religious congregation of priests and men studying for the priesthood. They take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and have had a community in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati since 2012. They serve the Church as well as members and friends of Regnum Christi. They live in community and center their lives around Christ and devotion to His Sacred Heart. They are driven by the desire to set the world on fire for the love of Jesus. They are on a mission to form apostles who will allow Christ the King to rule and transform their hearts so they can help transform the world around them.

The Legionary of Christ is formed to be both contemplative and an evangelizer, which at first could seem contradictory. They are contemplative through their deep devotion to Christ and personal prayer life. It is this contemplative part of their



The local community of Legionaries of Christ serve the Church throughout the Ohio valley.

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JO ZINK

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ENCOUNTER

Beauty

By: Fr. Jim Riehle

When I started in the seminary, I experienced a lot of surprises. I was surprised very quickly about how little I actually knew about the Catholic faith despite my own Catholic education and having taught in Catholic schools. I was surprised at how hard it was to truly enter into prayer. I supposed at the time that prayer was “easy”. I was surprised at how bad the food was.

That last one was a joke, but all the same, life in the seminary brought many unexpected moments. One minor, but wonderful such unexpected discovery came fairly early on in my time there. Every new seminarian was given a copy of the four volume Liturgy of the Hours. These books contain all the prayers, hymns, rubrics and texts connected to praying the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. Every priest, deacon and most religious around the world use these texts to pray throughout each day. The Liturgy of the Hours is the prayer of the Church.

When I had received the four books, I was looking through them trying to make sense of where in the book I was supposed to be on a given day and how the books were set up. I discovered that each volume contains a set of appendices. I was surprised to find an appendix in each volume simply titled “Poetry”.

Each volume contains a variety of poems related to the particular season of the liturgical calendar or to our faith in general. Some poems are the works of saints; others, not so much. The poets include such well known figures as St. John of the Cross, John Donne, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Chaucer, as well as lesser known poets. I must admit I was surprised that poetry was included in this volume of prayer, but there they were.

This was the first time I realized something that the Catholic Church has long understood, that is, the role of beauty in the world and its transforming power over the human heart.

Pope Benedict XVI once said, “The encounter with the beautiful can become the wound of the arrow that strikes the heart and in this way opens

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our eyes.” What he means is that the encounter with “beauty” can be an encounter with the Divine.

Authentic beauty has always drawn the human mind and heart to transcendent realities. Even the ancient pagan philosophers understood this. That is one reason why in Ancient Greece poets were venerated more than priests. In their eyes, a person who could create such beauty was more in contact with the Divine than some fellow who just offered up a goat or something.

For Christians especially, the reality that God took on Flesh and entered into creation revealed on an even deeper level how the beauty of this world and created things can be a reflection of God. Whether it is a majestic sunset, a painting, statue or even a poem, God can and does speak to us. Beauty can pierce the human heart and open our eyes to truths never before considered.

The trouble in this day and age is that so much of our “art” has become either shallow or disfigured. Super-hero movies are fun, but they are the cinematic equivalent of popcorn. Tasty, but no real value. Music these days is often very clever arrangements of sound bites and rhythm. As the saying goes, “It’s got a good beat, and you can dance to it,” but can anyone honestly imagine these songs will stand the test of time the way that certain compositions from hundreds of years ago can still bring people to tears?

Finally, in regards to modern art, it is telling that one of the most talked about pieces of visual art over the last few years was a painting by a famous artist that was run halfway through a shredder upon its sale at an auction, and yet is still considered worth more than twenty-five million dollars. Yes, a half shredded painting is worth more than your house, according to the world.

The world may have lost its sense of authentic beauty, but all is not lost. We have the treasure of art, music and literature within the rich traditions of our Church. More importantly, we have the call from God for all Christians, blessed with the talent to do so, to create beauty, to create expressions and reflections of beauty and God’s awesome love.

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 14– Easter Sunday, April 17
saint-max.org/HolyWeek

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 14

- ✦ 8:30 AM Morning Prayer (Lauds)
- ✦ Confessions following Morning Prayer
- ✦ 7:30 PM Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper* incense
- ✦ 11:45 PM Night Prayer (Compline)
Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues in the parish complex throughout the night.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15

- ✦ 8:30 AM – Morning Prayer (Lauds)
- ✦ Confessions following Morning Prayer
- ✦ 2:00 PM Stations of the Cross
- ✦ 3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
After the 3:00 PM Liturgy, the Cross will remain at the foot of the sanctuary for all to adore until after Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM.
- ✦ 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross
Adoration of the Cross continues in the chapel throughout the night.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 16

- ✦ 8:30 AM – Morning Prayer (Lauds) with Preparation Rites for the Elect
- ✦ Confessions following Morning Prayer
- ✦ 9:15 AM - Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
- ✦ 9:00 PM – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night* incense

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 AM Mass ✦ 10:00 AM Mass in Church* (incense) ✦ 10:00 AM Mass in Gym ✦ Noon Mass in Church* (incense) ✦ Noon Mass in Gym

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In preparation of Divine Mercy Sunday (April 24th) extra confession times have been added on Tuesday, April 19, 6:00-8:00 PM and after all weekday Masses the week of April 18-23rd.

April 24 – Divine Mercy Holy Hour 3:00 PM (Confessions are not available at this time. We prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday by going to confession before, then celebrating the mercy on April 24th.)



WORKS OF MERCY

Admonish the Sinner

By: Fr. Jim Riehle

“Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove that splinter from your eye,’ while the wooden beam is in your eye?”

You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye. (Mt 7:1-5)

The passage above from Matthew’s Gospel, especially the first verse, is arguably one of the few teachings of our Lord that has permeated secular culture. Even nonbelievers will remind you that we are never to judge. When issues of morality arise, we will hear “Who am I to judge? Who am I to tell someone else what is right or wrong for them?” When we encounter this, Christians rightly feel trapped a little. Jesus indeed teaches us not to judge, but He also teaches us that sin is a reality. There is right and wrong. There are consequences, even in eternity, for sin. So, our Lord also calls on us to share the Truth of the Gospel so others may know and live by that Truth.

The conundrum of how to avoid being judgmental, while at the same time sharing the moral teachings of our Lord comes to a head in the spiritual work of mercy, “Admonish the Sinner.” This is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy taught and promulgated by the Church. As Catholics, we are called to perform these works out of love for others and love for God. So, we face the difficulty of ballooning this act of mercy in admonishing the sinner while not being judgmental. How do we do that? Is it even possible?

To help understand this it is worth looking first at the work of mercy itself. “Admonish the Sinner” means we are called to alert others about the danger of the sin in their lives. The word “admonish” comes from the Latin *monere*, which means “to ward or advise.” Therefore, at its core, this work of mercy is meant for the good of another. If someone was about to step in front of an oncoming car, you would cry out for them to stop. Out of love, we do what we can to protect others from

danger. That is what admonishing the sinner is all about. Sin is a danger. We need to help each other to avoid it.

There is misunderstanding about love in our culture. If one truly loves another, according to the culture, that means “accepting” them as they are or affirming them in their choices. Any parent knows how wrong that idea of love is. Loving someone sometimes means protecting them even from themselves. That is what authentic love calls us to do, to work for and to desire the good of the other.

The challenge with admonishing the sinner is that we must do so in such a way that it is an act of authentic love, not a condemnation. How do we do this?

First, in order to charitably admonish another, we must first “admonish” ourselves. As Jesus says, we must first remove the wooden beam from our eye before we address the splinter in someone else’s eye. We do this “self-admonishment” through regular examinations of conscience and through humble petition to our Lord to help us see our own errors. This does not mean we have to be perfect to help lead others away from sin, but when we are honestly aware of our own flaws, we can approach another person with humility and compassion. This honest self-reflection helps us to avoid the temptation to admonish someone else because we think we’re better than them. There is a solidarity that arises when we all recognize that we are all sinners and that we are in this together.

Secondly, we must avoid the temptation to admonish someone simply as part of a desire to win in a disagreement. This can be particularly difficult within families or close friendships. Admonishing the sinner is not about tearing someone else down, but about helping them to rise above their sins.

Lastly, we must avoid gossip. Jesus says, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone.” (Mt 18:15) The sins of others are not ours to broadcast. Our love for them should lead us to warn them of their sin, yes, but not share their flaws with others.

Admonishing the sinner is indeed an act of mercy and love. Let us pray that we live as St. Paul proclaims, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.” (Col 3:16)

MEET THE STAFF: DAVE BRUNSMAN

By: Connie Spotts

You can't get to know Dave Brunzman, St. Max's Adult Initiation Minister, without also getting to know his wife Jen, as they are a remarkable team, leading two important programs at St. Max.

They are in charge of the Becoming Catholic (RCIA) process, which, under their direction, is growing in the number of individuals pursuing full communion in the faith. By offering year round inquiry sessions, interested people can explore this opportunity whenever they are so moved. Dave and Jen also initiated the Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes that are offered periodically throughout the year. When talking about their own journey with NFP, Dave said "NFP completely changed our marriage. It allows us to be more focused on each other and on our family life."

Originally from Shelbyville, Indiana, Dave and Jen met in high school and were marching band sweethearts. After attending Ball State University, they were married in 2002. They both worked for awhile, Dave as a bank manager and Jen as a teacher, but Dave had hoped to pursue a career in the film industry. So with Jen's encouragement, they moved to Hollywood. When the 2007 economic crisis hit the country and left them with financial difficulties, Jen's sister, living in Liberty Township, offered them a place to stay in her home and helped them to get back on their feet.

Dave, although a cradle Catholic, had fallen away from the Church. When Jen, raised in another faith tradition, decided to explore converting to Catholicism, Dave asked to sit in on her RCIA sessions. This ended up becoming a discovery process for both of them as Dave began to hear things about the Church that he had not heard before. Dave's return to full participation in the Church is very much tied up in Jen's conversion story as they would often discuss what they were learning. People who knew them in their Hollywood days recognize the change Dave and Jen have experienced. "Coming back from the brink changes you," Dave says.

In addition to the Natural Family Planning classes and Becoming Catholic, Jen is a full time 3rd grade teacher. They are parents to four adorable blondies: Claire 9 and Steven 7, who both attend Catholic school, Max 4 and Elizabeth 2.

Dave, after using a coupon from Father Riehle for one free class at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, and with Jen's blessing, is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Theology at Mount St. Mary's School of Theology, reading and studying mostly during the younger children's nap time.

Dave and Jen are very much family-centered, evidenced by the activities they all share, including celebrating Saint feast days, and hiking and backpacking which always concludes with celebratory ice cream. Dave and Jen just want to make memories with their kids which they will do more of this summer as they head out to the Pacific Northwest for more of that camping, backpacking and ice cream!



ABOVE The Brunzman Family **BELOW** Dave and Jen Brunzman doing their favorite activity, hiking and backpacking.



GOD DOESN'T GRADE ON A CURVE

Hi St Max parishioners! My name is Gabriel Longworth and I am a recent convert. I would like to share with you today a little about my story that led me back to Christ.

I was raised Protestant and was baptized when I was around 10 years old. I was faithful until around 15 or 16 years old, when I stopped going to church. The reason? Well, I wanted to sin without the guilt, as awful as that is, it's the truth. From that point on I basically hid from God, as if that was a possibility, and would attend church once in a great while and would play the part of a good Christian.

Fast forward to a few years ago, I'm 36 now; the weight of sinning had caught up to me. So, I contacted the Archdiocese and asked what I needed to do to become Catholic. You might be wondering why I went towards Catholicism and not back to my Protestant roots. The answer is simple. My girlfriend, Sam. She is a cradle Catholic, and I remember a story she told me where she was so devout at one time that she considered becoming a nun. She even shadowed the Sisters of Mercy down in Cincinnati. So, I figured if my girlfriend, who I love and respect, was considering such a life altering path then there must be something to this Roman Catholicism, which to be honest, I didn't know much about. Luckily the Archdiocese got back to me swiftly and based on where I live, Middletown, they recommended St. Max because of their great RCIA program.

I started inquiry in 2019 and that's when I met Dave Brunsman, head of RCIA. I transitioned to RCIA that fall. Attending RCIA was a bit of a challenge due to my work schedule, but we, my girlfriend (sponsor) and I, made it work. To be honest, the classes were challenging. They made you really think. Luckily Dave, my sponsor, and the whole RCIA team was there to help.

It was almost Good Friday 2020 and I needed to go to confession before I could come into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil. Confession was eye opening. I wasn't ready to join the Church. I was in a state of disbelief, which turned to anger and sadness. I apologized to Dave and he was very understanding and very encouraging, reiterating that I come in when I'm ready.

So, I kept going to church but I was still upset, until I remembered my favorite sermon from when I was growing up. "God doesn't grade on a curve". No matter what I do, or what the world does, God doesn't change His standards to meet ours. We change our standards to meet God's. Then it clicked! The only person I have to be upset with is myself for not being willing to humble myself to the Lord.

In 2021 I called Dave and we picked up right where I left off, with the vigor and drive I should've had when I began this process. I came into full communion with the Church during the Easter Vigil of 2021. It was a very special evening to say the least. I had never seen anything like that growing up. I felt the special rites conveyed the importance of Christ's resurrection better than I could've imagined. I was speechless. What a beautiful evening.

It's now 2022 and I am still a sinner, but God is with me! I married my girlfriend Sam, and we are expecting our first child. Very exciting times and I am very thankful to be able to share my story with all of you. Special thanks to my wife, the Brunsmans, the Drumms, and Father Riehle.

Gabe and Sam Longworth

LEGIONARIES, Continued from Page 1

lives which then fuels their apostolic work. The goal of their apostolic work is to form others in leadership and to lead them to devotion to Christ and discern how God is calling them to live their call to discipleship. They do this in a variety of ways through youth work, education, in parishes, missions, the sacraments and spiritual direction.

You may have noticed a frequent visiting priest helping with our weekend Masses. Fr. Jesús Salinas, LC, is a Legionary Priest. His primary apostolate is Chaplain at Royalmont Academy in Mason. Fr. Jesús is originally from Mexico. The youngest of five children, he attended a school run by Regnum Christi. The principal of the school, a Legionary priest and some of the Legionary seminarians who ministered at the school, left a big impression on the young Jesús. He noticed the Legionary priests lived their priesthood in a different way than his parish priest. It was a dynamic, active, and joyful priesthood. The small inkling of a calling to this vocation began to form. Young Jesús became involved in everything that was offered through Regnum Christi's ECYD (Encounters, Convictions, Your Decisions)—camps, retreats, leadership development. A Legionary priest mentioned that he thought Jesús would make a good priest. At this point, he had a big decision as a seventh grader. Would he begin his discernment process by going to the seminary high school for 8th-12th grade? Or would he move on in a more traditional path? Fr. Jesús chose to begin his formation, and the rest is history! After high school, Fr. Jesús came to the United States to begin his seminary formation process.

The typical formation path for a Legionary Priest takes about 14 years. This may seem daunting, but it is packed and varied. The process starts with a two year novitiate after which the novice takes 1st vows. The seminarian then receives training in classical humanities and philosophy. This is followed by an apostolic internship. Finally the seminarian receives theological training in Rome, followed by ordination.

What's the relationship between Regnum Christi and the Legionaries of Christ? Regnum Christi is a large spiritual family comprised of Legionary priests and seminarians, consecrated men, consecrated women, and the laity. The consecrated men and women live in community and make certain promises very similar to a religious order. They are still considered lay men and women and are able to work in the world to transform it and build the Kingdom. The lay arm of Regnum Christi also has a discernment path, formation and formal commitment. Unlike the men's and



Fr. Jesús Salinas celebrating Mass at Royalmont Academy.

women's communities, they live completely in the world, raise families, etc. They also receive formation and support to transform the world by bringing Christ with them wherever they are.

If you are interested in hearing more about Fr. Jesús' path to Legionary priesthood or are interested in learning more about Regnum Christi, catch him after Mass sometime when he's at St. Max or email him at jsalinas@royalmont.org. For information, events and discernment opportunities check out www.rcohiovalley.org



TOGETHER WE GROW CAMPAIGN

Don't forget about our Together We Grow Campaign! You can see status updates about the campaign and make a pledge online at saint-max.org/TWG.



Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 AM
First Fridays 7:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass & 3:00-4:00 PM
Thursdays after 8:30 AM Mass & 6:00-6:45 PM
Tuesdays after 6:30 AM Mass

SEND US AN UPDATE

Have you moved, or do you have a new phone number or new email address? Please contact the office at 513.777.4322 ext. 101 or cgroh@saint-max.org to give us an update!



WHAT IS THE 1% CHALLENGE?

1% OF YOUR DAY IS 14 MIN AND 24 SEC.

JUST 1% OF YOUR DAY given to God in focused prayer will change your life. We would like to challenge you to spend just 1% (let's round up to 15 min) OF YOUR DAY EVERY DAY PRAYING with Scripture through a Catholic tradition called lectio divina.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE 1% CHALLENGE DAILY EMAIL WITH SUGGESTED READING?

Text 1percent to 42828.

More info on the 1% Challenge can be found on our website at saint-max.org/takethechallenge.