

**August 11, 2019**

**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

835 2nd Avenue NW • New Brighton, MN 55112 • 651-633-8333 • Fax: (651) 633-7404 • [www.stjohnnb.com](http://www.stjohnnb.com)

Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life: **GO. MAKE. TEACH.**



**Holy Day of Obligation**

**Mass Times: Vigil - Wednesday, August 14 - 5:30pm**  
**Thursday, August 15 - 6:30am, 8:30am and 7pm**



**Infant Section  
Monument Blessing  
St. John's Cemetery  
August 11, 12:00 noon**

**Sunday  
FUNDAY**

Join us for Sunday Funday on August 18th after the 10:30am Mass. We will gather in St. Joseph's Hall after Mass for a potluck lunch. The parish will provide the Sloppy Joe's and families are asked to bring a side dish (fruit, salad, or dessert) to share. Following lunch we will play some games outside and then pray the rosary. **NEW THIS YEAR: We will do a backpack blessing at Sunday Funday!** Bring your backpack and we will bless you and it as our students (Pre-K through College) prepare to return to school in September. We will have a gift for all those who participate in the backpack blessing. Following the backpack blessing, we will have an open house at the New Convent, where the Dominican Sisters live. Sunday Funday will go from 11:30am-2pm. Please join us! Contact Fr. Paul with any questions!

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTORAL MINISTRY

Fr. Paul Shovelain, Parochial Administrator ext. 1214  
Fr. Kevin Wagner, Parochial Vicar ext. 1213  
Deacon Peter D'Heilly  
Deacon Rod Palmer VM 1298  
Deacon Gary Schneider VM 1288  
Susan Amos Palmer, Befriender Coordinator VM 1298  
Mary Hartz, Parish Nurse ext. 1229

### WORSHIP

Jay Hunstiger, Director of Worship ext. 1212  
Carrie Kram, Director of Choristers Kramc@stjohnnyb.org  
Lori Vosejka, Director of Contemporary Ensemble lav247@msn.com

Abe Gross, Director of Ignite abrahamjohnngross@gmail.com

### OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

Jessica Balzarini, Director ext. 1228  
Mary Kohlhaas, Family Formation Coordinator ext. 1234  
Jen Livermont, Sunday School Coordinator ext. 1233  
Jodie Wolla, Administrative Assistant ext. 1211

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Mikayla Anderson ext. 1218

### SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL (PreK - 8)

Ann Laird, Principal ext. 1117  
Joy Thienes, Administrative Assistant ext. 1118  
Michelle Barsness, Marketing/Enrollment ext. 1114

### ADMINISTRATION

Mark Dittman, Business Administrator ext. 1215  
Bret Sutton, Director of Stewardship ext. 1217  
Teri Shea, Facilities Coordinator ext. 1237  
Michelle Chock, Accountant ext. 1224  
Maureen Owusu, Parish Bookkeeper ext. 1255  
Rita Arndorfer, Volunteer Coordinator ext. 1220  
Bonnie Haik, Receptionist ext. 1210  
Steven Fierro, Hospitality Coordinator ext. 1227  
Jean Robson, Administrative Assistant ext. 1219

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Tue. - Thurs. 8:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Friday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
*Administrative offices close at 1 pm*  
Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

### PARISH LIBRARY HOURS

SAT. 5:30 pm SUN. 9:30 am & 11:30 am

**Church Nursery:** We offer year-round nursery during both the 8:30am and 10:30am Sunday Masses for children ages 1-3. Children play with caring staff while you are able to fully participate in Mass.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

**Welcome to St. John's!**

**The Next New Parishioner Meeting:**

**THIS WEEKEND, August 10/11**

The new parishioner meeting will be held after each Mass this weekend. The meeting will start 15 minutes after Mass in St. Joseph Hall.

*All are welcome to attend.*

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Monday, August 12, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Loretta Witkowski)  
4 - 7 PM Used Uniform Sale ~ St. Joseph Hall  
6 - 7 PM New School Parent Night ~ 206

### Tuesday, August 13, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Frank Sopko)  
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks ~ St. Therese  
10:30 AM Funeral for Joan Roemer ~ Church

### Wednesday, August 14, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner  
(Thanksgiving for Mother Mary, Legion of Mary)  
9:15 AM Faithfully Fit ~ LL106  
9:30 AM Legion of Mary ~ 211  
12:00 PM Senior Picnic ~ Sculpture Garden  
5:00 PM Confessions ~ Church  
5:30 PM Mass ~ Feast of the Assumption ~ Fr. Paul  
(Shelly Wilkus+)

6:30 PM Knights of Columbus ~ 211  
6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group ~ LL106  
8:00 PM Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) ~ LL106

### Thursday, August 15, 2019

#### Feast of the Assumption- Holy Day of Obligation

6:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Joseph Starkus Family)  
8:00 AM Morning Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Weekday Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Alvina Stalboerger+)  
9:00 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet ~ Chapel  
7:00 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Pro Populo)

### Friday, August 16, 2019

8:00 AM Rosary ~ Chapel of the Angels  
8:00 AM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
8:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Phanxico Xavier Thanh Hai  
Vu+ & Giacobe Thanh Oai Nguyen+)  
10:30 AM Funeral for Richard Kush ~ Church

### Saturday, August 17, 2019

3:30 PM Confessions ~ Confessionals  
4:30 PM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Earl Spindler+)  
5:30 PM Intercessory Prayer Ministry ~ Chapel

### Sunday, August 18, 2019

8:30 AM Mass ~  
50th Anniversary of Jerry & Betty Lou Elfert  
Fr. Wagner (Judy Morinville)  
9:30 AM Expectant Parent Blessing ~  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel  
10:30 AM Mass ~ Fr. Paul (Carrie Person)  
11:30 AM Intercessory Prayer Ministry ~ Chapel  
11:30 AM Sunday Fun Day ~ St. Joseph Hall  
6:15 PM Mass ~ Fr. Wagner (Pro Populo)



## *From: Father Kevin Magner, Parochial Vicar*

**Sunday, August 11, 2019**  
**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

On Saturday, August 10, Sr. Clarinda Coffel, OSF, will celebrate her 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession. That is an amazing accomplishment and speaks of a life dedicated to service to the Church and to others.

Our parish has been blessed by the presence of many religious sisters over the years. Currently in our parish we have Sister Clarinda of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, Sister Rose Vu of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, and joining our parish just last week, Sister Leonarda and Sister Ermelinda of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary.

Those who enter religious life begin first and foremost by falling in love with God and deeply desiring to dedicate their entire life to Him. This is easy to do, of course, when one is in love. But as anyone who is married can probably attest, continuing to live out that commitment throughout the years is the real challenge of love. This is when one begins to understand the true meaning of sacrificial love; that is, the recognition that a true loving relationship is not about how the Other can provide for your own happiness, but what you can do to please the Other. Those who continue to live out that commitment to their vocation serve as an example to all of us of a life of fidelity and love.

Sister Clarinda told me this past week that no matter where she and the sisters of her order have been sent, their mission was always to be among the people of God. All of us who have been blessed by the presence of religious sisters and brothers in our lives can attest to how much their presence among us has made a positive difference for us. We congratulate Sister Clarinda on her anniversary and thank her and all religious for their presence among us and the example they show of a life dedicated to God.



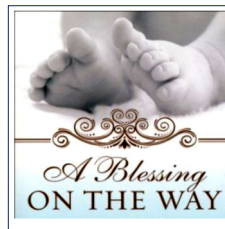
*Sister Clarinda, Sister Rose, Father Paul,  
Sister Leonarda, Sister Ermelinda*

*Fr. Kevin Magner*

*Fr. Kevin Magner, Parochial Vicar*

*St. John's Newly Baptized  
Through water and the word you have  
become a child of God and are sealed  
as Christ's own forever.*

- *Blair Marie Graf*, daughter of Nathan and Colleen Graf.
- *Lucy Shannon May*, daughter of Mitchell and Maria May.
- *Eleanor Marie Sturk*, daughter of Jacob and Katherine Sturk.
- *Elora Mae Schuchard*, daughter of Charles and Heather Schuchard.



### **Expectant Parents Blessing August 18 after the 8:30am Mass**

A special blessing for expectant mothers and their families will be held at the Garden of Life Chapel. This blessing is sponsored by St. John's Respect Life Committee.



Prayer teams will be available to pray with you in the Chapel of the Angels on **Saturday, August 17 immediately following the 4:30pm Mass** and on **Sunday, August 18 immediately following the 10:30am Mass.**

**Please come to the chapel and someone will direct you.**



### Interested in sponsoring our FallFest?

Maybe your employer would like to be a sponsor. If interested, contact Bret Sutton at 651-633-8333 ext. 1217.

**Help is needed for a successful FallFest** - please visit [www.tinyurl.com/volunteerfallfest2019](http://www.tinyurl.com/volunteerfallfest2019) to sign up yourself or your family to help! Sign-up will also be available after Masses Sept. 14 and 15.

Extra help is needed for electrical/lighting set up on Friday- contact Rita Arndorfer at [arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org).

**Bags tournament** "lane" sponsors are needed- signs with your business will be around your lane and your logo will be on your lane scorecard. Sponsorship costs \$50, and those received before Aug. 1 will be also be listed on the tournament registration form. Contact Ben and Michelle Stori at [SJBFallFestBags@outlook.com](mailto:SJBFallFestBags@outlook.com).

**The FallFest 1mi. & 5k Fun Run/Walk** is back again this year. To find out more, visit <https://bit.ly/2y5PzLS>.

### Vendors needed for the annual FallFest Market Fair

Our Market Fair will be held on Friday, Sept 27 and Saturday, September 28. If you have a product you want to sell, or creation you made yourself, we would love to have you. For more information contact Kathy Paron (763) 464-3985 or [kparonk1@gmail.com](mailto:kparonk1@gmail.com). Don't Miss the Fun.

### Children's Game Donations Needed

Children's Games Donations are needed for the FallFest- please watch for sales and consider picking up toys, candy, non-perishables, snacks, and pop. Donations should be returned to Welcome Desk by Sept. 15 labeled Attn.: Jeanne Breske. Cash donations are also appreciated.

**Suggestions: Toys** worth \$2 or more; **2 Liter Bottles of Pop;** **Nonperishable items** such as applesauce, cereal, chips, cookies, popcorn, jams, pretzels, pop tarts, crackers, pudding packs, crackers, etc.; **Package of single service snack items** brands such as Dole, Nature Valley, Quaker, Welch's, etc.; **Candy** such as fun dip, fruit roll ups, life savers, starburst, swedish fish, king size bars, M&Ms, etc. Any questions call (651) 633-4270 - Chairperson of Children's Games - Jeanne Breske

### Adult Bar Games Donations Needed

Bottles of wine, hard liquor, or beer. Donations must be dropped off to a staff member at the parish office.

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

*Adorers give thanks during their hour of adoration for: safe summer travels, successful surgery, family time and a new job.*

Sign up for one of these open hours: Monday 10pm; Tuesday 3am; Wednesday midnight; Saturday 1am, 2am, 5am, 7am.

The adorers at these hours have requested a prayer partner: Monday 2am, 2pm; Wednesday 4am.

Call Kathy 763-464-3985 or Mark 651-245-6493 for more information.

Substitute adorers are needed, especially for midnight to 6am

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

#### Those who have entered eternal life:

Mary Holmberg, Lawrence Weisensel, Joan Roemer

**Those who are ill:** Tom Miskowic, Mary Hoel, Bob and Christine Springhetti, Ben Montes, Mary Farrell, Steve Lauinger, Marianne Brekke, Charlotte Thrun, Dorine Cody, John Riedle, Dolores Bona, Joan Zawadski, Suanne Christensen, Poppy Craft, Susan McSherry, Rita Kochevar, Bernice Bartz, Robert and Annette Kirwan, Bonnie Norgren, Tom Roback, Mike Bartel, Emma Lutsilili, Jerome Sauer, Braxton Battaglia, Beverly Aplikowski, Stephan Bucko, John Mistelske, Mary Gormally, Lloyd Mans, Mary Spitzka, Elaine Loscheider, Bev Stampfle, John Demont, Michael Ferdelman, Shirley Hill, Jon Clark, Jim Montury, Lucas Kramer, Cassie Cramer, Georgianna Warden, Donna Yenish, Mary Wegerson, Stephen Sandquist, John Leibrich, Scott Lemke, Mark Nelson, Nella Pitzen, Mary Lou Long, Donna Reinkober, Helen Sullivan, Alfred Duku-Celestino, Fulton Francis Dobbs, Virginia Hudoba, Carl Stampfle, Marcy Eder, Doug Brekke, Jack Longnecker, Joe Szeplieniec, Stanley Kruta, Philip Jarosz, Joni Grieman, Sara Groehler, Tom Miller, Jean Schaaf, Greta Stefanich, Jean Lanzel

*If your name has been removed from this list and you would like to be prayed for, please call the parish office.*

**PRAYER LINE** 651-633-1618 /651-633-5845

Call with your prayer requests. Requests are confidential.

**BIRTHRIGHT** Caring help for pregnant women. (651) 646-7033 Saint Paul (763) 757-0715 Coon Rapids

**Please remember St. John's Food Shelf**

## FROM THE OFFICE OF DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION



**Thursday Mornings 6:30-8:00am NOW – August 22, 2019. LECTIO – THE GOSPEL OF MARK DVD Series by Dr. Tim Gray. Come for the donuts, stay for the truth!! Questions, call Dave @ 612-616-4013**

**Fall Scripture Class:** The Scripture class for the Fall will contain two short studies. The first will be the document entitled “DEI VERBUM, the Word of God from the Vatican II Council. The second study will be “Pilgrim People” which shows that God’s people have always been sojourners, pilgrims on a journey, open to God’s call and direction. The study bridges the Old and New Testaments. Class will be on Wednesdays starting September 11 at 9:30 am. Fee:\$30. To register, please visit <http://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/adult/>



**Small Groups** are coming to St. John’s this Fall. They are the perfect means to get connected, meet others, discuss life and faith, reflect on God’s word and get more out of Sunday Mass, learn more about prayer and receive prayer. Plan to join us. Groups will begin meeting the first week of October.

Find more information at St. John’s website <https://stjohnnb.com/faith-formation/adult/reach-more/>



**SERVER TRAINING** Students, entering 5th grade and up, that are interested in learning how to serve Mass are invited to sign up for Server Training August 19-23 from 9:30 to 12 noon. **All five days are mandatory.** Sign up early as sessions fill up fast and are limited. Call the parish office to sign your child up at 651-633-8333.

**Young Adult Event!! Theology in the Rectory is back again on Friday, August 23 \*\*NOTE NEW DAY\*\*.** Come meet other young adults in the parish and enjoy free burgers, brats, and drinks and listen to an inspiring talk. Socializing will begin at 5:30, and we will eat around 6 with a talk and bonfire afterwards. This event is open to ages 18-40 and will be held in the parish rectory which is located on the east side of the parish. Please bring a side-dish to share. RSVPs are not required but are appreciated. Questions can be directed to Naomi Huray at [naomi.yanta@yahoo.com](mailto:naomi.yanta@yahoo.com) or 763-244-6055.

**Middle School Youth Group** is back by popular demand. SUMMER Middle School Youth Group: Wednesdays from 6:30pm-8pm, August 14 & 21. Start outside with a large group game, come inside for a short talk, rosary, and yummy snack to close out the night!

**Senior High Youth Group** Schedule Summer 2019: Wednesdays from 8pm-9:30pm: August 14th: Trivia Night A fun night with snacks and trivia. Prizes for the winning group! End the night in prayer. August 21st: Q&A and Games. Ask burning questions about the church and theology! A fun game and prayer to follow.

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

Are you pro-life? Are you willing to stand up for those who have no voice? We are planning to participate with other youth from around the Archdiocese and from around the nation to stand up for the unborn, the unwanted, the special needs and the elderly who have every right to life that you and I have! Come and join the bus caravan to Washington DC for the March for Life from January 21-26, 2020. Are you called to stand? The Respect Life Committee of St. John’s parish is willing to help you raise the funds to go and represent! If you are going into 9-12 grade this year and are interested in attending, come to our first information meeting on Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00 PM in lower lever Room 108. Come for our meeting and stay for youth group! For more information, contact Mary Kohlhaas at [kohlhaasm@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:kohlhaasm@stjohnnyb.org) or call 763.242.4229. Parent – we are looking for chaperones as well. Can you join the march? Let us know! Now is the time to stand for your brothers and sisters and let people know the truth of when life begins.

**Becoming Catholic the RCIA...**We invite you to learn what Catholics believe in an open and welcoming environment. Every year St. John’s provides an opportunity to learn more about the truths of the Catholic faith, dive into Sacred Scripture, build community with others, and better understand what to do in prayer and at Mass. Join us for this journey of faith beginning the week of September 9. Contact Jessica today to begin the process today at [balzarinij@stjohnnyb.org](mailto:balzarinij@stjohnnyb.org) or 651-633-1540 x1228.



**The Gift of Being Grand  
Catholic Grandparents Conference  
Saturday, August 24, 2019  
Epiphany, Coon Rapids**

Learn about God's plan for Grandparents and be equipped to pass on a Heritage of Faith. The conference will include keynote speaker, Mary Ann Kuharski, founding member and Director of PROLIFE Across America as well as Father Joseph Bambenek who will be speaking on the topic of bringing healing to your family. We will also have an hour of Adoration led by Archbishop Bernard Hebda and more.

For more information and to register, please visit  
<https://www.archspm.org/faith-communities/grandparents/catholic-grandparent-conference/>

**THE GRAND ADVENTURE**

A six- week series for Catholic grandparents, will be offered at our parish beginning on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm starting September 10 & 12.

- This program helps grandparents realize their true grandparent potential as they explore new ways to enhance the grandparent- grandchild relationship.
- Assess their many gifts and talents and ways to use them to benefit their grandchildren
- Gives grandparents support and friendship while empowering them in their grandparent role.

**Save the date. Registration details to come.**

**On Going Programs for Seniors**

- Have your blood pressure checked after the 8:30am Mass every Tuesday in St. Therese community room.
- Join us for Faithfully Fit being held in room LL108 on Wednesdays at 9:15am. You are welcome to join us any Wednesday.

Did you know that there are several Catholic senior housing and care providers throughout the Archdiocese? Did you know that you can find the entire array of senior care choices among them? Do you want to stay in your local community and keep connected to your parish? If you need advice or placement in Archdiocesan Catholic housing, assisted living, memory, nursing home, palliative, home care or hospice care visit [www.catholicseniorservices.org](http://www.catholicseniorservices.org) or call the CSS Help Line at 1-877-420-6461.

*Our soul waits for the LORD,  
who is our help and our shield.  
~ Psalm 33:20*

**Gifts of Financial Treasure, August 4, 2019**

	<u>This Year Actual</u>	<u>This Year Needed</u>	<u>Variance from Budget</u>
Sunday/wk 5	\$24,816	\$33,460	(\$8,645)
YTD through wk 5	\$150,435	\$174,708	(\$24,273)

*God bless you for your generous support!*

**Library News**

In the month of August, the church celebrates St. Dominic - patron saint of preaching and preachers; St. Lawrence - patron saint of cooks, St. Maximilian Kolbe - martyr in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland and founder of the Militia of Mary Immaculate to advance Marian devotion, and the Assumption of our Blessed Virgin Mary. The parish library offers books and DVD on these subjects, and has over 4,800 items available covering a wide range of subjects concerning our Catholic faith, and spiritual life, etc. Come and see. The library is open after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Any questions, call Jeannie Kratzer @ 651-636-8928.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

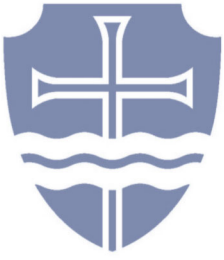
**Monday:** Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27  
**Tuesday:** Dt 31:1-8; Dt 32:3-4ab, 7-9, 12; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14  
**Wednesday:** Dt 34:1-2; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20  
**Thursday:** Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28  
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56  
**Friday:** Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12  
**Saturday:** Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15  
**Sunday:** Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40:2-4, 18; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Jane Frances de Chantal  
**Tuesday:** Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus  
**Wednesday:** St. Maximilian Kolbe  
**Thursday:** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Friday:** St. Stephen of Hungary  
**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

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Archdiocese's Victim/Survivor Assistance Program 651-291-4497 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



# Go.Make.Teach. NEWS

**Honoring Religious Life**

**Vol. 2 August 11, 2019**

## **Congrats, Sister Clarinda, on your 65<sup>th</sup> jubilee of religious life**

By Betsy Carlson

When Sister Clarinda went to join the convent after eighth grade, she simply wanted to be a sister, she said recently. Not a doctor or a teacher, or to have any other title, just to be a sister.

Now, in her third retirement, she keeps morning office hours here at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church as a volunteer. She teaches a couple of Scripture classes, does pastoral work with the elderly, focuses on ministry to widows and widowers and is open to listening to any and all.

Her only title is “Sister.” “Just Sister. That’s who I am,” says Sister Clarinda, “I’m willing to be anybody’s sister. As an old sister told me, ‘You’re a young sister, do what you’re supposed to do. Make sure you wear out, not rust out.’”

She hasn’t rusted out or worn out, but is celebrating her 65th jubilee as a Sister of St. Francis of the Congregation of Our Lady of Lourdes of Sylvania, Ohio. Reflecting on her work, Sister Clarinda says, “So many people have heavy hearts and we need to have them understand we love them, we care about them no matter what, or where they came from.”

Sister Clarinda says she first started thinking about becoming a sister when she was in the third grade. The sisters who taught in her school wore wool habits that had a particular smell and to her it conveyed a sense of holiness. This gave her a desire to be a sister like them. She says it has been a life she has loved since the third grade. She says she has experienced “little miracles” that showed her that God had a plan for her life. Even with hardships, she loved it because she was doing what she loved doing—being among God’s people and listening to them.

God’s plan involved 50 years of teaching or serving as an elementary school principal in several schools including one in Detroit with more than 1,000 youngsters and another one in Ohio with fewer than 200 students. She fondly remembers that after being at the larger school for 15 years, she sometimes said to the children at the small school, “Where is everybody?” And the students would respond, “This is all there is.” She says, “I was used to streams of children.”

By 1976, she was assigned to be principal of Immaculate Conception School in Columbia Heights. With this job she had come full circle, home in essence. Immaculate Conception was where she went to elementary school and met those sisters in their wool habits.

After serving in Columbia Heights for 20 years, she made her first attempt at retirement. “This is it,” she remembers saying after 50 years as an educator. It didn’t work. She was soon contacted by a priest in Excelsior to come to that St. John the Baptist School to “build the school back up.” She told him no and that she wanted to teach adult education. But, she eventually agreed to give his school a year. However, it was six or seven years later when she left there having increased the enrollment and the number of grades. Thus, she tried to retire again.

That time, she says her Franciscan sisters said, “Well, you’ve got to get a job.” So, she put in her application to be director of faith formation here at St. John the Baptist in New Brighton. She started in 2002 and worked here for 15 years doing faith formation, Scripture lessons, visiting the sick, taking communion to homebound people and working with RCIA. She also developed, and still uses, a form to help parishioners plan their funerals.

*You are invited to come and celebrate the 65 years of Religious Profession of Sister Clarinda Coffel, osf, on August 10, 2019 at the 4:30pm Mass. Reception will follow Mass.*



## Dominican sisters look forward to teaching at SJB

By Betsy Carlson

Both of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary who are coming to teach at St. John the Baptist here in New Brighton have taught in another St. John the Baptist School—in Hawaii—Sister Leonarda for 10 years, from 1970 to 1980 and Sister Ermelinda from 2002 to 2008.

Sister Leonarda taught at another Catholic school in Honolulu until 1986 and then became the principal. She moved to San Francisco in 2000 and served as a principal until now. In our school, she will be working with the sixth, seventh and eighth grade Virtues program, with special needs children and in a resource program. She may serve in the RCIA program. After 33 years as an administrator, Sister Leonarda says that teaching again will be a welcome break.

Sister Ermelinda will be teaching second grade religion, science and math and will be working in the First Holy Communion program and helping teach about the Sacraments here. She says she loves people and children and is looking forward to decorating her classroom. She calls herself Sister Ermie, for short.

In Hawaii, she worked mainly in a nursing home from 2009 until 2018 when she went back to teaching for a year. She is a certified nursing assistant and a trained patient care technician. She has studied phlebotomy too.

Both sisters are originally from the Philippines and aware that Minnesota winters will be a change for them. Sister Ermelinda is a bit concerned about the driving but says she likes snow. Sister Leonarda says she'll leave the weather in the Lord's hands. "I'm looking forward to being in Minnesota and to meeting the people," says Sister Leonarda. "What motivates me is that I hope I will make a difference in the lives of the people that I will minister to. Everything that I do is done for the Lord."

Both entered the Dominican order after high school and Sister Ermelinda notes that she celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a religious sister in June.

*Join us on Sunday, August 11 as we welcome the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary. The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a pancake breakfast after the morning Masses. All monies raised will help support the Dominican Sisters.*



## 'People know I am Sister Cans,' says our modest Sister Rose Vu

By Betsy Carlson

For some 31 years, the modest, unassuming Sister Rose Vu's ministry has included collecting aluminum cans to recycle and raise money to help the poor people of Viet Nam. She estimates she's collected enough cans to earn an average of \$300 to \$500 a year. She gets called Sister Cans, she says. "This mission is bringing the love of God to the people of Viet Nam," says Sister Rose, a Good Shepherd sister who is a native of Viet Nam. Through her non-profit, Friends of the Poor, she travels occasionally to Viet Nam and helps provide for basic needs for the poor there—buying food, fixing up homes and aiding the elderly.

Here, at home, she does fundraising and mailings, writes letters and an annual newsletter, acknowledges donations, meets benefactors, plans her trips and is currently working on a banquet this fall.

Thirty-one years ago, when she made her first trip to a local recycling center, she remembers, she received \$1.75 for her efforts. Back then, \$1 was worth 2,600 dong, the Vietnamese currency. She says, "So with 500 dong, you can buy one bowl of soup, so I could buy six or seven bowls of soup. I said, 'Better than none.' So, I continue until today."



This quiet sister probably won't volunteer all that she has done in God's service since making her first commitment to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1973 in Viet Nam. "I want to live quietly," she says humbly. "The Lord is my shepherd and He leads me and I go and serve where He needs me. Whatever I do is for His glory. I need to bring His love to people."

In April of 1975 she was on one of the historic, final flights with orphans out of Viet Nam, which was falling to the Viet Cong. She later worked with Vietnamese boat people in Macau and served unwed mothers in Korea. She has helped battered women in Chicago and worked in poor Thai villages.

Sister Rose came to St. Paul in 1987 and served in a Good Shepherd transitional housing program for homeless women for seven years. Later she was Catholic Charities volunteer coordinator for three years. She has been trained in the International Montessori Method and holds a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's degree in pastoral education and in 2009 earned a doctorate in ministry.



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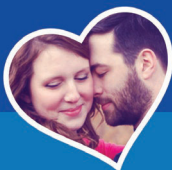
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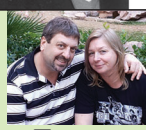
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