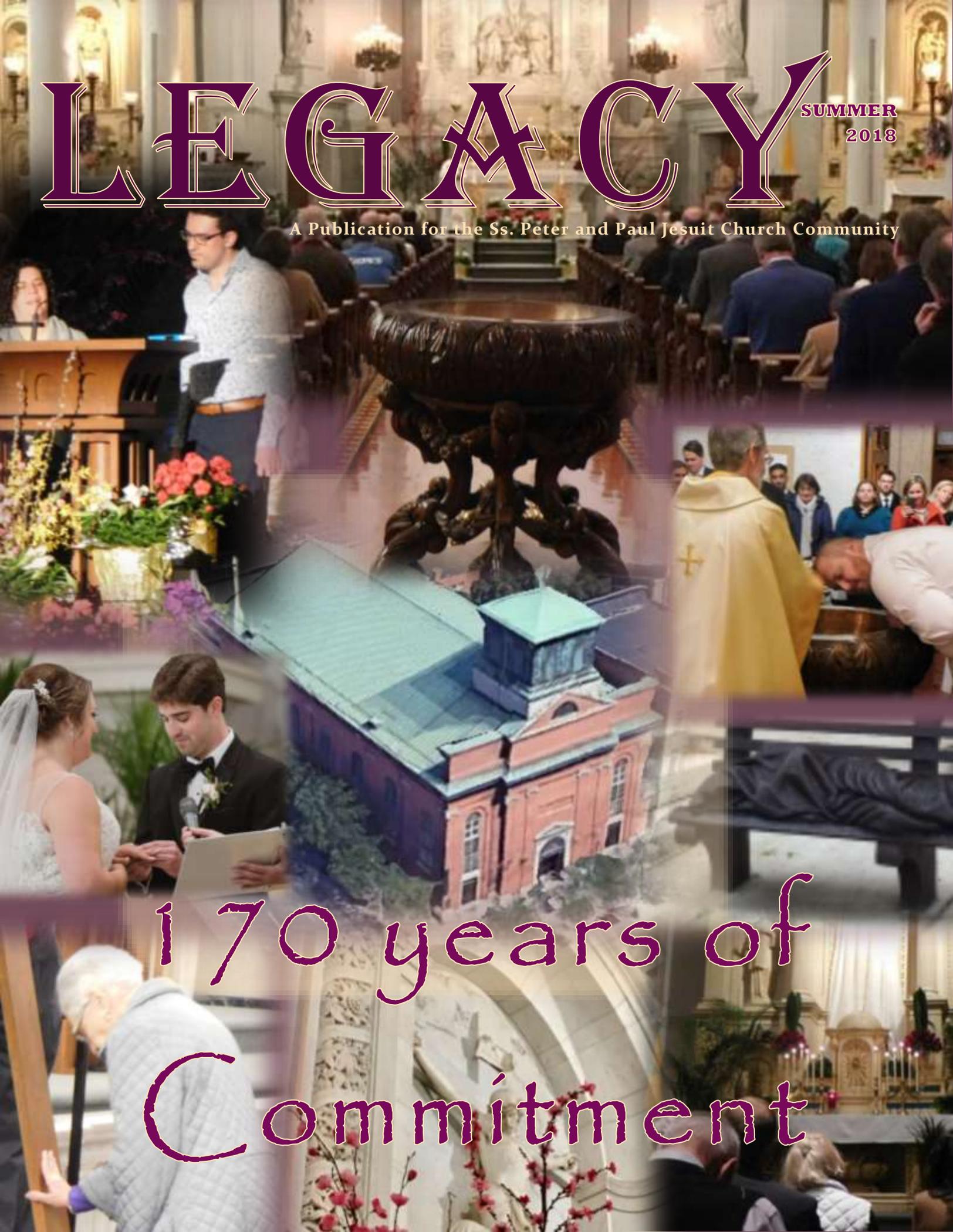


# LEGACY

SUMMER  
2018

A Publication for the Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church Community



170 years of  
Commitment

## FROM THE PASTOR

In this issue we celebrate the many faces of commitment in our parish. I hope you enjoy reading these stories of committed parishioners—what drew them here, and what keeps them going. Some would say that commitment has fallen on hard times today. From the hook-up culture to the gig economy, from the disappearance of life-time jobs to the breaking of international agreements, no relationships seem permanent. No one wants to be tied down, to lose the freedom to take a better offer that might come along. But those who live lives of faith, who see into the world of Spirit, tell us a different story. They know that commitment leads us into the depths of life, into enduring relationships where we learn the lessons of self-giving love. In laying down our lives for one another as Jesus did, we discover the ultimate freedom and the richest fulfillment possible in our human lives. We become part of something – or Someone – greater than ourselves.

Our committed parishioners have given new life and energy to our parish. Their engagement makes parish growth and mission possible, and enables the parish itself to celebrate 170 years of commitment to bringing the light of Christ into the heart of Detroit. We are grateful as well for the many friends of the parish reading this newsletter, who have remained committed to supporting this mission over the years. Here's to another 170, by the grace of God! -Fr. Gary Wright, SJ

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Donna Ridella  
Parish Support  
Team

## ON THE MOVE

Seven years ago my husband, Greg and I made a life-changing decision. We sold our suburban home and most of our beloved belongings, and moved into a condo in downtown Detroit. We had no idea where this adventure would take us but, I suppose, we were feeling a calling to change up our lives and challenge ourselves.

After the move our first, and most important task, was to find a new spiritual home where sermons would inspire us, parishioners would welcome us and we could be contributing members of a community that worships in fellowship with each other in a loving and accepting environment. After a few visits to Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church we knew we had found what we were looking for. We soon felt called to become involved with the then SSPP Warming Center and to volunteer in other church ministries and committees. As our involvement and love of SSPP grew so did our deep commitment.

In April of 2016 Fr. Gary invited us, along with other parishioners, to attend an Archdiocesan - sponsored seminar entitled, Amazing Parishes. It was during that seminar we learned about the concept of Parish Support Teams. Parish Support Teams are made up of staff and parishioners who meet weekly to discuss the day to day operations of the church community, assist the pastor in making decisions and keep the Parish Pastoral Council informed. Archbishop Vigneron spoke at the seminar and strongly encouraged every parish to consider forming a Parish Support Team. After careful discernment, Fr. Gary ultimately decided to form a Parish Support Team at SSPP. I have been honored to serve on it. Our meetings revolve around how to grow by becoming a church for the city while adapting to the challenges of a growing parish.

How do we prioritize growth opportunities while staying focused on our mission? As we wrestle with some of these issues I find my commitment to SSPP deepening even more. The Parish Support Team has been in place for two years now and because I simply replied “yes” I have received blessings beyond measure. It is my sincere hope that as our parish grows more people will prayerfully discern the call that God makes to all of us. That is, to use our time and talent to serve and glorify Him.



Donna in the  
Pope Francis Center  
laundry room.



## BUILDING OUR LIFE—TOGETHER

Early in our relationship, we started attending mass together at churches around the City of Detroit. The first time we visited Ss. Peter and Paul, we were struck by the beauty and history of the physical building, but also drawn into the warmth and inclusion of the parishioners. We appreciated the intellectual eye given to scripture and the commitment to service that was immediately apparent because of the Pope Francis Center.

We were quickly drawn into ministry at the church, joining the Building and Grounds Committee (Fred), the Parish Council (Jennifer), the PFC Legal Aid Clinic (both), and the choir (both). We were married at Ss. Peter and Paul and will soon baptize our four month old son, Louis, there. Our fellow parishioners have become friends and Ss. Peter and Paul has become an important part of our lives.

We are proud that a motley crew of people, made up of different nationalities, backgrounds, political views, age, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status call Ss. Peter and Paul their church. Our parish is diverse in every sense of the word. As Detroiters, we appreciate this community's commitment to the city's less fortunate residents and the church's participation in the revitalization of the city. Like the City of Detroit itself, Ss. Peter and Paul is full of rich history and great potential for the future. As new parents, it is so important to us that we are able to raise our son in a church that teaches the Catholic faith through the lens of an open mind, and more importantly, an open heart. Its commitment to values are important to us: community, diversity, tolerance, service and most importantly, love.



Fred and Jennifer Dewey with Fr. Gary on their wedding day.

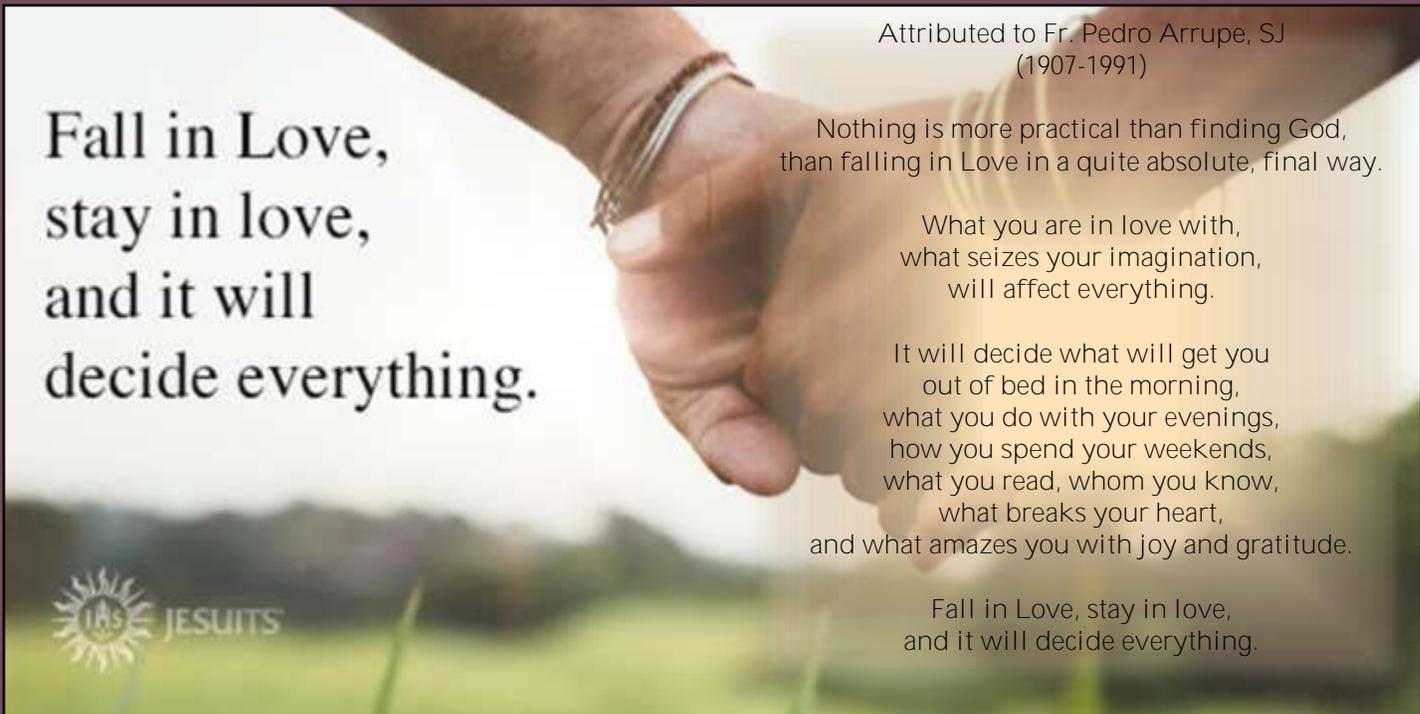


## DETROIT CONCERT CHOIR

As part of our commitment to engage in the revival of Detroit, we are actively seeking ways to form connections with groups and individuals in the city. When we were contacted by the leadership of the Detroit Concert Choir, an award-winning 70 member chorus, to inquire about performing concerts in our space., we said YES!

Hosting a large choral ensemble such as Detroit Concert Choir in our space really highlights the unique beauty of our space, and especially its wonderful acoustic. Hundreds of people have visited Ss. Peter and Paul, many of whom had never been in our church. This relationship with Detroit Concert Choir is a first step in finding new ways to partner with outside organizations to extend our reach into the community.





Fall in Love,  
stay in love,  
and it will  
decide everything.



Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ  
(1907-1991)

Nothing is more practical than finding God,  
than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination,  
will affect everything.

It will decide what will get you  
out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in Love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.

## ARE YOU IN LOVE?



Mary Catherine  
Costello  
Pastoral Minister

As I reflect on my commitment and deep gratitude to Ss. Peter and Paul for what this parish has given me, Pedro Arrupe's prayer comes to mind. It articulates how I fell in love with the Ignatian tradition at a young age and

now, how I have stayed in loved with the tradition as a staff member of Ss. Peter and Paul.

I was first introduced to the Jesuits attending Ss. Peter and Paul Parish as a little girl. Growing up I always knew something was different about this parish. The diversity of attending 7:30pm Mass with a few homeless brothers and sisters, the community atmosphere that symbolized home to me, and the Jesuit priest who incorporated a high degree of intellectual energy compounded with themes of service and justice into the homily. This culture influenced the types of books I started reading in high school, service projects on the weekends, and the company I kept. It

was because of Ss. Peter and Paul that I committed myself to attending a Jesuit University to study Theology and later work at a Jesuit High School as a Campus Minister. The ministerial themes I learned though the Ignatian tradition are foundations in my ministry: "Who am I, How am I a disciple of Christ, What is my cross, and How do I pick up my cross and follow Christ." I fell in love at an early age which "decided everything" vocationally for me throughout the past 31 years.

As I serve Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, I am motivated by many parishioners and staff members through reflecting on the following questions from Pedro Arrupe's prayer: "What gets you out of bed in the morning...what you do with your evenings... What seizes your imagination." I have been inspired by the passion of parishioners who have fought to keep this Jesuit parish alive for countless years, staff members who are completely selfless in their work for the parish, parishioners who wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning to volunteer at the Pope Francis Center, conversations with young adult parishioners who desire to know more about their faith and

Jesuit spirituality. This commitment demonstrated by countless men and women symbolizes how they all have fallen in love with Ss. Peter and Paul and fundamentally our God. The flame keeping Ss. Peter and Paul growing has enhanced my flame of serving and learning from the parishioners in our parish. It has made me "stay in love" with the beauty, mystery, and hope our God offers to each of us.

### Are you looking for a parish? A community?

Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church  
is a parish community,  
located in a historic church  
in the heart of downtown,  
and engaged in today's  
revival of the city.

We reach out and  
invite all to join us.  
Transformed by our liturgy and  
committed to prayer and  
a spirituality of service in the  
Jesuit tradition,  
we live as men and women  
for others in  
the Spirit of Jesus.

## WE ARE CALLED

St. Paul writes that God calls believers into a congregation and provides each person with certain gifts, talents and opportunities to be used to bear fruit for one another and the community church. In other words, we who are parishioners and friends of Ss. Peter and Paul are **called** by God to this particular parish, at this point in time, to perform an important and special role in this particular partnership. What an amazing revelation – and responsibility as well!

Members of the early church in St. Paul's day recognized this calling, and uniquely answered, in part, through their personal generosity. Community members, scripture states, would sell their property, and the proceeds would be used for the welfare of all. This practice of the early church is an example to us today of commitment to one's faith community. Your commitment to support our church financially is greatly needed at this moment. We encourage you to strengthen your commitment to support the good work of SSPP with your financial generosity. Thank you for your ongoing support for, and dedication to, our beloved church and the community it serves! —Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church Finance Council



## Did You Know?

OUR SECOND PASTOR, FR. FRIEDAN, STARTED THE FIRST ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CONFERENCE IN THE DETROIT DIOCESE IN 1886 AT Ss. PETER AND PAUL.

JOSEPHINE VAN DYKE BROWNSON, A Ss. PETER AND PAUL PARISHIONER, PROVIDED CATECHISM INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS. MS. BROWNSON RECEIVED A MEDAL FROM POPE PIUS XI IN 1933, THE LAETARE MEDAL FROM NOTRE DAME IN 1939 AND AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT IN 1939 FOR HER WORK IN CREATING THE CHURCH-WIDE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (CCD) PROGRAM.

THE IMMIGRANTS THAT BEGAN TO WORSHIP AT Ss. PETER AND PAUL WERE PART OF A GROUP CALLED THE WEINMAN CLUB WHICH FUNDED A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT HOUSE AT 425 LARNED. IT SERVED IMMIGRANTS FROM ITALY, SYRIA AND LEBANON. IT WAS OPERATED UNTIL 1946 BY THE LEAGUE OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (NOW MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES).



170 YEARS  
COMMITTED  
1848 - 2018

2018 ANNUAL APPEAL

Ss. Peter and Paul's 2018-19 budget anticipates the roll out of new and exciting ideas and opportunities that are emerging and taking shape in response to the growth and development we are witnessing in our parish. Another successful Annual Appeal is key to these efforts. The Finance Council has launched our 2018 Annual Appeal – our only fundraising event during the year. Prayerfully consider your commitment to this parish community and give today.



Go to [www.ssppjesuit.org](http://www.ssppjesuit.org). When you click on the 2018 Annual Appeal logo you will be directed to a donation form to use your credit/debit card or checking account.



Please complete the necessary information on the attached return envelope and mail your check into the Parish office.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by IRS guidelines.

## WORKIN' HANDS



Mary Kay Hicks  
New Member and  
PFC Volunteer

It was through the act of a simple hand gesture, a tap on the shoulder that prompted me to join the Ss. Peter and Paul parish community. I remember fondly how welcome and warm this made me feel. Shortly following this act of love, I quickly took advantage of the many ways to further commit to my faith by serving on the hospitality committee as well as in the Pope Francis Center. It is here, like the simple hand gesture given to me, that I am also able to use my hands to extend the love of this community. Additionally, I am afforded the privilege of experiencing the presence of Jesus, for which I am so grateful. I am fortunate to have used my hands to serve and to heal throughout my career as a nurse practitioner. I am reminded frequently of my favorite memory of an elderly farmer patient who on meeting him for the first time, after shaking my hand exclaimed, "thems workin' hands". The highest compliment ever paid to me, and a tall order to follow. However, through commitment and prayer, I intend to work and to serve to do his will with my "workin" hands.



The Pope Francis Center is a Jesuit ministry that aids the city's homeless.

On an average day, we welcome 150 guests for nutritious meals, hot showers, laundry and access to doctors, dentists, lawyers, mental health professionals and housing providers through our free clinics.

Most importantly we see Jesus in each person that arrives on our doorstep and we treat them with the dignity God intends for all His children.

More information can be found at  
[www.popwfranciscenter.org](http://www.popwfranciscenter.org)

## SHARING OUR FAITH



Boratha Tan  
Pastoral Council  
Member

At Villanova University where I began my journey, the value of education is one of the most important means of being closer to God and to each other. The Augustinians focus on community as their cornerstone. I was glad to be baptized at Villanova, in a vibrant and loving community.

Upon graduating and moving to Detroit for my first job, I knew that I had to find a community committed to God and to each other. After a few weeks, I settled at Ss. Peter and Paul for Mass. I came back the following Sunday, and I fell in love with the parish community; I knew I had found my new family.

My earliest commitment to my Villanova community was my process in RCIA. I immediately offered my RCIA experiences. The leaders of RCIA are Mike and Helen Peters. Just

as at Villanova, the Peters not only taught Catholicism to our candidates, they were living examples of what it means to be a part of a loving, Christian community.

As our community grew, the parish needed more members to celebrate the Liturgy. I volunteered to be trained as a Eucharistic Minister, and later as an acolyte. Eucharistic Ministers have a very important role in our faith. The Eucharist brings Christ into our midst; as a community, we come together and share in Christ's ultimate love and sacrifice for us. As Eucharistic Ministers, we hold the Body and Blood of Christ up for our brothers and sisters, sharing in the commitment that God has for our community, and we have towards God and each other.

Today, I am part of the Parish Pastoral Council, a group as diverse as our parish: each person comes from a different walk of life. Despite the differences in age and background, we all are committed

to every person who is part of the Ss. Peter and Paul family. Even though I recently moved to Detroit this community immediately welcomed me into the parish family.

St. Augustine said, "See what you believe, and become what you receive." We believe that Christ is present with us, through the Eucharist. Most importantly, when we share the Eucharist, we share the greatest gift God has left us: love. This love helps us remain committed to the legacy of Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit. Finally, this love pushes us to remain committed to the future of our wonderful community.

### GET INVOLVED!

For more information on how to become involved in the Liturgy, contact Julie Ford, Liturgy and Music Director at [music@sspjesuit.org](mailto:music@sspjesuit.org) or 313.961.8077 x220

## SERVE WHERE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE

My wife Toni and I have been members of the parish for about 12 years. We first attended Mass together at Ss. Peter and Paul one Sunday night at what Fr. Bonk referred to as "the last Mass in town." The first time I volunteered for anything was the second time we attended that late Sunday Mass. A man approached me while sitting in our pew and asked if I could help take up the collection. I told him I wasn't a parishioner and he replied that it didn't matter. They needed an usher so I agreed to help. At another Mass, Fr. Bonk asked Toni and I if we could help at communion. When we said we were not Eucharistic Ministers he replied that it didn't matter because he just commissioned us. As you can see, it doesn't take long to have an opportunity to get involved at Ss. Peter and Paul.



Rick Pasiak  
Pastoral Council  
Member

We joined the parish because of the friendly and welcoming congregation. Since joining Toni and I have served in various roles; lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, sacristan and acolyte. Many of you have probably seen Toni as a greeter handing out hymnals. We particularly enjoy our role as parish representatives to the vicariate and working with new parents on baptism preparation for their children.

We are a small but growing and vibrant parish. I believe we have a bright future under Fr. Gary's leadership. With the influx of young adults and families with children, I hope that we will soon be able to begin a religious education program for children. We are constantly in need of new volunteers to serve in various roles. Consider being a lector or Eucharistic Minister - you are at church for Mass anyway. Try to find a role in which you feel comfortable. It is a good way to meet other parishioners and feel part of the parish community.

## FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD

I first became aware of the Jesuit Motto, "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" (AMDG), more than 55 years ago. It is so simple yet captures a most worthy purpose for all we do. Throughout my life, whether in personal or professional relationships, I've been "committed".



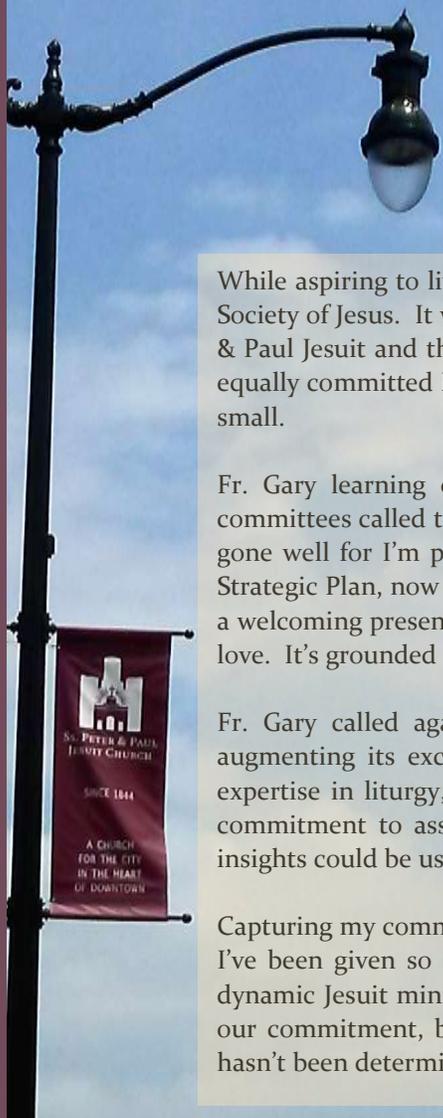
Don Scheible  
Pastoral Council  
Secretary

While aspiring to live this motto, it has resulted in a wonderful relationship with the Society of Jesus. It was quite natural, therefore, that Mary and I gravitated to Ss Peter & Paul Jesuit and the Pope Francis Center in 2001 - to worship, become friends with equally committed Parishioners sharing a willingness to assist, in ways both large and small.

Fr. Gary learning of my skills in Architecture and Construction and my service on boards and committees called to ask if I'd be a candidate for the Parish Pastoral Council. The interview must have gone well for I'm part of a dedicated group; one of many voices in the formation of the first Parish Strategic Plan, now embarking on its update. We long to make our Parish's dreams come true - being a welcoming presence in downtown whose growth and future is as exciting as that of this great city we love. It's grounded in the Jesuit motto.

Fr. Gary called again. Two groups were being formed to assist in the Parish's administration, augmenting its excellent paid staff - a Parish Support Team and a Parish Facilities Team. With expertise in liturgy, historic churches, building design, construction and maintenance and a willing commitment to assist in defining both short and long-term maintenance and capital projects, my insights could be used as a member of the Facilities Team. That interview also went well.

Capturing my commitment to Ss Peter & Paul Jesuit Church & the Pope Francis Center wasn't difficult. I've been given so much and, per Luke 12:48, much is required in return. I'm committed to these dynamic Jesuit ministries working alongside others who are equally committed - JOIN US. Whether our commitment, both individually and collectively, truly contributes to the "greater glory of God" hasn't been determined, so... I hope and pray the final interview goes well.





# Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church

A CHURCH FOR THE CITY IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN

438 Saint Antoine Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

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1894  
DETROIT, MI

## **YOU'RE INVITED!!! Sunday, July 1 - 170th Anniversary and Feast Day**

Celebration begins with 11am Mass, concelebrated by former parishioner, Kevin Embach, SJ, newly ordained this month, followed by a picnic in the courtyard. All are welcome to join in the festivities. We will display photos that tell the story of the people of SSPP. To contribute to the Family Album with a photo and/or a short story, please send stories and photos to the parish office via email or original photos via postal mail. All originals will be returned. Please RSVP by June 25 to [office@sspjesuit.org](mailto:office@sspjesuit.org).



## **DON'T MISS THE JAZZ MASS Sunday, September 2 @ 11am**

In celebration with the 39th Annual Detroit Jazz Festival, we welcome the Cliff Monear trio back to Ss. Peter and Paul for our 2nd Annual Jazz Mass.

## **BLESSING OF THE SNEAKERS AND WHEELS Saturday, October 20 @ 5pm**

## **THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARATHON PARTICIPANTS Sunday, October 21 @ 7:30pm**

Join us as we send off runners and wheelers in the Detroit Free Press International Marathon and celebrate their success.

## **ST. CATHERINE CHAPEL TURNS 100 THIS YEAR**

### **Sunday, November 18 @ 11am**

Join us for a celebration of the commitment to providing a space for the community to gather. This space has been transformed and now serves the most vulnerable among us.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE....**Being transformed by the Liturgy.

Rev. Gary Wright, SJ, Pastor

Rev. Tim McCabe, SJ, Associate Pastor

Mrs. Lydia Maola, Operations Director

Mrs. Julie Ford, Liturgy and Music Director

Ms. Mary Catherine Costello, Pastoral Minister