



ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



GET TO KNOW PARISHIONERS BILL AND DIANNE DAUGHERTY

“Walking the Walk” and Living the Faith with Purpose

As converts to the Catholic faith, Bill and Dianne Daugherty have learned that being involved in their faith community is what keeps them learning and growing in their faith. Dianne joined St. Isidore when they moved to the area in 1980. In 2001, Bill joined her as a parishioner when he went through the RCIA process and entered the Catholic Church.

Two years ago, Dianne came out of retirement to teach at the parish school. She currently teaches history and English literature for seventh and eighth grade and grammar and English literature for fifth and sixth grade. However, before Dianne came to St. Isidore and before she was Catholic, she taught religion to a class of eighth-graders in Montana. That year started her on a new journey.

“I converted to the Catholic Church,” Dianne says.

“My eighth-graders converted me. I had always felt that something was missing and they showed me what it was.”

When Bill converted from the Methodist faith to the Catholic Church, he quickly became involved. He joined the Knights of Columbus, ultimately becoming a Fourth Degree Knight and serving as the Grand Knight three times.

“My attitude towards being a Catholic is that you really need to participate,” Bill says. “If you really want to pursue as much as possible, you have to be involved



Bill and Dianne Daugherty

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MASS TIMES: Saturday: 8 a.m. *Bilingual* | 6 p.m. *Spanish* / Sunday: 8 a.m. *English* | 10 a.m. *English* | 12 p.m. *Spanish*

Weekdays: Monday - Friday | 8:45 a.m. *English* | 12 p.m. *Bilingual*

CONFESSION TIMES: Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. / Thursday - Saturday: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from the 2022 book, Stewardship Starts at Home: Using God's Gifts To Grow As Disciples Of Christ In Our Domestic Church, written by stewardship expert/retreat leader Lisa McArdle and published by Catholic Stewardship Consultants. This excerpt is reprinted with permission from CSC.

There are Four Pillars of a Stewardship Parish — Prayer, Hospitality, Formation, and Service. The third pillar — Formation — teaches us to know and love our God and our faith.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Directory for Catechesis (2005, #20), there are six tasks of faith formation that constitute a unified whole by which faith formation seeks to achieve its objective. This primary objective is the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ.

The six tasks of formation promote knowledge of the faith, promote knowledge of the meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments, promote moral formation in Jesus Christ, teach us how to pray, prepare one to live in community, and participate actively in the life of the Church, and promote a missionary spirit that prepares one to be present as Christians in society.

Take a moment to consider how fully you are currently formed. When is the last time you read a book about the Catholic faith? When is the last time you participated in a Bible study? When is the last time you read and reflected on the readings before Mass? Or looked up something in the Catechism?

Frequently, the last faith formation parishioners receive dates back to when they completed their Confirmation preparation or attended their last religious formation class as a middle or high school student.

This means decades may have gone by since parishioners and family members have experienced formation.

If that is the last time that you have formed yourself or that members of your families have formed themselves, don't panic. You are not alone.

This realization is an opportunity for growth. A chance to dip your toe back in the water of faith formation and even



to learn alongside the members of your family, including the youngest members who are also learning. Don't ever feel embarrassed that you don't know an answer to the faith questions asked to you by your children or grandchildren. Instead, learn together!

Remember, the more fully you are formed, the better you will understand God's calling for your family. Furthermore, the more you are formed in the faith the easier it will be to answer the call of discipleship.

Being properly formed in our faith and listening to God's call allows us to understand if we are on the right path or if we need to redirect. Being prayerful and well-formed are key to our following His plan for our lives instead of our own wishes and desires. Remember, as stewards, we strive to listen to God and use the gifts He has given us to serve those he places in our paths. Thankfully, it is easier now more than ever to form ourselves and our families.

There is no need to search for faith-formation opportunities. These options can be sent directly to our smartphones and tablets. Bishop Barron's Word on Fire ministry sends free daily readings along with a brief gospel reflection straight to our inboxes. Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic offers Lenten and Advent opportunities with free, reflective videos that also arrive via email. Blessed is She even provides an endearing female faith formation perspective — perfect for women young and old. Plus, if you want to form yourself specifically in Scripture, you can also opt for the free podcast, The Bible in a Year featuring the entertaining Fr. Mike Schmitz, from Ascension Presents. Honestly, the possibilities are endless.

Formation is the fuel that keeps your family moving forward as stewards and in becoming all that Christ is calling you to be. Have confidence as you incorporate this ongoing learning into your daily routines.

To find out more about the Stewardship Starts at Home book, visit www.stewardship-starts-at-home.company.site.

A Letter From Our Pastor

HONORING OUR LADY IN MAY

Dear Parishioners,

May is Mary's month. For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to the Blessed Mother in their activities during May. Best known, I'm sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers during the month.

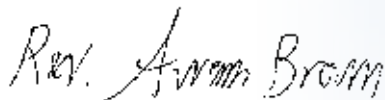
May is a beautiful month, full of renewal and hope. The March winds and the April showers have done their work, and the spring flowers are in bloom. Even though the earliest signs of spring have passed, May doesn't quite have the look or feel of summer. It is spring at its finest! And it's not only the flowers or trees that show new life in May. For many students, May is the month to prepare for graduations, and these students will soon move on to new phases in their lives.

And of course, May is a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. We spend the whole month this year in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost on May 28. The joy of the Resurrection, the glory of the Ascension, and the descent of the Holy Spirit are the themes that fill our Christian calendar.

But as we rejoice with Mary at her Son's triumph over sin, Satan, and death, we remember her faithfulness to God's will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model Christian steward. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in its pastoral letter on stewardship: "After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 41).

Let us follow her example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us this month!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Avram Brown
Pastor



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PADRES Y MADRES ORANTES: *Lifting Our Hearts in Prayer for Our Children*

Our children and youth are the future of our Church, and one way we can always support them is through our prayers. In September 2012, the Spanish-language ministry Padres y Madres Orantes — “mothers and fathers in prayer” — was formed as a way to pray for our children on a weekly basis.

“There is a great need for parents to help their children develop into good people, and to help them defend themselves against the dangers that they are exposed to in these times,” says ministry leader Irene Pureco. “In this group, mothers and fathers learn how to pray effectively for their children and youth in the community in general. This prayer leads to a stronger faith, and it fills us with the virtues and Christian values that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament gives us during each Holy Hour.”

The ministry, which is modeled after the original group that started at a parish in Florida, meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. to sing and pray in the church before the Blessed Sacrament.

“We put our faith in the hands of the Blessed Mother, who is our guide throughout our prayer and the best intercessor for our children,” Irene says. “In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, parents are filled with an interior peace and are able to become better parents. In this way, we help to create happy homes filled with the love of God.”

The group consists of about 15 men and women between the ages of 20 and 70. The ministry welcomes participants of all ages and finds that the diversity in age helps to enrich the group as a whole.

“The age groups all complement each other as

they sing praise and pray to God with both older and more modern music,” Irene says. “Their voices come together in harmonious praise and worship for our God. Men, women, and occasionally children pray together for the same hopes for the future since our young people are the future.”

English-speaking parishioners are also welcome to participate in Padres y Madres Orantes. The ministry uses prayer books that also include the song lyrics and prayers in English, so everyone can follow along.



“In this group, mothers and fathers learn how to pray effectively for their children and youth in the community in general. This prayer leads to a stronger faith, and it fills us with the virtues and Christian values that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament gives us during each Holy Hour.” — IRENE PURECO

For more information, or to get involved, please contact Irene Pureco at 916-873-5114.

REFLECTING ON THE BLESSINGS OF THE FIRST YEAR AT CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

“A Place of Healing in Christ’s Love”

As Chesterton Academy of the Most Holy Eucharist wraps up its first year, headmaster Jordan Gannon reflects on his joyful experience at the new classical education high school.

“It’s been a tremendous blessing to be here with the students,” says Mr. Gannon.

Housed within St. Isidore School, the high school belongs to the Chesterton Academy Network of more than 40 other schools internationally. As the Chesterton Academy Network website says, “We make it our mission to prepare our students to triumph over the materialism and despair that pervade our culture and to accept our Lord’s offer to have life and have it abundantly. Our classical curriculum combines a broad liberal arts education with a strong emphasis on the cultivation of Christian virtues and an appreciation of beauty.”

The school year kicked off with an enrollment of 11 high school students which grew to 13 within the first few weeks. Mr. Gannon recalls the first week of class was met with 110-degree weather, with the air conditioning malfunctioning and other small mishaps occurring in the initial weeks. But the faculty and students made adjustments and learned along the way.



“It’s been a constant learning process for us,” Mr. Gannon says. “Everything was first for all of us with a lot of learning on the way.”

Despite any growing pains or learning challenges, the school has had a fruitful, blessed year.

“I view this place as a place of healing in Christ’s love and I’ve seen that every day for myself and the students,” Mr. Gannon says.

With a focus on the three transcendental of truth, beauty, and goodness, the school prioritizes the formation of its students. The students attend daily Mass, serving at the altar and as a lector, which encourages the participation in the sacraments and liturgical life. The

school offers a place of formation for the students and their families.

“Students may have come from being in different circumstances, but here there’s a kind of peace and healing that can happen, learning can take place,” Mr. Gannon says. “We emphasize not just the academics but character, virtue, and spiritual development. The students, the parents are very happy to see their students growing as people.”

The faculty and students participated in various activities and events throughout the year, including a fundraising dinner with Chesterton Academy scholar Dale Ahlquist as a guest speaker. The students also participated in

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REFLECTING ON THE BLESSINGS OF THE FIRST YEAR AT CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST *continued from page 5*

the West Coast Walk for Life in January.

“That was huge,” Mr. Gannon says. “It was a big, fun, and beautiful event and trip for us.”

Focus on music and physical education was something of a priority this year, including a weight room built for the students, which emphasizes the importance of physical fitness in a mostly sedentary world.

“It’s important to me to give them that opportunity,” Mr. Gannon says.

As the next school year approaches, Chesterton Academy of the Most Holy Eucharist looks towards new endeavors and growth, including plans for a pilgrimage to Rome, for which anticipation is high

throughout the student community. The school also hopes to see new renovations to the campus and outdoor facilities, with the goal of eventually housing more than 100 students in the coming years.

“We’re putting in some raised bed gardens, and looking to put in an outdoor gathering space like a gazebo for events and classes,” Mr. Gannon says. “I have support but we don’t yet have the drawings and budget analysis and fundraising targets. But the way the Lord has been working is to give us everything we need. You go forward with what’s possible and what makes sense for the long-term vision, where to spend money, what the big plan is.”

For more information about Chesterton Academy of the Most Holy Eucharist, visit www.camhe.org.

GET TO KNOW PARISHIONERS BILL AND DIANNE DAUGHERTY *continued from front cover*

in the Church from a number of directions.”

Both Bill and Dianne became involved with the RCIA process after Bill converted to the Catholic faith. Teaching gave both of them a new opportunity to constantly grow and deepen their own faith.

“I’m not a real good student,” Bill says. “So RCIA gave me the opportunity to keep learning. There’s always something new because of the people going through the program — they all have different questions. I never failed to walk away, Sunday after Sunday, realizing something new.”

Even for Dianne, as an experienced teacher in schools and religious education, RCIA brought her new knowledge and insights.

“I found that as an instructor in RCIA, I learned so much,” Dianne says. “Every year I learned something more that deepened my own faith. I had to learn in

order to teach them. Even when teaching CCD, that was true. They have a lot of questions.”

Once they got involved, Bill and Dianne made friends with other active parishioners and found many ways to use their gifts and talents for God and the parish. Both have served as lectors, while Dianne has served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and loves to sing in the choir. They served as RCIA instructors for 15 years.

“Once we jumped in, we jumped in with both feet,” Dianne says.

This active parish involvement has provided Bill and Dianne with a valuable connection to community, as well as continual spiritual growth.

“I try to live the faith,” Bill says. “It might sound corny, but you have to walk the talk.”