



LaSalle Catholic Parishes



Parish Magazine
Winter 2017/18

Volume 1, Issue 1

Dear Friends,

We are excited to bring to you our first-ever parish magazine! Our Parishes in LaSalle are an oasis of faith and beauty in the midst of our busy days and broken world. But they are not just places where we sit quietly – there is a lot going on and a lot more we can do. From our prayer, the Holy Spirit encourages action. In our weekly bulletin (available at Mass or online) you have heard about our special prayer services, prayer groups, processions, and vigils. We have announcements for our small group Bible studies and larger adult education classes. We give a lot of bulletin space to our amazing school and religious education program and our growing charitable outreach to the poor, hungry, and unborn.

Often we find there just isn't enough space in the bulletin for everything our parish family has to share. So it is our hope that this magazine, and (please God!) future magazines can help bridge that gap and bring out a certain depth that can't be found in a weekly bulletin. From our rich Catholic history in LaSalle to our aspirations for the future, this magazine can help us be that light Christ is calling us to be in this world.

This first edition of the magazine is sponsored by the Diocese of Peoria. Please consider if you or your business would like to be involved in sponsoring future magazines. We'd be happy to place personal dedications or business ads. Just give us a call.

God Bless You,
Father Paul Carlson



Who we are... by the numbers

Numbers certainly aren't everything, especially when following Christ. But there are still a lot of us following Him in LaSalle! A few of our stats from the past year:

1,094Households
2,555Registered Members
38Our Average Age
1,261Worshippers on Sunday
71Baptisms
2,340Hours of Adoration

60 First Communions
62 Confirmations
429 Children in TCA & RE
22 Weddings
48 Funerals
104 Altar Servers

Not yet registered? Sign up today!

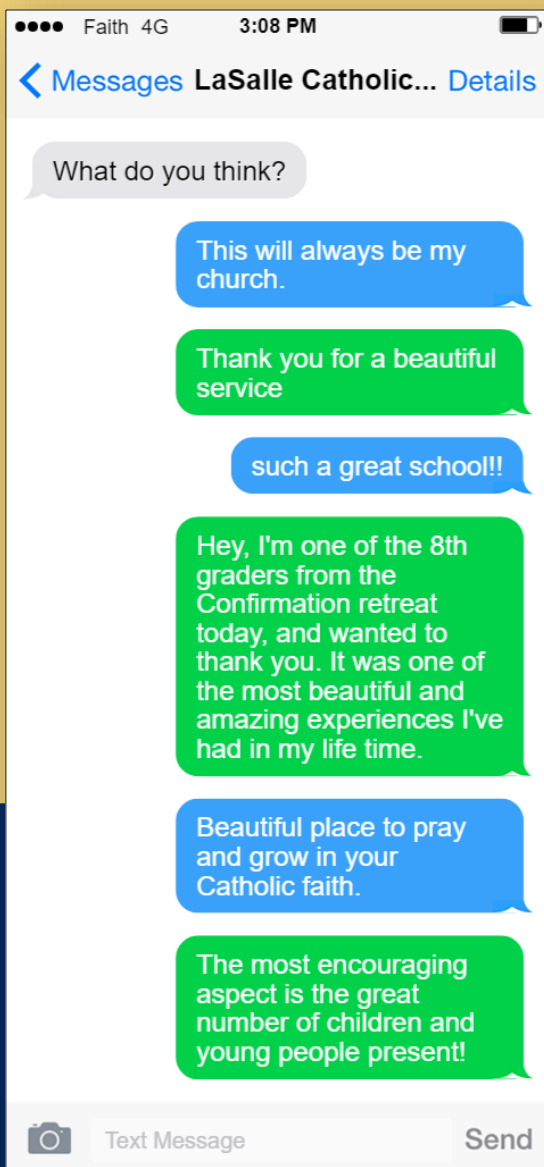
We welcome all new families and individuals to the LaSalle Catholic Parishes and encourage registration in the parish as soon as possible. Registration forms are available on our website www.lasallecatholic.org and in the parish office.

- Active membership is needed for the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, first Confession, first Eucharist, Confirmation, and Marriage.

- Active membership is required before the parish is able to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. One must be a registered, active member of the parish for at least three months before we are permitted to issue a letter of suitability to be a sacramental sponsor.
- Active parish membership is required for families whose

children attend Trinity Catholic Academy Religious Education (TCA-RE - formerly CCD).

Trinity Catholic Academy families must be active, registered members to be eligible for reduced tuition rates. (TCA families who are registered at other parishes that do not have schools receive reduced rates through their parish.)





It's all over the Church...but what is it? About your Parish Logo

A logo, a brand, helps us recognize at an instant what a thing is and our connection to it. When we drive down the highway and see the Golden Arches, we know exactly what is found under them ... french fries! And while the idea of branding isn't new to the corporate world, churches and parishes are also encouraged to have a unique symbol that visibly unites us and our mission.

A few months ago, the Diocesan Office of Stewardship sent out a letter encouraging parishes to adopt a special symbol as a logo. We in LaSalle have had one for years, but maybe not everyone knows what it represents.

Our parish crest is in the shape of the traditional heraldry shield which is used by bishops and dioceses. But for us, the shield is turned upside down, so that it resembles the Gothic Arch – a uniquely Christian architecture and the specific style of the St. Roch and St. Hyacinth buildings. The shield represents the parish church.

The blue color reminds us of the Illinois River and all of us who live in its valley. The blue also connects us to the crest used by the Diocese of Peoria and the Royal Blue of France, by which this land was first evangelized.

The golden eight-pointed star is a Christian icon of Our Lady. It, for example, can also be found on the crest of the Diocese of Peoria, on the papal coat of arms of Pope Francis, and on the family crest of René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle – the French explorer for whom our city is named.

These elements are all surrounded and encompassed by the white band of God's grace: an armor of light and the protection of innocence in Christ.





Mexican Cultural Dancing

At St. Hyacinth we started our own Mexican Folk Dance group. For special occasions, dance troops from other communities, like Mendota, have come to LaSalle to perform. It is exciting at last to have our own group for the dances.

We teach the children of our generation our folk dances, which opens to them the beautiful traditional culture of Mexico. It is important for the young people to know and appreciate their heritage and to pass on the culture of their families.

The dances themselves are a learning experience, beautiful, but challenging, especially as so many of our families come from different regions of Mexico, which have unique types of dress and dance. At the practices we learn different steps, techniques for memorization, patterns, and definitely persistence!

The young children especially are enthralled by the sight of the dancers moving their colorful dresses and feet to the regional Mexican music. The dances and the music often tell a story. The picture above is from “La Danza

de los Viejitos” – which is the dance of the old men. It is a traditional dance from the Michoacan region, and it reminds us to enjoy growing old, that wisdom comes with age, but it is still good to remain full of life and energy.

Our dance troop has performed publicly now only four times (including the St. Hyacinth Bazaar), but we are ready for more events! Performances can also be a good way for us to earn the funding needed for the specialized costumes for the boys and girls. We hope to have more young people join our group. The more people we have involved, the more dances we can perform and the more fun we will have!

Perla Andana, age 15



Parishioner Spotlight: Jim Arkins

In mid-October the priests got to sit down over coffee with James Arkins, a life-time parishioner at St. Patrick. It was a great time to look through some photos from the archives and even the two letters that Mr. Arkins sent to the parish while serving in World War II—also preserved in our archives. We're happy to share a bit of that conversation here:

Mr. Arkins, thank you for meeting with me. I understand you are approaching your 100th birthday – congratulations. In your lifetime, I'm sure you have seen and experienced quite a bit of history in the LaSalle Catholic Parishes, and I'm sure you've got quite a bit of wisdom to share as well. I'd like to try to record some of that here.

To begin, would you tell us a little bit about yourself? How long have you been in LaSalle? Which parish? Where did you go to school?

Well, I was born and raised here in 1917. Went away to college and then had the war years. Then, back since then. I've always been at St. Patrick Church and went to St. Patrick school. I didn't go to the St. Bede. At the time, my dad said he couldn't afford it, due to the Depression. So, I went to LP High School. After I graduated, I thought I was going to be a doctor. I had that in mind, and I went and enrolled in the U of I Medicine School.

Then, my dad was working so hard all by himself at the drug store, I thought I'd lay off a year and help him. Then the war came along, and that changed everything.

What was your impression of the Vincentian priests and the school sisters?

Oh yes, the Daughters of Charity. Wonderful ladies! They were a blend of saints and scalawags. I remember Sr. Cephas in sixth grade. She had quite a temper. She had a wooden slap about a foot and half long. She would pick that up whenever she got mad at somebody – bring her arm back, and everyone would go under their seats. I don't know if she ever hit anybody. The threat alone was enough.

There was an aura about them, children and adults both recognized them as something special. They were special, no doubt about it. They were austere, they couldn't even have a Coca-Cola.

How have things changed from when you were growing up?

My earliest memory of church is me hanging onto my mom. Basically, she was like – like everybody – a guiding light in church. Taught us how to handle ourselves. When the Vincentians were here, we had three Masses a day at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., and 8 a.m. Coming to Mass in the winter was always a challenge between the cold and walking in

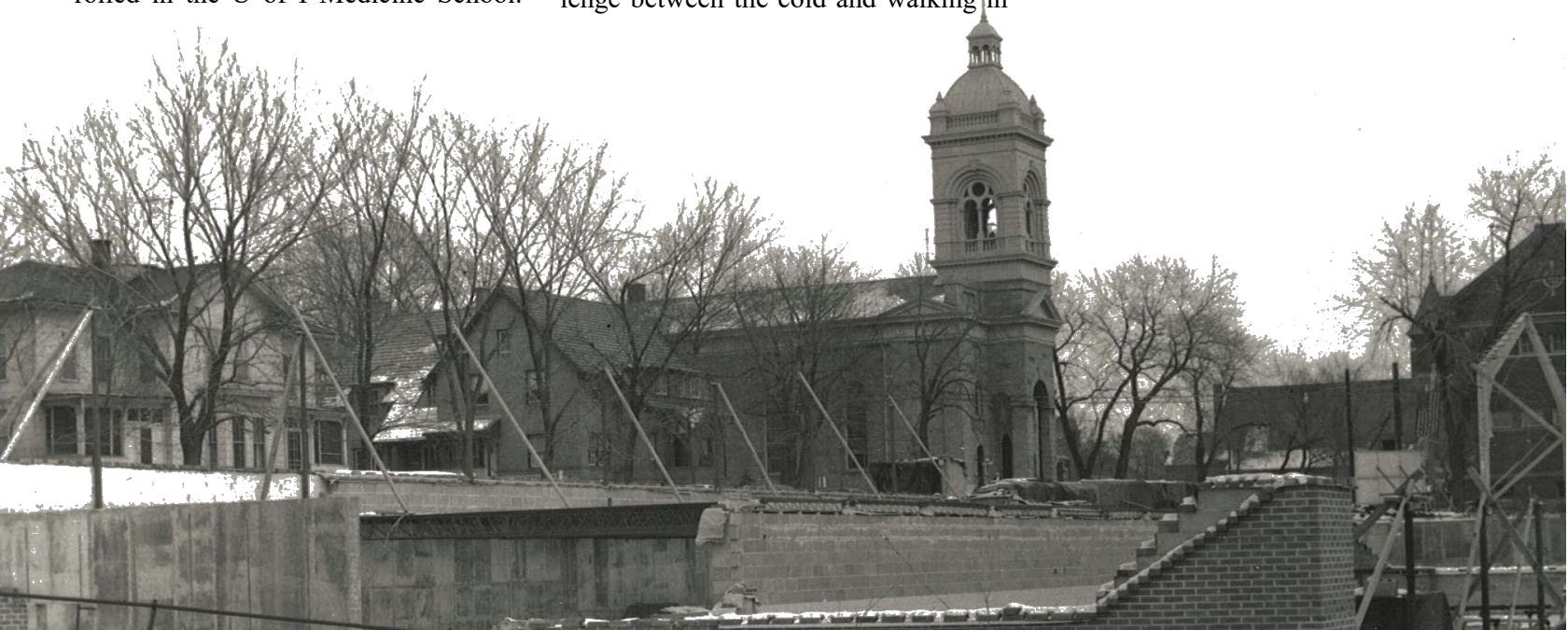
the heavy snow down the street. There was no salt, the streets weren't plowed then, but we could walk in the streetcar tracks.

Above the Relic Chapel (Mother's Chapel), that chapel at one time was open and looked right down on the altar. Sr. Ignatia was in charge of the choir boys, and I was young and in the choir. We would get ready for High Mass – Christmas or Easter – up there. Sister would make sure we were all dressed right, with cleaned hands and nails. We wore the high collars and sashes and sang from up there. Then they eventually closed that in.

We used to have a bazaar every year, it was a great thing, a lot of fun. We would put up the booths every year while the priests sat up on the porch and watched! Well, Father Walter would come out at help... The Ladies had the St. Ann's Sodality. We also had the Holy Name Society—which was huge at that time.

How did people get by before having a bathroom in church? St. Patrick – and St. Hyacinth – never used to have one. Were there ever emergencies in the bushes?

Uh? We didn't have problems like that. I don't really know. That's true, but I never gave that any thought. I don't know.



We have in the archives a book with letters written back and forth from the parish to soldiers during World War II. We've got two letters here with your signature on them. Could you explain these?

I was on the USS Albemarle in the North Atlantic when I wrote this one just before Christmas, on December 22, 1942. It reads, "The day before my last sailing I received your most welcome package. It was a most splendid and appreciated gift – as my fellow officers, who helped me eat the cookies, will attest..." When I was on ship, there wasn't a Catholic chaplain. There is a chaplain – a very good man – but, he wasn't a Catholic. It would be three or four months before seeing a Catholic priest. It was quite an experience, but these letters connected us to our Catholic faith from at home.

You now have four generations of Arkins in St. Patrick Parish, and you are now a regular at daily Mass and Adoration. How has your faith grown throughout the years, and how have the parishes played a role?

My mom and the sisters, and every teacher I've had – even though I didn't go to parochial high school – they've all had a bearing on my Christian life, my Catholic life. Now, when I see Hayden serving at Mass, as I had, it makes me proud. I'm happy.



U. S. S. ALBEMARLE

December 22, 1942

Dear Friends,

The day before my last sailing, I received your most welcome package. It was a most splendid and appreciated gift – as my fellow officers, who helped me eat the cookies, will attest.

But, more than the package itself, there was the added thoughtfulness and friendliness behind it which gave me the biggest thrill. As you no doubt have heard from some of the other boys, the receiving of such a gift gives one a feeling that is hard to describe. But it is probably thankfulness for home – and such friends.

May God bless you and keep you all, and give you a most Holy and happy Christmas season.

Sincerely,
James Arkins



Trinity Catholic Academy

The School that Educates 100% of Its Parish Youth

Trinity Catholic Academy, the parochial school of St. Patrick and St. Hyacinth Parishes in LaSalle, is the premiere local Catholic school for children from preschool, age three, through eighth grade.

Catholicism first came to the LaSalle area, in the Illinois Valley, in 1673 when Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet traveled upstream on the Illinois River. After years of Mass being offered in private homes, Holy Cross Church was founded in LaSalle in 1838. In 1854, Sister Vincentia and her sisters from the Daughters of Charity began St. Vincent School on Second Street in LaSalle. St. Vincent School was the first school in LaSalle, the first Catholic School of the Diocese of Peoria (in fact, it predates the Diocese of Peoria), and the first school in Illinois between the cities of Chicago and St. Louis.

Today, Trinity Catholic Academy builds upon the legacy of Sr. Vincentia and the 150+ years of teaching by the Daughters of Charity. Although St. Vincent School is no longer open, the original school building still stands as a private residence, and the missionary zeal of Fr. Marquette and Joliet to teach the Catholic faith has continued through several Catholic schools in LaSalle, which culminated in 2005 in the formation of Trinity Catholic Academy. The faculty and staff have long traditions in Catholic education, spending most of their careers there, including Mary Kaye Happ, Barb Derix, Debra Myers, Linda Garner, and Barb Crew. Trinity Catholic Academy now stands, by tradition, as the premier Catholic school in central Illinois.

Yet, the ministry of Trinity Catholic Academy is not merely premiere in a historical order. As of this academic

year, Trinity Catholic Academy is premier as the first Catholic school in the Diocese of Peoria to truly educate 100% of its parish youth. No student is denied access to a Catholic education at TCA. While continuing its successful preschool through eighth grade education for full-time students, the school has recently launched a new religious education program for all of the parishes' public school students in first through eighth grade. Those parish youth who attend public schools will become "part-time" Trinity Catholic Academy students. They are invited to TCA for an hour on Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year to receive instruction in the Catholic faith, utilizing the same staff, classrooms, technology, and grading and record keeping as are utilized by the full-time students at Trinity Catholic Academy.





Having outgrown the traditional parish -centered CCD model, Trinity Catholic Academy's Religious Education program lets our school do what it does best: teach children! It forms public school students in the Catholic faith by use of professionally trained, certified, and licensed school teachers in every classroom. Working with some of the best volunteers anyone could hope for, we make sure every child of the LaSalle Catholic Parishes has equal access to quality Catholic faith formation at our school.



Premier in historical order of Catholic schools in central Illinois and premier in ministry to 100% of the parish youth, Trinity Catholic Academy continues to serve its mission to "go make disciples" of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).

Contact us for a tour and registration information:

650 Fourth Street; LaSalle, IL 61301

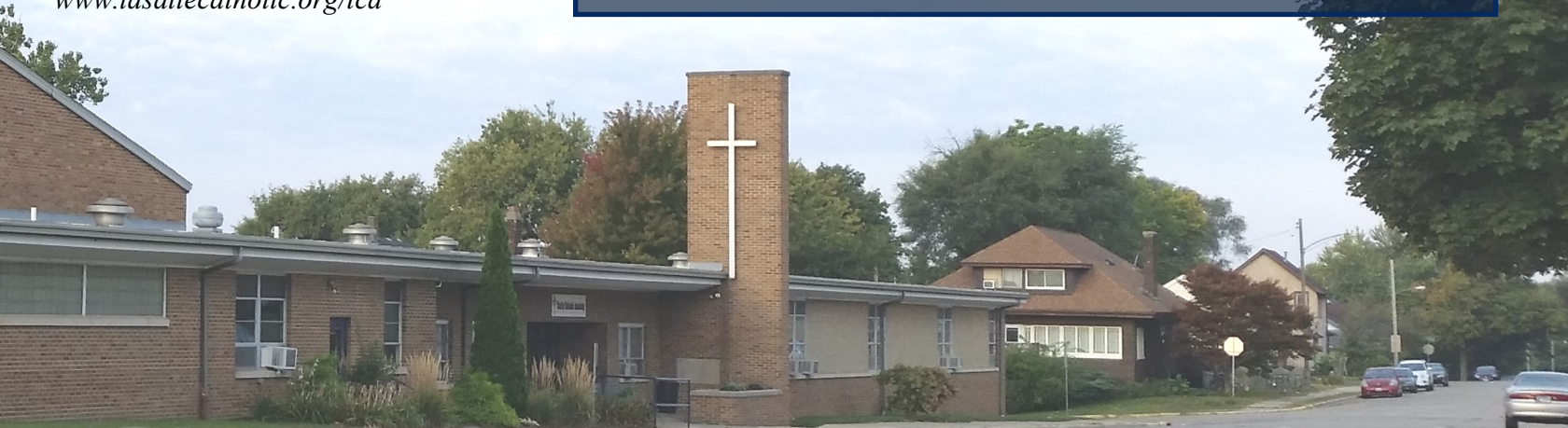
Phone: 815-223-8523

www.lasallecatholic.org/tca



Calling All Alumni!

Did you attend a Catholic school in LaSalle? Please help us keep in touch and build our alumni database. Send a note to the parish office with your current address and contact information, the name of the LaSalle school you attended, and your graduation year. You can also just complete the short online form on our website: www.lasallecatholic.org/alumni.



In our school, every day, we learn, love, and pray!



Catholic means “Universal.” In LaSalle we experience this frequently by arranging pilgrimages of faith. Sometimes we go far - like to Italy next spring. Sometimes we stay closer to home and plan pilgrimages to the shrines in Peoria or Alabama. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Julie Brown offers an account of the LaSalle Pilgrimage to Mexico last March:

This past spring, I traveled with 27 other Catholics on a religious pilgrimage to Mexico led by our Mexican tour guide and Father Valle. While we visited many ornate Spanish Baroque-style churches, climbed some amazing pyramids (well, some of us just enjoyed the sites from below!), and traveled to some beautiful and unique villages near Mexico City, the highlight of our tour was visiting the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. While most non-Hispanic Catholics certainly have some knowledge of Our Lady of Guadalupe and are familiar with her image, I don't think we are as familiar with her as we are of other Marian apparitions approved by our Church, such as Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Fatima.

In brief, Juan Diego was a native of Mexico raised in the Aztec pagan religion, but he always showed signs of having a mystical side. He was granted an apparition of the Virgin

Mary on four separate occasions, but when Juan Diego relayed his story to the archbishop of Mexico City, the archbishop insisted on proof. On the last occasion, Our Lady provided proof—she told Juan Diego to collect flowers which were unseasonably in bloom and growing on the rocky ground where only cactus normally grew. Using his open mantle (tilma) as a sack, he delivered the flowers to the archbishop. When Juan Diego opened his mantle, the flowers poured out and the bishop saw they had left an imprint of the Virgin's image, which he immediately venerated. The image on Juan Diego's tilma started a conversion movement of millions to the Catholic Faith.

Although many have tried to claim the image is a fake, scientists have studied the image and concluded that it would not be humanly possible to replicate the image on the tilma, which is made of rough cactus fibers, while the image itself is said to be smooth as silk. The tilma was exposed for about 116 years without any protection in the Old Basilica, yet never deteriorated even though exposed to thousands of candles, cleaning fluids, and the humid, salty air. Even a bomb placed before the tilma in 1921 by an anti-clerical activist could not destroy the image! The most astounding fact I learned lies in the Virgin's eyes. An ophthalmologist studied the eyes at 2,500x magnification and identified



thirteen individuals reflected in her eyes, which appeared to be a snapshot of the moment Juan Diego unfolded his tilma before the archbishop.

Join our Hispanic friends in the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, the anniversary of the apparitions. The more you learn about her, the more you will understand their great devotion to her. And if you can, join one of our LaSalle Catholic Pilgrimages. Your faith will be strengthened, and your love for our glorious Lord will be deepened!

Legion de Maria: a Lay Apostolate of Service to the Parish and Community

El objetivo de la Legión de María es la glorificación de Dios a través de la santidad de sus miembros, desarrollada mediante la oración y el trabajo activo. Los miembros participan en la vida de la parroquia a través de las visitas de las familias y los enfermos, tanto en sus hogares como en los hospitales, y mediante la colaboración en toda empresa apostólica y misionera patrocinada por la parroquia.

Una entrevista con Rocío García, secretaria de Legión de Maria:

Cuando descubriste Legión de Maria?

Escuche sobre Legion de Maria aproximadamente en 2010, yo era miembro de otro movimiento hasta que asistí aun viaje al Santuario de la Virgen en el cual sentí un profundo llamado al escuchar la palabras de la Virgen "Porque te afliges y angustias, no estoy y aquí que soy tu madre?" En ese tiempo estaba pasando situaciones difíciles en mi vida personal, esas palabras me impulsaron a asistir a la primera junta de Legión de Maria en la que se habló de la devoción de los 46 rosarios a la Virgen de Guadalupe, esto fue en octubre de 2012.

Que te motivó a unirte al grupo?

Después de la junta decidí unirme al grupo, participando a rezar el Rosario casa por casa durante mes y medio, antes de eso yo no sabia rezar dirigía el Rosario con folletos. Yo no soy muy buena para memorizar, pero de inmediato me aprendí el Rosario y todas las oraciones de memoria, lo cual fue por obra y gracia de la Santisima Virgen.

Porque dices que no sabias rezar?

Yo crecí en un hogar lleno de violencia donde no habia fe ni amor a Dios, no tengo ningun recuerdo de mis padres rezando o enseñandonos a orar, complete mis sacramentos en la edad adulta pero sin adentrarme en la fe, sino hasta el 2012.

Como defines tu a Legion de Maria?

Es un movimiento callado, así como la Virgen; sencillo, humilde, servicial lleno de amor y entrega total.

Como ha cambiado tu vida?

Mas que nada ha salvado mi matrimonio, rescatado mi familia y a mi misma, mirando atras doy cuenta que el tipo de persona que era y quien soy ahora, ha cambiado gracias a Maria ella ha obrado grandemente en mi a través de Legion de Maria.

The objective of the Legion of Mary is the glorification of God through the holiness of its members, developed by prayer and active work. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families and the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals, and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish.

An interview with Rocío García, secretary of the Legion of Mary:

When did you discover the Legion of Mary?

I heard about Legion of Mary about in 2010. I was a member of another movement until I attended a trip to the Shrine of the Virgin in which I felt a deep call to hear the words of the Virgin "Because you grieve and are distressed, am I not here? Do you not know that I am your mother?" At that time I was going through difficult situations in my personal life. Those words prompted me to attend the first meeting of the Legion of Mary in which the devotion of the 46 rosaries to the Virgin of Guadalupe was discussed. This was in October of 2012.

What motivated you to join the group?

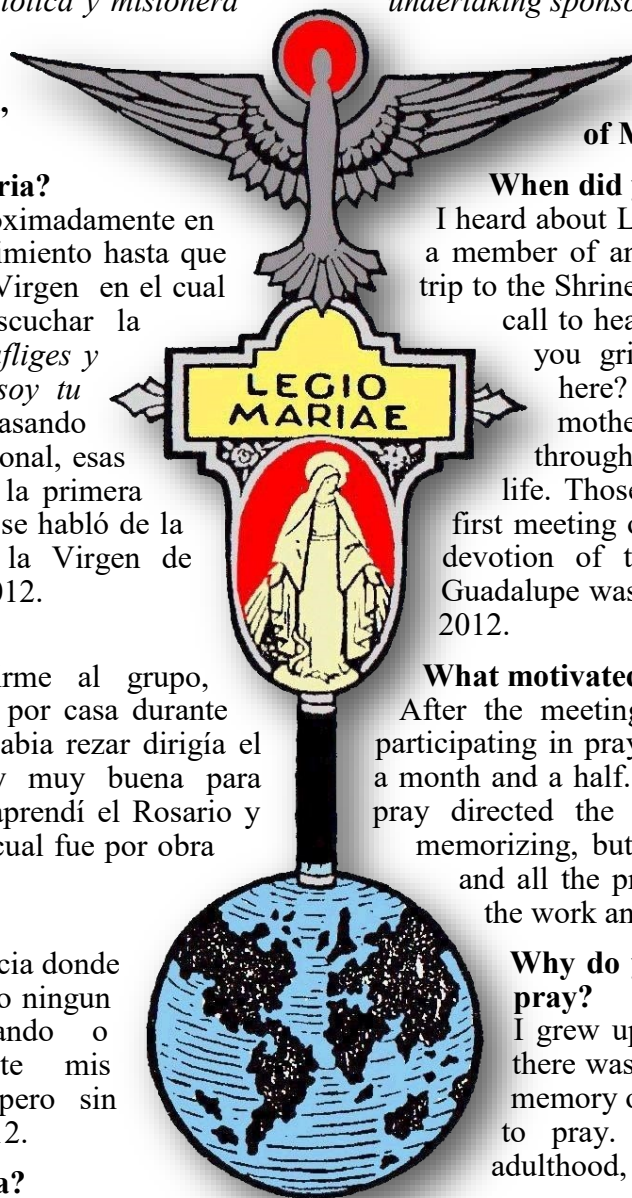
After the meeting I decided to join the group by participating in praying the Rosary house-by-house for a month and a half. Before that I did not know how to pray directed the Rosary. I am not very good at memorizing, but immediately I learned the Rosary and all the prayers by memory—which were by the work and grace of the Blessed Virgin.

Why do you say you did not know how to pray?

I grew up in a home full of violence where there was no faith or love for God. I have no memory of my parents praying or teaching us to pray. I completed my sacraments in adulthood, entering the faith fully in 2012.

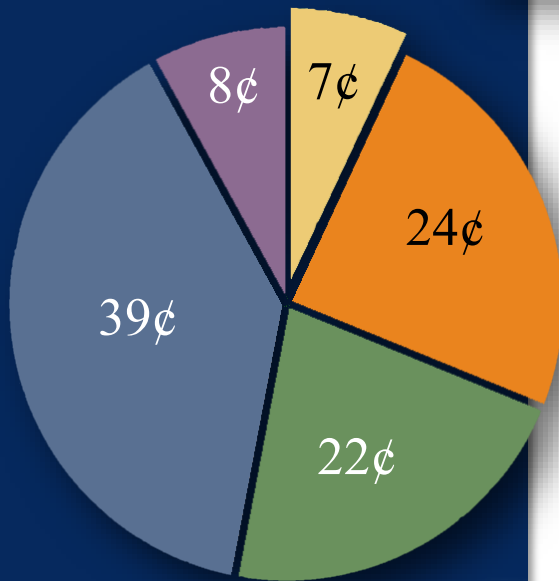
How do you define the Legion of Mary? It is a silent movement, just like the Virgin—simple, humble, helpful, full of love and total dedication.

How has your life changed? More than anything, it has saved my marriage—rescued my family and myself. Looking back, I realize the kind of person I was. And, who I am now has changed thanks to Maria. I realize that she has worked greatly in me through Legion of Mary.



¿Te sientes triste o deprimido? Habla con un miembro de Legión de Maria y programa una cita.
No estas Solo, ¡Tenemos una madre que nos ama! Junta cada Jueves a las 6:00 p.m en el Centro Feliciano.

So Where Does It Go?



Education & Evangelization
Salaries
Utilities, Insurance, & Maintenance
Liturgy, Programs, & Supplies
Taxes and Benefits



Often finances are the last thing that Christians and Churches want to talk about. It's personal. And we don't want to make the church sound like a business. Yet St. Paul didn't hesitate to talk about money, resources, and even salaries in his letters to the early church – and these letters are now part of the New Testament! Like St. Paul, we recognize that money and finance are a means to an end. And that end is a stable Christian community that is able to serve, teach, and pass on our rich faith and patrimony to the next generation of disciples.

From the parish side, we want you to know where your donations are going. Detailed financial statements are available for parishioners in the parish office. You'll find that we are very frugal! No one is getting rich working for our parishes, and we rely more on volunteers for our basic needs than most church institutions.

Ultimately, though, giving isn't about meeting parish needs. Giving is part of a lifestyle that recognizes that all things come from God and all things ultimately must return to Him. The Christian, recognizing this, is, by nature and by habit, generous. When we

invest in what matters to God, we strengthen our relationship with Him. And while this investment is not always financial (it is an investment in spirit, time, and ability as well!), we cannot ignore the financial needs God's people encounter in the parish church.

Please see our website for more information, including the option for Online Giving. With online giving, you can thoughtfully plan your gift and have it given directly from your bank account or even credit card automatically.

If you would like to have more confidence in your finances, your planning, and your giving, please consider joining us for a local chapter of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Whether the issue is getting out of debt, saving for college, or making good retirement plans, Dave Ramsey will help explain financial principles in light of Sacred Scripture and common sense. Not sure? Just come to the first meeting. The partners of the Hueneburg Financial Group will help present these seminars. We are going to start this January 13th. Watch the bulletin and website for details!

FINANCIAL *Peace*
 UNIVERSITY

Becoming Catholic at Easter

Easter is an exciting time for Catholics. The celebration of the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith. At Holy Rosary Shrine, the night before Easter is especially wonderful. The Vigil is a time for solemn blessings with fire and water, beautiful ancient hymns, and lingering readings from Sacred Scripture.

The night is highlighted with the baptism and reception of new Catholics into the Church. Right now we have over a dozen adults preparing either to enter the Church formally, or receive other sacraments.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, or for whatever reason still needs to make First Communion or Confirmation, please contact the parish office to join our adult education sessions on Tuesday evenings.



Caring for Those Who Cared for Us



Pastoral care for those in need is a priority for the priests, staff, and volunteers at our parishes. Sister Norberta is specially dedicated to the sick and homebound. Those visited by Sister receive a warm smile, a sympathetic ear, spiritual council, and of course, lots of prayer!

Please let us know if you or a family member has been admitted to a hospital or care facility. Because of current privacy laws, we often are not aware when parishioners are admitted. Please be sure loved ones always complete the field for religion and parish when admitted. In an emergency, call the parish office day or night, and follow the voice prompts for emergencies.

The beautiful photo at left of Sister and Anna Agnes Pomatto was taken by Ann Pomatto and won first prize in the Spring Valley Photo Contest.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

When the rich young man of the Gospels approached Jesus, the Scriptures tell us that "Jesus, looking at him, loved him... (Mark 10:21). This was Jesus' initial response to the young man. Before Jesus gave him any further direction, before Jesus asked him to renounce his worldly possessions, and before Jesus asked him to follow Him, Jesus loved the young man.

To be loved by Jesus Christ - This is the first experience that all young people desire and seek in their own faith journeys. The LaSalle Catholic Parishes have been working fervently to ensure that all of our parish youth come to look upon the face of Jesus and receive his love. "It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you;" St. John Paul the Great.

Of late, the parish youth ministry has been booming! Our churches are thriving, and that can be seen in the abundance of youth throughout our parishes. While LaSalle has long had a history of sending many men to the Emmaus Days vocation camp, it was with great enthusiasm that this year four young women were able to attend a similar retreat in Rockford. This retreat was organized by religious sisters from various religious communities

throughout northern Illinois. These teens have felt the call of Christ and responded! Miranda Corea, a youth who has been active in many of the church activities, says, "It's made me realize a lot that no matter what, God will love unconditionally and for who I am. My faith has definitely grown stronger,"

Summer continued to be quite active for the youth in LaSalle with about twenty teens regularly attending Fr. Valle's summer study series. During this series they discussed the disciplines of a disciple of Jesus Christ. They also were able to encounter Him in the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration. These meetings were quickly followed up by over fifty teens participating in the evening session of the annual Totus Tuus Summer Camp.



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While it is often said that the youth are the future of the Church, in LaSalle it can be said that they are an image of the Church.

Through these events it was realized that our youth have a longing to be filled with Christ's love. The question was put forth, what can we do to help them encounter God?

Now, as fall is well underway and the parish youth have returned to their school year routines, it seems that we are beginning to answer that question. Many of them, still eager to encounter the love of Jesus Christ, have been setting aside time each week to continue to study, pray, and enjoy time of fellowship through participation in our new LaSalle Catholic Youth Group. "At the youth group and meetings we can say what we feel and not be scared. I'm actually very happy that our parishes have given us a place to feel safe, learn, and be proud of what we believe in," says Perla Andana, one of the group's members.

The youth group meets weekly on Mondays from 5:30-6:30 p.m., following Adoration and Confessions, at Holy Rosary Shrine. Led by Fr. Valle, Mikyla Kunkel, and Nick Kelsey, teens have been delving deeper into their encounters with Jesus through prayer, study of the Scriptures, and discussion. Of course, this time is always filled with snacks and plenty of laughter. "I appreciate that they are trying to do what they can to bring the youth and involve us more in the Catholic faith," states Perla Andana.

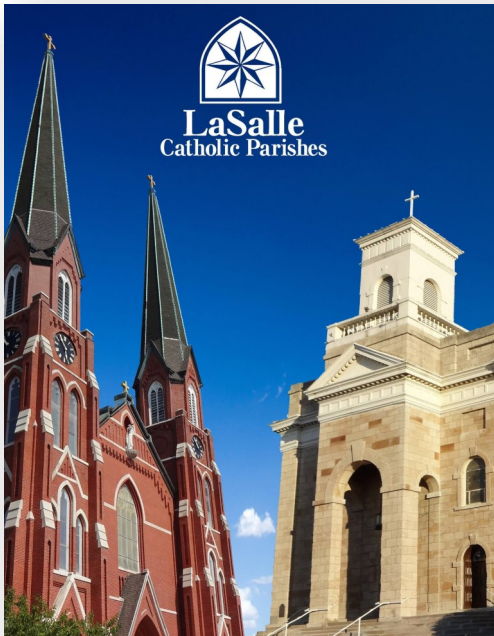
While it is often said that the youth are the future of the Church, in LaSalle it can be said that they are an image of the Church. The energy, excitement, enthusiasm, and joy that the parish youth express in their faith is a reflection of their parents' faith and the encounter that all people of faith have had from looking upon the loving face of Jesus Christ.



LaSalle Catholic Pilgrimage to Italy Booking Now Open!

Sign up for our pilgrimage to Venice, Florence, Siena, and Rome April 9-18, 2018.
Register at www.pilgrimages.com/frcarlson/ or call the office for more information.





LaSalle Catholic Parishes
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LaSalle, Illinois 61301

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Permit No. 95

The Photo Directories are Ready!

If you had your photo taken, your complimentary copy is available in the Parish Office. If you would like to pick up an additional copy, we ordered a surplus. They are also available at the office for \$10.

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*We'd love to place a message from your business or a dedication/
memorial from your family. Our Magazine prints 1,500 copies
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