

Stella Maris BEACON



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*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

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Expanded Website Version

Another very successful Parish Christmas party was held in Baileys Harbor in early January. Great food provided the backdrop for a very pleasant setting allowing all the opportunity to visit with members of other Stella Maris sites. Terri Smith and Kriss Schorer were the prime movers for the party. In addition, Mike Fitzgerald supplied an abundant quantity of his great homemade fudge courtesy Goomies Goodies in Egg Harbor.

Parish Mission: Sitting in the back of church thinking about the concept of being a welcoming parish and our efforts in that direction, I couldn't help but be impressed by the breadth of representation for the Mission. There were couples from every corner of our parish, for example Bill & Barb Anschutz of Carlsville (Martha Stewart could take a lesson on how to cook pot roast from Barb), Bill & Dot Angstadt from Baileys Harbor, Jinx Olson, David & Marlynne Kowalski plus Lori Orthober & her son from Jacksonport, Tom & Honore Rentmeester of Fish Creek, John & Grace Held of Ephraim; Pat Wisner, Kunstman's and the Vercoes (Peg & Art) from Sister Bay, plus Bob Agnew, the Callsen's from Ellison Bay. What a satisfying feeling to have made the acquaintance of so many good people.

Extending the thought process further, imagine how effective we can be as a "welcoming place or parish" I was reminded of one of my favorite poems, The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson, The third stanza reads.

Cannon to the right of them,
Cannon to the left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thunder'd,
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell

Rode the six hundred Ironically, the lady involved is not even a Catholic. She heard about the mission through a bulletin in her own church (Moravian). If this isn't a great example of ecumenism at work, I don't know what is. A hearty tip-of-the-hat to Dr. McCormick and all the others who helped out. Well done!.....5

Closing Paragraph: Space limitations preclude my adding a terrific, true story of the strange and wondrous ways of the Lord. However, it is printed in its entirety in Stella Maris' website accessed by www.???????????????? I heartily encourage your taking the time to read this real, human interest, story. My Mother used to say "every coincidence is a grace." I've experienced enough coincidences in my lifetime not have to be convinced any more. However, I just encountered the most unbelievable one ever. In 1967, hospitalized with mono and unable to take part as a baptismal sponsor the man who was supposed to be my "stand in" (the father of one of my closest friend's wife Susan) was none other than Dixie Walker. The former National League batting champion was brought up to the Yankees after hitting over .400 in the minors to eventually succeed none other than Babe Ruth. He actually reached his peak as the "Peoples' Choice" of the then Brooklyn Dodgers, but I digress.

But, Dixie could not hold his grandson at the baptism, since he himself had never been, baptized. Rather than resent the Church, Dixie became interested in getting baptized himself and was baptized (in a Protestant church) as a result of this event. Later, he often went to Mass with his wife (a Catholic) and became friendly with their pastor going fishing with him frequently. When he was dying, he requested he be buried in the Catholic Church. He was, in fact, buried with the Catholic Mass of the dead.

A lifetime .306 hitter, a critical event has, to this time, prevented Dixie from getting serious consideration for a deserved hall of fame nomination. There was a letter by members of the Dodgers expressing their opposition to playing with Jackie Robinson. The letter was initially attributed to Dixie, though years later it became known another southern player from the Dodgers was the actual author. In fact, Walker himself had never seen the letter.

Separately, he was one of the very first proponents of a pension plan for the players, representing all the National League players in the process.

To this end, his daughter's soon to be released book "Dixie Walker of the Brooklyn Dodgers - the Peoples 'Choice" hopefully will finally lift the bars to his serious contention for the hall of fame.

The fact I am named in the book has nothing to do with my serious recommendation of it

to anyone interested in an insider's view of some of baseball's tumultuous years as well as being brought up in a baseball family (Dixie's father was the first major league player from the state of Alabama, while his brother Harry also starred in the National League)... It can be obtained from Amazon.com.....for \$15.50 per copy.

Adult Catechism Class

We have been meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. and have finished the first two sections of the Catechism. We are now going to take a break for the summer and pick up the third section in the fall. We are growing in the knowledge of our faith on an adult level. Many of the people have not read or had much conversation about faith related topics, for a long time. We are having an enjoyable time. It's never too late to learn, our oldest learner is only 95.



Morning scripture class continues during the summer on Tuesday's. You need not have any prior knowledge or study of the Bible to join us. The group looks at scripture for the up coming Sunday leading into discussion on the scripture including the history behind the readings and how it applies for us today.

The **quilting class** was a success; we have a top finished for one quilt. We had a great time measuring, cutting and sewing different squares. A big thanks to Fran Richter who was a great leader and Sarah Anschutz has a bulk of knowledge with quilting. A star pattern (Stella Maris) was chosen for the first quilt. Our dreams are to invite more people to join when we gather again in the fall. As we rip we shall sew.

During lent we prayed the **Stations of the Cross** each Friday, in Sister Bay, followed by a donation of delicious soup and bread. The proceeds went to the rice bowl. This also gave us a chance to talk and laugh with each other and catch up on the latest news in the parish.

Many thanks to our catechists, Carrie Kostreva, Pat Gureski and Kathy Sedan, for all their help and preparation in the presentation of the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross were prayed by all the students. Being actively involved is always a great way for the students to learn.

Disciples of a Journey

April 14th is our last Disciples on a journey, for this year. We will focus on prayer. Our presenter is Sharon Brabson, a new member of our parish. This gathering is for all people of our parish and all ages. It gives families an opportunity to eat and learn together. The women from Egg Harbor are providing the supper so a count of how many people is needed. Kite making and or decorating is also on the schedule we need a count for the kites the children will have fun with this and will be flown on Pentecost Sunday. Come join us.

First Holy Communion is coming soon and I would like to thank those of you who signed your names to pray for a student. There are thirteen students all very eager to receive Jesus on April 25th at Sister Bay 10:00 a.m. Mass. They all celebrated First Reconciliation and when the first student came out he lifted his hands above his head and declared "that was awesome." Reconciliation with our God is always awesome.

Our **May crowning** is scheduled for May 12th at 4:00 p.m. it will be held at Stella Maris in Bailey's Harbor. All are invited to witness the tradition of crowning the Blessed Mother by the children out in front of the rectory, weather permitting. Come join us in praying the rosary, and singing favorite Mary songs followed by refreshments which will conclude

another year of faith formation. Thanks to all those who have helped in any way and we appreciate your support to provide the best faith formation we can have at Stella Maris Parish.

Youth Alive Steak and Shrimp Dinner August 4th

This would be a great opportunity for any students who need service hours and are preparing for Confirmation to work. Being church is all about helping others in community. We need help pre-selling tickets after the Masses on the week-ends in addition to set up, serving, and clean up. If you are interested in helping please call Mary Ellen Waldvogel at 854-5264. Thanks in advance for all your support and help.

Busy Person's Retreat

We were blessed with four women who participated in the Busy Person's Retreat during Lent. This retreat experience involved daily prayer at home and four meetings with a spiritual director (Lee), during a two week period. I asked each one to write their reflections:

"This retreat was awesome! It worked with my work schedule and I really felt it was what I needed. It has helped me with times of frustration...I felt the Holy Spirit work...I can now journal, put my cares, concerns down on paper and really feel a connection with our Lord."

The gift was "the time to search my spirituality/soul and to articulate it clearly. The time was also fruitful in that it gave me directions to explore as I continue on my spiritual journey. I came wanting to know myself more deeply in regard to my relationship with God."

This retreat was "well named/ very user-friendly/ a hopeful beginning/ an enrichment/ a spiritual appetizer during the Lenten season. The gift was "a kind listening ear and open heart..."

This retreat brought back thankfulness for all the gifts God gave me that are always around me. The gift was "the love of scripture, the reminders of all thankfulness that I received from God with words."

Lee LeVoy, Spiritual Renewal Director