

SAINTS ALIVE

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Getting to Know...

Father McNew

Try speaking German with a Scottish accent...and a Texas drawl; then, you might begin to appreciate the complexity of St. Mary's new pastor, Father Dwayne A. McNew.

Father Dwayne -- which is how he prefers to be addressed -- is a vibrant personality, a detailed list maker and planner, an astute, community-minded man, a quick wit, and get-it-done kind of guy -- all with an artist's eye and a keen sensitivity to the people around him. He was beloved at Holy Redeemer Parish in Portsmouth and is already on pace to endear himself to the parishioners of St. Mary.

He was born and raised in Big Spring, Texas, for the first five years of his life, then spent three years in Germany, the (self-described) military brat of an Air Force father. His parents, Wendell and Ruth McNew, live in nearby Powell, Ohio. He is the middle of three children, bookended by sisters Marie and Patsy. Oh, and, the family name is of Scottish origin.

At a mere 13 years of age, he was "talked into" the priesthood by a friend of the family. After a year of discernment, he began his sophomore year of high school at Monroe Catholic Central in Michigan, a high school seminary run by the Comboni Missionaries. The focus of the school was to train missionary priests, and Father Dwayne remained active with the order until midway through his college years.

He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Cincinnati, studied philosophy and theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, and earned his master's degree in sociology from The Ohio State University. His area of specialization is family and women's studies, with a minor in child psychology. He completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, earning his Master's of Divinity. All this, while struggling with learning disabilities -- both dyslexia and ADHD.

All this education culminated with his ordination in Columbus in 1995. His first assignment was St. Nicholas in Zanesville, followed by Seton Parish in Pickerington. "It was fun being an associate there," says Father Dwayne. "Seton is where I really learned how to pastor. I was taught finances, staffing, and all the business aspects of parish life."

He must have learned well. The list of improvement projects he accomplished in his 11-years at Holy Redeemer in Portsmouth is beyond impressive, bordering on

amazing. He successfully fund raised for a new parish activity center in his first 2-1/2 years there -- negotiating and locking in steel prices for the building at a savings of more than \$150,000. He spearheaded a successful \$50,000 campaign to refurbish the parish's aging organ, renovated the parish's former convent for meeting space, and made improvements to the sanctuary which included marble flooring so that traditional votive lights could be returned. His most recent "project" was the building of a new \$250,000 rectory. By the way, Holy Redeemer is a parish of only 400 families. It's obvious that once he identifies a need, Father Dwayne pursues it with passion.

One of his biggest successes was the acquisition of property adjacent to his Portsmouth church from the local Methodist congregation. The Methodists had outgrown their aging church, were building a new mega-church, and were having difficulty finding a buyer for the property. They approached Father Dwayne and his savvy negotiation skills took over. "I didn't want to be the one known around town as the person who tore down someone's old family church, so I agreed to buy the property after they tore down the building," he explains. "We got a good price, they got salvage rights, and I found a donor ready and willing to fund the project." Father Dwayne turned the property into a park, acquiring an outdoor set of Stations of the Cross from a former convent in the area.

Father Dwayne is one of the rare individuals who was assigned the pastorship of a parish in which he had interned.



...continued

He served as both a seminarian and a deacon at Holy Redeemer prior to returning as pastor. "I loved the people there and told them to pray for me to come back as their priest," he says. "It worked."

A self-professed night person, Father Dwayne is changing the daily Mass schedule to include a Tuesday evening Mass at 6:30 p.m. Seasonally, this Tuesday night liturgy will be expanded to include reconciliation, a Holy Hour, and devotions such as the rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy (a particular favorite of his), and sacred silence.

Father Dwayne is well known for his culinary skills, which began, he claims, in the Boy Scouts. "I was Senior Patrol Leader at 11-1/2 years old," he recalls. "I was in charge of organizing our camp outs. The first thing set up was always the kitchen – then MY tent. And, I made home style meals like my mother taught me instead of traditional camp fare." Later, while attending the seminary boarding school, he was put in charge of warming up leftovers on the weekends. His creativity soon surfaced as he turned mashed potatoes into potato pancakes and scraps into soups. "I learned what I know from the Food Network and the many cookbooks given to me," he says. A meal personally prepared by him brought in \$600 at auction for a recent school fund raiser. His favorite

food – both to cook and to eat – is Italian.

Besides cooking, his hobbies include a voracious appetite for reading – as many as 4-5 mystery or science fiction novels a week -- and rosary making. A man of the times, he is technologically savvy, even utilizing an online prayer breviary over a printed one.

He has, nonetheless, been taught how to slow down -- forcefully. Approximately four years ago, he suffered a stress-induced heart attack and was sidelined for two months to recover. "It became a blessing for the parish and changed us and how we did things," he says. "People picked up where I left off and became invested in the details of parish life. We really became a family." Father Dwayne continues under doctor's care and includes a daily rest period – approximately 2-4 p.m. – as part of his ongoing plan to take better care of himself. He also learned the value of recharging his batteries and to take vacations as needed. And, while his favorite vacation spot is the Caribbean, his favorite trip was a visit to Rome last year.

BAPTISMS:

June 17, 2012

Jack William Aurigemma,
son of David and Jodi (Frazier) Aurigemma.

Thiago Shane,

son of Jonathan and Chyenne (Mojica) Shane.

June 24, 2012

Allison Joan Moore,
daughter of Andrew and Megan (Zentkovich) Moore.

July 1, 2012

Ava Jones Jordan,
daughter of James and Amy (Jones) Jordan.

July 8, 2012

Carson Walker,
son of Katherine Walsh and Christopher Walker.

WEDDINGS:

June 16, 2012

Brittini Littell and Justin Peterson

June 23, 2012

Holly Duckworth and Michael Bowen

June 30, 2012

Jessica Chapman and Eric Chapman

NEWCOMERS:

L. Richard and Christina Johnson and
son, L. Robert, age 16 and daughter, Jessica, age 14.

Katie Walsh and son, Carson Walker, age 5





Vacation Bible School

June 24 through June 28

6:00-8:30 p.m.

Thanks to the donations, prayers and work of the parishioners of St. Mary, Moira Hall was transformed into Nazareth. I hope all in the parish were able to see the fabulous work of Brenda Blankenship and all those who worked on decorating.

Special thanks to; Brenda, the tribe leaders, tribe moms, shop keepers, kitchen crew, the remarkable acting from Mary & Eunice (Abby & Kelly Baer), the amazing teens who led us in song and praise, and everyone who helped in any way. Special thanks to Lisa Troiano for all the phone calls, dedication and lots of blood, sweat and tears. Great job and great fun for all!

Taxes Collected: each day the "Tax Collector" collected money from all those participating in Hometown Nazareth. **The "tax revenue" \$145.23 was collected and presented to St. Vincent de Paul** to help with those who are in need in our community.

Thank you to Jesus Christ who is our inspiration, model, director, and source of all our power and strength. Amen

110th ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Wm. J. Spickerman Council 671 Knights of Columbus will be celebrating their 110th Anniversary. They will be holding a celebration on August 25, 2012 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM at 1232 E. Center St. at K of C Hall. It will be offered free to all Parishioners of St Mary.

Food being served will be Pulled Pork, Hot Dogs, Sweet Corn, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw. There will be games for the kids, snow cones and cotton candy.

Tickets will be available on the weekends of Aug. 4 & 5, 11 & 12, and 18 & 19 after all Masses.

SPIRITUAL BOOK GROUP

The Spiritual Book group is inviting new members as we begin reading and discussing the book by Joan Chittister, "The Gift of Years - Growing Old Gracefully." The book will be read in several sections and discussed one time per month starting on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 1:00pm in the Commons.

The book costs \$12.25. If you are interested, call Ruth Cehelnik at 740-389-3645 before August 13, 2012, in order that the books can be ordered and delivered into your hands in time to read the assigned chapters.

Oneight is the best sacramental preparation for Confirmation available. Yes, we sincerely believe that.

The Sacrament of Confirmation, as it is celebrated today, is a mature acceptance of the teachings of the Catholic Church and a very personal decision to become a full – thinking and practicing -- member of the Church. It is the decision to actively become part of the Body of Christ. It is about community -- about confirming one's membership in that community of believers. What it is not, is a "rubber stamp" ceremony.

Confirmation preparation, like RCIA, is a tangible example of the Parable of the Sower. In the Scripture story, the seeds of faith fall on rocky soil, among weeds, on good soil, etc. Confirmation classes are like those seeds; the students are the soil. The benefit they gain from the classes depends on the openness of their hearts. Book knowledge of Catholicism is simply not enough, and certainly not the goal. We are not trying to develop lukewarm Catholics here. We are striving to light the fire of the Holy Spirit within the teens of our parish so that they can experience God's personal love for themselves.

This is why we love LifeTeen's Oneight curriculum for Confirmation preparation. It takes the Sacrament very seriously. It gives our young people the information they need to make a mature, informed decision about their faith at a pivotal time in their faith development.

According to Marie Kinetz, parent of one of our most recent Confirmation students, "When Ryan entered the Oneight program to prepare for Confirmation, I was on the fence about whether the number of classes were too many, whether it was truly going to be worth his time. However, every time he finished a class, he was able and willing to tell me what he learned, why

it was important, and that he genuinely enjoyed the classes and program. The classes made learning about and preparing for Confirmation relevant and interesting, and allowed him to make the active choice to receive the Sacrament."

The name Oneight comes from Scripture – Acts 1:8 – which says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses..." This is what Confirmation promises us – that we will receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was begun in us at our baptism.

Oneight covers a broad array of topics, each designed to build on one another and fully describe what an authentic Catholic life is. The Oneight curriculum, and it is a formal curriculum – albeit a fun and engaging one – covers topics such as the existence of God, salvation, the Seven Sacraments, the Creed, personal prayer, theology of the body, moral decision making, death and dying, the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the

Communion of Saints, Christian service, and Church history. The teachings are engaging and thought-provoking. They include discussion, skits, trivia-style "games," and a multitude of hands-on experiences.

An important part of the Oneight experience is community building. The sessions are NOT a sit-and-listen lecture format. The teens are placed into small, family-like groups for discussions and activities. This helps the teens to look at topics from multiple perspectives and to, possibly, have questions answered that they may not have thought about before or had the courage to voice. They are also asked to think beyond themselves by performing 24 hours of service projects to family, parish, and community.

Another huge part of the community building is the Confirmation retreat. The Emmaus Retreat – named for Jesus' trip to the city of Emmaus in which He revealed Himself to his apostles after

the resurrection – provides the teens with some vital quiet time to focus entirely on God. Like the rest of Oneight, the Emmaus Retreat includes both a professional curriculum in accord with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' guidelines and an extremely fun time in which to enter into a community of fellow believers. It is important that all of the young people of the parish come together to be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It has the ability to change hearts and lives. It is an outward sign of our oneness as the Body of Christ.

Parishioner Chris Burns, who will be a small group leader as well as the parent of a student in the 2013 Confirmation class, looks forward to the program. "This will be a time for our young people to convert from simply being receivers of the Word of God to deliverers of the Word," she said. "I love that all the youth of our parish will prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation together -- and on Sundays. The more faithful youth we pull together the stronger our parish will be. The stronger our parish becomes, the more efficient and successful we will be at serving our community."

Oneight classes will be on the second Sunday of the month, September 2012-February 2013, from 1-7 p.m. in the Commons, the retreat is March 8-9, and the Confirmation Mass is April 15, 2013. The Confirmation team is coordinated by youth minister Lori Stevenson, director of religious education Glenna Celestino and Hispanic ministry coordinator Chantelle Blackburn. The program is designed for the eighth graders of the parish and enrollment is now open for the 2012-13 class.

Oneight is an awesome tool to educate our young people in their faith. It seeks to answer their questions. It is a process. It is a time in which, as stated in Ephesians 2:22, "we are being built together into a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit."

Please contact the parish office at 382-2118 for more information.

-Lori Stevenson





The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 18-19, 2012 St. Mary Parish, Marion, Ohio

Saturday, August 18

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| 5 pm | Holy Mass |
| 6 pm | Parish Potluck in Moria Hall* |
| 7:30 pm | Danielle Rose concert |

Back by popular demand, Danielle Rose will perform in concert to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption at St. Mary Parish. This beloved Catholic folk artist sings and plays guitar and piano. Her music, inspiring for all ages, focuses on the Mysteries of the Rosary and devotion to the Blessed Mother. A preview of her music is available online at daniellerose.com.

Sunday, August 19

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 10:30 am | Holy Mass |
| 11:30 am | Rosary Procession |
| Noon | Parish Dinner** |

More about Danielle Rose...

Danielle Rose is a 2002 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where she received bachelor degrees in music and theology. At the age of 17, she traveled to Delhi, India to volunteer with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. This experience gave her a desire to serve the poorest of the poor by offering her gift of music as a means of alleviating the spiritual poverty of America.

Her debut album, *Defining Beauty*, was released in 2001 by World Library Publications. After graduating from Notre Dame, Danielle Rose began traveling the globe as a music missionary in order to spread the Gospel through a joyful witness of story and song. Whether she was ministering to one million people at World Youth Day in Toronto, or twenty teenagers in her hometown of Duluth, Minnesota, Danielle encouraged and challenged every soul to form a relationship with the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus through the heart of Mary.



In 2004, Danielle received the personal blessing of Pope John Paul II when she presented him with her second album, *Mysteries*, a collection of meditations upon the twenty mysteries of the rosary. She promised the Holy Father, "I am your messenger to the young people to take up the rosary once again." She received a Unity Award from the United Catholic Music and Video Association (UCMVA) as Female Vocalist of the Year in 2005.

One year later she recorded her third album, *I Thirst*, a musical tribute to the life and work of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

In August 2007, Danielle accepted Jesus' invitation to enter the convent to discern a religious vocation. Immediately before her entrance, Danielle recorded her fourth album, *Pursue Me*, which describes the journey of accepting the call to discernment. After more than two years of formation in the convent (it's a six to ten-year process of discernment before final vows), Danielle came to a successful discernment with her community: the Lord was calling her to follow Him in a different way. Seeking at every turn only to heed His voice and to do His will, Danielle left the convent in November 2009. This journey of surrender and obedience taught her more deeply than ever that loving God and doing His will is more important than anything else.

With this new understanding, Danielle has joyfully accepted Jesus' invitation to continue sharing His Song for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Do you like a story? Most of us do. It could be said that a good story is how many of us learn best. If you think about it, we've been learning our entire life. Anyone's life experience could be looked upon as a very big series of stories. Well, we would like to hear your story . . . about your experiences as it relates to being a part of Marion, St. Mary's. For some of you, this may be a single incident that you remember. For others, it may be a curious fact that may or may not be widely known about our parish. While I came to Marion in 1971 and my family and I have been involved in parish life for all of those 41 years, some of you were born and raised in Marion. You lived here most or all of your life and St. Mary's has been part of your experiences for a substantial amount of time. For those among us who have been in Marion a much shorter time or became a member of the parish only recently, your Catholic heritage includes experiences elsewhere that may be quite interesting and we would like to hear about that. You may remember an article that appeared in Saint's Alive earlier this year: "Catholicism across the USA".

So, I would like to come see you and talk to you or have a nice phone conversation. I want to hear your story. I'll give you a few examples: Did you know that the interior of our church at one time was primarily painted a sky blue color? Did you know that one of our pastors quite a few years ago had a large German shepherd dog that lived with him in the rectory? Did you know that our rectory is actually a very grand Italianate-style home from the 19th century and at one time had a large open wrap around front porch where many of our parish offices are currently located? Okay, these are curious facts and some would even call them items of parish trivia. Interesting, none the less, and we would like to share this type of information from time-to-time. Some of you will have some stories to tell about your experiences here in school. I know that we have a few people who probably would be willing to tell me about having to take a really long, long, long walk with Fr. Spickerman. He was a man who is reported to have had a substantial stride and liked his walks about town—long ones. If you were a bit of a trial to the nuns, your "sentence" was to take a walk with Fr. Spickerman. That took some of the starch out of your sails and maybe you behaved better in the classroom at least for awhile. One of our priests let the parishioners know from time-to-time, that he really would enjoy an invitation to dinner at their home. Or as he put it: "Have fork, will travel." Are you willing to tell about climbing up into the bell tower of the church to leave a message there for posterity? I would bet we've got a few people who can tell me about that. Do you remember when there was no tuition for students in our school? Maybe you were there at a time when tuition first was charged; how much was it? We all would like to think the corporal works of mercy are a part of how we conduct ourselves at St. Mary's; one thing is sure: we bury the dead. Traditionally, poor Catholics have been buried at St. Mary's cemetery even if no one among their family or friends could afford to pay the cost. Well, we could go into the parish archives to extract lots of interesting information and, at some point, we may do this. But we would rather hear from you.

Okay, here are the ground rules: We will not identify you unless you want us to. We will not identify anyone else that is part of your story if what you say could in any way be less than complimentary to that individual or his or her reputation; we're never going to be hurtful or disparage anyone. Gossip will definitely be avoided and there has to be substantiation in some form or another for what we put in Saints Alive. While many of us may have a talent for telling a good story, and that is who I want to talk to, we're going to stick to facts or, at least, identify those things that may be just legends or speculation. I want to hear from you. Contact Bill Your, 740-360-2142, at your convenience. I'll guarantee you that you'll have some fun doing this and I will most enjoy hearing what you tell me.

We have a rich heritage here. We should share it. This is a fantasy, of course, but if I could go to our cemetery and have a conversation with those who have gone before us, Wow! Can you imagine what I'd learn. Don't get the wrong idea, though. You don't have to be 100 years old or a life-long member of St. Mary's; I want to hear from as many parishioners as possible. The experience of being Catholic needs to be shared. Let's talk.

- Bill Your

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary,

One thing I have learned here at St. Mary is that you know how to throw a good party. The Farewell Party on June 10th was great with good food and lots of GREAT FRIENDS. I will always remember you and know that you are in my prayers.

First I want to thank everyone who helped to put the party together. It took a lot of effort to transform the Boler Center into the place of celebration that we all enjoyed. The decorations, the music, the Choir, those who had a part in the program, showed that a lot of planning and thought went into it.

Second, I want to THANK ALL who contributed to the Father Michael Nimocks Endowment Fund. To date over \$15,000 has been added to the fund. Your gift to me was a gift to the parish. It will continue to grow and supply funds for the future needs of the parish. Remember St. Mary Catholic Endowments in your estate planning.

Third, I want to THANK the parish for the lap top and printer it will come in handy in my retirement.

Fourth, I want to THANK the Knights of Columbus for their gift of a watch. Now I will have no excuse to be late.

Fifth, I want to THANK ALL who have sent me cards and gifts.

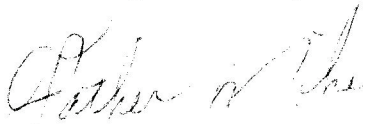
Also to the students at St. Mary who gave me a Kindle Fire. You are forcing me into the digital age. I am having a lot of fun with it. Enjoy your summer.

I hope that as you see the Chalice and Paten that I gave the parish as a gift you will remember me.

Until I get to a permanent place my mailing address is Fr. Michael Nimocks, P.O. Box 13268, Columbus, Ohio 43213.

May the Lord bless all of you and your families. Keep me in your prayers.

Blessings and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Michael Nimocks".

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SAINTS ALIVE

*The deadline for article submission to the Saints Alive is the tenth of each month.
Items submitted after that date cannot be guaranteed a spot in the newsletter.*