

Holy Family Newsletter



August 2017

Up to Bat

by Fr. Kevin Richter

Attending a Kuemper tournament baseball game gave me occasion to call to mind my own high school baseball experience. I attended high school at Granville Spalding, which had a storied baseball history. So, when I arrived there my freshman year, I felt more than a bit out of place on the baseball team. In the end, I settled into a role as water boy and bench warmer, and I was rather content to hide there in the shadows of the more experienced and skilled players.

But on a particular day when we were playing our archrivals from Remsen St. Mary's (who have their own storied baseball history), I was startled when I suddenly heard the coach yell across the dugout, "Richter, get in to bat." I have to admit that I wasn't being particularly attentive to the game, and so was absolutely unprepared. But I got up off the bench and grabbed a helmet and bat. As I walked past the coach, he said, "Be sure to watch me for the signals." I thought to myself (not daring to say anything out loud), "What signals?! Nobody taught me any signals!" I stood there, awkwardly swinging the bat for some practice, hoping it would bring me out of the daze I felt. But before I knew it, I was up to bat.

I stepped towards the plate, and then looked over at the coach. He was making some wonderful gestures that made absolutely no sense to me. I stepped up to the plate. First pitch. I didn't swing the bat. Strike one.

I stepped away from the plate, and looked at the coach – again, meaningless gestures. Back up to the plate for the second pitch. I didn't swing the bat. Strike two.

At this point, the catcher yelled out to the pitcher, "Don't worry about this guy. He doesn't know what he's doing." I thought to myself, "Is it that obvious?!" I looked at the coach – more meaningless gestures. Back up to the plate for the third pitch. I didn't swing the bat. Strike three.

As I walked back towards the dugout, two things happened. First, I heard a varsity player yell out, "Don't worry. You got robbed on that third one." I knew he meant to be encouraging, but I also knew that what he said wasn't true. It was just an excuse. Second, the coach came over to me, put his arm across my shoulders and simply said, "If I put you in, you've got to at least swing the bat." I knew that what he said WAS true.

That was it. That is the extent of my high school baseball career. (I became a swimmer instead!) But even if I only had one at-bat, there are several life lessons that I learned:

We've got to keep our head in the game. So often, we can be unfocused and unaware of what is happening around us. It's good and even necessary for us to be aware of our surroundings, to be attentive to people around us, to be engaged and involved in our families, our neighborhoods, our local communities and the larger world. We can't just be "on the bench" – we need to be engaged and "tuned in."

We need to know the signals. What signals? The signals that God uses to "speak" to us. We need to learn how to be aware of the ways that God seeks to lead us and guide us through the daily events of our lives. This means that we need to spend time in prayer, developing a relationship, taking responsibility to know and understand what God is signaling to us.

We can't rely on excuses. We need to "buck up" and take responsibility for who we are and how we are in the world.



Our Stewardship: June 1-June 30, 2017

Parish Income:

<i>Adult Church Support</i>	4,045.00
<i>Loose Offerings Church Support</i>	98.00
<i>Rental Property Income</i>	400.00
<i>Candle Money & Misc. Income</i>	151.87
Total Income:	\$ 4,694.87

Parish Expenses:

<i>Priests Salary</i>	\$ 276.22
<i>Priest Health Insurance</i>	233.40
<i>Secretary/Bookkeeper Wages</i>	181.28
<i>Housekeeper Wages</i>	34.50
<i>Janitor Wages</i>	49.20
<i>Lay Employees' Benefits</i>	43.42
<i>Telephone</i>	49.26
<i>Office Supplies-Printing & postage</i>	24.10
<i>Food & Provisions</i>	88.38
<i>Altar & Church Supplies</i>	106.08
<i>Meetings & Retreat</i>	189.40
<i>Utilities-Gas & Electricity</i>	44.69
<i>Utilities-Water & Garbage</i>	101.52
<i>Utilities-Water & Garbage - Hall</i>	68.05
<i>Property & Liability Insurance</i>	322.00
<i>KCSS Assessment</i>	6,315.00
<i>Diocesan Administration</i>	117.00
<i>Envelopes</i>	83.71
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	260.77
Total Expenses:	\$8,587.98

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Haiti - Notre Dame de Lourdes	\$ 127.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 110.00

Thank you for your generosity!

We've got to at least swing the bat. This means that we have to give our best efforts to whatever we have before us. We can't just stand there. Instead, we have to try to do our part for the sake of the team, "swinging for the fences" if necessary. When we give our all for the sake of God's kingdom, then God will bless our efforts with great fruitfulness.... Peace. Fr. Kevin

Holy Family Church, Lidderdale

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Holy Family Rosary Society 6-4-2017

President Sherrie Kathol opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 16 ladies present. The Secretary's & Treasurer's report was given by Madonna Meyer. Both were approved.

Old Business: A.) President Kathol reported our Spring Social had 20 people attend and we had an enjoyable evening. **B.)** Pork Chop Dinner had 505 people served. Sherrie thanked all who helped and also worked extra hours. She also thanked Bill & Pat Stork for their excellent help with the food. The net profit from the Pork Dinner was \$3,643.83. **C.)** Church Cleaning was held April 5, 6, & 7.

Youth Ministry: We bought 5 trays of cookies from HyVee for a youth group meeting held May 26. Thank you notes were read from Cheyene Schaefer for the First Communion rosary; Margaret Wenck & Doug Hagemann funerals and The Stork's Nest.

New Business: A.) Agreeing to be officers until such time as we know the outcome for Holy Family Parish are: Jacqui Scharfenkamp-President; Shannon Reising-Vice President; Ruth Lux-Secretary/Treasurer. Kathy Schleisman volunteered to be a Circle Head. It was discussed that we might not need to have Circle Heads. We could keep the 2 circles and possibly have the officers call when a funeral comes up and requires help. **B.)** Sherrie reported that Fr. Collison has reported that Holy Family was behind in our Kuemper assessment. Our assessment is \$6,315.00. We were asked to help out. Madonna Meyer was asked to speak to Sue Seidl to see if we need to write a check for the full amount. **C.)** It was reported that the Treasurer's job was changing due to a study done by the Diocese. All check books will be handled by Sue Seidl. Questions were asked if she will be doing the financial statements and if we pay small bills out of our pockets first and submit the receipts to her to repay at a later date. Madonna Meyer will ask Sue. **D.)** Bingo is scheduled for June 19 at Hawkeye Care Center. Anne Greve and Jayme Kock are in charge. It was discussed what to do about future dates. No future dates were planned. **E.)** June 10 will be our Farewell for Fr. Collison after Mass. It was decided to give Fr. \$200.00 at HyVee. **F.)** Fr. Reiff will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary in the priesthood and we will have coffee & cookies after a Mass in September. **G.)** Questions were asked about any further news on Ministry 2025....Sherrie has said that Fr. Collison has said that no new changes will take place until the new priests arrive. Mass times will stay the same until then. Next meeting is September 2 after 6pm Mass.
— Madonna Meyer

CRHP Weekend Retreats are announced:

Women's Retreat is September 9 & 10, 2017
Men's Retreat is September 30 & October 1, 2017
For more information or to register contact Sue Boes
712-792-1248 or Brandon Nepper 712-790-8316

Something New: by Fr. Brian Feller

This summer I accompanied 70-some Carroll area teens to the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri for the annual Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference July 14-16. The conference's website accurately describes the weekend as "a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, engaging music, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens." It is sponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Along with the teens we had around a dozen adult and young adult group leaders. Connor Sabatka, our CCYM intern, Katherine Dea, the new campus minister at Kuemper, and seminarian Travis Crotty were among them.

The weekend is electric. Kids are singing, worshipping God with ardent and unfettered hearts, and are filled with excitement. Most importantly, Jesus Christ is seeking our teens and they are responding with open hearts. One would hear teen participants say things such as: "That was awesome!" "Mass was long but it was cool" "That was the best confession I have ever had" "Mass made way more sense" "Adoration is my favorite."

Jesus is always seeking us. Our teens are seeking Jesus as well, sometimes intentionally and sometimes unbeknownst to them. I say this because anytime we search for meaning, love, happiness, we in effect search for God, who is the source of all meaning, love, and happiness. And Jesus Christ is the Son of God *in the flesh*. It makes sense that Jesus designates himself as the way, the truth, and the life. The presenters, musicians, and directors of the Steubenville weekend conference understand that our teens need to be engaged in such a way that the teens recognize that a relationship with Jesus *and* active membership in his Church provide for the fulfillment of their desires, the meaning for which they search, and the unconditional love for which they long.

When it comes to the evangelization and catechesis of our parishes' teens, the first requirement is not placed on the teens, but on ourselves (parents, relatives, catechists, priests, etc.). I believe our youth need us to engage their hearts and minds in such ways that they see the Gospel as true, understandable, and relatable to the whole of their lives. Sharing facts about faith is good, but insufficient. How can we stir hearts and enlighten minds?

We must recognize and take advantage of the opportunities for our children to *experience* God (taking children to beautiful celebrations of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, serving those in need, especially the marginalized, etc.). Our youth might need us to describe how we encounter God in these occasions. We must *dialogue* with our children, seeking to understand their perspectives and engage the Catholic faith, way of life, the scriptures, etc. with them clearly, honestly, and intelligently. We must *model* God's unconditional love and the path of following Jesus – both by what we *say* (or don't say) and what we *do* (or don't do). Let us call this approach *Discipleship*. We, the adult members of the Church, are called to invite and form our children as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our CCYM Internship with Connor Sabatka as our intern has gone very well this summer. In cooperation with the Holy Spirit, Connor reflected upon the weekend Mass readings each week in discipleship groups of teens. He started a youth council through which teens could plan youth events and be mentored in the faith. Connor also led praise and worship in Eucharistic Adoration with the Sacrament of Reconciliation each Wednesday night (approximately 50 youth attended on the evening of July 19). The youth are sad to see Connor leave, but he needs to go finish his senior year of college. I am very proud of Connor. We wish him the very best.

But, as Fr. Kevin relayed in his bulletin announcement, we are seeking to hire a full-time youth minister through CCYM to serve all the teens of the county. This is great news! We are not hiring a youth minister to lead the youth *on our behalf*. While the youth minister will continue Connor's good work, he or she will also guide us (the parents, relatives, catechists, priests, etc.) in our efforts to disciple our teens. We do not hire to put the full evangelical responsibility for discipleship on one person, but rather that this one person may help us, the many, better disciple our youth. Please pray for the faithfulness and fruitfulness of this discipleship approach to encouraging and forming our youth in our Catholic faith. Thank you and God bless!