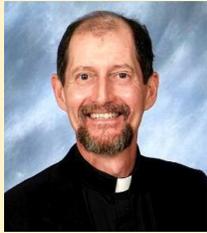




“EMPOWERED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT,...LET US SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST”

— Diocese of Gary Synod 2017 **A Pastoral Response** —



Rev. Douglas J. Mayer

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
On September 8th, 2017, Bishop Donald Hying, published his *Pastoral Response* to move forward with the results of our Synod. You will find the full letter at our website in English and Spanish.

I urge you to read his Pastoral Response so that you can help our parish implement the fruits of the work of the Holy Spirit.

In the days to come we will form a five person Post Synod Team that will be working with our parish ministries and a support group from the Diocese. As a parish, we will need to decide how we are going to implement the Synod Strategies with our own parish initiatives and programs that work for our community.

The Synod results identified the top three initiatives in each of the eight mission pillars (Evangelization, Discipleship Formation, Marriage & Family Life, Sacrament & Prayer, Stewardship, Social Teaching, Vocation & Leadership and Young Catholics), and offered possible strategies. It will be up to us to put flesh on those strategies that make sense for our parish.

Your participation in this process is vital for our parish. Please support our Post Synod team’s work.

Fraternally Yours, Fr. Doug

**The introduction of Bishops Hying’s Pastoral.**

Missionary discipleship has become the organizing focus in the Catholic Church recently, the prism through which believers discuss evangelization, catechesis, prayer, service and virtue. In his final words of the Great Commission, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!” (Matt. 28:19-20), Jesus calls all of the baptized to embrace a life of faith put into action, going out to form others in the liberating and saving power of the Gospel. The entire process of our first synod here in the Diocese of Gary has been both a reflection on and an experience of this dynamic mission, which our Lord handed on to the Church.



In this post-synodal letter, I offer reflections on the nature and urgency of missionary discipleship, the gift, fruit and challenge of our synod process, the significance and

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consequences of the top pastoral priorities in each of the eight mission areas and the details of how we propose to implement the synod on the level of the diocese, the parish, other Catholic institutions and organizations and each individual Catholic disciple.

First of all, I give thanks and praise to God and all of our priest, religious, deacons, ecclesial lay ministers, parishioners, as well as the synod commission members, our parish liaisons, facilitators, delegates and staff, whose mighty efforts made this whole

experience of grace and love possible. For me and for thousands of our people,



the synod was a deep moment of communion, prayer, dialogue, imagining, discerning and prioritizing that has created a solid framework for us to jointly continue the Gospel mission of Jesus Christ for years to come.

We truly experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit in this Upper Room encounter and we are increasingly transformed into the image of Jesus Christ in the beauty and mystery of the Church.



Bishop Donald J. Hying



To read the Synod Pastoral Response in it's entirety, go to: [www.seseton.com](http://www.seseton.com) and click on: News & Events

**Photos by Northwest Indiana Catholic**

One of our first tasks will be to form a five person Post Synod Initiative Team. They will begin discerning the type of initiatives we can do in our parish. I am asking that you participate in that process. To that end, I would like you to suggest any ideas you have to me and the Post Synod Team. How can we accomplish the mission set out for us in the results of the Synod report? Below you will find the top Strategy for each Synod Pillar that we need to address. Email your suggestion to: [pastor@seseton.com](mailto:pastor@seseton.com).



### **Discipleship/Formation**

Establish opportunities for families, adolescents and young adults to get involved in service projects that fulfill their missions as disciples but also benefit others and our communities.

### **Evangelization**

Educate and develop small faith sharing communities at the parish level to provide opportunities for people to share their faith stories, develop relationships, and make their parish a more vital faith home.

### **Marriage & Family**

Provide pastoral support and resources for those navigating troubled marriages, separation and divorce.

### **Social Teaching**

Educate and evangelize people on Catholic social teaching as a "constitutive" part of the Church's mission to the world in order for them to better understand their role in proclaiming, preserving and protecting the moral vision for our society as a people of God. Actively committing to peace and justice is essential to living our faith life with authenticity and fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus.

### **Sacrament, Prayer & Worship**

Responding to their baptismal call, parents are called upon to be primary teachers of the faith to their children. They have the principal duty and responsibility of bringing up their children in the Catholic faith. Emphasize the role of parents in their children's formation and growth in the faith by instilling in them that faith formation is a family affair.

### **Stewardship**

Form and train parishioners in stewardship, encouraging the embrace of a discipleship lifestyle generous with contribution of time, talent and treasure.

### **Vocations & Leadership Formation**

Proclaim the Good News by example and promote an atmosphere of "right relationships" to provide positive role models for vocations.

### **Young Catholics**

Provide young Catholics with opportunities to gather and experience the richness of the Catholic Church and her teachings at the parish, regional and diocesan levels.

## Seton Youth's Mission Trip



Due to your continued enthusiastic support of Seton Youth, our teens had the amazing opportunity this summer to travel to Hardeeville, South Carolina, to serve the poor with Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC). CHWC organizes over fifty camps throughout the United States and internationally to bring youth together in service and worship.

After traveling 900 miles to Hardeeville, we rolled out our sleeping bags on classroom floors in Hardeeville Ridgeland Middle School. Our youth were then divided among fifty work groups of teens from across the country. After a few "icebreaker" games, we began the week, as we did every day, with Mass to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Wake up time every day was at 7 am. After breakfast and Mass we journeyed to our work sites, some an hour away. At these worksites, teens built wheelchair ramps, rebuilt decks, repaired collapsed ceilings and rotten eaves, painted, did minor electrical/plumbing repair, and yardwork. It was hard labor in the high heat and humidity of the southeast. Even those who worked indoors did not escape it as most of the poor do not have air conditioning.

Equal in importance to the work we were doing was the connections our teens made with the people we helped. They live in a different world than our comfortable suburban life. Jobs are scarce, burglaries of their few items of value are rampant, grocery stores are miles away and transportation isn't assured even if they had the money to pay for it. Food stamps only go so far.

At the end of the week, the families we helped were invited to a special presentation at the middle school. The gratitude they expressed was heart-warming, and I know the teens felt they really accomplished something.

Overall, it was a great week. I think mission trips, such as this one, really help our teens learn the true meaning of service to others. My hope is that Seton Youth continues this mission of service in the years ahead, possibly with a sister parish in Haiti.

Andy Byers



Witness and Thanks at the Parish Picnic

# Parish Picnic -2017

Looking at our Summer Fun!



We served at it, cooked at it, played at it, ate at it, gamed at it, got wet at it, and give thanks for it!



## Knights of Columbus—Carmelite Summerfest

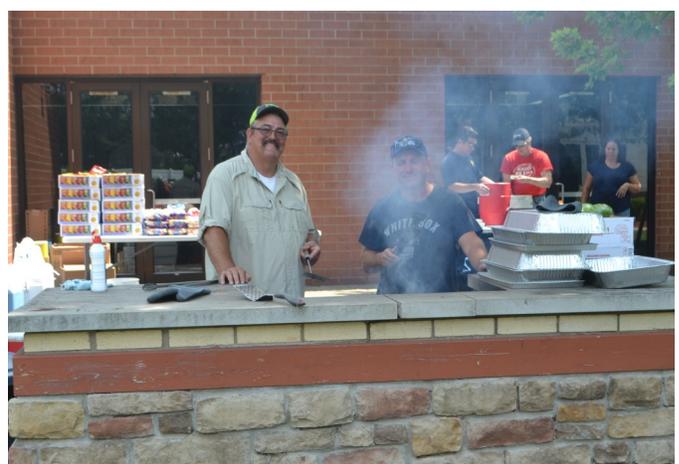


The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights of Columbus Council 7473 sponsored a Summerfest for the children of the Carmelite home in East Chicago, IN on Saturday, August 5. Over 75 children from the Carmelite home enjoyed a fun-filled day which included two bounce houses, games, candy and prizes along with hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones and much more!

Over 40 volunteers and many generous donations helped make the event one that the children will not soon forget. The nuns and staff of the Carmelite Home were truly thankful for the event and next year's Summerfest is already being planned.

Upcoming K of C events include a pork chop dinner at St. Helen's in Hebron on October 14th and our annual Memorial Mass to remember the deceased at St Helen's on November 2nd. There will be a Pancake Breakfast at St Seton on November 12th.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight, please contact Grand Knight Bruce Beck at [219-670-1877](tel:219-670-1877).



## Totus Tuus

This year we embarked on a whole new Youth Ministry called Totus Tuus, which translates from the Latin meaning Totally Yours. This was our parishes "Summer Bible Camp".



Lead by four college age Catholics: Sarah Bergkamp and Jessica Youngers of Kansas, David Martinez and Andrew Wolf, seminarians from our diocese.

We were blessed with 47 children [for grades 1 through 6] in the morning sessions and 12 teens [for grades 7 through 12] in the evening.



The week long event was full of prayer, play, and worship.

The children and teens had a blast. The younger children had faith based story time, opportunities for Reconciliation and Mass each day. The older teens had witness talks and faith based discussions on issues important to their life and experienced different way to pray.

The week long event concluded for the young children by turning Sarah and Jessica into "Human Sundays" using, syrup, whip cream and sprinkles. Then came the water fight. The teens finished their week at Inman's Bowling Alley with a pizza party.



In Memory of our friend Fred

## Preparing to become a Sister Missionary

With the celebration of World Mission Sunday, October is a month that offers Catholics world-wide the opportunity to renew their commitment to proclaim the Gospel and to give greater missionary focus to our parish activities.

As many of you already know Bishop Hying asked the parishes in our diocese to consider adopting a church in Haiti. Our Pastoral Council gave Fr Doug permission to go to the Diocese of Fort-Liberte, Haiti, with Angelique Trevin and Paul Thomas to see how our parish can become a "Sister Parish"

and help support the ministry of a church in Haiti.

Fr. Doug, Annelique and Paul were asked to pay their way to Haiti. They leave on Sunday, November 26th for their 4 day discernment trip. Members of St Mary's in Crown Point, St. Bridget's in Hobart, St. Teresa in Valpo, and St. Casimir's will also be looking to become a Sister Parish to a Haitian church. Hurricane Irma hit northern Haiti and did considerable damage to the houses of the poor in the Cathedral City of Cap Haitien, and to various parishes. Please ask God to bless our missionary efforts.

## Faith Formation 2017-2018



Deb Poturalski

Deb Poturalski, our Director of Faith Formation, kicked off our 2017-2018 year, by welcoming our catechists and aides with a fall themed pot luck supper.

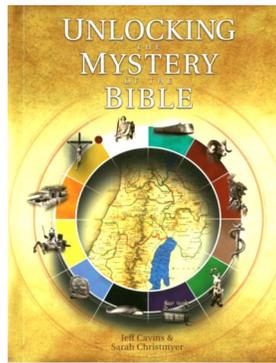


Confirmation students began their fall classes with a retreat lead by the Youth Group on August 27th. Grades 1 through 8 were welcomed back to Faith Formation on Monday September 11th and 12th. Our Faith Formation Open House will be held on the 25th and 26th September. During this time parents and teachers have time to discuss the needs of their respective children.



## Morning Scripture Study

Tuesday Morning Scripture Study began a new 12 week series on September 12th. Everyone is welcome to participate. Even if you missed a session, you can join the group. For more information you can contact Susan Dywan. 219 988 2087



Bible Study starts at 9am



## Evening Scripture Study



Monday evening Bible study gathers at 6:00pm. They discussed the Book of Revelation during the summer.

Everyone is invited to be a part of their next evening series. In October, they will be reading Laura Kelly Fanucci's book: *"Dashed Hope; When*

*Best Laid Plans Fall Apart"*. Watch for it's start up date in the parish bulletin. For more information you may contact Kathy Balmes. 219-765-7785

## Christ Renews His Parish Men and Women

2018 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Christ Renews His Parish Weekend Dates:



**SAVE THE DATE -  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**Women: January 20-21, 2018**

**Men: January 27-28, 2018**



## What is Christ Renews His Parish?

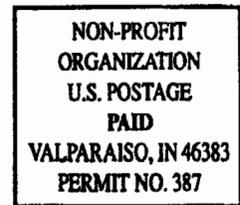
Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) is a spiritual renewal process for members of the parish to experience personal conversion and Christian community in the environment of our parish. It is a gospel based method for personal rebirth and Parish revitalization. The CRHP process has existed since 1969 and has been used as the primary instrument of personal and parish growth in over 1,240 parishes in 36 states and internationally in four other countries.

The weekend is open to ALL Parishioners over the age of 18 and will be held right here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and is FREE of charge.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
509 W. Division Road  
Valparaiso, IN 46385**



## SETON NEWSLETTER



Return Service Requested

509 W. Division Road  
Valparaiso, IN 46385

219-464-1624; fax 219-465-7673

**Email:** [seseton@comcast.net](mailto:seseton@comcast.net)

**Website:** [seseton.com](http://seseton.com)

**Facebook:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

**Masses:** Tuesday-Friday 8 am  
Saturday, 5 pm  
Sunday, 7:30 am, 9 am & 11 am

**Pastor: Rev. Douglas J. Mayer**



## Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

- **Eucharistic Adoration:** October 6 and December 1, 8:30am to Noon
- **Scripture Study:** Tuesday mornings at 9 am
- **Christ Renews His Parish:** Women-Wednesdays at 6:30 pm & Men-Thursdays at 6:30pm
- **Pre Cana Marriage Prep:** November 11th & 19th: Register in person or online.
- **Tired of using or forgetting your envelopes?** Manage your donation online with Parish Pay. It's simple to use and you will never have to worry about forgetting your envelope. Go to [seseton.com](http://seseton.com) and click on the button (Parish Pay/Online Giving). If you need help, please call the office 464-1624.

## Save the Date

- **Confirmation:** Wednesday, October 11th—7pm with Bishop Hying.
- **All Saints (Holy Day):** Wednesday, November 1st at 8 am & 7 pm mass.
- **Memorial Mass:** Thursday, November 2 at 7 pm.
- **Prison Ministry Raffle:** November 4th & 5th after all masses.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Memorial Mass, St Helen's on November 2nd, 7pm
- **Ministry Fair:** November 11th and 12th after each Mass
- **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast:** Sunday November 12th after each mass
- **Commitment Sunday:** November 18th and 19th at Mass
- **Immaculate Conception (Holy Day):** Friday, December 8th at 8 am & 7 pm mass.
- **Advent Communal Penance Service:** Wednesday, December 13th at 7 pm.
- **Christmas Vigil:** December 24th Mass 4 pm and 10:30 pm.
- **Christmas Day:** December 25th Mass 9 am & 11 am.