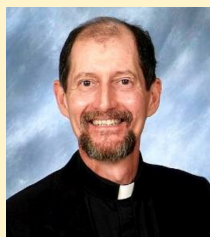




**"EMPOWERED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT,...LET US SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST"**



Rev. Douglas J. Mayer

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### **POST SYNOD ACTION PLAN:** *Parish Vision Statement*

Over the next three years **July 1, 2018 — June 30, 2021**, all of the priest(s), deacons, parish staff as well as parishioners are being asked to focus the work of their ministry through the lens of a **"Post Synod Action Plan"** as created by every parish and institution in our diocese.

Our Post Synod Action Team consisted of Barb Peuquet, Deacon Kim Eaton Sr., Maryanne Krug, Chuck Conlon, Debbie Poturalski and your pastor.

Bishop Hying asked every parish to develop priorities and goals for Evangelization. After that we were to make two more choices from the remaining seven ecclesial areas of church life. We reviewed the input from the Pastoral Council, and found that their top two recommendations were that we concentrate on Young Catholics and Education/Formation.

On the third Sunday of Lent we distributed our Post Synod Action Plan to those in church. The full document is on line at our parish website. We encourage you to prayerfully look at the whole document with the express purpose of taking the time to explore what role you can undertake in this exciting endeavor of our parish to bring to fulfillment the vision of our First Diocesan Synod to foster the New Evangelization in our parish and our diocese. Fr Doug.

SEE PAGE FIVE FOR PARISH PRIORITIES & GOALS

### **Easter Baptism and Confirmations**

Parishioners who attended the 9:00am Mass during Lent, were asked to pray for Brooklyn Montes as she prepared to be Baptized at this years Easter Vigil.



We were also asked to pray for Derek Le Roy, Kevin Fisher and Linda Weber. As baptized Christians, they were preparing to enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter.

Special prayers called the Penitential Rite (Scrutiny), were offered for Derek, Kevin and Linda in advance of them making their First Reconciliation during our Communal Penance Service.

At the Easter Vigil, after Brooklyn was baptized, Derek, Kevin and Linda made a Profession of Faith that they have come to believe what the Catholic Church teaches. With their sponsors at their side, Brooklyn, Derek, Kevin and Linda received Confirmation and received our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.



Nine years ago, Diana Kosmoski approached Fr. Doug with a new idea for a parish ministry. Her idea was that our parish should have a Seder Meal during Holy Week to help parishioners appreciate the importance and significance of the Passover Meal.



In the Christian tradition the Passover Seder is believed to be when Jesus instituted the Eucharist. Gathered at supper with his disciples, Jesus told them, *"I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer because, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."*

Then, taking a cup, he gave thanks and said, *"Take this and share it among you, because from now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes."* Then he took some bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying, *"This is my body which will be given up for you; do this as a memorial of me"*.

He did the same with the cup after supper, and said, *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be poured out for you."* (Lk 22:15-20)

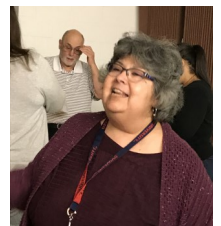
The first year that our parish hosted the Seder meal we had about forty parishioners participate. During the Seder it is tradition for the youngest member of a Jewish family to ask why this night



is special and why they eat special food on that evening. Some years we have invited a family from our parish with young children to sit at a special head table and ask these questions, which help us understand the night our Lord ate with his disciples. Our head table was presided by our three deacons: Mike Prendergast, Brian Nosbusch and Kim Eaton, Sr.



During the meal, there are four times we are invited to take a cup of wine and drink. This year, two hundred parishioners; adults, teens and children shared in food, wine, grape juice, amidst prayer, song and laughter. Our Music Director, Sheila Vaclavik, taught us two Hebrew songs used at Passover. The Bible tells us that Jesus left the Passover Meals singing hymns as they went to the Mount of Olives to prayer. Martha Murphy reflecting on her experience said: "What a wonderful way to get to experience the Passover." This night was a great way of bringing the parish together as we prepared to celebrate Easter.



## SES Bereaved & Homebound Ministries

This past Easter our Ministry again experienced a high volume of flower deliveries to the bereaved and homebound. Your generosity of spirit brought countless numbers of smiles to those who mourn a loss and to those who are unable to participate in parish life.

I applaud the many of you who gave of your time, and those who went the extra mile to bring joy and the true spirit of hope to your fellow parishioners. Thanks to your help, fifty two homebound and bereaved parishioners received an Easter flower.

We want you to know that many people called thanking us for the flowers and for the kindness of your visit!

Many Thanks, Mary Hollis





## Reconciliation -March 17, 2018



Salvador (Sal) Montes III

On March 17, 2018, fifteen of our Faith Formation students received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. The students prepared for this day with their parents, their catechists Denise Dorulla, Nancy Fortunak along with aides Ryleigh Pierce and Cindy Long.

Pictured are Salvador Montes and Ben Michaels. We congratulate the Reconciliation Class of 2018 and continue to pray for them and their families as they continue their journey as disciples of Jesus.



Ben Michaels

## Faith Formation Advent/Christmas Project

Once again the 3 Kings visited each classroom the first week we returned from Christmas Break. The feast of Epiphany offers us the opportunity to think about what Jesus means to us. Like these 3 wise men we look for the star in our lives and follow it. We bring him gifts, especially the gift of our hearts and our love. This story is important because it helps us remember that Jesus came for people of all nations, near and far. Thank you to Deacon Kim Eaton Sr., Jim Murphy and Ed Stram for making this bible story come alive for our students.



## Faith Formation



As our children were collecting money for our sister parish of St. Rock, the adults in the community were doing their part by putting their Lenten Alms in a specially made donation box for St. Rock.



### Caption for St. Rock

Students Grace Markle, Jack Lukas, Emma Mallonee, Analese Castellanos, Tristan and Sebastian Hendzel and Philip Amones) in Jill Ogiego's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation class made containers to collect money for our sisters and brothers at St. Rock Parish in Haiti.



## A letter from our Sister Parish— St. Rock Haiti

*Fr. Romuald, wrote us on February 28, 2018:*

Dear Fr. Douglas, Angelique, and Bob,

Greetings of peace and love during this season of Lent! We hope that you are doing fine despite the huge amount of snow-fall in your place. We received your message and we understand that your parishioners would like to know our priorities now.



Concerning our roads, our government is planning to do something about it these coming months. Since we have seen that they are sending the equipment for the road work to Fort Liberte, we think that they are not far from starting the rehabilitation project. The roads from Saint Suzanne, Dupity, Grosse Roche, until Vallières form a part of the project. So, we believe that it is better for us to wait for the government's intervention before we act, so that we will not waste neither time, effort,



and money.

As of this moment, if we have the financial resources, we would like to increase the salary of the teachers first, just as we told you.

The parish needs donations for the children and their teachers. The parish struggles paying the salaries of their teachers and has difficulty retaining them. The parish can only pay their teachers \$55.00 per month when the public schools pay four times that. The parish school of St Rock serve 250 kids that walk from 20 minutes to 2 ½ hours—one way.



We would also like to start with the project of changing the roof of our Church. This month, we will be preparing the wood coming from the pine trees offered by the parishioners which will be used for the frame (*roof trusses*). We are encouraging people to support the purchase of metal sheets, concrete steel, sand, gravel, and stone. For us to start seriously the project, we do not have yet enough fund to pay for the workforce. We continue motivating people for their contributions and we hope that we can start the (*church roof*) project before our Jubilee celebration this coming August 16.



We are united with you in prayer. Please send our regards to the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Seton.

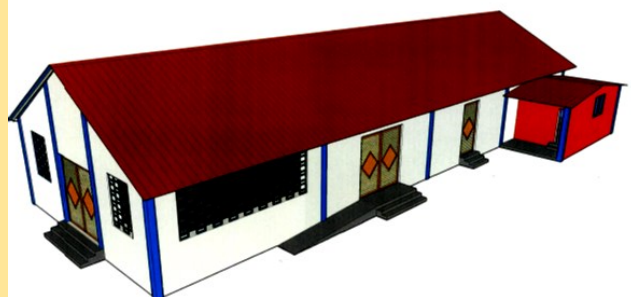
Yours truly,

Rev. Fr. Romuald Pierre, CICM

Rev. Fr. Adrian Louie Atonducun, CICM

The parishioners would like to put a truss roof on the church, strengthen the walls to support the new roof and add a sacristy. On our trip to St. Rock, the parish provided us these drawings of their church project.

PROJET D'AMENAGEMENT DE LA PAROISSE SAINT ROCH DE GROSSE ROCH



Article continued on page 7



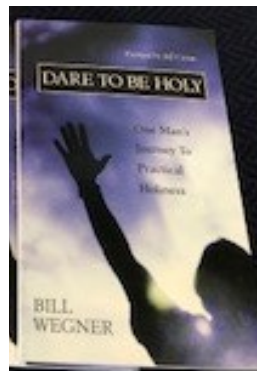
The theme of our Pre Lenten Mission was “Our Call to Holiness. Lay Evangelist Bill Wegner, hosted his first mission talk on Sunday February 4th, at 2pm. As Bill and Fr. Doug walked across the parish parking lot for the first of our mission talks, they faced biting winds and blowing and drifting snow. Fr. Doug feared that folks might not come for the Sunday talk but 150 brave souls arrived for that first talk.

Bill had been a successful Catholic businessman who had given up his high powered life style to serve the Lord. He spoke of his conversion. He said he saw himself as a “good Catholic” who went to church and gave God “His Hour” at Mass. Having attended a parish mission his wife had taken him to, he heard our Lord call him into service and lead him to be a evangelist.



One of the most moving presentations was the night when Bill spoke about Jesus’ invitation to forgive those who hurt us, and how the challenge to live out the gospel message of Jesus can set us free. Bill shared with us how a fellow lay evangelist, staying in his home had made advances towards his wife. “The me Too” experience was not something only on the TV news, it was real for Bill and his wife.

Bill spoke of his anger and sense of betrayal. In his talk, he shared how he felt God had let him down and his wife. He said I told God: “I gave up my career for you, and you let this happen to us.” Bill said he wanted to kill the man who hit on his wife. With help and prayer from others, and the grace that Jesus offered him, Bill kept hearing our Lord’s invitation to forgive that man. One day in prayer, Bill said Jesus told him to get on a plan and forgive that man. As crazy as it seemed he explained how he did just that and felt our Lord’s peace and joy. If you missed the mission, you can read his book: “Dare to be Holy”. You will find it in the parish library.



## Priority 1: Goal 1: To empower the faithful to share their faith in Jesus. (Evangelization 1) Ambassador's for Christ.

**Rationale:** Providing programs and ministry opportunities that strengthen the faithful to live their lives with greater witness to Jesus by the values of the gospel as expressed in their Catholic faith.

## Priority 1: Goal 2: Welcoming Catholics Home (Evangelization)

**Rationale:** St. Elizabeth Seton will develop outreach programs to encourage Catholics to reconnect with their parish family and community.



## Priority 2: Goal 1: To bring Catholics back to the love of the Word and the Eucharist. (Discipleship/Formation)

**Rationale:** Through the dynamic celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist, St. Elizabeth Seton, will work to help members enter into a deeper relationship with our Lord and the parish community.

## Priority 2: Goal 2: To enhance Faith Formation Events and Participation. (Discipleship/Formation)

**Rationale:** St. Elizabeth Seton, will work to create new ways to help young adults and parents in the formation of their family life as a domestic church.

## Priority 3: Goal 1: To engage our teens and youth. (Young Catholics) A Place at the table.

**Rationale:** Develop intentional ministry strategies that animate and inspire soon to be Confirmed and Confirmed HS and young adults in their 20's and 30's.

## Priority 3: Goal 2: To draw young adults and young families back into Catholic life and worship.

**Rationale:** Provide young adults and young families with opportunities to gather and experience the richness of the Catholic Church and her teaching at the parish, and through service events in the church and greater community.

To learn more go to our website: [seseton.com](http://seseton.com) and click on Post Synod Action Plan or contact one of the Goal Champions. Remember, even if you are not on one of the Action Plan Teams, your participation in any of our existing parish ministries will make a huge difference to the life of our parish.



## Christ Renews His Parish Women's Retreat

Our Christ Renews His Parish women's team for 2018 has provided an inspirational retreat. Our team of 16 amazing sisters discerned our various ministries and prayed and worked together. Our theme of "New Beginnings." was hosted on the weekend of January 20 and 21, 2018.

A total of 13 new sisters joined us on the journey as

we all looked for and embraced New Beginnings,



We shared a memorable weekend in faith and love and sisterhood. Our hearts and minds were opened to the love of Jesus. As we were embraced in His loving arms, the team dedicated our path to Our Lady Undoer of Knots. The entire team is most grateful to the generosity of our parish in providing pleasant accommodations to the team as well as our new participants. The entire Christ Renews His Parish community came forward in prayer and assistance for the weekend and beyond. A weekend of faith and love is one that we will always hold in our hearts, as we reflect upon and "Celebrate New Beginnings."

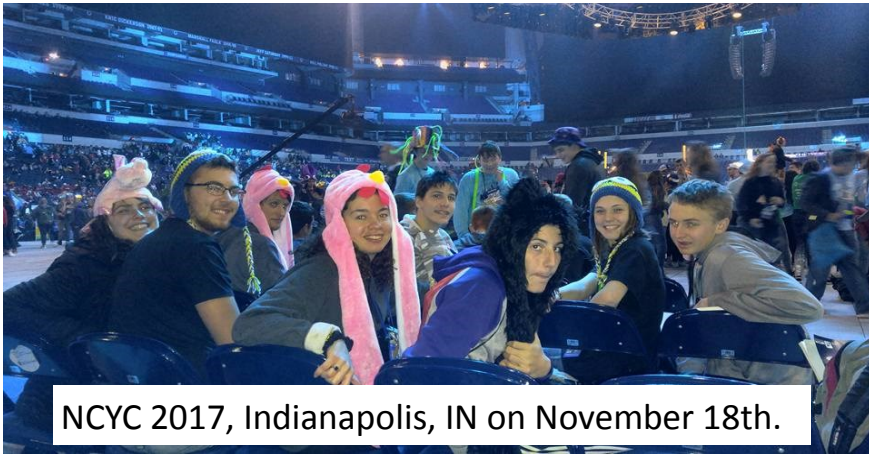
## LIVING STATION BY "SETON YOUTH"



Cast: Narrator: Chris Rohe, Jesus: Aaron Lukas, Centurion: Steve Mathew, Guards: Carine Milne & Cody Hinchley, Pontius Pilate: Cody Horan, Attendant: Anna Hanusin, Mary: Maggie Moore, John: Christian Mathew, Simon: Danny Herr; Veronica: Kalyssa Milne. Props/Sound/Lights: Nathan Herr, Mary and Lily Hanusin, Hayden Maggio, Kalyssa Milne and Maggie Moore. "The Lord's Prayer" and "Were You There" performed by Pam Byers.



## Seton Youth in Action



NCYC 2017, Indianapolis, IN on November 18th.

Seton Youth, planning another great event....will you be there?



Seton Youth Facebook

Greetings from Maggie Moore, Kevin Dywan, Steven Mathew, Tiffany Vero, Dan Tehan, Ray Wickstrom, Christian Mathew, Jon Tehan, Aaron Lukas, Lilly Hanusin, Anna Hanusin, Mary Hanusin and Stephanie Hudson. Looking to have a good time, we would love to have you join us. Check us out. Hope to see you at one of our Saturday night gatherings at church or off site, after the 5pm mass.



January 4, 2018, Valparaíso Ice Rink

## Our Sister Parish— St. Rock Haiti Raising a Church Roof

Dear sisters and brothers,

There are a number of ways we can help support the people of St Rock parish. We would ask you to lift them up in prayer each day, as they face many challenges.

If you would like to help them fund the parish school teacher's salaries and or assist them with their efforts to put a new roof on their church and build a sacristy, consider making a donation to support their dreams.

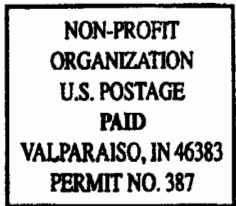
You can either send a check made out to our church: St Seton and mark the memo of your check: for "St Rock", or you can make the check out to the Diocese of Gary and mark the memo "St Rock/Haiti". On our website: [seseton.com](http://seseton.com), you could make an electronic donation. On our home page scroll down and click on the "We Share/Online Giving" and follow the prompts to make your donation to St Rock parish in Haiti.



Drawing of the new front of St Rock Church. Inside pictures of church as it exists.



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



Return Service Requested



## SETON NEWSLETTER

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

- **Formed.org:** Spiritual opportunities for Adults, Teens and Children. Enter parish access code **QH8MQK**.
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday, May 5th and June 1st.
- **Monday evening Scripture Study:** This group meets every Monday evening at 6:30 pm. Please contact Kathy Balmes, 219-765-7785.
- **Tuesday morning Scripture Study:** This group meets every Tuesday morning at 9 am. Please contact Sue Dywan, 219-988-2087.
- **Totus Tuus [Totally Yours]** - July 23rd to July 27th for Youth entering grades 1-6.
- **Totus Tuus [Totally Yours]** - July 23rd to July 27th for Youth entering grades 7-12. TOTUS INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION COMING VERY SOON!
- **Tired of using or forgetting your envelopes?** Manage your donation online with WeShare. 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 (WeShare/Online Giving)). If you need help, please call the office 464-1624.



Pledges and donations to help the parish reach our CSA goal of \$53,822.00 are greatly appreciated. If you have not made a pledge, you may do so by writing a check to St. Elizabeth Seton and mark memo "CSA 2018" and send it to the parish or drop it in the collection basket. Thank you for helping make our goal.

### Save the Date

- **Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 3, 2018.
- **Parish Picnic:** Sunday, July 22nd.