



Summer 2026

Our Lady Queen of Peace Spirit

Volume 33, Number 3



**Worship.
Grow.
Connect.
Serve.**

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Behind the Scenes: The Role of Sacristan

Submitted by Caleb Mitchell, Director of Liturgy and Pastoral Music



If you look up the definition of “sacristan” in the dictionary, it says “one who is in charge of the sacristy and its contents.” What that definition fails to include is what happens in the sacristy that the sacristan oversees! Here at Our Lady Queen of Peace, our dedicated sacristans work diligently behind the scenes to ensure our liturgical celebrations are without any bumps. From checking in liturgical ministers, preparing the bread and wine for each Mass, answering questions, attending to medical emergencies, you name it – sacristans keep everything in line!

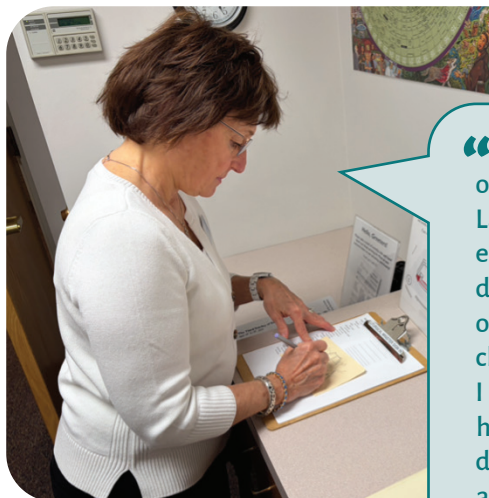
When asked why being a sacristan is an enriching experience for their faith lives, the following Our Lady Queen of Peace sacristans replied:

“Being a sacristan has enabled me to meet many QP parishioners and share our faith together in a welcoming, reverent, organized, and prayerful environment for all!”

Doris Neumann, Sacristan Representative to the Liturgy Commission

“Being a sacristan has enriched my spiritual growth by expanding my connections to fellow parishioners. Being watchful of the servers, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers increases my acquaintances with other parishioners. I find this role to be very satisfying, and I am grateful I was asked to serve in this way.”

Cathy Andrews, 8:00 am Mass Sacristan



Rosie Daniels checking liturgical ministers in for Mass.

“I am very humbled to be a part of the sacristan community at Our Lady Queen of Peace. This beautiful experience has given me a chance to deepen my relationship with Jesus, our church, and community; it has changed my life forever! The blessings I have received while in this role have filled my heart and soul with a deepened sense of gratitude, patience, and love that I just can't explain!”

Rosie Daniels, 8:00 & 9:30 am Mass Sacristan

“Being a sacristan has given me a deeper understanding and reverence for the Eucharist. After Mass when I’m cleaning the chalice and ciboria, I feel God’s presence as if I am the only one he is with. It’s an amazing feeling.”

Amy Ehlert, 5:00 pm Mass Sacristan



Amy Ehlert preparing ciboria with hosts that are baked by Benedictine Sisters in Missouri.

“One of my favorite things about being a sacristan at Queen of Peace is getting to know all of the amazing parishioners who volunteer their time to make our Masses so wonderful. The community that we have is so dear to me and what belonging to a church is all about. I was raised Presbyterian and my grandfather was a Baptist minister. We went to all kinds of churches when I was growing up depending on if we were visiting others or what was being celebrated. The foundation that I learned was that having faith was critical but that the church and religion that you participated in was about your family and your community. I am so blessed that my husband and I found QP. My most memorable times as a sacristan were during the pandemic when it was frequently just me and Father Rich preparing for Mass and we would do both the 9:30 and 11:15 am masses on Sunday. During this time, we talked a lot about his calling to the priesthood, his preparation for Mass, and the Scriptures that were being proclaimed that day. These conversations gave me a deeper appreciation of not only his journey as a priest but the journey of all clergy. It also really deepened my relationship with the Scripture that we discussed. I treasure those memories. I think of it as one of the small silver linings of such a difficult time for the world.”

Beth Zuehlke, 9:30 am Mass Sacristan

“I enjoy participating in the Mass as a sacristan because it makes the Mass more meaningful for me. I’ve always enjoyed serving in a supportive role, and a sacristan makes sure everyone and everything is in place so that the presider can focus on the Mass. I try to help all the other ministers feel at ease and appreciated for their service to each other and to God.”

Lisa Haas, 11:15 am Mass Sacristan



Wendy Gonring portioning out hosts between liturgies.

As you can read, the most fulfilling thing for a sacristan is meeting and greeting all of our volunteers and those who come to worship at QP on the weekends. As the Director of Liturgy, I know I can always count on our sacristans to prepare for liturgy!

Thank You to Our Sacristans

Anita Allison
Cathy Andrews
Dina Boyle
Rosie Daniels

Karen Demick
Amy Ehlert
Renee Forrest
John Geroux
Wendy Gonring

Lisa Haas
Jane Imholte
Therese Kolan
Austin Lacey
Liz Lacey

Char Lodl
Sue Mokrohisky
Doris Neumann
Beth Zuehlke

Six Years Into the Racial Justice Ministry Mission

Every person's faith journey will look different from the next person. What we all have in common is that our journeys follow Jesus' Great Commandment. In this three-part commandment, Jesus tells us that our faith will grow by loving, serving, and seeking to know God, our neighbor, and ourselves more deeply each day.

The Queen of Peace Racial Justice Ministry started in 2020 with a mission to help parishioners grow in their faith by loving, serving, building relationships with and more deeply understanding their neighbors. Through various offerings over the last six years, the Racial Justice Ministry has helped parishioners learn about, pray about, and interact with our neighbors.

For example, in the fall of 2025 we offered a three-part series focused on our Native American neighbors. A new version of the *Stations of the Cross*, focusing on First Nations peoples and enhanced with artwork by renowned iconographer Father John Giuliani, brought to life issues that Indigenous peoples have historically grappled with and continue to face today. Nearly 50 people joined us to grow their faith journey of loving their neighbor through prayer. Watch for these *Stations* to be present again in our chapel in the fall of 2026.

In another segment of the series, we watched the documentary, *Bad River*, that added to our faith journey by educating us about the ongoing plight of our Ojibwe neighbors in northern Wisconsin.

The final part of the series was a book study, using *Medicine River*, a book written by Ojibwe author Mary Annette Pember, to expand

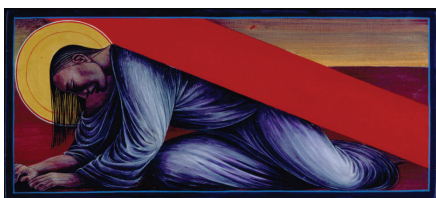
our love of neighbor by reading a first-hand account of the trials of growing up and living in Wisconsin as a Catholic American Indian.

Learning about our neighbors has provided many opportunities for

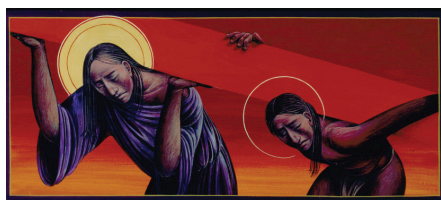
growing our faith. The Racial Justice Ministry hopes you will join us for future offerings as we grow our faith by learning what it means to love our neighbor.



The 1st Station: Jesus Is Condemned to Death
by Fr. John Giuliani



The 3rd Station: Jesus Falls the First Time
by Fr. John Giuliani



The 5th Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross by Fr. John Giuliani

Summer Calendar

June 14, 2:30 pm

QP at the Madison Mallard's Duck Pond for Faith and Family Night, first pitch 4:05 pm

June 20 & 21, After All Masses

Hospitality Weekend with donuts, fruit, and beverages

June 21, 12:30 pm

Faith in Stone Blessing and Dedication. Meet at the west entrance of the church, near the Parish Center

July 3

Parish office closed

July 8, 7 am-7 pm

Pilgrimage to Champion, WI: \$85 pp, register at Parish Center

July 14, 6 pm

Men's Prayer & Study Group in the Parish Center

July 15, 6:15 pm

A Magnifica Humanitas Discussion in the Gathering Space

July 18, 6:30 pm

QP Movie Night

July 19, After All Masses

Hospitality Weekend with food, coffee from our sister parish in Chiapas, juice, and milk

July 20

QP Golf Outing at Hawk's Landing

August 7, 8:30 am

Daily Mass with Spirit and Sustenance Gathering afterward

August 17, 6:30 pm

Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors and Communicating Effectively in the Gathering Space

August 12, 6-8 pm

QP in the Park's Ice Cream Social at Garner Park's main shelter, sponsored by Father Brian and Father Jay

August 15 & 16, After All Masses

Hospitality Weekend

August 22 & 23

Backpack Blessing at all Weekend Masses

August 25

First day of school for Queen of Peace K-8th students (1/2 Day)

August 27

First day of school for Queen of Peace 4K students (1/2 Day)

September 4, 8:30 am

Daily Mass with Spirit and Sustenance Gathering afterward

September 7, Labor Day

Parish office closed

September 10, 1-5 pm

QP Red Cross Blood Drive in the Gathering Space



The Pilgrimage Group outside the walls of Avila in Spain.

A MARIAN (AND MORE) PILGRIMAGE

Submitted by Cheryl Horne, Pastoral Associate

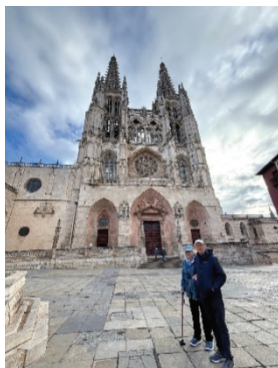
This past spring, 35 people, most of whom are part of the parish family at Our Lady Queen of Peace, went on a pilgrimage. Together we went to the Marian apparition sites of Fatima in Portugal and Lourdes in France. We also went to see the Eucharistic Miracle in Santarem, Spain, and the home of St. Theresa of Avila. We ended our pilgrimage in France by visiting the Church of the Miraculous Medal, the tomb of St. Vincent DePaul, and the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Along the way we saw local churches, basilicas, and cathedrals that surprised and amazed us – and left us all with a renewed awareness that catholic (with a small c) means universal. Between all that we saw, all the places we prayed, the people we met and the ways that the Holy Spirit was moving among us ... it was, as many have said, the journey of a lifetime.



On the last day of the trip I asked people for a short reflection on their experiences. I was told, by nearly everyone I asked, that they needed time to process all they had seen and experienced: It was all too overwhelming to sum up so soon. Over the course of the following weeks, responses began to drift in as people began to realize that, like all good and holy pilgrimages, we returned changed. Following are some of those responses.

Tom and Mary Buroker

The Pilgrimage to Europe was full of beauty and camaraderie. We made many new friends who have now become old friends. We bonded very quickly as a group as Msgr. Larry said Mass each day in a different chapel or church. To see Fatima in person is mind blowing. It is huge, full of people praying together in many different languages. To realize we were walking near the spot that Our Lady appeared to the children was amazing.



Tom and Mary Buroker outside the Burgos Cathedral in Spain.

Then when we arrived at Lourdes, my jaw hit the floor. It was even larger and grander than Fatima. The grotto where Bernadette saw Our Lady was small and inviting. The waters of Lourdes were available for anyone to sample and take home.

It was such a fantastic feeling of communion with one another and of closeness with the Blessed Mother and her Son.

It was such a fantastic feeling of communion with one another and of closeness with the Blessed Mother and her Son.

Our favorite part was being in Lourdes and celebrating Mass at the grotto right where Our Lady had appeared to St. Bernadette many years ago. Hundreds of people from all over the world praying together – each in their own language, but all of us praising God. Reciting the rosary, we felt so alive in that holy place. It

One stop we made was at Santarem – the site of a Eucharistic miracle. It was the first one most of us had ever seen. We were able to see the body and blood of Jesus Christ right in front of us. The DNA had been investigated by three atheist scientists and it was a match to the DNA of the Shroud of Turin!

The trip was an incredible blessing for us.

Flo Roth

There are so many special memories from this pilgrimage, but I have just touched on a few for you:

- One of the highlights was that Msgr. Larry was able to celebrate Mass for us in the grotto at The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- The candlelight procession at Our Lady of Fatima after the rosary where Cheryl lead the fourth decade of the Rosary for everyone.
- The Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of Lourdes, the beautiful chapels that we were able to visit there, all the Masses we were able to celebrate together, and all the friends we made along the way.
- Going to Avila was such an added bonus to visit the home of St. Theresa of Jesus and the private Mass at the cathedral.
- Our visit to Paris ... Notre Dame, the river cruise, the city tour, and seeing the Eiffel Tower were all so special.

The greatest part about this trip of a lifetime was all the very special people who traveled together.



Rolf Rietz

Of course, Msgr. Bakke's Masses every day were wonderful, but I was amazed when we saw walls around the city of Avila. This brought home the fact that the Moors had tried to take over parts of Spain for several centuries.

Mary Brown

I've always wanted to help people, but being around others drains me quickly. I get "peopled out," and my selfish desire to do what I want, when I want, doesn't exactly mix with serving others. So a few days into the pilgrimage, I was short tempered and impatient. In my mind, people weren't listening or moving fast enough. Not exactly the spirit of a pilgrimage.



The pilgrimage group outside of the Basilica at Lourdes.

Then came Msgr. Larry's homily. I don't remember his exact words, but what I heard cut straight through me. I finally understood that I would never have enough love or compassion on my own to help others without burning out. So I stopped trying to rely on myself. When I stepped out of the way, God stepped in. He made it easy to help with humility and joy.

On this trip, I realized what the saints, artists, and builders of basilicas, monasteries, chapels, and miracles have been saying for over 2,000 years: God loves you. God is always with you. God is love. And nothing is impossible with God.



Bridget Murphy, Cathy Andrews, Mary Stein, and Val Heinzen in front of the Basilica at Lourdes.

Cathy Andrews

I don't think I've thoroughly processed this trip and what it meant to me, but I will share where I'm "at" right now.

This trip was a dream come true as being a Cradle Catholic, I learned about the Miracles of Fatima and Lourdes as a little girl. Being able to be there, on the actual sights, was so moving. One of the moments that "took my breath away" was when we stood outside

the home of two of the children in Fatima seeing the actual wall where their very famous picture was taken. I came close to matching the stones behind them with those I was seeing right in front of me. I was also captivated at Lourdes when standing across from the river. I could see the Blessed Mother in the grotto with the beautiful cathedral atop the wet rocks fulfilling her request to St. Bernadette - build a Church here. I am also struck by the reverence and love I felt when entering so many beautiful cathedrals honoring Jesus and our faith,

in the beautiful stained glass windows and architecture that is centuries old. Preserving and caring for these structures demonstrates the love we share from those who came before us - their artisanship and devotion - that each of our guides made so clear for us.

It is hard to put into words what I feel, but maybe the above will help you in some way. For the fun part, I loved meeting new people from our parish and those who aren't, sharing our faith together and seeing how they live it in their daily lives. It truly was a trip of a lifetime for me.

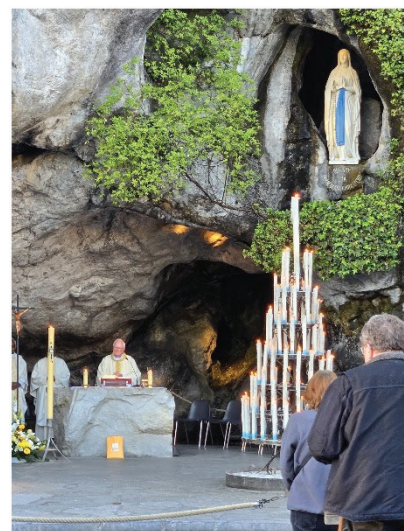
Marietta Reuter

There were so many incredible moments on this trip. Here are my Top 3: Cheryl leading part of the rosary procession in English, the morning Mass in Lourdes with Fr. Bakke right at the grotto, and in Paris, when six of us enjoyed after-hours drinks and street viewing of the 11:00 pm Eiffel Tower glitter show that was a block away. It was a great bonding time! So many beautiful memories!

Martina Reuter

Some of my favorite moments:

- Getting to experience Mass with Msgr. Bakke in one of the coolest places in the world: the Lourdes grotto where Our Lady of Lourdes appeared. You could feel the sacredness and extra presence of our Lord and our Mother during this Mass. I often reflect on it while praying after the trip, that I can go back to that moment and feel the peace and serenity I experienced.
- Our last dinner together and getting to talk about everyone's favorite days and moments on this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Sharing one final meal in each other's company and knowing that we would soon be going our separate ways, but in that moment, being together was perfect (and loud!).



Msgr. Larry presiding at Mass in the grotto in Lourdes.

Charles James

I've known about Fatima, Avila, and Lourdes most of my life. It was good to visit all three places, to see what those who experienced the visitations by Mary did on a daily basis.

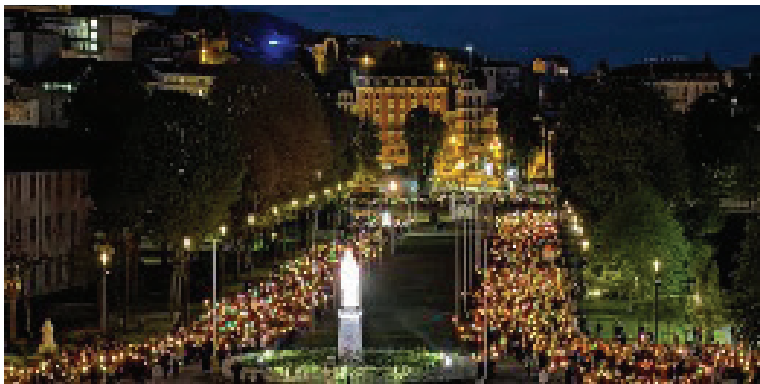
I was especially impressed with Lourdes, not only for its spiritual value, but also because of its medicinal focus. People come from all over the world to find comfort, if not a cure, and to spend time with others who have the same experiences. The community present in the basilica, grotto, and garden was impressive. Also, Lourdes is a real town, not just a tourist

attraction. While some of our pilgrims were enjoying the baths, Rolfe and I walked into town and discovered the cemetery where St. Bernadette's parents are buried. In the 1970s, I visited the town (Nevers) where she died. That circle is now complete.

I have a somewhat unusual connection to Avila. As some may know, I'm a native of Kansas City, Missouri. I attended Rockhurst High School and Rockhurst College, both Jesuit institutions there. When I was going to school both institutions were all male. The high school still is. What did Catholic girls do? They attended St. Theresa's Academy and Avila College. Although I knew little about the saint or her city back then, I did know the names. I'm glad that I've been able to learn more about both. That's another small circle now complete.

Judy Doughty

All of the trip's experiences were memorable. Traveling to the many religious sites and having daily Mass with other people of faith was a tremendous blessing. While all our stops were meaningful, I was especially touched by Lourdes because of the access to the grotto (My fondness may be influenced by the warmer weather. I didn't have warm enough clothing for Fatima.) The highlight of the Lourdes visit was Msgr. Larry presiding at our Mass in the grotto.



Jenn Dobson

It is so hard to choose, but the processions at Fatima and Lourdes especially stood out to me. I was expecting small to medium-sized crowds, especially given the inclement weather at Fatima, and was overwhelmed by the size of the crowds in both cases. Catholics as far as the eye could see! Much like our time in Vatican Square nearly two years ago, the crowd heartened and humbled me. It gave me great hope and an overwhelming sense of peace seeing not only the sheer number of people but also so many different nationalities, ages, genders, abilities, etc., all coming together to unite under our faith. What beautiful scenes to witness and be part of.

Altogether it was more than nine stunning churches, two unforgettable candlelight processions, roughly 11,000 steps a day, three countries, and countless stories of fascination, fun, and faith. In short, it was a great way to come to know God and our church, our faith, and ourselves a little better by going where Mary went.

Watch for upcoming pilgrimage opportunities – both local, in-state, and further afield!

“My House Shall be Called a House of Prayer for All People!”

Submitted by Joy Dohr, QP Prayer Network

In reading a book about prophets in the Bible, the point was made that prophets spoke about people and communities' relationships with God. Think of Jeremiah, Isaiah, or even one of Paul's letters. While the QP Prayer Network offers thanks and prays for individuals, these prayers have larger, collective meaning. We are praying for our Church, our faith, and all people. I then asked a young adult who is so insightful, “How does your group discuss collective prayer?” Her answer, “It's pretty basic, as we start with the *Our Father*.”

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish shares weekly and daily collective prayer and prayer times. When in the place, we get a glimpse of the meanings of our faith. Through and with Fr. Brian, Fr. Jay, Deacon Mark, Liturgist Caleb Mitchell, and Pastoral Associate Cheryl Horne, plus other staff and many contributors, we reflect and remind ourselves this is about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. We have a lead and we want to know deeply the Three-in-One in order to grow.

Wondering how we act and give more attention to understanding and expressing collective prayer for our people, our community, and beyond, several ideas came to mind:

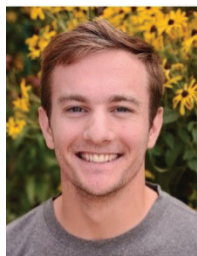
- The Mass is our collective prayer. It's the basic “Our.”
- The building where we come is sacred space. It's where we connect and join with others and our Lord. And boy, do we need them. We see wholeness of life there: pain, struggles, death, birth, joy, fun, thanks.
- The prayers of intentions focus our thoughts. While we respond “Hear OUR prayer,” have we really listened? Might we take these intentions with us to repeat as we go forward.
- When we pray for peace, might we express it as, “may we have God-listening hearts.” Knowing that generally a sense of community where care and love exist will over time gain peace. It's the journey we are on.
- As we revisit parables and miracles of the Bible, may we see and reflect on others. For example, the Prodigal Son story has so much of life, emotions, actions, and thought for dwelling. While some might relate to the son leaving and returning, some relate to the son who stays and works with the father. I ask myself, “How do we act as the father does?” We see both sons are loved even though they have different approaches and experiences. We see a collective goodness where all are welcomed. We see and are amazed at such truth.

These thoughts underscore repeating: “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.” We are in it together as disciples.



Ministry, New Paths, and God's Providential Plan

By Cheryl Horne, Pastoral Associate



Noah Gonring

On July 1, Noah Gonring will officially become the Director of Youth Ministry for Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish and I couldn't be more happy or more proud.

Noah is a graduate of Notre Dame, of Memorial High School, and of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish School.

He was Baptized, received his First Reconciliation, First Communion, and was Confirmed at QP. Last June, he and his high school sweetheart, Malia Bessen, were married at QP. And soon, we hope to see their first child baptized here as well.

Noah is truly a son of the parish – as well as the son of Ben and Wendy Gonring, also longtime parishioners here at QP.

For the last three years, Noah has been working as our Youth Ministry Associate; taking on more responsibilities in the ministry each year – even while he has been teaching part time at our school. Now the time has come – and God (along with Fr. Brian) have called him to full-time Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

I am so excited for him, for our young people, and for our parish!

I have been Director of Youth Ministry for over two decades and it has been one of the great joys of my life. But 20+ years is a long time for one voice in Youth Ministry. The fact that Noah is here, that he studied Theology at Notre Dame, that he wanted to come back to Madison – all at exactly the right time – simply feels like God's providence.

This change in staffing also frees me up to do so much more in the way of ongoing adult faith formation, Bible studies, pastoral care, pilgrimages and retreats, and social justice work with the parish.

It's a wonderful new jumpstart for all of us!

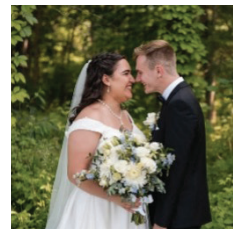
Recently, as we were reflecting on this new chapter, I asked Noah what he thought about this impending change in his life.

Noah: *I have been a face in the pews for the last 25 years, or in other words, my whole life. My earliest memories of the Faith involve 9:30 am Masses at Our Lady Queen of Peace where I tried my best not to pester any of my three brothers (or my parents) during Msgr. Ken's homilies.*



As a high school junior, after receiving all of my Sacraments of Initiation at QP, I came back to the Bagels and Basics classroom with Cheryl as a small-group leader – planting seeds for a future in Youth Ministry without even realizing it.

My college years brought me to new churches, basilicas, and chapels on the Notre Dame Campus where I studied Environmental Science and Theology. My vision for life beyond college changed many times throughout my four years: from a freshwater biologist, to a farmer, to a teacher, but did not solidify into anything concrete. So I came back to Madison after graduating without a confident plan, but I did find a job working as a pool supervisor. I found myself with a good amount of free time around that job, and so when Cheryl asked to chat with me about helping with Youth Ministry, I figured I could volunteer a good amount of time. Cheryl had another idea in mind: a part-time job as her Associate in Youth Ministry! I remembered my time in Bagels and Basics fondly, and it would allow me some good teaching practice, so I happily accepted the role. It has been three years now since accepting, and I haven't looked back. Many things have changed since then. I got married to my high school sweetheart, Malia, I taught for two school years in the Our Lady Queen of Peace Middle school, and Malia and I just became new parents!



Mr. and Mrs. Noah and Malia Gonring
June 14, 2025.



Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Noah Gonring, and some of the high school students on a Mission Trip to Denver in 2024.

There have been many signs pointing me in the direction of maybe one day taking over the Youth Ministry and Young Adult Program, and when the position was offered to me this spring, I felt confident in God's plan for me, and accepted the position. I am still a face in the pews, and now I will be Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry too. †

As Noah and I have discussed this change in both our paths, one thing is clear – we feel God's hand in all of it. And we can't wait to see all the amazing things God has in store for us and for our parish as we move forward!



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Father Brian's Message

Dear Friends,

We are happy to provide you with a copy of our most recent Queen of Peace Spirit newsletter. It contains timely information about parish happenings and initiatives. Please read it and share it with others you know who may have an interest.



As we come to the close of both our programming and fiscal years there are a number of activities that are worth celebrating. Our school just finished a faith-filled and academically fulfilling year. Religious education, adult enrichment, social action, OCIA, sacramental preparation, and the overall participation in our liturgical life helped to build our community and to unite us as the Body of Christ.

Beginning July 1, we will have a full-time Youth and Young Adult Director. Mr. Noah Gonring, who has been filling this role part time while teaching science in the school, will assume the position on a full-time basis. He brings great energy to our staff and will be a terrific addition. Cheryl Horne will be stepping back from her role in youth activities to concentrate on pastoral care and enrichment programs. She will be assisted by Sylvan Bachhuber who is our Parish Health Associate. It is great to be at "full staff" as we begin another year of building the faith.

While final numbers will not be available until a bit later in the summer, it appears that we will be ending the fiscal year on June 30 in a solid financial position. The projected budget for the next fiscal year also indicates a solid position. I want to thank everyone for their financial support over the past year, particularly when we faced a cash flow issue last fall. The response was overwhelming as people looked at their parish financial support and made very generous adjustments. I encourage all of you to maintain your level of support, adjust it when you can, and continue to help us in our mission of being Christ's presence in the community. Once final numbers are available, we will be doing our annual report to outline things in detail. Thank you for your continued support.

Have a blessed and faith-filled summer.

Rev. Brian J. Webb

Special thanks to the staff and parishioners of Queen of Peace for their contributions to this newsletter.