



Our Lady Queen of Peace

# Spirit

Anniversary Issue

Volume 28, Number 3

## Evangelization

is the theme of this issue  
of the Spirit Newsletter

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## Celebrating 75 Years OF WORSHIP, WORD, AND SERVICE

**As Catholic Christians, we are tasked with not only *living* the Gospel message of love, but *spreading* the Gospel message of love. How has evangelization looked in our parish over the last 75 years?**

The original six families couldn't possibly have envisioned a parish with over 2,800 families, a church that seats 1,100, a school with an enrollment of 460+ students including grades K4-8, classrooms with state-of-the-art technology, a gymnasium, a parish center, and three homes. They couldn't possibly have imagined a parish organization with two councils, seven commissions, and hundreds of volunteers participating in over 50 different ministries. Or did they?

When Father Bernard Doyle assumed his duties as pastor on December 12, 1945, Our Lady Queen of Peace became the first new parish in Madison in over 20 years, with a membership of 318 families.

There were no buildings yet, but together these families began to participate in parish life. Baptisms were held in the Edgewood Sister's Chapel, weddings and funerals took place at Blessed Sacrament Church, and Sunday Masses were celebrated in the Edgewood High School Auditorium. Parish organizations were soon formed including the Queen's Guild and the Holy Name Society, to organize and encourage social and educational activities within the parish. The Dominican Sisters at Edgewood conducted religious education classes for parish children. *Evangelization.*

All the while, the vision of a church and school was taking shape. Parish members valued a Catholic education so much that the school was built first, opening in the fall of 1949, and staffed by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa. The multipurpose building also served as a residence for the teaching Sisters, a social and recreational center, and a temporary church. Masses were held in the recreation hall (also used as a gymnasium). The first social event in the new recreation hall was a basket supper and square dance sponsored by the Queen's Guild. The National Catholic Society of Foresters Court #597 was organized in 1949, providing insurance, fundraising, and social activities. A Boy Scouts Troop

*continued on page 2*



and a Girl Scouts Troop were both established in 1950. *Evangelization.*

By 1952 the single building could no longer accommodate the needs of the growing parish, now over 800 families with a school enrollment of 410 students. In June of 1954, construction on the church began, and on December 8, Msgr. Francis McDonnell, pastor, laid the cornerstone of the new church. By 1957, parish membership surpassed 1,000 families, school enrollment was 515 students, and CCD (religious education) classes had 812 public school students registered. By 1965, the parish had grown to 1,708 families. By this time, Our Lady Queen of Peace was joined by three other west side Catholic parishes: St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Joseph. *Evangelization.*

The 1960s and 1970s saw major changes in the celebration of the liturgy, including greater participation by the laity as encouraged by Vatican II. Lay men and women were invited to be lectors, commentators, and Eucharistic ministers. The communion rail was removed from the sanctuary. Priests now faced the congregation and no longer said the Mass in Latin. Women were no longer required to cover their heads. Girls were allowed to be altar servers. Contemporary guitar music became a popular part of the Mass.

In 1968, a Parish Council was formed, also an outgrowth of Vatican II. Commissions established included Business Affairs, Ecumenical & Social Action, Education, Liturgy & Renewal, Long Range Planning, and Parish Life & Activities. On November 27, 1968, west side churches, Protestant and Catholic, participated in an ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Our Lady Queen of Peace. *Evangelization.*

In 1969, a group of parishioners formed the Queen of Peace Campers, who camped together each summer well into the late 1980s. The first Pancake Breakfast was held in March 1971 as a School & Family fundraiser and a major social event for the parish which continues today. A funeral choir and a funeral luncheon program were established in 1977, as well as a home communion ministry for the homebound. Chi-Rho, a religious education program for parish high schoolers, was changed to Youth Ministry. *Evangelization.*

In 1981, Our Lady Queen of Peace became the first Catholic church in Madison to support "Hunger in Dane County," a program with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The parish also launched the Reach Out program, with over 200 volunteers helping fellow parish members with rides to appointments, raking, shoveling, meals, shopping, etc. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was established at our parish in 1984, for adults interested in joining the Catholic faith. *Evangelization.*

In 1990, Fr. Edward Erbe initiated the *Spirit Newsletter* sensing a need to communicate God's work within our large parish. In 1991, the school adopted the motto, "Love in every word. Respect in every action. Confidence in every heart."

In June of 1993, Msgr. Ken Fiedler became the fourth pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Parish membership had grown to more than 2,100 families, and an extensive remodeling plan was launched. In 1995, the first kindergarten and after-school program were established. The parish staff grew and new ministries were formed. The music ministry now included an adult choir, a contemporary choir, a children's choir, a hand bell choir, a Mass band, and numerous cantors and instrumentalists. The Social Action Commission expanded ministries to help people in the wider community which included involvement in Luke House, St. Paul's, and Grace Episcopal meal programs, Allied Partners, Project Angel Tree, St. Vincent de Paul food drives, and the food pantry gardens. A Respect Life committee was formed. In 1996, a sister-parish relationship was formed with San Geronimo, in Bachajon, Chiapas, Mexico, through the efforts of parishioners Octavio and Mary Tejeda and Emmett and Mary Anne Schulte. *Evangelization.*

During the mid-1990s, the parish social activities included Hospitality Weekends, Fireside Theater trips, and Card Club (begun in the 1950s and still active today). The Adult Enrichment Commission organized Bible studies, retreats, marriage preparation, a mom's prayer group, Fish & Philosophy, and introduced Small Christian Communities in 1997. Pastoral Care continued the Home Communion and Reach Out programs and involved parish volunteers in visits to parishioners in hospitals and care centers.





A support ministry for caregivers and a bereavement ministry were implemented, as well as Elizabeth Ministry to support mothers during their childbearing years. A parish nurse was added to the staff in 1998. Religious Education now included Early Childhood ages 3 years through Kindergarten, Elementary Grades 1-8, High School Youth Ministry, and a college ministry. Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish entered the 21st century a vibrant, active community of faith with more than 2,500 families. *Evangelization.*

In June 2009, due to budget cuts, the Diocese of Madison closed the Catholic Multicultural Center, which provided assistance to the poor. Feeling called to do something about this, Msgr. Ken, with the support of Our Lady Queen of Peace parishioners, made plans to reopen the CMC as soon as possible. By August, the doors were reopened, staff rehired, and assistance to the poor resumed, thanks to many parish and community volunteers. Since then, the CMC has expanded to include a free meal seven days a week, a food pantry, ESL classes, immigration legal services, and a catering training program for those with barriers to employment. *Evangelization.*

In August of 2012, the parish hosted a Festival on the grounds with music, entertainment, children's games, bingo, history displays, and alumni reunions. The parish festivals became an annual event until the summer of 2020, when the presence of COVID-19 shut everything down.

The 2020 pandemic forced the school to close on March 13, and teachers had to quickly learn how to teach their students remotely. The Parish Center also shut down and staff had to work from home. The church was closed, Masses were recorded, and parishioners "attended" Mass online. Weddings were postponed and only immediate family members were allowed to attend funerals. Most ministries were put on hold. Weekend Masses resumed in June with a 25% capacity allowed. The parish center reopened with some staff present and some still working remotely. The new school year began with remote learning for most of the students. In-person classes are being phased in by grade level. Slowly and carefully, the parish is trying to return to normal.

As we celebrate 75 years as a parish family, the Diocese of Madison is also celebrating their 75th Anniversary. On this occasion, Bishop Hying is launching a bold, evangelizing initiative called, "Go Make Disciples." It's clear that Jesus commands us to proclaim the Gospel—to be disciples ourselves and to make disciples of others. That is what the Church has been about for 2,000 years. And it's what Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish has been about for 75 years. There is an urgency to undertake this task with a renewed vigor. Statistics show that all over our country, roughly 70% of our baptized Catholics are not going to church. And there is great concern that more practicing Catholics have been lost due to the pandemic. We need to do something about it. We need to proclaim God's love for us in a fresh, new way, to instill a desire to return to the Church. In the coming months, we will learn more about this evangelization effort so that together, we can go make disciples.



### Learn about our PAST:

- Read your **Spirit Newsletter**.
- A **75th Anniversary History Booklet** was created with even more information about our past. View online at [qopc.org/welcome/75th.cfm](http://qopc.org/welcome/75th.cfm)

### Celebrate our PRESENT:

- We celebrated with a very special **Virtual Anniversary Mass**.
- We created a special **Virtual Anniversary Video**. A shortened version was shown at our drive-in outdoor showing on the evening of December 13.
- You can still view both of these at [qopc.org/welcome/75th.cfm](http://qopc.org/welcome/75th.cfm) or on our **YouTube Channel, QP Connected**.

### Prepare for our FUTURE:

- **Evangelize!** Participate in the Diocesan evangelization initiative, "Go Make Disciples." More about our parish involvement in the months to come.



# 75 Years of Discipleship



## It's a 75th birthday party and you are invited!

75 years ago there was a small group of dedicated Catholics eager to begin a new parish on the westside (what was then the FAR west side) of Madison. A story many of us have heard before.

Yes, it's a celebration of longevity, but it's so much more than that.

Our 75th anniversary, as a Catholic Community of faith, is an opportunity to mark how we have done what Jesus told us to do: to go out to all the world and tell the Good News and to make disciples of all nations.

We began with just six couples (that makes 12 people – sound familiar?) and they took the word to the world – or at least to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. And so it began.

We began baptizing the children (and occasionally the adults) on the west side of Madison and grew to over 300 families, then to over 1,000 families and then to over 2,650 families. We began to find new ways to live our faith and to serve and to love our neighbor as ourselves – and so we worked with St. Vincent DePaul Society as it grew in the Madison area. We developed relationships with a southern Mexico Jesuit Community that became our Sister Parish in Chiapas. Our School developed an “Angel” program so that no one who sought a Catholic Education would be turned away. We built relationships between our young people and the Crow, Blackfeet, and Pine Ridge Indian nations out west. We reached out to our neighbors in need through the Catholic Multicultural Center and developed a job training program to help build futures.

We continued to serve people. We continued to welcome people. We rebuilt the parish to welcome more people. We continued to baptize. We continued to spread the faith.



And now, 75 years later, we continue. It may look different than we ever could have imagined. We wear masks when we come to the church. We wave instead of hug. While we continue to fill the donation bins for the CMC on Hospitality weekends, we do it without coffee or donuts....or long “catch-up” conversations. We continue to study the scriptures, on Zoom instead of in person. Our school and Sunday Faith Formation programs learn online, as well as in person. Weddings and funerals and confirmations are live-streamed to people across the world.

And we continue to share the good news. We continue to baptize. We continue to come to Mass and be sent out to love and serve the LORD.

75 years of discipleship.

That is what we celebrate. We celebrate with Mass. We celebrate with parishioners and families. We celebrate in safety, in peace, and in community.

And then we begin the next 75 years as Disciples of Jesus Christ.







## Drive-In Celebration

**We safely gathered for our 75th Anniversary at a Drive-In Celebration on the evening of Sunday, December 13.** Almost 70 cars signed up to join in the fun!

Before attendees parked, they dropped off personal care items for those in need at the Catholic Multicultural Center as anniversary gifts. Cupcake pops, a history booklet, and ornaments were then handed out.



The short drive-in video started at dusk, highlighting just a handful of our parish families. (We wish we had time to share all parishioners' individual stories of their time at QP!)

At the end of the evening, Monsignor did a countdown to light the parish trees, while everyone honked their horns in celebration.

It was a beautiful evening! If you missed the event, you can still join in the fun. The drive-in video is now available for all on our YouTube Channel, QP Connected.



*All guests remained in their cars during the event in order to adhere to Dane County's safety guidelines.*

## Parish Nurse History

Within the pastoral care ministry team of **Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish**, has been **parish nursing**. This ministry, through a joint venture with St. Mary's Hospital, started with Heather Crade in 1998. Heather faithfully served the parish for 19 years. Prior to that, Mary Ircink was a volunteer parish nurse. Sheila Utter has now been part of the parish staff for the last three years.

What is parish nursing? It is ministering in a unique way to the body, mind, and spirit of our parish members from conception to death. This can be done through follow-up calls after a hospitalization or assistance in navigating the health system, pastoral visits to those who are homebound or in assisted care, and/or encouraging health and wellness through education and speaker programs.

The parish nurse ministers in many ways that are often unique to the parish that is served. For Sheila at Our Lady Queen of Peace it includes a monthly support group for those with chronic illness, coordinating the prayer shawl ministry, visits to those who are homebound and in assisted care. Often I am blessed to be at a bedside to pray with a family member who is ill or dying. The Holy Spirit daily makes the schedule and shows who is in need that day.

I know that I have learned and grown in my faith as a parish nurse through those who have touched my life. Your stories of family and faith have helped me to acquire and pass on knowledge and trust in God that can only come from a shared belief. Heather, who was already enrolled in RCIA to become a Catholic when she was hired, saw how the faith was interconnected to the health of our body and mind.

COVID-19 has certainly changed how we minister from a face-to-face encounter to phone calls and times of prayer. All are encouraged to reach out as needed to the parish nurse. My prayer is that you would find a welcoming voice to help you navigate a difficult time or situation. Please just reach out. There are many of you I have yet to meet and you are in my daily prayer for the protection of your body, mind, and spirit.

*Submitted by Sheila Utter*



# Practicing a Pastoral Care Presence Through the Years

Back in 1991, almost 30 years ago, then Pastor, Msgr. Edward Erbe announced a new Hospital Visitation Ministry at Our Lady Queen of Peace. The team began from a short list of potential volunteers provided by Msgr. Erbe. All those people agreed to attend training and begin making regular hospital visits.

The hospital visit team soon discovered that many people had needs beyond the hospital setting. Some moved to senior living or care centers, others returned to their homes. During recuperation, people needed spiritual, social, emotional, and often physical support. Our Pastoral Care Ministry was growing!

The Home Communion Ministry began in the mid-1980s. Dick and Barb Reynolds were active coordinators with many long-term active volunteers. Dick remains an active volunteer. The Prayer Network had been praying daily for the needs of the parish for many decades. Jo Gill and Margaret Cuva continue to coordinate this ministry as volunteers.

Msgr. Ken arrived in 1993 and consolidated all these pastoral ministries into one ministry area with oversight by a Pastoral Care Coordinator. Since that time, Teresa Spevacek has served in this role, tracking our parishioners from hospital to home or hospice, identifying needs for sacraments, meals, visits, yard work, odd jobs, and arranging rides to church, respite care, and home communion.

The parish nurse came on board in the mid-1990s and Health Ministry began as a ministry under the newly formed Pastoral Care Commission. The parish nurse serves on the commission representing Health Ministry, and serves as an educator, advocate, and facilitator of keeping the parish healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

In 1997, we began the first Bereavement Ministry Series under the guidance of then Pastoral Associate Sr. Susan Dubec and parishioner Betty Stern. This ministry continues today! We currently have a small team of trained facilitators and we continue to offer two 6-week bereavement series each year to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Participants are grateful for a supportive spiritual setting in which to share their grief story and walk their journey.

In 2006, we began a chapter of Elizabeth Ministry, reaching out to women during the childbearing years to offer peer support in a variety of situations including normal birth, crisis pregnancy, the birth of multiples, infertility, adoption, and miscarriage and stillbirth. Within the past few years, we started the Rosebud Program, a place to pray for specific needs by writing a card tied to a rose and placed in a vase. The parish prays for these intentions at Mass and those who walk by the table can also remember and pray for those needs.

Over the years, we have ministered to many families helping to prepare a loved one for death. We've organized End-of-Life panels to help disseminate important information to families, and in 2008 we created a parish booklet to help parishioners understand pastoral care in times of sickness and death.

Now in 2020, though unable to make in-person visits, the Pastoral Care Ministry has maintained contact with the homebound, sick and elderly, through regular phone calls, sending cards, delivering groceries, and offering support and prayers.

Msgr. Erbe was right in choosing to start a Hospital Visitation Ministry almost 30 years ago. Look at all that has grown out of a tiny team! We now have hundreds of parish volunteers ready to help in Reach Out Ministry, Home Communion, Elizabeth Ministry, and Pastoral Visiting. Our Pastoral Care Ministry is flourishing with resources from Care Notes to Prayer Blankets, and the Lord continues to call us daily to tend his sheep! Thank you, Msgr. Erbe and Msgr. Ken for recognizing the importance of the Pastoral Care Ministry in the lives of the faithful at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

If you're interested in learning more or volunteering for any of these programs, please contact Teresa Spevacek, Pastoral Care Coordinator, at (608) 231-4617.

**Msgr. Erbe was right in choosing to start a Hospital Visitation Ministry almost 30 years ago. Look at all that has grown out of a tiny team! We now have hundreds of parish volunteers ready to help!**

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# How Giving Has Helped QP Grow

It's amazing to look back at the giving history of our parish over the last 75 years. So much has been done by the support of so many of our generous parishioners! The way we give has also evolved from passing baskets in the pews, to now encouraging all to safely donate online in 2020. Thank you, QP parishioners, for helping to make all this possible (and so much more!):

————— **1945** —————

Offertory giving began at Our Lady Queen of Peace, as the parish took shape.  
Funds started coming in to support QP's very first building, the school.

————— **1949** —————

The school building was complete.  
The National Catholic Society of Foresters Court #597 was organized and officially began fundraising.

————— **1952-1954** —————

One building was no longer enough to accommodate our quickly growing parish.  
Fundraising for a church began, with construction starting in 1954.

————— **1984** —————

The School Endowment Fund was created out of a growing concern for the rising cost of a quality Catholic school education for our children. The goal of the fund is still to provide a consistent source of revenue for the school to ensure access for all.

————— **1993** —————

The parish needed to expand with continued growth. An extensive remodeling plan launched QP's largest capital campaign in our history.

————— **2008** —————

The Maintaining Our Vision (MOV) Fund was created to protect, preserve, and build upon the legacy of the parish and school by providing a safe and comfortable physical environment. Its goal is to fund the repairs of our aging buildings and establish reserves to meet the ongoing expenses of maintenance.

————— **2009** —————

Funds were raised to help our brothers and sisters in need, as QP partnered with the Catholic Multicultural Center to reopen their doors.

————— **2015** —————

Online giving began. It's a convenient and secure way to make donations that allows parishioners to make a one-time gift and set offertory amounts, frequency, or designate any donations to categories of giving such as MOV, Christmas Flowers, and more.

————— **2020** —————

QP began to offer text-to-give, allowing parishioners to easily donate from the safety of their home during the pandemic. Parishioners are now able to donate by simply texting "Give" or any dollar amount to (608)299-6456.

*If you would like to learn more about our funds or make a donation, please visit [www.qopc.org/support](http://www.qopc.org/support).*

*Thank You!*

# Feeding Those in Need Through Luke House

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish has a long history of helping others within the community, and participating in a Community Meal Program like Luke House is no exception.**

Paul Ashe and Ralph Middlecamp founded the community meal program in 1980. They realized the need while they were providing sandwiches, out of Middlecamp's Christian Book Shop in Madison, to people who were homeless, low income, out of work, or just down on their luck.

Ashe subsequently began researching the meal program at St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Milwaukee. With the help of Cathy Bonus, religious educator at St. Paul's Parish on the campus in Madison, they received approval from St. Paul's to use their basement to serve a meal to people who need it.

"The model is: people sharing their own food and eating together, providing an opportunity for you to live out your faith, and share the food you have on a monthly basis," Ashe said. "Sharing your own food, eating together, and allowing yourself to be served, reduces the power structure from just being a food server. I believe Jesus is present right there at the table when everyone eats together."

**We show God's love  
through our home-cooked  
food and the caring way  
we treat our guests**

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With Christine Thomas, Mary Remily, and other parishioners, they obtained permission from Msgr. Ed Erbe for our parish to begin participating in the meal program in the early 1980s. QP has been helping ever since!

Today, our parishioners provide lunch on the third Tuesday and dinner on the fourth Sunday of each month. Our volunteers take great pride in this program, and many go unseen by providing the best food they can.

Ashe recalls one lady always provided a pan of lasagna, but he never met her. Her name was always on the pan, which was returned to her each month to be reused. When she passed away, her family asked if Ashe would read at her funeral, because the community meal program was so important to her.

During the pandemic, guests can no longer sit down together for lunch and dinner, but can pick up nutritious brown-bag meals.

Ashe retired two years ago. Matt Rogge is now the executive director, and Sarah Bullard is meal program manager.

"We show God's love through our home-cooked food and the caring way we treat our guests," Rogge said.

If you would like to provide food for this great program, please visit [www.qopc.org/serve](http://www.qopc.org/serve) or contact [annette.fox@qopc.org](mailto:annette.fox@qopc.org).

*Luke House is fully funded on donations. Monetary donations to Luke House are tax deductible, since it is a 501(c)3 organization.*



Some of the Queen of Peace volunteers who provide and serve food at Luke House each third Tuesday and fourth Sunday. They also represent the many, many people who donate food who are not in the photo.





# Food Pantry Gardens Began with QP

**You may not know that the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens got their start from an idea at a QP Social Action Committee meeting in the winter of 1999.** Mr. Ken Witte spoke at the meeting, attempting to recruit volunteers to glean food from area farmers' markets. In a comment about the need for more vegetables, the idea of raising vegetables locally to supplement the small quantity received by Dane County food pantries was discussed.

At that time, Emmett Schulte, newly retired from the UW-Department of Soil Science and a member of the Social Action Committee, jumped at the idea. The two found three rural homeowners who were willing to contribute an acre of land each to begin the gardens. The Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens project was initiated the next spring with three 1-acre gardens in Fitchburg, Mount Horeb, and Middleton Township. In 2008, a group of volunteers titled "Gleaning Geezers" began harvesting UW Demonstration plots.



Sadly, longtime Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) supporter and MAFPG co-founder, Emmett Schulte, passed away in March 2020. Emmett and his wife MaryAnn have been involved with the CMC since the early 1990s, as part of a lifelong commitment to serving people in need. Emmett initiated and managed a community garden on the CMC property before the current center was built. In 2016, the CMC food pantry garden space was named in honor of him. His vegetable puns were second to none like "just call me Spud because I'm a common-tater" or "could you help us peel vegetables—that sounds a-peeling to me!" His legacy will truly leave smiles on faces long after he is gone.

Today, the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens have expanded to five gardens, along with four affiliated gardens. In 2020 alone, the gardens delivered over 80,000 pounds of vegetables to pantries – retailing at \$140,000. Since the inception 21 years ago, over 2.5 million pounds have been gleaned and harvested!

Work continues each year and is positioned to help provide fruits and vegetables to our neighbors in need in the community. This project would not be possible without the hard work of our QP parishioners and their families.

If you would like to learn more about the gardens or would like to volunteer, please email [annette.fox@qopc.org](mailto:annette.fox@qopc.org).

Top left: Garden founders Mr. Ken Witte and Emmette Schulte.

Top right: Schulte Gardens

# Queen of Peace and CMC Working Together to Help Others



**Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish and the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) have each been serving the Madison area for around 75 years.** In 2009 they joined forces to live out shared Catholic values through helping our brothers and sisters in need by serving the whole person. “Helping the poor is in our blood as Roman Catholics following the Gospel,” said Msgr. Ken last year when the CMC and QP celebrated their 10th anniversary together.

When the Diocese of Madison said they could no longer operate the CMC due to budgetary concerns, Msgr. Ken felt called to step up and lead QP in taking on responsibility for operating this faith-based social service center. “I had keys to an empty building, no money, and no staff,” said Msgr. Ken of the day he was passed along stewardship of the CMC. On August 3, 2009, the CMC reopened under Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish with a budget of \$250,000, a staff of four, and a handful of community programs including a free meal three times a week. Today, the CMC serves thousands of people in need each year with a budget of \$1.7 million, 14 permanent staff positions, and roughly three times the amount of programming, including Dane County’s only free community meal served seven days a week. Many different facets of community support have made this possible, but QP has played a special role in the success of the CMC.



**Within the first day of QP announcing its plans to take on the CMC, \$30,000 IN DONATION PLEDGES came in from QP members as well as other parishes and community supporters. “THE SUPPORT WAS OVERWHELMING,” said Msgr. Ken.**

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With the onset of the pandemic, the ongoing support QP offers the CMC has been more crucial than ever before. To help protect everyone’s health, CMC had to put some services on hold and change the way they delivered other services. Now the daily free meal program is offered to-go out of the CMC garage for guests in the parking lot. The food pantry is operated in a similar manner, offering prepacked boxes since clients can no longer enter the pantry to choose their food. The Emmett Schulte food pantry garden continued to grow fresh, healthy produce to distribute through the pantry and meal program, with social-distancing measures in place for volunteers. The employment search assistance program and immigration legal services adjusted to offer their services remotely by phone or computer. And staff created a new service in response to pandemic needs: the food pantry delivery program.



Continuing the 11-year tradition of playing a central role at the CMC, Queen of Peace and its members have helped with almost every aspect of offering services during the pandemic. Though Queen of Peace groups cannot safely come to serve the community meal right now, groups started cooking food at home and bringing it to CMC for staff and volunteers to serve. Multiple drive-through food and personal essential item collections have filled CMC shelves with a bounty of items to offer to food pantry guests. The food



pantry garden had a productive season thanks to an exceptional volunteer crew staffed in part with Queen of Peace volunteers. Individual parishioners are also volunteering with food pantry stocking, meal serving, food pantry delivery, and other projects around the center.

This is exactly the kind of action Msgr. Ken hoped to see when he led the Parish in taking on operations of the CMC. "The CMC began in 1946 with grassroots support. I hope it continues that way, for that is the only way this endeavor will work." When QP first took leadership of the CMC, they took on the daunting task of rehiring the original staff, finding volunteers to operate programming, and raising funds to give the center the operating budget it needed to successfully serve the community. Within the first day of QP announcing its plans to take on the CMC, \$30,000 in donation pledges came in from QP members as well as other parishes and community supporters. "The support was overwhelming," said Msgr. Ken.

The parish rallied to provide volunteer support for the CMC, starting with gathering several groups to cook and serve the daily community meal. In addition to volunteer groups, the parish encouraged individual members to help out with the food pantry, teaching English as a Second Language classes, child care, and more. "The parishioners of QP have been very supportive, volunteering in many different roles, donating food, and donating financially," said CMC Director Andy Russell. Msgr. Ken believes parishioners were so generous to respond to the initial call to action for CMC because "More people were becoming aware of the Church's teachings on social justice and the need to help one another."

Several years after reopening, Queen of Peace played a critical role in the CMC launching its Culinary Creations Catering social enterprise. The parish became one of the first customers of the job training enterprise and later became the first of four school lunch customers. The parish also played a critical role in increasing the CMC's meal program service from three days to seven days a week by providing additional volunteer groups to help on a monthly basis. The CMC staff are incredibly grateful for the deep commitment Queen of Peace and its members have dedicated to the CMC mission, a partnership which has allowed so much growth to occur and many more people in need to receive welcoming assistance.

Wondering how you can get involved? The CMC has limited in-person volunteer opportunities available as pandemic services continue, with precautions and guidelines in place. Some positions involve brief interactions with guests and working alongside other volunteers, while other positions are low- to no-contact with other people. Contact Laura Green at [laura@cmcmadison.org](mailto:laura@cmcmadison.org) or call (608) 441-1180.







# QP School Doing Great Things

From its humble beginnings in 1949, Our Lady Queen of Peace School remains one of the largest ministries of the parish. Working together with the parish, the school provides children with a Catholic education by Fostering their Faith, Inspiring Excellence, and Creating Leaders.

Students at Queen of Peace School grow, go, and glorify!

Queen of Peace School has come a long way since its early days, but one thing has remained constant – teaching to the whole child! Our Lady Queen of Peace School fosters a **LOVE** for our Catholic community of lifelong, Christ-like learners. Strengthened by our commitment to community, students, teachers, pastoral staff, and parents, Queen of Peace School encourages a strong relationship with God to grow in knowledge and **RESPECT** for every person's capabilities and differences. We empower students to build **CONFIDENCE** as they participate in opportunities to achieve their potential in spiritual formation through academic rigor, leadership, and service to God and the community.

As you can imagine, 2020 has been a year of challenges for our school community. From having to take on new ways of teaching and learning, to finding new and creative ways to stay connected, all while continuing to keep one another safe, it sure has been an interesting year. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, though. The faith of the staff, parents, and students has truly proven to be the foundation of all we are accomplishing this school year. The way teachers are connecting with their students may have had to change in 2020, but the teachings of God have not.

Looking toward the future, Our Lady Queen of Peace School will continue to be a leader in technology and curriculum, while maintaining all of the fine arts classes that are offered to students. Though the classroom may look different, faith and service will always remain the foundation of all that we do.

Our school theme this year is "Together we can do great things." Just imagine the great things we can all do, together with Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, over the course of the next 75 years!



The future of our school is here and now! Throughout the years many of our alumni have sent their children to the school, and they, in turn, enroll their children. We are proud to have many multi-generational families within our parish and school community. We are currently thinking and coming up with fun alumni and homecoming events to welcome everyone "home" when it is safe to do so. If you are a QP alum, please visit our new website at [www.qopcschool.org](http://www.qopcschool.org) and click on "Alumni." You will be able to update your contact information there so that we can stay connected with everyone!







## Celebrating 25 Years with Our Sister Parish

**As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary of our parish, we look forward to also celebrating our 25th with our Sister Parish in January 2021!**

Almost 25 years ago, in January 1996, the Holy Spirit inspired us to establish a Sister Parish relationship with the Jesuit Mission in Bachajon, Chiapas, Mexico.

Jesuit Missionaries have served the people there since 1958, when the mission was founded. In January of 1996, Emmett Schulte and Kate Ripple submitted a proposal to the Queen of Peace Pastoral Council on behalf of the Ecumenical and the QP Social Action Committee. It was extremely well received by our Pastor, Msgr. Ken Fiedler, as an excellent, well-envisioned proposal. The goals that were approved by him and our Pastoral Council were as follows:

*To enrich the faith lives of Queen of Peace parishioners through close contact with our brothers and sisters of another culture and economic reality and a strong faith life.*

*To support the Jesuit clergy in their mission of developing the physical and spiritual well-being of members of their parish.*

The QP Social Action Committee, from the beginning of this relationship, has reported news from San Geronimo Parish, the Jesuit Missionaries, and the Mestizo and Tseltal people whom they serve. Several trips have been undertaken over the years by QP parishioners, as they visited the Mission under the leadership of Octavio Tejeda, a parishioner who studied with the Jesuits as a young man in Mexico City. He brought its history to our awareness when we were considering a Sister Parish relationship.

These visits to Chiapas have brought closer connections between our parishes, as we join our hearts and pray for one another.

We have also received many of the Jesuits from the Mission as visitors to QP, giving us the opportunity to get to know one another and learn more about the Mission. They have celebrated Masses, visited with parishioners, and given presentations about activities in our Sister Parish at Sunday evening gatherings over the years.

One of the ways QP has been able to help our Sister Parish is financially. We have two collections each year in our collection envelope rotation. We also sell:

- Coffee produced by a women's cooperative where the coffee is grown, dried, roasted, ground and vacuum packed by women who have lost their husbands and would otherwise be dependent on selling their coffee on the open market.
- Craft items made by Tseltal (Mayan) women in a cooperative called Cooperativo Artesanal Las Flores, operated by the Sisters of the Divine Shepherd.

The sale of these items takes place after Masses on Hospitality Sundays and on weekends leading up to Christmas for gift giving. Please consider making a purchase this holiday season to help these women make a living.

To learn more, please contact [annette.fox@qopc.org](mailto:annette.fox@qopc.org).



# Celebrating Service to Neighbors in Need with St. Vincent de Paul

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), founded on the tenants of spiritual growth, one-on-one service to those in need, and friendship to others, started in 1833 through the efforts of a young man named Frederic Ozanam and some friends during the 'Les Misérables' time period. Over time, the society spread internationally, including to the United States.**

Fast forward to 1946, very shortly after Queen of Peace church was founded. A compassionate group of men was determined to form Dane County's fifth church conference to give aid to the poor and needy in Madison. Pairs of men directly met with people to determine what was needed (food, clothing, furniture, etc.) and then set out to provide those items. This enabled grateful recipients to get through tough times. It's difficult to believe now, but back then, women were unable to participate in this society. One of the great changes in the QP SVdP Conference is that women became part of the conference around 20 years ago.



While some SVdP Conference practices have changed, the basic face-to-face conversation to help people in need remains pretty similar. As needs change or become better understood, the services provided by the SVdP evolve in Dane County. A central food pantry was developed that today serves over 8,000 families through curbside pick-up, initiated to help everyone through the pandemic. It serves an average of 160 families per day. The SVdP pharmacy is one of the most recent service additions and provides about \$625,000 of medicine. The Society also helps provide about \$560,000 in furniture, bedding, kitchen supplies, and clothing for people to be able to make a home they can call their own. The Seton House and St. Vincent Port are housing facilities that help people transition into their own apartments.

By the grace of God and QP support, the conference is a thriving group that carries on the traditions started over 200 years ago. Our QP Community has been very generous throughout the years. Just since the pandemic began, many parishioners have participated in five donation drives for food, personal care items, diapers, and donations

for the stores – including two Big Truck Drives. These were combined efforts that also helped our Catholic Multicultural Center.

You, our supportive parishioners, have helped the QP SVdP Conference provide food, blankets to share the warmth, toys and gift cards for families at Christmas, helping hands at the Lacy Garden that sends fresh produce to the SVdP food pantry, and joining together to ask others to help whenever needed.

Beverly Resch, former SVDP Conference President, beautifully sums up what someone gains from membership in the SVdP, "I moved to Madison in 1990 with my 10-year-old son. My association and involvement with the SVdP conference gave me a community within the larger community of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. I have been able to live out my Christian values, which are to reach out in faith to assist those in need no matter what the need, continue my spiritual growth, and develop lasting friendships. It is my spiritual home."





# Future The History of Youth Ministry

By Cheryl Horne

## What did Youth Ministry first look like at Our Lady Queen of Peace?

You know what? I'm really not sure!

Part of the reality of ministry – especially of ministry to, with, and for young people – is change.

It changes constantly.

It's changed just in the 20+ years I've been doing Youth Ministry.

But here's something that hasn't changed: When Ministry works – when Faith Formation Ministry works – you see evolution. You see the child in the pew journey into the Sacramental life and eventually become a lector or a cantor or an extraordinary minister. You see the baptism Gown passed down to the next generation and you see faith grow through families and friends. You see the student become the teacher...or the chaperone...or both.



There's Jacob – who I remember so clearly as a student preparing for confirmation. He eventually became the leader of our Mass Band. This summer he was one of our lead missionaries for Love Begins Here, and he plans to be a Mission Trip chaperone this summer – as soon as he finishes his first year as a middle school teacher at QP. Or Gina, who I also remember on one of our early just-for-fun middle school events. Gina has become one of our strongest voices for Youth Ministry – as a catechist, a chaperone, and as a Commission member. And then there's Greg, who when he was in middle school calendared all of the just-for-fun events – and came on a mission trip to Montana his senior summer. Motivated by Catholic Social Justice teaching he went to work for a Youth Ministry Summer Mission Trip program, and met his wife when they were both serving as chaperones on a mission trip. And then there was Emily who sought confirmation as soon as possible and now speaks with our students as a college athlete of faith and who participates in Bible studies with her team at UW. And there's Maryann, who has been a lector, a cantor, a member of Mass Band, and an usher. Maryann lives on campus with a Christian sorority and brings her sorority sisters back to serve in the service tent at QP for our Parish Festival. Andy finally, there's Trevor, who is an usher. He wants to go into politics someday soon, with his conscience helping to guide him every step of the way – a conscience formed in faith.

Maybe our history is best told by stories – and by the stories of the people God has brought into our path. Stories make up the sum total of the history of the Ministry.

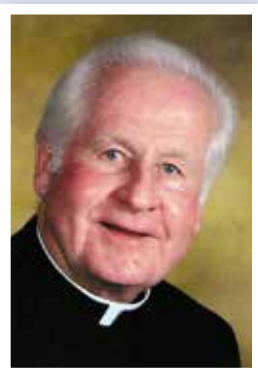
Throughout my 20+ years I have been blessed to watch the past become the future. I have known students of the faith who became teachers in Catholic schools and in Faith Formation Programs. I have known students in our Faith Formation programs who have gone to Seminary and into Parish Ministry. I have known students on our mission trips who have gone on to want to spend their lives serving those in need.

So when I was thinking about the history of Youth Ministry in our Parish, I found myself instead wanting to look toward the future...and to wonder where and how our current grade school, middle school, and high school students will wind up living their faith.

I have great faith in their future.

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## Msgr. Ken's Column

My friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! This year, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is celebrating 75 years of worship, word, and service. It's quite remarkable when you think about it. 75 years!

I've had the opportunity to take a look through both old and new photos these past couple months, as we prepared for this big celebration. Each picture tells a unique story that's a part of our history. It's been fun to see all the events and sacraments that have happened over the years, but even more so to see all the people. One thing was made clear to me, through the pictures; our QP Community has *always* been strong.

What started with just six dedicated families has grown to a community of over 2,800 families. Those founding members started this parish to become a beacon of faith, hope, and love to so many in the community and beyond. It truly was their support of time, talent, and treasure that has made us what we are today. From that point on, we've been greatly blessed to have parishioners who are also willing to get involved in parish life and give of themselves to allow this parish to grow.

As you page through our history in this special anniversary issue, you will actually be able to see our growth over the last 75 years.

I want us to continue to grow this parish too. Our anniversary theme will be evangelization, tying in the theme for the Diocese of Madison's anniversary. We will actively be participating in the Diocesan evangelization initiative, "Go Make Disciples." Be sure to watch for more about our parish involvement in the months to come.

Together, let's remain a place of welcome and spiritual growth for all the future generations to come.

In His Peace,

*Msgr. Ken*

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