The Basilica Landmark Ball

New Name. Same goal. Preserving The Basilica for all generations.
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About the Cover: Light the Night event celebrating the lighting of The Basilica’s façade in August 2014.
MY name is Cecilia Hofmeister and I am thrilled to be the new editor of BASILICA magazine. As editor, I have the privilege of learning all about the talented individuals that make up The Basilica of Saint Mary, so let me tell you a little about myself: I grew up in Apple Valley, Minn., with my parents, two younger brothers, and a younger sister. I love ballet, reading, and the theater. I went to Loyola University Chicago where I got my degree in English with a concentration on Catholic Literature. When I moved back to Minnesota, I got a job at a local real estate development company that specializes in senior housing. I am currently the Manager of Community Relations for a senior living community in Oakdale.

I felt very lost when I moved back to Minneapolis from Chicago five years ago. Part of my reason for attending Loyola was to grow spiritually. I felt a special connection to our university parish and I was sad to give that up. I attended several churches in the Twin Cities. Initially, I avoided The Basilica because I feared it would be too big, but, attracted by the grandeur of the building’s facade, I eventually decided to give it a try. I immediately fell in love with the parish and have been a member for about three years now. Although the building itself is large, one thing The Basilica does very well is make a giant parish feel intimate. I’ve met great people here by taking advantage of the church’s educational offerings, playing on the Basilica Young Adult softball team, and editing the bi-monthly bulletin.

BASILICA magazine is an amazing showcase of the wonderful community The Basilica has created. As you’ll read, we have dedicated parishioners of all ages who utilize a multitude of different talents to address a variety of issues. For example, The Basilica Landmark team preserves and maintains the physical buildings in which all other programming takes place. The New Parents Ministry teaches our parish’s newborns how to inspire spirituality in their children. The Employment ministry connects people to job opportunities while the incredible staff of The Basilica educates, organizes, and facilitates these programs.

You can read about all the people and ministries that make up our community in the following pages. As you read this spring’s issue, I encourage you to consider how you can engage in our community. If you haven’t visited The Basilica lately, I invite you to stop by and take a look around. Docents are available after many Masses to give you an official tour or you can just drop in for a moment of quiet contemplation.

Thank you for your continued support of BASILICA. I am so grateful for the opportunity to edit BASILICA and I look forward to watching our community grow.

— Cecilia Hofmeister
FEW weeks ago, some visitors to The Basilica introduced themselves to me before Mass. They were in town for a meeting and had decided to extend their stay for a few days. As they marveled at the beauty of The Basilica, one of them asked if I had any idea how many baptisms, weddings, and funerals had been celebrated here. I had to admit that I didn’t have a clue, but suggested it probably was in the thousands, and perhaps even in the tens of thousands. Their next comment caught me off guard: they said that didn’t surprise them as they could sense an “odor of sanctity” about The Basilica.

As I reflected on this, it struck me that it was very insightful and very accurate. Churches, and I believe The Basilica in particular, hold the memories of all the holy events that have taken place there. These events, whether they are of great joy or of great sadness, are the times when our lives are punctuated by God’s grace-filled presence. Because of this, The Basilica, like all churches, is the repository for our communal experience and memories of God’s abiding presence with us. Given this, is it any wonder that The Basilica has an “odor of sanctity” about it?

In addition to being a place that holds the memories of past holy events that have taken place there, I believe that churches — and The Basilica in particular — also need to be places that proclaim hope for the future. I say this because we believe that as God has been present to us in the past, so God is with us now, and God will be with us in the future. If we look only to the past, we will miss the grace God is offering us in the present and the grace that God will offer us in the future. Churches proclaim the unfailing fidelity of God — in the past, in the present, and in the future yet to come.

There is something wrong when churches become more like museums than living entities. They need to be both. They need to be places where we remember and celebrate God’s presence with us in the past. But also, and as importantly, they need to be places that offer hope that as God has been with us in the past, God is with us now and will be with us in the future. While it may sound immodest, I believe we do a pretty good job of both of these here at The Basilica.

Clearly, at The Basilica we remember and celebrate our history as a Landmark on the Minneapolis skyline. But we are also a Beacon of Hope to all those who come through our doors. Whether people come to The Basilica to celebrate, to mourn, to have their burdens lightened, or to share the love of Christ with others, The Basilica is a place of God’s presence and grace. There is an “odor of sanctity” here. It is present in the building and in the people. ✝

By Father John Bauer
AS my term on The Basilica Landmark Board of Directors comes to an end, this is the last letter I will write as President. When I reflect on the past seven years of my involvement in our organization, I am enthused to see great progress in bringing our mission to life.

The Basilica Landmark’s mission is to “preserve, restore and advance the historic Basilica of Saint Mary for all generations.” When I consider our mission, I can’t help but think of our trademarked phrase “The Building of Hope.” The interplay of the word “building,” which is both a noun and a verb, very clearly establishes that our physical buildings are completely intertwined and essential to how we “build hope” every day through The Basilica’s programs.

DO THE BASILICA FACILITIES MATTER?

I am a believer in programs, and a believer in outreach and ministries. I believe that in its own way, our blessed Basilica building itself is a ministry, providing a constant invitation to come inside, be served, and to serve. Occasionally, we hear feedback that “I prefer to give my funds to support programs, rather than buildings.” This response implies that buildings are static places that just sit there while programs are the means by which a non-profit delivers valuable services to the community. As I reflect on this idea, I’ve challenged myself to take a step back and ask the tough question: “Do the Basilica’s facilities matter?”

What about the importance of The Basilica to all Catholics in our community? As both a basilica and a cathedral, The Basilica is the “second parish” for tens of thousands in the Twin Cities, who look forward to periodically making the trip downtown for a special treat: Mass at The Basilica.

I see our building as a beacon, standing for hope and what is good in our Catholic community.

Once you attend Mass at The Basilica, whether on Christmas, Easter, a “regular” Sunday or weekday, are you not struck in awe by the beauty, splendor and magic of The Basilica sanctuary?

I see our building as a home, a place where a faith community from over 230 zip codes gathers together regularly.

What about the St. Vincent de Paul ministry and the thousands of poor people who seek assistance at our church every day? Where would they go?

I see our building as a refuge, a place where people gather together to change, and even save, lives.

Sacraments, Sunday School, Bible Study, Employment Outreach, RCIA, AA Meetings, concerts...how can we provide all of these programs without adequate facilities?

I see that our beautiful Basilica building is a Landmark, which also stands for so much to so many.

My answer is clear: The Basilica of Saint Mary’s facilities matter, and in fact, they matter A LOT. How can a parish have all of the ministries and programs that The Basilica has without the physical space required to host hundreds of gatherings and activities each week?

Do The Basilica facilities matter? Yes! +

— Steve Sefton
President, The Basilica Landmark

Steve Sefton is the founder and president of Clearwater Equity Group, Inc. He and his wife Claudia have been married for 32 years and have three children.

The Basilica Landmark’s mission is to preserve, restore, and advance the historic Basilica of Saint Mary for all generations.
Solid at the Core, Loose at the Margins

An interview with the Very Reverend Paul Lebens-Englund

On an especially cold afternoon in January, I visited with the Very Reverend Paul Lebens-Englund who recently was installed as the Dean of Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral. After the obligatory photo session, we retired to the Dean’s office for a lively conversation. What follows is but a small portion of what we talked about.

Johan van Parys: As we look to our future, the strategic planning process offers opportunities for parish leaders, members, and staff to consider the needs, ambitions, and desires of the parish community.

Paul Lebens-Englund: The process of selecting the Dean of an Episcopal Cathedral is a bit different from the Roman Catholic process of appointing the rector of a Cathedral. It all begins with the formation of a search team, appointed by the Cathedral Council and affirmed by the local Bishop. This team creates a profile of the Cathedral parish — where we’ve been, where we are, where we believe we’re headed — and, based on that, a profile emerges of the kind of person best suited to become the new Dean. After that the actual search begins: resumes are collected, interviews are conducted, and on-site visits are scheduled.

If successful, the team makes a recommendation to the Cathedral Council, who then votes whether or not to affirm the recommendation. Lastly, and with the consent of the Bishop, an invitation to the position is extended and the individual so called either accepts or does not accept the invitation to serve. This is the way things are normally done — obviously there is a high level of lay participation and ownership of the process, in partnership with the Bishop and the Holy Spirit.

In my case, I was not looking for a new job, as I was perfectly happy where I was. The call asking if I might be interested in this position took me by complete surprise, leaving me with the upset stomach one often feels in the midst of an earthquake. In hindsight, though, I can see it as a kind of vocational divine intervention, which has turned out to be a great spiritual adventure and on-going exercise.

Continued on page 8.
JvP: Where were you before being called to Minneapolis?

PL-E: I was a priest for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane which covers the eastern part of Washington State and the northern part of neighboring Idaho. I was ordained a deacon in June 2004. In January 2005, I was ordained a priest. One of my first sacramental tasks as a priest was the baptism of one of my sons, Owen, the day after my ordination. It was a very emotional and moving experience. I served for about three years on the Cathedral staff in Spokane, Washington before re-starting a small, historic downtown parish. Following this, I served for four years on the Bishop’s staff before spending a year as priest-in-charge of a redeveloping parish in north Spokane.

JvP: You mentioned you were ordained a priest in 2005. How does one become an Episcopal priest?

PL-E: This is a kind of two-pronged process, with an academic part and an ecclesial part. In terms of academics, candidates are expected to finish a B.A. before entering seminary. During seminary, they finish a three year Master of Divinity degree. On the ecclesial side of things, it starts with the call a person might experience to the priesthood, which is discerned and tested within the local faith community. Should the local discernment team affirm the signs of a call, they then vote to affirm the call and send a letter of affirmation, signed by the local cleric, to the Bishop. The Bishop, then, refers the individual to the diocesan Commission on Ministry, which is comprised of lay and ordained members, who will assist the Bishop in the on-going discernment of the call. At a certain point, the Commission makes a final recommendation to the Bishop.

If all signs point toward an ordained vocation, the Bishop approves the individual for a period of postulancy, at which point they would generally begin seminary studies. Halfway through seminary, another discernment interview is conducted after which the candidate enters candidacy. Upon successful completion of seminary, the candidate is ordained a transitional deacon. Six to twelve months later, he or she is ordained to the priesthood.

JvP: You have said that you are committed to a church that is ‘solid at the core and loose at the margins.’ What did you mean by that?

PL-E: When it comes to the church, there are essentials and there are accidentals. In the Episcopal church, the essentials are very tightly connected to Sacred Scripture, the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, the four orders of the church (lay, deacon, priest, bishop) and the historic Creeds (Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed).

Rooted in these essentials, we are invited to focus outward and to define ourselves broadly. There are all sorts of possibilities when it comes to the accidentals. We proclaim and experience in a very real sense that there is room at the table for all.

The big danger for our church, and any church, is to become too focused on ourselves and our own self-preservation. We serve a God and follow a Lord, after all, who emptied Himself for the life of the world. Religious navel-gazing, then, doesn’t serve us or God’s mission well — and certainly doesn’t offer a compelling witness to a hungry and hurting world.

JvP: Long gone is the time when things seemed simple. Our world is increasingly more complex and diverse. What is the role of the church in this new societal reality?

PL-E: The church is the functional Body of Christ in our world, which seems so broken, so fragile, so desperately in need of hope and healing. Rooted in our sacred story, we are to bring hope to the world. We are to be advocates of change when needed. We are to be the voice of those who are voiceless. We are to bring healing to those whose lives are broken.

We are to liberate those who are in bondage of any kind.

The Church, at its best and most comprehensive, ought to be the conscience of the world and the moral compass for our society. This requires us to engage with everyone, even those with whom we disagree. The church needs to be a place where people can come together to connect and, when needed, to reconcile. Rather than picking sides, we are called to hold all sides together.

In our words and through our deeds, we need to witness to the world that God is present in our midst. This requires cultural competence and political savviness on our part, not unlike that exhibited by St. Paul when preaching to the Athenians on the Areopagus. We’re not here bringing God to a godless world, but we are here pointing to the presence of God in a God-infused world. As such, we’re all pilgrims in an enchanted world, and the church is privileged beyond measure to play its unique part in discerning and defending the sacredness of life within the one household of God.

JvP: How do the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church differ from one another?

PL-E: Pointing to the similarities first, we share the same Scriptures, we profess the same historic Creeds, and we have a common heritage up to the Reformation; thus our time together is much longer than our time apart. We also share a rich liturgical life. We are both sacramental churches, though our understanding and our theology of the sacraments may differ in some ways. We both share the four orders of ministry: laity, deacons, priests and bishops — though again, our theology of the orders and our understanding of the relationship between them may differ. For example, in the Episcopal Church, all four orders participate in the governance, teaching, and servant ministries of the Church and we ordain men and women, gay and straight, single and married to the diaconate, priesthood, and episcopacy, celebrating this diversity as a sign of God’s abundance and ultimate agency in the sacramental life of the Church.
Organizationally and ecclesiologically, the Roman Catholic Church exercises a more hierarchical polity, while the Episcopal Church exercises a more democratic polity — again, based on the Episcopal fundamental belief that it’s baptism that equips and blesses us for ministry, not ordination, per se. We obviously have no Pope, no Curia, and no Magisterium that makes the important decisions and proclamations for the larger Body. Rather, decisions are made at our General Convention which is held every three years. The General Convention has a bi-cameral structure: the House of Deputies with lay people, deacons and priests and the House of Bishops. For a decision to be passed, both Houses must concur — that means every order (laity, deacons, priests and bishops) must approve any given resolution. If not, it either goes back to committee or dies on the floor.

Further, I would point to the Episcopal Church’s unique comfort with mystery and ambiguity. We embrace the reality that we are on a journey and that revelation is ongoing. To us, faithfulness means engaging and partnering with God in a creative dialogue between the essentials of our faith and the societies in which we live.

**JvP:** What are your thoughts on Pope Francis and what do you make of the so-called “Francis effect?”

**PL-E:** First, let me say, I respect him tremendously as priest, pastor, and prophet and admire his instincts and modesty with regard to the priorities he seems to have set for his Papacy.

I respect his personal lifestyle and public persona, having given up on many of the outward trappings associated with the papacy.

I appreciate his efforts to shift the focus from ecclesiastical navel-gazing to care and concern for the concrete needs of the world — a tension we all deal with.

He seems to have great momentum, and I hope he will use this momentum to make real, lasting change for the better. The key, it seems, will be the duration of his Papacy and whether or not he’ll have sufficient time to address the underlying theological and ecclesiological assumptions of the Roman Church through the formal, conciliar process.

He is, of course, in my constant prayer as a companion along the Way.

**JvP:** What is your vision for St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral?

**PL-E:** My first goal is for us as a community to love each other and to delight in one another as a people of faith.

My second goal is for us to ‘be cathedral’ — to provide a ‘commons’ for this community we share. This means that we are to engage with our immediate neighbors in Loring Park, as well as with the city, the state, and beyond.

My third goal is for the Cathedral community to reclaim and build on its own incredible legacy as a source of beauty, bearer of hope, and advocate for justice, peace, and reconciliation here in Minneapolis.

**JvP:** Where can you see St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral and The Basilica of Saint Mary collaborating in the future?

**PL-E:** I have been struck by the wonderful working relationship that exists between the senior clergy of our downtown interfaith community. For my first year, I have decided to sit at the table and listen to all the wonderful things that are going on. We all share the same mission to a great extent. Together we can make a huge difference in our city, one relationship at a time.

As far as The Basilica of Saint Mary: we share the same park, the same pathways, the same neighbors — only a small pond sits between us. I look forward to hanging out with Father Bauer more and to working together to strengthen the bonds between us and between our Loring Park neighbors. It will be fun to imagine and to experiment together with what it means to be a church in the 21st century.

**JvP:** Do you have any final words?

**PL-E:** Only that I’m deeply grateful and delighted to be here at St. Mark’s, on Loring Park, in Minneapolis. And that, above all, I hope our two communities will pray for one another, for our Interfaith partners, and for all those we’re here to love and to serve.
This Temple Stands Apart
Solemn Dedication of the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary

In November 2014, the doors of the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary were opened wide in a month-long civic dedication for Minneapolis citizens of all faiths to enter and admire the building. On August 15, 1915, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, Archbishop Ireland presided over a solemn dedication to sanctify the Pro-Cathedral as holy ground, remarking in his address, “The sprinkling of these walls means their separation from mundane things. Cleansed of the dust of earth, this temple stands apart, a place where we may come in reverence and admiration for the infinite blessings of God.”

As at the first Mass a year earlier, the interior of the church was still unfinished — bare stone rather than marble, a temporary altar rather than our grand baldacchino, and clear glass in the high windows. Exhortations to parishioners to fulfill their pledges were made with reference to the grading and finishing of the exterior grounds, rather than the interior decoration. But the life of the parish had shifted to the new building, with only the occasional Mass said at the old Immaculate Conception church.

Preparations for the August dedication began in June, 1915. Fr. Thomas Cullen initiated a campaign of prayer and penance, hoping to mark the auspicious day by bringing to the faith a large number of “careless” and non-Catholics. In mid-July, tickets were mailed to pew holders who were current on their pew rent. Those in arrears were warned that they could lose their pew sittings. The first week of August, choir boys and altar boys reported for practices, and the men of the parish were called upon to act as a bodyguard for Archbishop Ireland.

The day of the dedication, pewholders were admitted to the church for their reserved seats up to 3 P.M. Those seated comfortably inside unfortunately missed the grand procession outside — the imposing Archbishop, flanked by hundreds of parish men and leading a choir of priests, seminarians and acolytes. The choir chanted the Miserere and the Litany of the Saints as Archbishop Ireland circled the church, sprinkling the foundations with holy water. The procession entered the church and the interior was also sprinkled and sanctified with prayers. Then the doors were opened to the general public for the remainder of the service. Several thousand attended.

The Archbishop delivered a sermon on the text of Luke 1:48, “Behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.” He focused on the honor and veneration due especially to Mary, the patron of this church, and the highest of all women. To close the ceremony, The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was celebrated by Fr. Cullen. A luncheon was then served to the visiting priests in the school cafeteria.

In his August 5 dedication day letter, Fr. Cullen stated, “We believe that God is everywhere and that the Divine Immensity fills all space, but this faith does not exclude the idea of reserving a special spot in which the creature may hold communion with his Creator and worship Him.”

Heather Craig is the Archivist for The Basilica of Saint Mary.

By Heather Craig

The Basilica interior during Advent, 1914. Note the original altar, the raw, unfinished walls, wooden Communion rail, temporary light fixtures, and the absence of stained glass windows.
FROM the diverse liturgies, to unique musical selections, to the wide array of outreach ministries, it seems there is truly something for everyone at The Basilica.

And while the depth and breadth of programs and liturgies are as diverse as those individuals filling the pews, it can be easy to miss some of the details that bring this diversity to life in The Basilica.

“Our goal is that all those who come to The Basilica recognize themselves in something here,” said Johan van Parys, director of liturgy and sacred arts at The Basilica. “That could be a painting, a song, or a sculpture or hopefully another person.”

One feature of The Basilica that is particularly unique is the chapel of Our Lady of La Vang. This chapel, located immediately outside of the sacristy in the northwest corner of the church, is visited by many, but particularly those of Vietnamese descent.

The story of Our Lady of La Vang comes to us from an apparition of Our Lady in the country of Vietnam. The name La Vang is derived from a type of fern which used to grow in great quantities in the region.

Just before the turn of the 18th century, in hopes of fleeing government安装 persecution, but aware of the realities of death and martyrdom, a group of faithful Vietnamese Catholics hid themselves in a dense and dangerous jungle, where they were met with disease, hunger, beasts and terrible weather. In their suffering, these Catholics continued praying, most memorably, a rosary, each evening, with the powerful hope that faith would save them.

To their joyful surprise, the Blessed Mother appeared to them during their prayer, clothed in light and traditional Vietnamese garments, accompanied by two angels and carrying her child Son, Our Lord. To those gathered in awe, Our Lady of La Vang spoke, instructing them to boil leaves from the fern as a remedy for their ailments. What’s more, she promised that the prayers of any and all who prayed on that spot would be heard and answered.

Not long after her hope-giving visit, many anti-Catholic restrictions were lifted, the hidden returned to their homes and the news of the Blessed Mother’s visit spread. Many pilgrims traveled through the jungle and in 1820, approximately 21 years after her apparition, a chapel was built.

Later, Christians in the region faced another wave of persecution. More than 100 Vietnamese Christians died as martyrs for their faith, and in 1885 the chapel in honor of Our Lady of La Vang was destroyed. A new chapel was built and consecrated in 1901, and then another church built in 1928 to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims to the site.

In 1959, the site was officially declared a national shrine, and in 1961 the church was elevated to the position of a minor basilica. Unfortunately, this church was destroyed in 1972 during the Vietnam War.

Even today, while the shrine in Vietnam remains unbuilt, there are many namesake churches, buildings, shrines, and monuments, remembering the apparition of Our Lady. The chapel of Our Lady of La Vang in The Basilica is no different and we continue to pray for her help in our times of trial and tribulation.

Hannah Roe is a senior at the University of Saint Thomas and an intern for the communication and marketing department at The Basilica of Saint Mary. Stacy Glaus is the director of communication and marketing at The Basilica.
Building Blocks of Hope

The Basilica collaborates with CommonBond Communities

PRIOR to December 1, 2014, 54 families in Minneapolis had no dignified place to call home. Thanks to a $700,000 donation from The Basilica of Saint Mary, funded by parishioners, these people now have a safe and permanent place to sleep, eat, relax, learn, pray, and live. A housing organization called CommonBond Communities is using the donation to provide housing on West Broadway in North Minneapolis.

According to Dan Millea, chair of The Basilica Housing Initiative, The Basilica established The Basilica North Side Housing Fund in early 2011. The Fund was originally designed to help members of the Church of the Ascension, The Basilica’s sister parish on the north side of Minneapolis.

Millea says the source of the funding comes from a recent capital campaign. An affordable housing project was identified as an ideal target for those funds. After a year of exploration, the Basilica’s Housing Initiative decided to partner with CommonBond.

CommonBond, says Millea, not only fits within the mission of The Basilica, but also has a strong reputation in the community and the city of Minneapolis. To better understand the relationship between The Basilica and CommonBond, it’s wise to understand the mission of The Basilica.

Not surprisingly, the mission comes directly from the Bible, Jeremiah: Chapter 29:7 which reads: “Seek the well-being of the city to which I have sent you. Pray for it to the Lord. For in seeking its well-being you shall find your own.”

In brief, says Millea, one organization that clearly takes care of the well-being of Minneapolis is CommonBond.

CommonBond has been serving the Midwest for over 40 years. It’s the region’s largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing. It owns, develops or manages over 5,700 affordable apartments and townhomes throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, serving almost 9,000 people who have an average annual income of $19,400 per household.

Ann Ruff, Vice President of Resource Development for CommonBond Communities, says the funds from The Basilica do more than provide shelter for 54 families. The $700,000 helps CommonBond fulfill its mission and achieve its long-term goals which include:
1. Grow and diversify the CommonBond Housing Portfolio, building new relationships with service partners with a focus on health, wellness, education and transportation.

2. Maximize resident services to ensure that CommonBond investments in the community remain strong and sustainable.

3. To help CommonBond create solutions to the shortage of affordable housing regionally and nationally.

Ruff emphasizes that CommonBond is about much more than putting a roof over the heads of its residents. It’s about stories of success. Ruff went on to illustrate these two stories:

Story 1: Thanksgiving to Christmas can be a joyous time. For those without stable housing, Christmas can be a challenge. One woman, living just across the street from the new West Broadway Crescent location, watched the building being constructed. She was told that she and her son could move in January 1, 2015. But the building was finished a month ahead of schedule. The family moved in, just in time to light their very own tree and celebrate Christmas in their own home.

Story 2: O’Sheena grew up in Chicago and got married. Together with her husband she raised her three children. In 2003, her husband died. She moved in with her aging father. Money was tight, but they managed to make ends meet. That was, until the family house started needing serious repairs. When the ceiling of her daughter’s bedroom started collapsing, O’Sheena needed to make a change.

O’Sheena and her family moved to Minneapolis, looking for a better life. After three weeks of sharing a room in a shelter, O’Sheena landed a job on July 27, 2004. That day happened to be her birthday. The job happened to be with CommonBond. Soon O’Sheena and her family moved into CommonBond housing called Torre De San Miguel.

O’Sheena used many of CommonBond’s Advantage Services. Her youngest child got help in reading. O’Sheena continued to advance her career. She is now a compliance leasing specialist for CommonBond. Her oldest daughter is studying to be an EMT. Her son plans to go to the Naval Academy after completing high school.

In addition to making a difference in the lives of the residents, CommonBond is making a difference in the lives of the staff and volunteers. Ruff says she is constantly inspired by the residents who have “overcome many barriers to succeed academically, to provide for their families, and to maintain their independence. I am constantly inspired by their stories of strength, courage and tenacity.”

Millea agrees. He encourages members of The Basilica community to volunteer by offering their time and talents. The Basilica will continue its relationship with CommonBond, even though construction is now complete.

Private donations to CommonBond can be made online at www.commonbond.org or by mail to: CommonBond Communities, 1080 Montreal Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116-2311.

Ruff confirms that 85 percent of all contributions go directly to CommonBond programs.

The Basilica and CommonBond also have a number of volunteer opportunities, particularly at the Broadway Crescent location. Some of these opportunities are ongoing and some are one-time efforts, says Ruff. There is a need for help with landscaping, cleaning, special events, homework help and Study Buddy mentors.

Millea compliments the work that CommonBond does: “Not only are the CommonBond staff members a pleasure to work with, but the work they do adds great value and benefits to our communities, including our partners and friends on the North Side.”

Steve Shore has a degree in journalism and loves to write whenever he has the chance. He currently works in contract administration at the University of Minnesota and enjoys long-distance cycling in his free time.
Delia Bujold

A living definition of stewardship

**Bujold describes stewardship as ‘giving of your time, talent, and resources generously.’**

Delia Bujold is one of the two trustees at The Basilica. Bujold has been a member of The Basilica since 1996 and will finish her ninth, and final, year as parish trustee this year. She volunteered and served the parishioners of The Basilica in a number of capacities before being appointed a trustee in 2006 by then-pastor Fr. Michael O’Connell.

“We joined the parish in September of 1996 and one of the first jobs my husband and I did was sweep out the space that’s now the Undercroft,” says Bujold. “That had been a place for miscellaneous storage for years and it was dusty and messy.”

From there, Bujold continued to volunteer, coordinating the wreath ministry at Christmas and Easter, convening the Interior Space Committee which helped develop The Basilica’s master plan, and serving as a receptionist in the Rectory as well as a Eucharistic minister at Mass.

After years of volunteering at The Basilica and participating in a leadership training...
program, Fr. O’Connell asked Bujold to serve as a trustee for the parish.

“After giving it some hard thought and conversation with my husband,” Bujold says, “I agreed to take it. And I never had a regret.”

The role of a trustee is extensive. In addition to attending parish council, finance committee and Landmark board meetings, Bujold’s other responsibilities include serving on budget committee, nominating and governance committee, and two strategic planning cycles while filling in at other meetings and activities as needed.

“My job is to have an overview of what’s going on in the parish by attending all of these meetings and just having eyeballs on what’s going on,” says Bujold.

During her time with The Basilica and as trustee, she has witnessed a great deal of change, both inside The Basilica and in the surrounding community. She’s also faced many challenges, from weathering the recession to dealing with commercial building and road construction in Minneapolis.

“It has been very satisfying because we’ve gotten some things accomplished like the extra meeting space in Cowley, getting archival space designated for the fourth floor,” Bujold adds. “I saw things happening while I was also part of it so it was very enjoyable and influential.

“I’ve loved every minute of it. It is very satisfying to be in what’s happening and understand what’s going on,” says Bujold. “We’ve had some big challenges, but when you hear every month what’s happening, you become very aware about how important stewardship is.”

Bujold describes stewardship as “giving of your time, talent, and resources generously. And while not everyone has the means or time to do all of those things at once, you can do what is important to you.”

Those who know Bujold well agree that Bujold is the embodiment of her own definition — continuing to give of her time, talent, and resources generously.

“Delia’s selfless gift of time and talent has been one of the best examples of stewardship I’ve witnessed at The Basilica,” says Emily Carlson-Hjelm, executive director of The Basilica Landmark and director of development for The Basilica. “Her spirit shines through her positive energy and her gifts of encouragement and listening. In all she has done for our community, she has done it with love.”

And now, as Bujold steps down as trustee, sharing her gifts will remain an important part of her life. She will continue to volunteer with The Basilica as well as other organizations including Mill City Commons, a scholarship program for students in Mexico, and The Woman’s Club, to name a few.

No matter where she serves, she will always be known for her positive attitude and hard work.

“[Bujold] has always approached everything with a smile, and a willingness to roll up her sleeves and get the job done,” says Fr. John Bauer, current pastor of The Basilica.

Bujold is confident that even though she may no longer be serving as trustee, The Basilica is in good hands.

“I’ve really enjoyed this job a tremendous amount — I am grateful that I’ve had an opportunity to do this,” says Bujold. “And while I have loved it, I’m ready to let go because more have to come. Volunteering adds value — I want to see it continue — the people that were here before us had that vision, too.”

Stacy Glaus is the director of communication and marketing at The Basilica.
WHEN we enter The Basilica, we feel embraced. Whether it is by the beauty of the building, the celebrant’s inspiring words, or the fact that God’s majesty and humanity seem to come together there, the place offers each of us a special haven. We may come to take this for granted, until we consider that, due to accessibility issues, The Basilica is not as hospitable to all of us as we would like it to be.

This is where the Accessibility Committee comes in. Calling themselves “Barrier Busters,” this group, comprised of eight enthusiastic members, has made it their mission to learn about any barriers to full participation at The Basilica. They are wise enough to know that their first job is to listen and learn. Only with awareness, can they then work with others to eradicate any barriers that people might experience.

Last year, the committee instigated a series of “Disability Awareness Sundays.” Each month, a certain disability was highlighted, such as autism, brain injury, vision and hearing loss, or mental health. At Masses, the celebrant invited worshippers to pray for those affected by the disability and, after Mass, to visit the Teresa of Calcutta Hall in order to share and gain insight with respect to that specific disability. After one of these Masses, a gentleman visiting The Basilica came to the hall with tears in his eyes. He said that when he heard the community pray specifically for someone living with autism, he felt, for the first time, that he was welcome.

Never ones to rest on their laurels, the committee members are now embarking on a new initiative, called “Disability Dialogues” — a call to those with disabilities of any sort — to sit down with a member of the committee and talk openly about practical ways that The Basilica can enhance their ability to participate fully as members of the community. The committee is already reaching out to some individuals, but urges others to listen for announcements at Mass and invitations in The Basilica Bulletin and Newsletter, in order to learn how to engage in these dialogues.

In addition to initiatives such as these, the committee is tackling ongoing challenges. For example, members of the committee are aware that certain stimuli during a service may trigger a response in an individual dealing with a brain injury, who may then require a quiet space in which to re-group. In response to this challenge, the committee is looking for a room in which to provide this quiet space and will train ushers and Basilica personnel to help those who are looking for such a space.

Another challenge is ensuring that any changes made to The Basilica grounds and facilities comply with accessibility codes while honoring the building’s historic designation. This requires that the committee work closely with the Facilities Committee and The Basilica Landmark to establish priorities and accomplish objectives.

Accessibility is an issue that will likely touch each of us during the course of our lives. As Janet Grove, staff liaison to the Accessibility Committee, states: “It is almost as certain as death and taxes, that we will all face some barriers...either at birth, from an accident, or as we age.” If you would like to become part of this knowledgeable, optimistic group, contact Janet at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kate Helms has been a parishioner at The Basilica for several years, and has recently joined the Docent Ministry.
Celebrating 25 Years of Service

Employment Ministry at The Basilica

This year we’re celebrating a milestone for The Basilica of Saint Mary’s Employment Ministry.

For the past 25 years, the Employment Ministry has been serving the community by providing resources for the unemployed and those seeking a career change.

Free and open to all, the ministry offers many benefits to members who need only register to take advantage of the available resources and services of the ministry.

During enrollment one goes through a personal intake process, which includes an interview to determine what type of services, counseling, and employment they are seeking. After someone is entered into the ministry, notifications for job leads are emailed out. The Employment Ministry provides job coaches for individual assistance, job placement counseling, resume building, and interviewing tips. Members can register for free workshops targeted toward current job-market interests and applications. They also have access to the community-based networking opportunities of Basilica members. Additionally, a host of online resources to aid in the job search are provided.

What makes The Basilica’s Employment Ministry so special? Before the Employment Ministry was started, all the job placement programs in the Twin Cities were strictly group based. According to Janet Grove, the Ministry was founded to fill this need.

“It was created after the director, Tom Green, landed here after a difficult job search. He felt it was important to have a ministry and walk with people as they look for work.”

From the start, the Employment Ministry set itself apart from other employment groups by being the first to offer individual job placement counseling and one-on-one services, in addition to group-based ministrations.

Twenty-five years later, it remains one of very few programs in the Twin Cities offering individual job placement counseling.

When asked what the ministry is most proud of during its 25 year tenure, Grove stated the biggest accomplishment was the sheer number of people they were able to help. In the last year alone, 250 people got new jobs, went back to school or left the state for work. This is the largest number helped from this ministry in a single year yet.

In order to keep offering members relevant information and services in the ever-changing job market, the Employment Ministry is focused on maintaining up-to-date practices and information. Grove stated that over the last year they’ve “revamped the workshops so that every quarter, participants can look at all aspects of the job search: assessment, resumes, interviewing, financial help, branding, etc. Also, we had a new job coaching training. The ministry is excited to continue service and individual focus.”

Special thanks should be given for this important ministry, to Grove, Green, Mary Connolly, job coaches, workshop presenters, parishioners with job leads, Twin Cities organizations who refer people, and ministry members who get work and then bring jobs forward.

If you want to help The Basilica’s Employment Ministry and/or know of any job openings, contact Janet at jgrove@mary.org and we can ensure another 25 years of servicing the community and helping people find employment.

Shelby Andersson is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and a freelance writer.

Janet Grove, employment and mental health ministry coordinator at The Basilica, holds the proclamation from Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton declaring Oct. 21, 2014, as Basilica of Saint Mary Employment Ministry Day in the state of Minnesota. The employment ministry has served over 5,000 people in job transition over the past 25 years.

By Shelby Andersson
Let the Little Children Come
Introducing The Basilica’s New Parents Ministry

“Do you fully understand what you are undertaking?”
— Rite of Baptism

“WE DO,” my husband and I answered wholeheartedly, with the best of intentions and to the best of our knowledge and experience, for our four-month-old daughter.

However, we realize that we can’t fully understand what lies ahead. So how are new, inexperienced parents to teach a child to be a disciple of Jesus and to instill the importance of becoming priest, prophet, and royalty in the eyes of God?

Claiming our daughter for Christ in Baptism seemed to be a good start. But then what?

A beautiful part of being Catholic, by definition, is belonging to a community. One of our favorite things about The Basilica is that there is an astounding community of support. We couldn’t be more appreciative of The Basilica’s new Ministry for Parents of Young Children. This ministry is designed for parents to connect with others in a similar life stage and to gain more insight about how to teach our children about God. Topics range from encouraging presentations about finding God in everyday tasks, to practical presentations about how to involve your child in spiritual practices that emphasize spirituality in a tangible way.

We have already been blessed by this ministry with the opportunity to grow in our faith with our new identity as parents, and also meet new friends with little ones. And I’ll admit that it’s nice to get a break to talk with other adults and listen to presentations while our daughter is well looked after by volunteers in the nursery.

Being a parent or guardian is a profound privilege and responsibility. We are our children’s most prominent example of love during the majority of their most formative years in life. But it takes a village to raise a child and it takes a church to raise a disciple. So we are grateful for this ministry to help new parents like us in the early stages of our journey of parenthood. We have been humbled to witness immeasurable moments of God’s grace as new parents, especially through dozens of sleepless nights, months of our baby refusing a bottle, and countless diaper changes that remind me more of a wrestling match. But far outweighing the struggles, we are constantly reminded to join in the celebration every time we witness our child’s immense capacity for joy and love. We must embrace that inborn gift from God to all children as we help them grow in spirituality, and in turn, let God transform us through them “for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” — Mark 10:14

Did we fully understand what we were undertaking when we baptized our daughter? I believe that in answering “we do,” we attest to trusting that Christ will give us strength and guidance in our roles as parents, spouses, and disciples, whatever we may face. What a gift to have the support of our parish community through it all!

Bethany Peters volunteers with Rock Solid Marriages and the Basilica Young Women. She is a local actress and recently opened her own doll shop, TheSweetPeaFactory on Etsy.
name, epithets were sometimes used, often derived from the individual’s hometown. Thus, Mary of Magdala is so-called because she came from a village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee known as Magdala.

Precious little is written about her in Scripture. There are four other passages in Scripture that have traditionally been connected with Mary of Magdala. She is explicitly named as the woman Jesus healed of seven demons in two of those (Luke 8:1–3 and Mark 16:9). These demons were believed to be the seven deadly sins, with lust being one of them. In addition, the unnamed sinner who anointed Jesus’ feet (Luke 7:36–50) and the unnamed adulteress who was saved by Jesus from being stoned (John 8:3–11) were for the longest time thought to be Mary of Magdala. Though neither of these conjectures are supported by current biblical scholarship, they influenced the Catholic image of Mary of Magdala as a repentant sinner. For centuries she enjoyed a great following as the patroness of repentant sinners. She is frequently referred to simply as “The Penitent.”

Some other Scripture passages in which she is mentioned paint a somewhat different picture of Mary of Magdala. We know that she stayed by Jesus even as he was dying on the cross (Matthew 27:55–56; Mark 15:40–41; John 19:25). She was also present when he was laid in the tomb (Matthew 27:61; Mark 15:47). Even more importantly, she was the first (John 20:1–10) or at least among the first (Matthew 28:1–8; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12) to arrive at the empty tomb. And, she was the first (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:14–18) or at least among the first (Matthew 28:9) to meet the risen Christ and announce the resurrection to the apostles (John 20: 18). The Orthodox churches have based their understanding of Mary of Magdala on these passages and principally honor her as the apostle to the apostles.

The mystery of Mary Magdala’s true identity may never be fully understood, but we can be assured that she was a devout and committed follower of Jesus who stood by him even in his darkest moments when almost everyone else had abandoned him. Jesus must have valued Mary’s devotion since he appeared to her before appearing to anyone else. And it was Mary of Magdala who was sent to announce to the apostles that Jesus had risen from the dead. As a result, we now celebrate Mary of Magdala, rather than a penitent sinner, as a woman of strong faith — the first witness to the resurrection and apostle to the apostles.  

— Cecilia Hofmeister with contributions from Johan van Parys, Ph.D.

Cecilia is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago where she received her degree in English. She is also the editor of BASILICA magazine.
Though their season is nine months long, they gather throughout the entire year for opportunities with other area choirs, fundraising events (they’ll likely make an appearance at The Basilica Block Party, for example), and a yearly choir member retreat. Most recently, the choir joined forces with six other choirs from the Twin Cities to present the Ninth Biennial Choral Festival on February 15. They were among 400 voices performing at this magnificent event.

For 20 years, the Cathedral Choir has been led by The Basilica of Saint Mary Director of Music, Teri Larson. When asked what she finds most rewarding about her work with this group of talented volunteers, she said, “I appreciate the strong sense of family and community in the choir, and I deeply value working with volunteers and creating music for the glory of God.”
Jeanette Andersen, a resident of Northeast Minneapolis, has been a member of The Basilica of Saint Mary Cathedral Choir for 26 years. Before retiring, Jeanette was a music educator and spent most of her thirty-five-year career working at Loring School in Minneapolis with children from the inner city. Jeanette recalls being drawn to music since she was very young. When she was seven years old, her father bought an old pump organ for twenty-five cents. He intended to use it as a wash pump. Growing up in a home with no running water or electricity, her parents couldn’t afford music lessons, so Jeanette had other ideas for the organ. She began to teach herself how to play, and from that moment her passion for music took hold.

In her long career, she has performed in Austria, Italy, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and throughout the United States. She thanks God every day for her gift of music. She appreciates music because it “brings people together, helps build self-confidence, and provides comfort and healing.” When asked what she hopes the music from the Cathedral Choir provides the parish community at The Basilica, she says, “I hope it provides them with a deeper spiritual life through the music.”

A member since 2011, Mary Gleich moved back to the Twin Cities for graduate school. Also someone who has had a lifelong love of music, Mary has participated in various church choirs throughout her entire life, as well as her college choir. When she heard the Cathedral Choir perform, she knew she wanted to be a part of it. She didn’t realize how much the choir would add to her life. The choir members devote an extensive amount of time to rehearsing and preparing for the liturgies. Through this time together, they have become lifelong friends and family. When asked what has been most rewarding about participating in this choir, Mary says, “I have been able to create fantastic music with wonderful people, some of whom are my best friends.” Mary shared that she’s dealt with some adversity in the last month, and members of the choir have been there to support her. Through her tears, it was evident this support means the world to her.

Both women praised Teri Larson for her commitment to and hard work with the choir. Andersen says, “Teri has a positive and encouraging attitude, is loving and thoughtful, and is a musical genius. She stretches us to perform music we didn’t think we could do.” Gleich echoed these sentiments: “Teri’s devotion to the choir is amazing. We couldn’t do what we do without her.”

Under Larson’s direction, The Basilica of Saint Mary Cathedral Choir is traveling to France in early June. They will sing Sunday high Mass at Notre Dame in Paris and at Notre Dame in Chartres. In addition they will sing at the Cathedral of Bayeux, The American Cemetery in Normandy and at one of the famed castles in the Loire Valley. No doubt, this trip will be life-altering for the family of choir members, as well as those lucky enough to hear them sing. Remember, you don’t need to travel to France to hear them or their lovely music. As parishioners, we are graced with their presence and music every weekend.

Ann T. Deiman-Thornton has been a member of The Basilica for 14 years. She is a resident of North Minneapolis and is deeply concerned about making our community a better place.
A Landmark Plan Takes Shape
Focused on the future

As the Basilica of Saint Mary enters its second century as an iconic landmark at the west end of downtown Minneapolis, it’s bolstered by an ambitious plan that looks toward an even brighter future.

That plan has become the blueprint for the fundraising efforts of The Basilica Landmark, whose mission is “to preserve, restore, and advance the historic Basilica of Saint Mary for all generations.”

Since July 2013, Steve Sefton has been steering that effort as the organization’s president, and before that he served another five years on the board. After some time “getting our feet under us as an organization,” Sefton says, there has been a dramatic transition.

“Rather than being passive/reactive, we became responsive and proactive to meet the facilities’ needs as identified by the Facilities Committee.”

“We didn’t want to do this in a small way,” he adds. “One board member challenged the board with a BHAG (a ‘big, hairy, audacious goal’) — in this case, about $20 million to meet all of The Basilica’s needs.

Audacious, indeed, but things are off to a good start. Last year The Basilica Landmark received a $2.5 million challenge grant from an anonymous donor, and generous donors in the community had matched it by year’s end.

Meanwhile, Sefton has been the architect of a massive spreadsheet.

“The thing I’m most proud of is we all know exactly what we need to do and when we need to do it — for the next 10 years,” he says. “We took this monstrosity of a wish list of facilities needs and we turned it into a facilities plan sequenced annually over the next 10 years.”

That’s where Ann Wilczynski comes in. In July, she’ll succeed Sefton as the new president of The Basilica Landmark, well aware of the work that’s been accomplished and anxious to sustain the momentum.

“You look at [this] 10-year plan and the resources needed — not just financial, but time and diligence and talent — and think, all right, let’s take it off the page and into reality,” says Wilczynski.

Does she find the fundraising goal intimidating? She breaks out laughing.

“Whatever bigger word there is than ‘intimidating,’ that’s what I find it to be,” she says. “Although a really large, significant piece of architecture is going to take really large dollar amounts” for renewal and advancement.

She’s also focused on having enhancements to The Basilica made with the least possible disruption to the community.

“Money aside, how do you do all this in a way that doesn’t drive people away, maintains momentum, gets people excited about it rather than annoyed with it, and provides enough incentive to get people to contribute over the long haul?”

Those are the million-dollar questions that Wilczynski will be working to answer, aided by a parish community that’s already stepped up in a big way.

“A lot of people think, ‘I don’t want to donate to a building; I want to donate to a program,’” notes Sefton. “The facilities of The Basilica are the means by which we deliver all of our great services — St. Vincent de Paul, the sacraments, etc. — so it’s integral that we take care of those facilities if we want to continue those programs.”

For more information on The Basilica Landmark and to donate, visit www.thebasilicalandmark.org.

Rick Moore is a writer who works and lives in Minneapolis. He has been a member of The Basilica for about 10 years.
ONE cold, January day, seven-year-old Owen was spending time with his Grandma on his day off from school. If you were fortunate enough to grow up with a grandparent and remember spending time with your grandma, then you know it’s probably safe to say these days could be anything but routine.

In Owen’s case, his grandma decided to take him to The Basilica for a tour — a place where she spends many of her days. And it’s a good thing she did. Owen loved what he saw and asked his grandma, “How is The Basilica taken care of?” His grandma replied, “It takes donations from thousands of people every year to keep the building in good repair.”

Upon hearing this, Owen decided he wanted to help. He went home, grabbed his piggy bank, and brought his own donation to The Basilica — $2.03 to be exact. But he didn’t stop there. Owen turned to his family and asked them if they would join him in helping take care of this beautiful building. This time, he brought back $45.25. And while those amounts may seem nominal, every donation helps since, as Owen learned, it takes the donations of thousands of people to maintain The Basilica.

“This year, a generous anonymous donor has offered to donate $100 for every new donation to The Basilica Landmark,” said Kristian Mauel, annual giving coordinator at The Basilica. “That means Owen’s $2.03 donation immediately turned into $102.03, all because he believed in the importance of preserving this historic space.”

It is through donations like Owen’s that make continued restoration of The Basilica by The Basilica Landmark possible.

“This year, The Basilica Landmark will renovate the Reardon Rectory fourth floor into art and archival storage space, preserving more than 4,000 artifacts owned by The Basilica,” said Mauel. “They will also install an ADA compliant restroom and additional office spaces on the fourth floor as well as central air conditioning and sprinklers throughout the building.”

But they couldn’t complete projects like this without the help and support of their generous donors.

“To Owen, donating to The Basilica was elementary — it was something easy that he could help with,” said Mauel. “A gift of any size helps to make great improvements on our campus, addressing growing needs, working to steward our buildings and ensuring The Basilica’s service to the community will continue.”

The Basilica Landmark’s mission is “to preserve, restore, and advance the historic Basilica of Saint Mary for all generations.” Owen wants to be sure The Basilica is still standing when he grows up.

To join Owen in preserving and restoring or watch your mailbox for details.

This story is based on actual events at The Basilica of Saint Mary.

Stacy Glaus is the director of communication and marketing at The Basilica.
SERVING more than 12,000 parishioners and offering an average of 150 liturgies, activities, and events each week throughout the year, The Basilica of Saint Mary is no small operating feat. Tending to all facets of such a magnificent spiritual home requires an impressive collective effort — from preparing for liturgical celebrations, to offering outreach and ministry programs, to maintaining and preserving campus buildings.

Several new staff members have joined The Basilica in recent months, contributing their expertise in a variety of capacities across the organization. Please take a few minutes to “meet” The Basilica’s newest staff members and learn about their favorite Basilica experiences.

**Mary Beseres**
**Christian Life Administrative Assistant**

Mary’s route to her new role as administrative assistant for Christian Life at The Basilica began as a volunteer. Shortly after retiring from a 30-year career in healthcare operations management, Mary volunteered to assist with database management for The Basilica’s St. Vincent de Paul Ministry. When a staff position opened in that office, Mary applied. She’s finding her official role with The Basilica to be a perfect fit. Mary and her husband have three grown children and two grandchildren. Outside of work, Mary stays busy with reading, running, golf, and spending time with her family and two dogs.

Mary’s Favorite Experience at The Basilica

“I was able to witness my youngest daughter and (now) son-in-law be married in this amazingly beautiful landmark church last June. My daughter and her fiancé were residents of Chicago, but she always wanted to be married in The Basilica. It was a dream come true for her — and an unbelievable experience for our families and friends.”

**Ben Caduff**
**Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry**

Prior to joining The Basilica as coordinator of Young Adult Ministry, Ben worked in campus ministry and social justice ministry for eight years. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Theology from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., a Master of Divinity from St. John’s School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, Minn., and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Systematic Theology, also at St. John’s. Married and the father of a young son, Ben enjoys a good baseball game and spending time with family and friends, including his two dogs.

Ben’s Favorite Experience at The Basilica

“After hearing about how beautiful the midnight Christmas Mass is, I invited my parents to join me this year. It was our first experience of this service, and just as beautiful as I’d been told. The music before, the candlelight prayer leading into Midnight Mass, and the celebration of the coming of our God as one of us were experiences I won’t forget anytime soon.”
Prior to joining The Basilica team, Stacy served as a public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force where she was stationed in Utah and Colorado. She earned her undergraduate degree in Human Resources from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and her graduate degree in Communication and Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. Stacy is married, with one child and enjoys running, singing, and spending time with family.

**Stacy’s Favorite Experience at The Basilica**

“My strongest Basilica memory reaches back several years, before my time here as an employee. I served as a cantor for the baccalaureate service honoring my graduating class from the University of St. Thomas. Singing in a liturgical setting is one of my favorite things to do because I am using the gift I was given to glorify God. Singing at The Basilica, in such a glorious space, made the special service all the more memorable.”

As a long time parishioner — and with decades of sales experience in both real estate and retail — Sarah relishes her new supporting role for the organization she considers to be “family.” Her work as a gift officer focuses on cultivating relationships with donors and soliciting support for the mission of The Basilica of Saint Mary and The Basilica Landmark, and for the preservation, restoration and advancement of campus buildings. Sarah holds a bachelor’s degree in Art History. She is married with three children and spends her free time enjoying the outdoors, gardening, and reading.

**Sarah’s Favorite Experience at The Basilica**

“The Basilica has always felt like an extended family to me. Here I found people I trust and respect — a community I wanted my children to grow up in and my family to be a part of. It has been such a gift to all of us in so many ways. I met and married my husband at The Basilica; all three of our children were baptized, received their First Communion, and were confirmed here. I feel so fortunate to have had this wonderful parish as part of my entire adult life.”

Lori is a repeat staffer at The Basilica, having first served as executive assistant to the managing director and pastor for a short period during 2012, before returning in late 2014 for a second term. Lori brings more than 15 years of administrative experience to her new post at The Basilica. Her typical day on the job includes updating the parish newsletter, assisting with special events, and preparing for meetings. In her spare time, Lori enjoys visiting with friends and family and traveling.

**Lori’s Favorite Experience at The Basilica**

“One of the finest rewards of working at The Basilica is knowing you are making an immediate difference. When working in a direct hospitality role, I have the opportunity to meet those in need, both in person and over the phone. Recently, on a very cold day, someone came to the door looking for socks and gloves. I dug into our stash of clothing and happened to find socks I’d just donated. It was nice to know that person’s life became just a little bit better because of me.”
Sharing our Successes
The 2015 Cathedral Ministry Conference

For a week in January, The Basilica of Saint Mary and the Cathedral of Saint Paul co-hosted the 2015 Cathedral Ministry Conference.

“This is the only conference where cathedral pastors can go, look at the other pastors, and say what we do is unlike all the other parishes in America or the world,” said Fr. Tom Willis, pastor at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in St. Augustine, Fla.

Every two years, rectors, pastors, staff and volunteers representing cathedrals from around the country gather together to discuss the responsibilities and challenges unique to cathedrals. At this year’s conference, representatives from 78 cathedrals across the U.S., plus Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, shared their experiences and their successes. Members of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians (CRCCM) and the Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space (ACLS) also participated.

“I grew up in St. Augustine and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine was my home parish,” said Fr. Willis. “I worked as sacristan of the Cathedral during high school. So, when I was asked to become the rector of the Cathedral, I thought I knew what I was getting into. But within three months, I realized I didn’t know half of what really goes on. There is a completely different dynamic within a cathedral — in the ministry the cathedral offers the diocese. Unless you have been a cathedral pastor, you do not know the experience.”

Networking and having informal discussions with other cathedral personnel is another important activity at the conference.

“Everyone is talking about the ‘Pope Francis Effect,’” said Fr. Adam Lee Ortega y Ortiz, pastor at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe, N.M. “We didn’t talk about that during the workshops, but at dinner tables. It is exciting. It impacts the Cathedral because we are the bishop’s church. Things in the Church could look very different down the line.”

This year’s Cathedral Ministry Conference came to The Basilica of Saint Mary because The Basilica has many success stories to share, including the Basilica Block Party and The Basilica Landmark’s progress in restoring and maintaining The Basilica buildings. Furthermore, The Basilica is recognized for its effective outreach programs and excellent liturgies.

“When talking about liturgy and music, Pope Benedict said that we have to take the very best of what various cultures have to offer,” said Peter Latona, music director at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. “One thing that made an impression on me at this conference was The Basilica of Saint Mary’s approach to multi-cultural liturgies. The parts of the liturgy all hung together despite the fact that there was music of different styles sung in different languages. I was able to see how one can do music that is multicultural and have it be very successful. I can’t put my finger on how it worked.”

The Cathedral Ministry Conference is held every other year in locations throughout the U.S. The 2017 conference will be held in Santa Fe, NM. For more information, visit www.cathedralministry.org.

James Van Sloun is a long-time parishioner with his wife, Priscilla, and their two children.
Art and Ministry
A priority at United Theological Seminary

AT United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities the arts are part of its ethos and a key part of the educational experience, integrated in the classroom, worship, and spiritual formation. While the Arts have been present at United from its earliest days, it was the work of Wilson Yates, former president and professor emeritus, that moved United to a national leadership role in the integration of arts and theology. He has been credited as a founder and pioneer in this field, one of his most significant contributions being the extensive case for the integration of the arts in theological education, and embedding the arts into the life and reputation of United.

In 1987, Yates published *The Arts in Theological Education*, a book which examined the treatment of the arts in 134 seminaries and provided the groundwork for United’s program. In 1988, with the help of a Lilly Grant, the journal *ARTS: The Arts in Religious and Theological Studies* was founded, with United’s Religion and the Arts Program as publisher and Yates as editor. Today, *ARTS* is the journal of SARTS (Society for Arts, Religion and Theological Studies) and is published by United and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of St. Thomas. Basilica parishioner Kimberly Vrudny is now senior editor. Vrudny is a graduate of United’s M.A. in Theology and the Arts and associate professor of systematic theology at St. Thomas, where she teaches in the area of theology and the arts and theological aesthetics.

The arts are experienced at United Theological Seminary in the following ways:

- Visual, literary and performing arts are integrated into the curriculum of degree programs and certificate courses.
- Four gallery areas provide exhibitions curated from the seminary’s permanent collection or larger shows featuring respected artists from around the country. The galleries seek to reflect the diversity of the Twin Cities.
- Artists-in-residence. This program brings artists to United to live, teach and work within the community for varying periods of time.
- The ability to observe the imaginative process assists students in creative thinking and encourages thoughtful reflection.
- Summer Institute in Spirituality & the Arts.
- The Bigelow Chapel, a sacred space that makes a theological statement about the immanence and transcendence of God.
- The Intersection, a studio where all art forms are engaged including music, visual arts, writing and performing arts; it is accessible to students, faculty and staff at any time.

Students graduate with a new appreciation of themselves as a creative person, something they take with them in their work in the world.

United also frequently engages with other local institutions to present arts programs around the Twin Cities including: the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota Museum of American Art, The Weisman Museum, and the Guthrie and Penumbra theatres. The Basilica and United have had an ongoing relationship for over twenty years, collaborating on a variety of arts and religion programs. And, they occasionally borrow art from one another’s collections for exhibits. For its *Sacred Art from Asia* exhibit in 2005, The Basilica borrowed several stencil prints by Sadao Watanabe, a Tokyo printmaker who portrayed Christian themes in the unique folk art idioms of Japan. The Basilica loaned sculptures, paintings, an etching and other images of Mary to United for their recent exhibit *Mother Mary Come to Me: 400 years of stories and symbols*.

Compiled by Kathy Dhaemers from conversations with and excerpts of articles written by Cindi Beth Johnson, Professor in the Practice of Theology and the Arts, and Director of the Center for Arts, Faith & Culture at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

*Kathy Dhaemers is Associate Director of Sacred Arts at The Basilica.*

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**About United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities:** The United Church of Christ (UCC) chartered United as an ecumenical seminary that would embrace the universality of all Christian denominations and include faiths outside of Christianity. Today, the student body, faculty and staff of United represent over 20 denominations and faith traditions. And true to the UCC’s sensibilities, United continues to champion social justice, integrate arts and theology, and promote bold and respectful dialogue among people of all faiths. Its campus is located in New Brighton, Minnesota. www.unitedseminary.edu
The Basilica Landmark Ball

A spirited evening to keep our bells pealing

By P. Joshua Hill

IN the still of a cold Minneapolis evening in February 2011, the night’s peaceful winter silence was abruptly shattered when a 300-pound stone plummeted from the façade of The Basilica of Saint Mary’s west bell tower, crashing into the church’s steps below. The damaged and broken bell tower quietly pled for the continued stewardship of The Basilica’s buildings and campus, and served as a dramatic reminder of the costs and diligence required to maintain such an extraordinary, sacred, architecturally-significant, and historic structure.

Fortunately, The Basilica Landmark heard the pleading of the bells. The Basilica Landmark is an independent nonprofit organization separate from The Basilica of Saint Mary parish. Its mission “is to preserve, restore, and advance the historic Basilica of Saint Mary for all generations.” As part of its mission, The Basilica Landmark funds projects, such as the restoration of the bell towers, which the parish would be unable or unlikely to undertake solely from its own operating budget. This year, along with other projects, The Basilica Landmark hopes to raise the funds necessary to restore the bell towers to ensure that The Basilica’s beloved bells never fall silent.

One of the primary ways The Basilica Landmark raises the funds necessary to support its mission is through its annual ball. This year, the event was held on Saturday, May 16, and the event underwent some renovations of its own.

For many years the event was known as The Masqueray Ball — named for The Basilica’s architect Emmanuel Masqueray. This year the event was renamed “The Basilica Landmark Ball.” By renaming the event, The Basilica Landmark hopes to strengthen its branding and continuity of message by directly associating the ball with The Basilica Landmark organization. However, past guests, Francophiles, and architecture enthusiasts do not need to worry — Emmanuel Masqueray was not excised from the event completely. Emmanuel
Masqueray, and his contributions to The Basilica and the broader community, will continue to be honored and celebrated at the event, both this year and in years to come.

Yet another exciting change for the event this year was its venue. For the past several years, the event has been held at various, unique destinations in and around Minneapolis. This year The Basilica Landmark Ball returned to its roots and was held on site at The Basilica. In an evening punctuated by fluid elegance, guests of the ball were whisked to various locations in and around The Basilica to experience the beauty and grandeur of The Basilica firsthand. In addition, the event showcased past projects undertaken by The Basilica Landmark, and offered tantalizing glimpses into The Basilica Landmark’s future plans.

Each year the Ball highlights one critical project and seeks to raise the funds necessary to complete the project though the Fund-A-Need portion of the Ball. Since the stone fell from the west bell tower in 2011, The Basilica’s facilities team has identified the tuck-pointing of the bell towers as an urgent matter.

Beginning in 2015, and every five years thereafter, tuck-pointing of the bell towers will be necessary to keep them in a safe condition and to ensure the integrity of the towers. Accordingly, The Basilica Landmark chose the restoration of the bell towers as this year’s Fund-A-Need project.

In addition, restoring the bell towers will help ensure the integrity of the historic bells housed within the towers. These bells are valued treasures of The Basilica and have become an important part of the acoustic landscape of Minneapolis. The historic bell from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, predecessor to The Basilica, hangs in the east tower. Prior to 1998, The Basilica’s west bell tower was empty. That year, thanks to the generous donation of an anonymous patron, six new bronze bells were dedicated and installed in this bell tower. These new bells were forged at the Royal Eijsbouts foundry in the Netherlands, following an age-old process. The bells were named after holy individuals from the Americas, specifically Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton of the United States (1774-1821), Saint Juan Diego of Mexico (1474-1548), Saint Katharine Drexel of the United States (1858-1955), Saint Kateri Tekawitha, the first Native American to be canonized (1656-1680); Saint André Bessette of Canada (1845-1937); and Venerable Pierre Toussaint of Haiti and the United States (1766-1853).

The bells officially pealed for the first time at the Christmas liturgies in 1998. Since that time, these iconic bells have announced both sacred and secular milestones, connecting The Basilica to the surrounding civic community. Preserving and maintaining the bell towers will help ensure that The Basilica’s bells continue to sonorously inspire generations to come.

The theme for this year’s ball was *notte vivace,* which translates from Italian to “spirited night.” The Basilica Landmark Ball was a “spirited night” indeed. Sumptuous Italian cuisine, exquisite libations, heavenly music, warming bronze tones eliciting the sheen of The Basilica’s bells, as well as state of the art technological presentations, dazzled, excited, and surprised those in attendance.

During the dedication of the bells in 1998, the congregation prayed that “the voice [of the bells] direct our hearts toward [the Lord] and prompt us to come gladly to this church….” With your continued support and the money raised from this year’s Fund-A-Need, The Basilica Landmark can restore The Basilica’s bell towers, and in turn, help ensure that this prayer continues to be a reality.

P. Joshua Hill is an attorney practicing in the areas of civil litigation, estate planning, and alternative dispute resolution. He and his wife are parishioners and active volunteers at The Basilica.
Landmark Projects

Reardon Rectory renovation

The Reardon Rectory has always been a very busy place on The Basilica campus, filled with lots of life and activities. Built in 1927-1928, the rectory was the residence and business office for the rector and assistant priests of The Basilica.

Since the 1990s, the apartments that once housed young priests and housekeepers are now rooms that serve as offices, meeting rooms, and ministry areas for events and staff of The Basilica.

To meet the ever-evolving needs of the parish, construction and renovation of this space was needed.

“The Basilica parish has grown and changed throughout its history. In the '20s and '30s, three to four priests were in residence here,” said Terri Ashmore, managing director at The Basilica. “Today we use this building entirely for office and meeting space so we’ve had to make changes to meet those needs.”

For example, in 2014, an exterior elevator tower was constructed to replace the original 1928 elevator and provide access to all five floors of the building.

In 2015, additional work is being done. Beginning in April, the Reardon Rectory will receive additional improvements, touching every single space of the building.

First, construction will begin on the fourth floor. Previously, this attic space was used for boilers and elevator mechanics, but soon the fourth floor will become the new home to The Basilica’s 4,000 piece art and archive collection. The space will be climate controlled to protect the collection and will offer a workroom for preparing exhibits and for researchers. Additional offices and a handicap accessible restroom will also be added to the fourth floor.

To increase safety throughout the building, a new stairwell will be added from the fourth to the third floor and fire suppression systems will be installed throughout the building. Finally, central air conditioning will be added to the building, replacing the 35 window air conditioning units that currently cool the Rectory in the summer months.

“These improvements increase building safety, functionality and efficiency,” said Ashmore. “We will see decreased energy costs from the central air conditioning units and greater accessibility and safety for our staff, volunteers and guests with the new handicap accessible restrooms and fire suppression systems.”

These extensive renovations are funded by the Basilica Landmark, a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit from The Basilica parish. As part of a recent matching challenge, The Basilica Landmark raised $2.5 million for improvements around The Basilica campus. This project, estimated at $1.9 million, is one of the projects funded by this challenge.

“While construction can be challenging while it is ongoing, the end result will better equip our facilities to meet the needs of our growing parish,” Ashmore added.

The project is scheduled to be complete in the Fall of 2015.

For updates on the project, visit The Basilica Landmark’s website at thebasilicalandmark.org.

By Bill Melcher

Bill Melcher is a content marketing and public relations professional who lives and works in Plymouth, MN. He has been a member of The Basilica for one year.
represents Mary’s sorrow, *Solomon’s Seal* represents Mary’s wisdom, *Gilly Flower* represents Mary’s fidelity, and *Violets* represent Mary’s modesty, to name but a few. The garden as a whole thus symbolizes Mary with all her strengths and virtues.

Since the garden itself is intended to be a representation of Mary, Mary Gardens do not have a statue of Mary in them. Aided by the colors and fragrance of the garden’s flowers, believers spiritually immerse themselves in Mary’s virtues while praying that her virtues may become theirs.

The idea for a Mary Garden at The Basilica of Saint Mary was proposed by the Friends of The Basilica of Saint Mary, now known as The Basilica Landmark. After years of study and planning, The Basilica’s Mary Garden became reality in 1997. The original design, staying as true as possible to the medieval concept, was created by Stacy Moriarty of Moriarty/Cordon. The traditional selection of plants did not thrive however, given the difference in climate and the specifics of the shady location of our garden. Thus, in 2008 after careful consideration and with due respect to the original design, the Garden was enhanced to include more hardy plants by Brad Agee of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota.

As we discussed which hardy plants to include, key to our conversation was the symbolic meaning of the plants in the garden. It was agreed that we could not just add any species of plants without betraying the very essence of the concept. A solution was found when we realized that someone, at some point, had assigned certain attributes of Mary to specific French plants. What was to prevent us from selecting Minnesota plants and assigning certain Marian virtues to them today?

Thus, we have a reinterpretation of the traditional French Mary Garden adapted to our Minnesota weather, no less inspired and no less inspirational. To give but a few examples, *Sweet Autumn Clematis*, a vigorous vine, speaks to the tenacity and courage Mary displayed while facing her many trials. The yellow flowers of *Mary’s Mantle* remind us of the radiance of Mary as a source of consolation. The *Roses* are a clear reference to Mary’s title in the Litany of Loretto as *Rosa Mystica* or *Mystical Rose*.

In response to multiple requests for a statue of Mary in the Garden — despite the fact that Mary Gardens traditionally don’t have statues of Mary — *Beckoning* was commissioned. This bronze sculpture by Gloria Tew, installed in the garden in 2000, is intentionally ambiguous in form. Both its location in the garden and the way the figure holds her hands can indeed be interpreted as Mary inviting us in. The statue may also be a more abstract representation of hospitality and invitation. Regardless of who you might think she is, her goal and ours is that you enter the Garden and, inspired by its beauty, meditate on the virtues of Mary that the Garden represents.

**Ask Johan**

_Johan M. J. van Parys, Ph.D., has been The Basilica’s director of liturgy and sacred arts since 1995. He has published numerous articles and writes a monthly column for Liguorian. His books include *Symbols that Surround Us* and *What’s the Smoke for? And Other Burning Questions about the Liturgy*, a collection of all previous Ask Johan columns._

**Dear Johan,**

I’ve heard you have a Mary Garden. What makes a garden a “Mary Garden” and what does Mary have to do with flowers?

**Gentle Reader,**

You have heard correctly. We are one of a handful of churches in the United States to boast a Mary Garden. This does not mean we simply have a garden with a statue of Mary like many churches; rather, we have a veritable Mary Garden.

The origin of a Mary Garden can be found in Medieval France and its surrounding countries. The basic concept, known as *a hortus conclusus* in Latin, is an enclosed garden containing a collection of very specific flowers. The garden is enclosed as a reference to the Virginity of Mary and each flower represents one of Mary’s virtues. For example, the *Lily* represents Mary’s purity, the *Bleeding Heart* represents Mary’s sorrow, *Solomon’s Seal* represents Mary’s wisdom, *Gilly Flower* represents Mary’s fidelity, and *Violets* represent Mary’s modesty, to name but a few. The garden as a whole thus symbolizes Mary with all her strengths and virtues.

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Owen came to The Basilica of Saint Mary for a tour with his grandmother. After learning it took donations from thousands of people every year to keep the building in good repair, Owen went home, went to his piggy bank and made his own donation of $2.03 to The Basilica Landmark.

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Please visit thebasilicalandmark.org to hear more about Owen's story and how you can donate to The Annual Fund

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THE BASILICA LANDMARK’S MISSION

is to preserve, restore, and advance the historic
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