"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." - Jeremiah 29:7

FROM THE PASTOR

A few weeks ago I needed to clarify a charge on one of my bills. It wasn’t a large amount of money, but enough that I didn’t want to just let it pass. I checked the company’s website and after some searching found a customer service telephone number. I called the telephone phone number and went through the menu options on the keypad on my cell phone. At one point I was finally able to reach the option where I could talk with a service representative. After selecting that option I got a recording that indicated I would be put on hold and my call would be answered in the order in which it was received. Realizing that talking to a real live person was within my reach, I put my phone on speaker and started responding to some emails. I was on hold for about 20 minutes before a service representative answered my call.

Fortunately it took just a few minutes to get the issue resolved. They mentioned that in the future if I had questions I might want use their website to try to find an answer. I told them that from my perspective being on hold for 20 minutes was preferable to trying to navigate their website. The serve representative chuckled and said: “We get that a lot.”

Being put “on hold” is a common experience. It seems that nowadays we seldom get to talk to someone personally without having to spend at least some time listening to background music or worse, advertisements for things we don’t want or need and have no intention of buying. Fortunately, with the advent of speakers on phones, being “on hold” doesn’t have to be time that is completely wasted. In fact, if you plan ahead, it’s possible to do something productive (like responding to emails) while you are on hold.

This experience came back to the other day as I was reflecting on our current situation with the COVID 19 pandemic. In many ways, for most of us, it can feel like our lives have been put on hold as our normal activities and routines have been interrupted and/or suspended. Certainly this is true for me. The thing is, though, that while at first I was a bit flustered by this, I realized I had a choice. One option was to look on this time of being “on hold” as a burden and a pain, and complain and whine about it to anyone who would listen. The other option was to see this as a time to do new things, or to learn to do some usual things in a different way. After a couple weeks trying out the first option, I realized that it wasn’t doing me any good. And so in praying about it, I decided I needed to use the time of being “on hold” as a time of opportunity, and perhaps even an occasion of grace.

Now I wish I could say that my decision changed everything for the better, or that I no longer see this time as a burden and a pain. I still do. What has changed, though, is that I don’t carry this attitude around all the time. It is more occasional or episodic. I’ve also started trying to be more aware of, and grateful for the blessings I enjoy in my life. And that has made a difference in my prayer. And that has made a difference in the way I approach things/people. And that is a good thing.

Being “on hold,” while certainly not exciting or pleasant, can be an occasion of grace. It all depends on whether we will be open to that grace, and let it find a home in our lives and our hearts.

Rev. John M. Bauer
Pastor, The Basilica of Saint Mary
OUR PARISH
OUR FUTURE

STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

The Basilica of Saint Mary is committed to the future growth of our parish. The Our Parish Our Future plan outlines the three strategic areas of focus for the next five years. This plan builds upon the parish’s strong vision, mission, and values.

The Arts
Move, inspire, and transform individuals and communities through excellence in the arts and creative practices.

Inclusivity
Build a culture where people feel valued, welcome, integrated, and included.

Homelessness
Respond to the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

These three areas of focus were strategically selected through a comprehensive, contemplative process with our parish leadership, staff, and consultants.

The three areas will unify and inspire collaboration across our parish and resonate throughout our commitment to the community.

Learn more about the strategic direction of our parish at mary.org/ourfuture.

OUR MISSION

Our core purpose
A community rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
As disciples of Jesus Christ, we:
• Practice biblical stewardship
• Share our faith with others in word and deed
• Pursue ecumenical and interfaith relationships
• Rejoice in rich diversity

THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY
2020 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Please take time to vote. The Parish Council represents you—our parishioners. The Council plays a key role in working with the pastor to ensure that The Basilica of Saint Mary community continues to live out our mission and vision.

We are in need of two parishioners to serve on our Parish Council—one to represent our Liturgy and Sacred Arts, and the other to represent the Christian Life ministries. By voting, you will help elect two new members to the Council.

Liturgy and Sacred Arts - Steven Kim

Christian Life - Aara Johnson, Incumbent

We are pleased to announce our candidates, who are well qualified and exhibit the spirit of stewardship, volunteerism, and leadership that make The Basilica of Saint Mary such a special place.

Please take a few minutes to read the biographies included written in each candidate’s own words and chronicle their personal commitment to The Basilica and its vital programs.

Thank you in advance for your participation and your continued support of The Basilica. Every registered adult parishioner in each household is entitled to vote.

Ballots must be cast online at mary.org/vote by Friday, June 5.

Sincerely,

Rev. John M. Bauer
Pastor

Erik Miles
Parish Council President
2020 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

LITURGY AND SACRED ARTS

The Basilica Liturgy and Sacred Arts department is dedicated to the best celebration of our faith through quality liturgy that reflects both the tradition of the Catholic Church and the diversity of our community. In addition, we are committed to offering a rich variety of sacred art events and exhibits as a compelling way to communicate our faith and values. Our goal is to provide a variety of opportunities for the development of each individual’s liturgical and devotional life.

STEVEN KIM, PARISH MEMBER SINCE 2015

I moved to Minneapolis for work at the end of 2014 and started “church hopping” to see which church around the area I wanted to call home. I started with The Basilica and was antsy to see what the liturgy would look like. The butterflies went away as I experienced the fullness of Mass during my first 9:30am Mass—it felt like home. I attended all the other Mass times at The Basilica and was drawn by the diversity it offered. I continued church hopping for due diligence but, in the end, I returned to where it started and became a member of The Basilica in 2015.

I have been very involved with The Basilica ever since. I started with the weekly Young Adult Bible Study, and the Cathedral Choir. I am a member of the Contemporary Music Ensemble now and still cantor. I am a member of the Campus Space Planning Committee and volunteer for the New Member Brunch.

I believe that The Basilica is a hub for the Twin Cities. As a hub for a diverse city, the experiences that the liturgy and the sacred arts from The Basilica provide need to reflect the diversity in the community—I will work together with the rest of the Parish Council to ensure that this diversity is well represented in the Liturgy and Sacred Arts department if I am elected into the Parish Council.

Professionally, I work for General Mills in Supply Chain. I have been with GMI for 7 years, starting out at one of our manufacturing plants in our accelerated development program for 2 years.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Basilica Christian Life department embodies the many ways we serve one another and work for justice. Volunteer opportunities include caring, charity, and justice ministries. Together, we work to serve, accompany, and defend one another.

AARA JOHNSON, PARISH MEMBER SINCE 2011 - INCUMBENT

I was baptized at The Basilica in 1987 and I serve our Basilica community in a variety of ways. I called The Basilica home after graduating from DePaul University and growing in Vincentian spirituality. Absolute balance between prayer and action drives my vocational journey as a disciple. I led The Basilica Community Packs. I participated in Basilica Young Adults/Women, Leadership in Discipleship training, and was a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) sponsor. I now lead Voices for Justice, infusing advocacy into Christian Life.

I will continue to serve on the Council to consciously and prayerfully plan for our future. My leadership experience as President during periods of institutional transition and evolution resulted in success: Peace Corps Colombia’s Volunteer Advisory Committee, University of Minnesota’s Public Affairs Student Association, and DePaul’s Catholic Campus Ministry. To experience Christian Life begs us to desire spiritual growth, radical hospitality, and Biblical justice. I am the Education Policy Advisor to Governor Tim Walz.

MARY.ORG/VOTE
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sunday Prayer for Solace and Peace

For two months now, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives greatly. As a result many of us have experienced some level of fear, stress, anxiety and grief. Given the uncertainty of every day, week and beyond this is to be expected.

As a church community we are called to support one another in times such as these. And though we may not be able to console and support one another in person, we know that we are not alone because we are all part of the one Body of Christ. We are in this together, for when one part of the Body suffers, the entire Body suffers in solidarity. So we help where and when we can and we are committed to fervent prayer.

Starting on the first Sunday in June and every first Sunday thereafter we will livestream Evening Prayer from The Basilica as long as the Pandemic lasts. This Evening Prayer for Solace and Peace will be offered for all those who are affected in any way by COVID-19. You may have lost your job. You may have been diagnosed with the virus. You may be at greater risk because you are a first responder or healthcare worker, or you work in the cleaning service, as a postal worker or a bank clerk. Maybe you are alone and unable to receive loved ones. There are so many known and unknown ways we are affected by this pandemic. So it is good for us to pause and pray.

At the end of our Evening Prayer for Solace and Peace we will light candles in one of our Marian shrines. We invite you to send your intentions at mary.org/candles. We will offer those to our loving God while lighting the candles.

We especially invite those who have experienced the loss of a family member or a friend during this pandemic to join us. Grief over the death of a loved one is always profound, but this has been compounded during the pandemic. You may not have been able to be with your loved one while they passed away. You may have had to limit attendance at the funeral to a small group of people. Or you may have postponed the service to a future date. All of this is very difficult.

Please submit the names of family and friends who have died during this pandemic to mary.org/prayerrequests. As part of the service, their names will be spoken during the litany of All Saints and All Souls. We hope this service will offer some support to all those who are grieving. And it will offer all of us the opportunity to support our grieving sisters and brothers.

May we all know the healing and consolation of the resurrected Christ.

LITURGY

MORNING PRAYER
THURSDAY 9:15AM
All are welcome to join in morning prayer at 9:15am via Zoom. Please contact Mark Wyss at mwyss@mary.org to receive credentials for access.

LIVESTREAM: MASS
Daily Noon Mass: Monday-Friday
Live on Facebook at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

Sunday 9:30am Mass
Live on mary.org and Facebook at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

Mass Recording Archive
mary.org/massrecordings

LIVESTREAM: EVENING PRAYER FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 5:30PM
Live at mary.org or Facebook live at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

LIVESTREAM: SUNDAY PRAYER FOR SOLACE AND PEACE
SUNDAY, JUNE 7 & JULY 5, 5:30PM
Live at mary.org or Facebook live at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

LIVESTREAM: TAIZÉ PRAYER
TUESDAY, JUNE 23 & JULY 19, 5:30PM
This service is characterized by mantra-like singing of simple, beautiful songs, following the Taizé community tradition of communal prayer focused on reconciliation and healing. Live on Facebook facebook.com/BasilicaMpls or mary.org.

LIVESTREAM: CORPUS CHRISTI VESPERS WITH BENEDICTION
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 5:30PM
Live at mary.org or Facebook live at facebook.com/BasilicaMpls

Liturgies & Sacred Arts Office
Director – Johan van Parys

General Info - 612.317.3410
Liturgical Ministries - 612.317.3433
Sacred Art/Concerts - 612.317.3438
Music - 612.317.3426
LITURGY & SACRED ART

ICON CLASSES
The Basilica of Saint Mary has hosted annual Icon classes on Saturday mornings during Lent since 2011. Due to Covid-19 the 2020 class met virtually. Deb Korluka used email, FaceTime, YouTube videos and Ring Central meetings to connect with the students for prayer and teaching and demonstrating the technique of Byzantine Iconography. Students also learned about the theology and spirituality of this year’s image, Saint Mary – Untier of Knots. In the virtual classes students were able to show Deb their progress and ask questions. Sometime this summer, they will be invited to visit Deb’s Stillwater studio for additional assistance, especially with the gold leafing process.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES
During this time when the church can’t physically gather, the liturgical ministers have explored prayer, study, and community activities all through the Zoom platform. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:00am we gather to engage a new prayer style (or go more deeply into a known prayer style). Tuesday nights we gather to play Trivia or BINGO. Saturday nights is a check in happy hour, and Sunday mornings (after the broadcast Mass) we sit down for virtual coffee and donuts. We are currently exploring some areas of learning—both our specific ministries and The Basilica itself.

MUSIC AND ART IMMERSION CAMP CANCELLED
For the common good and well-being of our community, the Music and Art Immersion Camp will not be held this year.

DOMESTIC CHURCH RESOURCE 2020
“God’s first language is silence. Everything else is a translation. Faith is opening and surrendering to God. The spiritual journey does not require going anywhere because God is already with us and in us.” - Fr. Thomas Keating

Our Basilica staff has collaborated on this resource which is intended to assist you in your discovery of the domestic church. We realize that many of us already feel overwhelmed by the demands and limitations of staying at home and social distancing. We don’t want to add to the stress. These are just some suggestions and offerings should you want and need them.

Also, we are not only offering things for you to do, we also invite you to allow us to assist you through this journey with COVID 19.

Full Resource Packet
mary.org/domesticchurch

MESSAGES FROM OUR COMMUNITY
I feel more connected than ever to The Basilica. Working from home has allowed me to "Zoom in" on a few random daytime Basilica meetings that I otherwise would never have the chance to attend. My faith has truly been strengthened! Thank you again for all that you are doing and God bless you all.

Jennifer

Just a word of thanks for the wonderful liturgies during Holy Week. Of course these are unique and challenging times, but having the live stream Masses to look forward to and view has enhanced this past week greatly.

The liturgies themselves were so inspirational, and the livestream production was quite well done. In particular, we found the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessing of the City on Easter Sunday quite moving. The shot from behind Archbishop Hebda as he looked out onto a snowy downtown was striking. We also enjoyed the video montage of The Basilica during the organ postlude. Well done!

Bob and Cheryl

Your gifts of the Holy Week services and Easter Sunday Mass at The Basilica of Saint Mary were extraordinary and so very much appreciated. Thank you for the meaningful and moving services you celebrated and offered to your flock and whoever else was able to tune in. The Holy Week services and Easter Mass were somber and simple, yet glorious and beautiful. The services provided a truly healing balm for all who tuned in. We were touched by Archbishop Hebda’s reference to the tomb being empty and experienced the stunning jaw dropping effect of seeing The Basilica pews “empty” this Easter morning, while yet knowing how very connected at that moment The Basilica was to its parishioners and all those who sought community there.

Nancy and Jim

So, so beautiful in every moment of the entire mass. Every action, word and song resonated with perfect dignity and holiness in my humble home and humbled heart. I’m so gratified by what you are doing, ministers of St Mary, and keepers of our family in faith. Thank you seems to fall short of how you have all touched my heart and connected me to you and our Parish. My tears speak of the ache to be together during this most beautiful and holy time. You have lessened the pain by this most excellent response of rising to the task and determination to celebrate Holy Week through technology. It has not only met, but exceeded the possibility of experiencing the Church Universal in such an intimate way: in communion with our family in Christ at The Basilica. I love you all!

Tanya
FROM THE DEPARTMENT

A New Reality

The corona virus has completely changed how we engage in our faith community, and like all of our departments, the Learning department has had to adjust our offerings as we have moved to virtual events. Our faith formation families, RCIA community preparing to receive the Easter sacraments, couples having to make decisions regarding their wedding dates and young adults have all had to adjust as so many plans have been put on hold. And yet, we have found that so many have continued to reach out to engage each other in this faith community.

RCIA candidates and catechumens have been patient as they await their chance to enter formally into the sacramental life of the Church and children and families have engaged each other in prayer and encouragement online. Our young adults have continued to support each other from everything like our weekly Bible study, to cocktail making happy hours, retreats, and trivia nights. It has been a blessing for us to continue to serve you during this time and see our Basilica community continue to engage each other in love and hope.

Our learning department staff worked hard to help contribute to our Domestic Church Resource for parishioners, which is available on our website at mary.org/domesticchurch. There you will find resources for family faith formation, prayer, and more. Please know that we are all working to prepare for fall learning opportunities, even as we are not quite sure how our parish life will look as we continue through this unprecedented time.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us, and please continue engaging with our weekly newsletter to know of periodic offerings during the summer.

Learning Department,
Jolane Jones, Cathy Edwards, Christine Moore and Ben Caduff

SACRAMENTS

ZOOM: BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS
TUESDAY, JUNE 16 6:30PM

If you are expecting, or in the process of adopting a child, please attend one of our baptism preparation classes currently online. We offer classes approximately nine times a year for parents who are registered members of The Basilica and plan on having their child baptized here. Godparents are welcome too. For more information call the Learning office at 612.317.3414. Please register online at mary.org.

RCIA

A path to deepening your relationship with God

When does RCIA begin? Will the schedule change? Will groups be able to meet? Here is what you should know. RCIA should begin whenever God calls you. We are living with a great deal of uncertainty. When will haircuts begin again? When will the park open? When will families gather? When will my job call me back? And you may be feeling a tug or a sense of wondering about your spiritual journey. Perhaps you have a bit more time to think and pray just now. Perhaps the tremendous uncertainty of our lives currently causes you to look for certainty in your spiritual life. God may be nudging you and if God is calling you, it is a fine time to act, even without a haircut. Contact the Cathy in the Learning office at cedwards@mary.org.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Online registration for Faith Formation classes is open. Please register children early. Those families registering before June 30 receive a discount of $25 per child. You may make a partial payment and still register your child early. Registering your child now will help us to know how many catechists are needed. Register at mary.org/faithformation.

If you are in need of a scholarship you may register online and choose ‘bill me’. Then, call the Learning office for more information at 612.317.3414.

CATECHISTS FOR 2020-2021

Do you love the Bible and have an interest in sharing your faith with youth? Are you someone who treasures the arts and wants to learn more about masterpieces and share this with our children? The Basilica Children’s and Youth programs will be offering new curriculum next fall. We are looking for open, caring adults, willing to learn and share with our young people. Please consider making a weekly commitment to be a catechist. All VIRTUS requirements required. For more information, contact Christine Moore, cmoore@mary.org.

Learning Office

General - 612.317.3414
Young Adult Ministry - 612.317.3478
Children & Family Ministry - 612.317.3439
Marriage Ministry - 612.317.3478
LEARNING

BASILICA YOUNG ADULTS

ZOOM: BYA BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAYS, 6:45-8:15PM

Young adults are welcome to join together for our weekly virtual Bible Study during the Coronavirus outbreak. Sign in with The Basilica BYA Zoom ID number, 259-119-3976. Contact Ben for more details at bcaduff@mary.org.

BYA SPRING RETREAT

One of our typical events for our Basilica Young Adults (BYA) group is to have two annual retreats, one in the fall for a weekend away, and a day long retreat in the spring. The coronavirus ruined our usual plan of trying to find a local space for a day long retreat this spring, but we were able have a virtual retreat in early May. One positive aspect of having to hold a retreat online is it allows for people to attend who normally not able to. For this retreat, we had a young adult join us from Wisconsin and from London! That was a great surprise, and it was great to work through the technical glitches and be able to reflect on the Easter season together. I have found that about 2 hours is the limit for an online meeting, so instead of a day long retreat, we simply prayed together and reflected on some Easter reflections for a morning. It really was a time of grace for me, and I hope it was helpful for the young adults who attended.

IF WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS…

I have had the privilege of working with engaged couples for almost a year now, and it is a joy to work with couples who are planning not just their wedding day, but preparing as best they can to begin their life together in marriage. Couples have been eagerly planning weddings throughout this year, and none of us could have imagined how different this process looks right now for so many couples. In a normal time, planning a wedding is a joyful but also stressful process, with many details to plan together. Add in an unprecedented global pandemic and couples really are having to make decisions they would have never imagined. Several weddings have been postponed, couples have holds on new dates in case they need to wait until 2021, and some are sticking with their date, knowing they will likely have a much smaller group of family and friends present for their day, with a bigger celebration later on.

One thing I noticed is that the vast majority of couples have been very mature and understanding through their process. Yes they are disappointed that their day will not be as planned, but many have been able to put their situation into a larger perspective, and that has been impressive. It really shows how God’s grace, which is of course present in the Sacrament of Marriage, is already present and active in the lives of these couples. Please keep them, and our marriage mentors who have been working with them virtually also, in your prayers.

Ben Caduff, Coordinator of Young Adult, Young Family, and Marriage Ministry

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH FAITH FORMATION DURING THIS TIME:

As I write this, the 2019-2020 school year is still in session. This week, our Children’s and Youth classes would have ended for the year with a celebration of root beer floats. Instead, we have finished up the year from home, having e-mailed parents the links to the curriculums. For most catechists and families, life changed very quickly. Adults are suddenly working from home. We had one classroom of teachers who offered a Zoom meeting so that their 1st-3rd Grade students could continue to practice reciting parts of the Rosary. A small group of 2-7 children logged in each week and took turns leading the others. It was so lovely to listen to their enthusiastic voices. The children requested we continue through the summer. Additionally, we had a group of 4-10 teenagers who read and shared reflections of each week’s Gospel reading. These youth are an inspiration to me. They took the time to look deeper into the story of Jesus and find meaning in it for their own lives. They found “Good News” in places I wasn’t looking.

There are so many questions our families with children and youth have that can’t be answered at this time. When will our children/youth get to be baptized or celebrate their First Communion or Confirmation? What will our learning programs look like with COVID-19? Will we meet in the school? Will we meet virtually? How will we social distance? Will the new curriculums our parents and catechists chose so carefully be able to be implemented?

I am one of those “I need to see the Big Picture” people, so these questions drive me absolutely bonkers. The truth is, we don’t have answers right now. We are working on them or waiting on them while we seek guidance from experts. Right here and right now, I have to live in the present, BE in the present, and find the Good News in the present. One day at a time.

There are many wonderful resources for families during this time. Please take a look at our Domestic Church kit at mary.org/domesticchurch or email me for additional resources at cmoore@mary.org.

Keep sharing the Light!

Christine Moore,
Coordinator of Learning and Sacraments for Children and Youth
FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of the most common emotions experienced, over these past few months, has been grief. Grief is a natural response to the experience of loss. You might feel fine one day, and then be anxious the next. You might feel angry, sad, lonely and many other emotions.

The losses that we’ve had to face, over the last few months, are incredibly diverse. We have had to maneuver through the global pandemic. We have had to find ways to respond to the death of George Floyd. These ground shaking realities cause us to question so much of what we know to be true and safe. What is our role in the community? Where can we go? Who can we be with? Who can we trust?

Pope Francis gives us a context of responding to grief in our life. He suggests that sorrow is grounded in loving concern for others. The more we love, the deeper our sorrow or grief. He challenges us to recognize that, ultimately, our sorrow uncovers our love for God. We come to know God’s love in our life, and we extend that love to our neighbor.

As Pope Francis unpacked the beatitude, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted,” he reminds us that sorrow coming from death or suffering, “is a bitter road, but it can be used to open one’s eyes to life and to the sacred and irreplaceable value of each person, and at that moment one realizes how short time is.”

We are invited to find the sacredness of each day—of each moment. God is present, and there is opportunity to learn and grow through all. It is not easy! Yet, it is the essence of life.

This bulletin has many opportunities for you to build relationships and enter into another’s life—to find hope and healing individually and as a community. Consider how you are being called today. Where do you seek healing? Where do you feel called to serve?

Let us open our eyes and our heart “to the sacred and irreplaceable value of each person.” Let us listen to how we are called to make this reality manifest in our life and community. And let us act now, as we realize “how short time is!”

CHRISTIAN LIFE

HENNEPIN CONNECTIONS

We completed another successful year of mentoring one-on-one students at Minneapolis College who have lived experience of homelessness and generational poverty. Even with the challenges of our global pandemic, relationships were strong and life changing. Here are some comments from a mentor and a student. Consider if you would like to be part of this program for the next school year.

Hennepin Connections Mentor: “In all honesty, I would like to say I showed up and worked with (my student partner) but I seriously showed up and watched her navigate her year. There were obstacles—but there was not a complaint. I listened and watched her get through her school year. I deeply admire her.”

Hennepin Connections Student: “I really appreciate that (my mentor) holds me accountable, and that’s something that I feel helps to keep me going. I love MCTC... you’re talking about struggles, you’re talking about obstacles, you’re talking about pain; I’ve been through it. But I tell you what: I’d do it all over again. The mentorship program only added to the support. For a long time, I felt like I was doing it alone.”

Add your story to another’s and help transform a life. To learn more about the college mentoring program, contact Carol at 612.747.2983 or Janice at iandersen@mary.org.

ZOOM: PRISONERS OR PATIENTS? TASK FORCE

Please join us on the third Thursday of each month via Zoom to discuss how The Basilica can help men and women leaving prison and jail who have mental health issues that are additional barriers to their release. Contact Janet Grove at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org for more information.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Many of us are feeling depressed or anxious. The Mental Health Ministry invites you to use The Basilica’s Domestic Church Resource that has many ideas and resources for our mental health at mary.org/domesticchurch.

If you find you need more information or guidance, please contact Janet Grove at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org to talk to a ministry member or to be connected with one of our community partners.

EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY UPDATE

Over the past two months of Stay at Home, The Basilica’s Employment Ministry has been working with dozens of people on their job searches. We have nine job coaches working remotely one-on-one with those who are unemployed, underemployed, or unhappily employed. We are also happy to say that 15 people have secured new jobs during this time. Contact Janet Grove at 612.317.3508 or jgrove@mary.org to improve your resume, cover letter, mock interviewing, networking, social media for job transition, or any other needs you may have in regard to getting a job.

Christian Life Office
Director - Janice Andersen

General Info - 612.317.3419
Charity - 612.317.3413
Justice - 612.317.3477
Caring Ministries - 612.317.3474
Welcome/Hospitality - 612.317.3417
Employment and Mental Health Ministry - 612.317.3508
CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Caring Ministries at The Basilica of Saint Mary. What all does this entail? Think Prayer Shawls. Grief Support. Communion to the Homebound. Emmaus Listening Ministers. Funeral Receptions. Communion Services at Assisted Living Facilities. Hospital Visits. Some of this came to a necessary halt for the safety of our volunteers and those we serve—but not everything did. Some of these ministries carried on virtually or from a distance, and were needed more than ever. During a global pandemic, when anxieties and fears were ramping up as things all around us both ran out and closed down, the various volunteers of the Caring Ministries office were stepping up in new ways. Letters and notes were sent, phone calls were made, more prayer shawls than ever were knitted and given, and meetings of all kinds were had both on the phone and virtually over Zoom. Prayer Shawl Ministers, along with the Emmaus Ministers, The Basilica Book Club, the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support, and members of countless other ministries learned how to sign up for a Zoom account and log on for the first time. Each one of us has had a learning curve as we’ve had to make sure both our audio and video were working, and then were challenged to find the mute button, play around with gallery view versus speaker view, and even have some fun with virtual backgrounds. But to hear the delight the first time a group gathers with big grins and happy greetings will stay with me for a long, long time. Because we are human beings, built for relationship and connection with each other, and not meant to be in isolation.

Here are a few examples of some Caring Ministries that carried on during the early days of COVID-19:
A calling tree was set up from the Caring Ministries office early on in the quarantine and each volunteer called an assigned 6-8 households who had been active in Crossroads the past couple years to see how people were faring. If there were any needs, The Basilica could help with, and if the household knew how to watch Mass online. People appreciated the personal outreach very much.

The Downtown Coalition for Grief Support held a series of leadership meetings to find a way to meet virtually on Saturday mornings rather than at the usual host site. The website and the voicemail were updated to reflect how those grieving can be connected to someone who will introduce them to Zoom meetings.

A record-number 21 prayer shawls were mailed out from the Caring Ministries office in the first six weeks alone during the COVID-19 quarantine. There were so many reasons to offer a shawl: someone was alone in the hospital, someone was just diagnosed with cancer, someone was dying without loved ones present, someone had just contracted COVID-19, or someone just died and there was no funeral to be celebrated. Each shawl was blessed and came with a promise that the recipient would be prayed for, out loud, each time the ministry gathered virtually to knit and crochet. So far, over 1,160 shawls have been gifted from this Basilica ministry.

The Emmaus Listening Ministers jumped right into the virtual world using Zoom and did some very deep sharing on how the time of isolation is affecting them emotionally, mentally and spiritually, as well as participated in the annual end of the year exercise called “Taking Stock” of their ministry. Emmaus Ministry is also in the process of visioning for the future of the ministry in light of the parish’s Strategic Plan. Several new listening relationships have begun since the quarantine, as more and more people find themselves struggling and realize they need someone to talk to. Our Emmaus volunteers are highly trained, compassionate, and confidential listeners: a perfect resource for an imperfect time.

Wendy Cichanski Caduff
Coordinator of Caring Ministries

DISABILITY AWARENESS MINISTRY

Our committee is continuing to meet virtually. We have secured Dr. Henry Emmons, author of The Chemistry of Joy, to present here on October 20. Registration information will be out in the early fall.

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT MINISTRY

The Basilica Immigrant Support Ministry (ISM) assists many families who are refugees and asylum seekers. Partnering for a year through the many challenges that arise, the ISM teams work with the families to grow and assimilate to Minnesota. Rooted in our Catholic Faith, we team up with community organizations, fostering long-term relationships, offering financial assistance and other support. We need your help supporting families in our community. Contact Betsy at eframsey@comcast.net or call Janice at 612.317.3477 to learn more.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

The Basilica is responding to the needs of our neighbors. Since we are not able to open the regular facilities at this time, our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry is able to provide basic services. If you are able to support this ministry, please visit mary.org/svdpgive.
DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced all of us to adjust our daily lives in innumerable ways. The Development department has been working from home and adjusting to virtual meetings, digital communications, and new “coworkers”. While we miss seeing our parish community at mass and around The Basilica campus, we have been humbled by the outpouring of prayers and support.

After careful consideration, we made the difficult decision to cancel all fundraising and cultivation events for the spring and summer including Landmark Spark and the 26th annual Cities 97.1 Basilica Block Party. The summer will look different without these staple events that unite our parish to the greater Twin Cities community. Though we are unable to gather in person at this time, we are planning for the future and look forward to hosting events again when it is safe.

Thank you for responding with care and compassion during these difficult days. Your unending support allows our ministries to continue to serve our parish needs in this ever-changing world. We look ahead with hope for the opportunity to gather once again as a community in our beloved Basilica. Together, we can ensure a bright future and sustain the well-being of our historic buildings and campus.

BASILICA FUND

The loss of donations that are usually collected during our regular Mass schedule has caused our parish and staff to adjust. During this time of social distancing and working from home, recurring gifts help our staff who are not in office to process envelopes and mail as quickly. Recurring giving also provides ongoing financial stability for our ministries and parish community. We know this is a challenging time financially for all. If you are able, please help sustain our operations and empower our mission by setting up a recurring gift at mary.org/give.

2020 TAX LAW CHANGE

Recent changes to the CARES Act increase deductions for certain charitable contributions for 2020 individual income tax filers.

If a taxpayer does not itemize, a deduction up to $300 for contributions of cash to public charities, including The Basilica Landmark or The Basilica of Saint Mary, may be taken on the 2020 income tax return. If a taxpayer itemizes, a deduction up to 100% of 2020 adjusted gross income may be taken for contributions of cash to public charities. Deductions to The Basilica qualify.

Please consult your tax advisor to see how the CARES Act can help you and The Basilica.

MAKE A GIFT

THE BASILICA LANDMARK ANNUAL FUND

The Basilica Landmark supports the renovation, restoration and maintenance needs of our church and campus buildings. Due to Covid-19, The Basilica Block Party and Landmark Spark Gala were cancelled and the loss of revenue these events usually provide has caused significant financial strain to The Basilica Landmark’s budget.

We thank those who have already made a gift to The Basilica Landmark’s Annual Fund. If you are able to support our efforts, make a gift at thebasicalandmark.org/give.

CONTACT US

If you would like to make a gift by phone, please contact Stephanie Bielmas at 612.317.3472.

As you continue to send mail to The Basilica, please ensure that you’re sending to our updated mailing address. We no longer have our previous P.O. Box address.

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The Basilica Landmark
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Basilica Events, LLC
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