

YOUTH NEWS

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To the Heights: Finding

God in Nature

by FAITH NOAH

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, (feast day July 4th) was a young Italian man who lived in the early 20th century. Frassati is well known for his relatable youthfulness (he died at just 24 years old), his selfless acts of charity, and his adventurous spirit. "Verso l'alto" has become Frassati's motto of sorts, a phrase he wrote on a photo of himself climbing a mountain, meaning "to the heights." This motto encapsulates Frassati's approach to life, whether it was weekend climbing trips with his friends or his daily attempts to reach the heights of the heavenly Kingdom through his service to the poor and ill.

Go Find God

Frassati loved finding Christ in the outdoors. Considering the depths of faith and charity he enacted, I think we could all benefit from taking a few notes. How can we make "verso l'alto" our own motto? First step... get up! Get out! Get active! It's always tempting to sleep in and lounge around, to hide away in our beds instead of facing the cooler temperatures. But Christ doesn't call us to comfort, He calls us to greatness. Schedule a regular

We had so many great opportunities to come together as a Parish Community! On December 4th the 1st session of Religious Ed students along with their parents walked together to watch the Holiday train roll in. Then we walked back and had a prayer service for the first week of Advent. Later on in the week we had 14 kids who rode the float in the Holiday parade. It was so great hearing those little voices singing their hearts out along the parade route!

Then on the 8th we had donuts with Santa after the 10am Mass for all the Parishioners.



L to R: Elliot Hines, Christopher Fry, Mia Quist, Claire Fischbach, Supriya Kocyan, & Nathan Field helping to spread the Christmas Spirit by decorating our Float for the Holiday Parade



A HUGE thank you to Barb Nicksic, Ann Benz, and Joe Clary for decorating, organizing Santa's schedule, and providing such a fun opportunity to spend time together as a Parish Community!



Even the adults had fun walking the parade!

Front L-R: Cassandra Thayer, Adam Pouillie, Jaime Pouillie, Michelle Komiskey Back L-R: Brad Vinopal, Lisa Vinopal and Barb Cowan



Huge thank you to Bill Powers for driving the trailer for the parade! Can't wait till next year!



January

- 1st ~ Holy Day of Obligation Mass is at Noon (church) or 2pm (Nursing Home)
- 8th ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm/ Mass 6pm
- 11th ~ Wild Game Feed 6pm-8pm Reardon Hall
- 15th ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm/ Mass 6pm
- 19th ~ 10am Mass (Wrestling and Power lifters)
- 19th ~ Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast 9am-Noon
- 22nd ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm/ Mass 6pm
- 28th ~ Holy Happy Hour @ State Street Tap 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 29th ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm/ Mass 6pm

February

- 1st ~ 1st Reconciliation Retreat in Reardon Hall 9am-12pm
- 5th ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm/ Mass 6pm
- 8th ~ St. Patrick's School Gala @ the Lodge
- 12th ~ High School Boys Vocation Dinner with Bishop Callahan 5:30pm **NO 6pm MASS that night**
- 12th ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm
- 19th ~ RE Classes 4pm-5pm & 6:30pm-7:45pm/ Mass 6pm
- 25th ~ Holy Happy Hour @ State Street Tap 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 26th ~ Ash Wednesday

date with the God of the universe by beholding His beauty. Go on a hike, climb a mountain (with appropriate safety gear and training), watch the sunrise or sunset. Whatever you can do to get outside and see Him, do it! Equally as important, be intentional with this time. Make it less about the Instagram posts or the fitness step goals, and more about being present to God. Bring your Bible (I love cracking open the Psalms — maybe start with Psalm 8), pray the Rosary as you walk, or simply speak with God, listening to Him in the sound of the animals or the crunching leaves around you. No matter how you pray best, looking at His handiwork can only help! Lastly, **be still**. It's tough to find time to be quiet or alone in our daily lives. But when we can carve away this dedicated time to set down our screens and just be with God, we will experience the beautiful paradox of contemplation: we are alone, yet indescribably connected—to ourselves, to God, and to one another. In the silence, God draws near. In the beauty, He speaks to our souls in a language much stronger than words can ever convey. So be attentive. He wants to see you. And He wants you to see Him, too.

Check out **Haley Heath** and classmates as they learned what it is like to live with dementia and participated in activities to better understand the differences between dementia and normal aging, in their Advanced Placement Psychology class.



Check out **Brooke Clark, Gage Kobylski** and the other Technical Writing students who assisted families to give 118 gifts to kids this season.

On the 18th we celebrated Christmas early with the 1st session of Religious Ed students. Bob Zukauskis (our 3rd grade Catechist) called Advent Bingo as we feasted on homemade cookies from our 4th/5th grade Catechist Michelle Komiskey. The Confirmation II students helped to spread some Christmas Cheer by ringing bells and singing for the Salvation Army after the 6pm Mass. Hope you have a blessed 2020! Thank you for the support of our Youth.



***Parishioner's names are bolded**

Saint Patrick Parish: Students in the News



FFA Members **Supriya Koycan** and **Ethan Lulich** rang bells for the Salvation Army.



Thank you to the Mauston and Lyndon Station businesses and individuals who helped Mauston High School exceed last year's record in food drive donations for 2019. For the third straight year, MHS was honored by Madison NBC Channel 15's "Share Your Holidays" food drive as the TOP high school in southwestern Wisconsin in the number of meals raised.

There are a lot of people that make this event successful but MHS Key Club, seniors **Anna Boppert** and Anna McClintock as well as advisors Mrs. Saylor and Ms. Carlson who did a fantastic job in leading this effort.