

The Fatima Faithful newsletter is published once a month and is available in the bulletin, on our website, and accessible through Facebook. Let us know what you think! Email newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org with suggestions. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

Take a Closer Look at *The Forgotten Way* (based upon James 3:2b-18)

"The most provocative verse of this passage is "Wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish of every kind can all be tamed, and have been tamed by humans; but nobody can tame the tongue—it is a pest that will not keep still, full of deadly poison." James wants us to see that governing our speech is a path to heaven: that is the Forgotten Way. James' Forgotten Way isn't just about speaking truthfully; it's about becoming truth. Your words are either holy or unholy. There is no neutral. Speech is not merely a tool for communication; it is a sacred gift. It is an instrument of encouragement, healing, wisdom, and love. Our words were never meant to harm, divide, or tear down—but to build up, to bless and to bring light. Ask God to give you a supernatural awareness of the impact and effects of your speech. The Forgotten Way is an invitation to speak with loving-kindness. What is loving kindness? It is a tender consideration for the dignity of another person and a profound desire for another person to experience goodness. God is loving-kindness!

It's not just what you say, but how, when, where, and why you say it that can have enormous positive or negative impact. Tone, body language and expression each influence how our words are received. The Forgotten Way requires more than just the right words—it demands thoughtful delivery. It is an invitation to become a mindful communicator. You can change your whole life just by changing the way you speak. You can become a saint just by governing your speech!

Slightly adjusting the words of the prayer St. Francis of Assisi also provides powerful insights into the roles and responsibilities of our spoken words: Lord, make my speech an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let my speech sow love; where there is injury, let my speech sow pardon; where there is doubt; let my speech sow faith; where there is despair, let my speech sow hope; where there is darkness, let my speech sow light; where there is sadness, let my speech sow joy."

Excerpts taken from Matthew Kelly's new book, *The Forgotten Way*.

Working Together to Build the Kingdom by Fr. Pete Iorio

Bishop Mark Beckman has completed his first year leading the Diocese of Knoxville. Early in his ministry here, he engaged the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI)—an organization that has guided Church leaders for over 30 years, particularly new bishops. This partnership came at no cost to the Diocese, thanks to generous donors. As part of this initiative, parishioners across all 51 parishes in the Diocese were invited to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI), a survey focused on church beliefs and parish life. The survey was made available during Lent, offering a meaningful time for reflection and feedback. At Our Lady of Fatima (OLOF) 36%, 400 of our 1,100 average Sunday Mass attendees, completed the survey; which CLI considers an excellent participation rate. I am deeply grateful to all who took the time to complete the DMI. Your feedback is a clear sign of your love for our parish and our Catholic faith. We have the results and are currently analyzing them and discerning next steps to grow and improve as a parish community.

This article is my attempt to whet your appetite for more, because space doesn't allow for a full report. I do want to share some highlights that truly touched me and reflect both our strengths and areas of opportunity:

- 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they would recommend our parish to a friend: a beautiful affirmation of your love for OLOF.
- 64% agree or strongly agree that the parish involves them in decisions that shape its future: an area where we clearly have room to grow.
- 90% feel that OLOF provides

transparent financial information: a tribute to the excellent work of our bookkeepers and finance/stewardship committee.

- 87% feel welcomed and accepted here: a wonderful improvement since I first arrived six years ago, when many felt the parish was not welcoming. I shout out praise and gratitude to our Welcoming Committee for their dedication and ongoing hospitality.
 - 76% find our Sunday Masses vibrant and engaging: a sign that our worship is bearing fruit.
- And perhaps most importantly, 93% agree or strongly agree that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This affirms the beautiful impact of our ongoing Eucharistic Revival, and I am grateful to our dedicated revival team for their commitment.

Planning for the Future: In addition, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) commissioned a Feasibility Committee to evaluate facility needs and recommend priority projects. From November 2024 to April 2025 this committee conducted a thorough assessment and gathered input from parishioners. Their recommendations were presented to PPC in August, with key priorities identified in the Fatima Center/social hall and classroom building. We are deeply grateful for the hard work and careful discernment of the Feasibility Committee. I look forward to sharing more about their recommendations soon. I hope you can see, as I do, that we are moving forward together—listening, learning, and building the Kingdom of God here at OLOF. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

The Helping Hand: Books

The Paper Garden: An Artist (Begins Her Life's Work) at 72 by Molly Peacock (also available at Blount Co Library)

A Grief Observed by C. S. Lewis

Priest and Beggar: The Heroic Life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz by Kevin Wells

Unshakeable: Building a Life of Virtue in a World of Chaos by Fr. Mike Schmitz

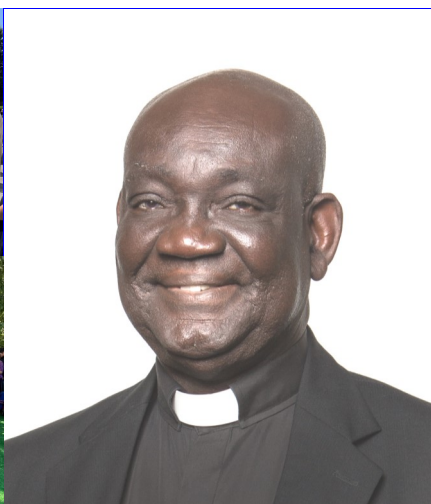
Theology of Style: Expressing the Unique and Unrepeatable You by Lillian Fallon



August 13th Pilgrimage & Pedagogy



Fr. Joseph Hammond



Fatima Families



Baptism



Birthday Celebrations



Downstairs Faith Formation Bulletin Board



Wedding



50th Anniversary Blessings



High School Graduation Mass



Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Night





It's that time again when new students move into their dorms, football season starts, and the University comes to life. It is an exciting time for all involved and hope of the future is thick in the humid heat of Middle TN State University (MTSU). However, there is something more, if you listen carefully and observe. Quietly, in the deep, there is a yearning. A desire for meaning and pining to be known. On the college campus, often this yearning is sought superficially in relationships, pleasure, and academic success.

So many young people don't realize amidst their superficial actions, they are actually seeking a relationship with God. Others, emerging from their delusions, have trouble accepting that Christ died to bring them back into relationship with Him, and that He knew they would continue to struggle to love Him.

As a missionary with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), I am privileged to witness some of these young peoples' journeys. I have the opportunity to remind them they were made for more, for a relationship with God, who is Love itself. I call them to respond to Christ's invitation of love and I counsel them on the transformation through His Grace that occurs when they accept that invitation.

"Blake" is one such student from the Catholic Center with whom I had the chance to grow in friendship last semester. After getting to know Blake, I presented the Gospel to him and reminded him that he was made for relationship with God. This conversation created an opportunity for him to share his struggle with sexual sin and drunkenness. He knew they were wrong, but he felt trapped and ashamed. During this season in Blake's life, no one had intentionally shared the Gospel and invited him to place Christ at the center of his life. This was a turning point in Blake's life. He and I continue to walk together as disciples of Christ and little by little his life is beginning to be recreated by Grace.

Please pray for "Blake" and every young person at MTSU and universities everywhere. Thanks for your support!

Saint of the Month

St. Fiacre (fee-a-ker) was born about 600 AD in Ireland, was raised in a monastery, became a hermit and acquired a great knowledge of herbal medicine. Eventually he was ordained a priest and became an abbot. Becoming famous for his piety and wanting to relocate in search of serenity, he moved to Breuil, France. Fiacre visited the local bishop who gave him a solitary dwelling in the forest. During his life there, he developed a vegetable garden and herb garden by turning the soil with his walking stick. He cleared the ground of trees and briars and made himself a cell in which to live. Fiacre built an oratory in honor of the Blessed Virgin; he also made a hospice for travelers which developed into the village of Saint-Fiacre in Seine-et-Marne. Many people came to him for spiritual advice; the poor came for help; the sick for medical assistance because he was able to give healing to many of them.

Women were not allowed to enter the hermitage nor did he allow them to enter his Chapel. Anne of Austria, Queen of France, came and prayed for her husband King Louis XIII who was very ill and he recovered. She prayed for him outside the door along with other pilgrims who traveled to his Hermitage. His fame spread throughout the area because of the miraculous healing for many people by the laying on of his hands. After St. Fiacre's death there were many miracles attributed to him. Bishop Bossuet of Meaux, offered a novena of prayers at Saint-Fiacre to ask the divine blessing before Louis the XIV had surgery. St. Fiacre relics at Meaux are still sought for healing prayers by many. He lived a devoted prayer life: fasting, keeping prayer vigils, and manual gardening. He died on Aug. 18, 670 and is buried in the churchyard at his Hermitage. He is the patron saint of gardeners, herbalists and French cab drivers. If you explore the corner of the Fatima Parish Life Center near the ramp you will find the statue of St. Fiacre in the garden. His feast day is Sept 1st.



Spotlight on A Walk Down Memory Lane by Mary Cooper

I am the 8th child of 10 born to Chris & Ski Karnowski, who were OLOF parishioners from 1952, when they moved from Texas until their passing. Our Lady of Fatima was at the center of our family life while growing up. We used to joke that my mom couldn't stand for the doors to be open without her being there. More than once my dad said that the priest should put a cot in the church for her.

My early memories of Fatima include priests coming over for Sunday brunch and Fr. Mankel telling one of my brothers he owed him a candy bar when my brother didn't ring the bells at the right time during Mass. I remember my siblings being excited when the "S" word was in the weather forecast, because the nuns shut down the school to ensure they could get back to the convent in Knoxville. My dad was active in the Knights of Columbus, being the Grand Knight at one time; in his later years he served as an usher. My mom was active in the Council of Catholic Women as well as serving as a sacristan and, after Vatican II, a Eucharistic Minister. Both were involved in Parish Council and my mom was the organist for 40 years. With the choir loft at the back of the church and up the stairs, it was her job to take attendance and let the priest know when he needed to wrap up his homily because he was being long-winded! That may have just happened with one priest, but it is a very vivid memory for me.

Even though the church building is not the same, there are still memories here.

I invite you to look around our church and find the remnants of the church on Wright Rd. The crucifix in the chapel used to hang on the altar. I remember as a child looking at it and being scared, I thought it looked so lifelike! If you look to your left, under the Resurrected Christ, you'll see a small marble altar. That was the main altar on Wright Rd. Behind Father, you'll see the statue of the Virgin Mary and on the other side of the tabernacle is St. Joseph. Those were in the same place on the altar, with the pedestals being the same ones. The pedestal holding the Tabernacle is the pedestal of the baptismal font from the old church. This is the same baptismal font where all 10 of the Karnowski babies were baptized.

When I go into a Catholic Church, one of the first things I look at is the Stations of the Cross along the wall. The ones on our wall are the same ones that were in the Wright Rd. church. They were found in storage and resurrected thanks to the talent of Norma Reigel. When the new corpus arrived in disrepair, Norma repaired and painted it. You see it on the wooden cross which my father made. Every time I look at the cross, I see him in his workshop in our detached garage wearing his tattered sweater and bucket hat.

Take time to look around our beautiful Church and the details you may have missed. Find out their meaning and talk to your children about them. This is our heritage as parishioners of OLOF.