

# THE STEWARD



A quarterly newsletter for the community of Mary Our Queen Church, Omaha, Nebraska, Fall 2017



The Mary Our Queen School study body formed the shape of an open book in celebration of the 2017 Mustang March. Thank you to Deyo's Photography for generously sponsoring and capturing this image. [www.deyosphoto.com](http://www.deyosphoto.com)

## Mustang March: Telling Our Story

The 7th Annual Mustang March, a fundraiser organized by the Mary Our Queen Home and School Association, was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The theme this year was "Telling Our Story" and funds raised will assist the school in purchasing a new Leveled Reading Program as well as support continued education for the teachers and staff. To date, students have raised over \$38,000.

Students, teachers, staff and families joined in to celebrate their fundraising efforts by walking through the Prairie Lane neighborhood. This year our students were led by the Woodling family, grand marshals of the march, and joined by Creighton Universi-

ty athletes from the men's soccer and basketball teams and women's volleyball team as well as Creighton mascot Billy Bluejay and MOQ mascot Mustang Sally.



Grand Marshals Rob, Jami, Jack, Katie & Alex Woodling

Mustang March is generously supported by local corporate sponsorships, as well as our school and parish community. Thank you to all who made this year's Mustang March a success!

## Welcome New Altar Servers



1<sup>st</sup>. Paul Kielian and Archie Carpenter, Alter Service

Twenty-two eager young men and women joined the Altar Server Ministry this fall. Fr. Gama, who heads up the Altar Server Ministry, blessed the new servers during the 11:00 Mass on October

Trainers, assisted with the installation Mass. Following the Mass, all Altar Servers and their families were invited to an Altar Server Appreciation Luncheon in the cafeteria, thanks to the generous support of the Knights of Columbus, Men's Club, and Ladies Guild.

Altar Servers begin at grade 5, though new members are welcome at any grade after. This year fifteen 5<sup>th</sup> graders, seven 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and one 7<sup>th</sup> grader joined the ministry. MOQ appreciates their willingness to serve. Please encourage them in their ministry.

## A letter from the pastor

Dear Mary Our Queen Parishioners,

I want to welcome Joseph Spargo as our new business manager for the parish and school. For the past four years, he has been working at the Bank of the West in Omaha, Nebraska. We look forward to working with him.

The parish five-year strategic plan is finished. Rob Woodling and Vince Vigneri are now working on how to communicate the plan to the parish through the Mary Our Queen website. I want to thank everyone who was involved in creating this strategic plan. I appreciate the time and effort put into it.

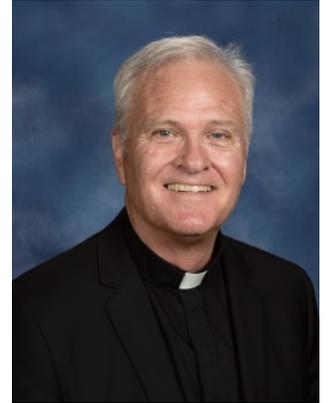
Some of the things we will be implementing in the parish five-year strategic plan are as follows:

- **Community/Fellowship.** Market ministries available in parish, update parish website, continue development of school alumni database, communicate parish information through TV monitors in various places around the campus and/or apps on cell phones, coordinate introductions between groups and new parishioners, expand donut Sunday to Saturday and Sunday with five groups sharing their information, create Spirit Store with MOQ logo on merchandise, create new parish expectations for parishioners.
- **Discipleship.** Inventory current programs and participants, create road map for discipleship, create faith formation pathway, create welcome area in narthex at masses, and provide a road map for prayer development.
- **Evangelization.** Create welcome gesture at masses and communicate the importance of a welcoming environment, create a coffee bar as a place to congregate after masses, create sitting areas in front of church, increase interaction between ministries, establish a day of service, efficiently utilize campus space, encourage youth to attend 5 day school.
- **Ministry.** Create new position of ministry director, inventory current ministries available, assess current youth group offerings, engage 18-30 age group with coffee discussions, theology on tap, etc., engage young adults through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, E-mail and Website, develop web based inventory of ministries and direct people to them, create evenings of reflection.
- **Worship.** Develop more engaging homilies, discontinue 7:00 pm Saturday and 12:30 pm Sunday masses, remove inactive parishioners from parish roster, create greeter ministry at masses, clean and upgrade meeting rooms, create ministries training, schedule altar servers at masses other than Sunday, increase deacon involvement at masses, engage parishioners through pastor's report on current events, parish needs and liturgical seasons, strengthen altar server ministry, coordinate nurse registry for each mass.

May God's blessing be with you all,



Rev. Robert K. English



# Fall Festival 2017- Dancing in the Streets



#1parishunited... We borrowed this hashtag from MARQUEE and never did it ring more true than on fall festival Sunday. The day began with the athletic committee's 10<sup>th</sup> annual fun run and concluded with the Poolside Hustle's encore, while the Boy Scouts loaded up the moving truck with tables and chairs. Ten organizations and hundreds of volunteers graciously gave of their time in order to make the festival a success. We are definitely looking forward to next year. See you in the street!  
~ Dave & Angie Mills, Fall Festival Chairs



From Top Left (1) Dave and Angie Mills and daughters Abby, Lily and Marly. Dave and Angie were chairs of the Fall Festival and did a tremendous job. Thank you! (2) Father Gama discusses the finer points of soccer with Knights' youth director Dave Vermillion during the Knights' youth soccer challenge at the festival (3) Boy Scout Jared Burns carries the American Flag (4) The Athletic Committee organized the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Festival Fun Run, drawing 180 runners and walkers. Sophie Rau, Grace Hoarty, Mary Kate Nussrallah, Abby Mills, Olivia Persing, Ellie Brock, and Grace Weber are pictured enjoying post Fun Run fellowship (5) Paula Parizek, Terri Fuxa, Andy Parizek and Jackie Johaneck hosted the a taco booth for the Human Needs group (6) Dennis Sonderman and Louis Sully from the Men's Club grilling burgers.



Fall Sports - MOQ football, volleyball and soccer are keeping the kids active and full of Mustang spirit.

## *Magis is looking to form a new group for 2018*

The mission of the prayer group Magis is to provide opportunities for the people of our parish to support each other through prayer and the sharing of faith experiences in a small group setting. The Latin word "magis" – meaning "seeking more" – reflects the ongoing gospel mission of deepening our relationships with God and with others.

There is currently one Magis men's group which meets monthly at MOQ. We are hoping to have enough interest to form a second group (8-10 guys) beginning in January. And if any women are interested in forming their own group, please let us know -- we are happy to share resources that have worked for us!

*Continued on page 9*

## Junior Legion of Mary off to a Glorious Start

The Junior Legion of Mary has more students than ever participating. It is the **joyful** duty of Junior Legionaries to spread the love of and devotion to Mary. Led by Deacon Bob Hamilton and Connie Garza the junior legion uses our Blessed Mother as an example of pure love, a model of faith, humility, perfect obedience, sweetness, purity, patience, wisdom and self-sacrificing love of God.

The children are truly **luminous** as they pray a rosary each week at our meeting. The junior legion meets every Tuesday after school until 4:30 and invites all students in grades second through eight to join them. (It would be **sorrowful** if you didn't!) Please direct questions to Angie Pensick 402.203.9825 or [gela.pensick@gmail.com](mailto:gela.pensick@gmail.com).



Junior Legion Members from right: Callie Magdanz, Marie Roza, Allie Jonaitis, Payton Farley, Joy Pensick, Molly Pensick, Angie Pensick, Connie Garza, Deacon Bob Hamilton, Charlie Rasgorshek, Rosy Pensick, McKenna Lawler, Skylar Farley, Delaney Woods, Erica Wolf, Fiona Magdanz, Greta Williams, Elena Williams, Robbie Rohlf, and Miles Pensick.

## Legion of Mary Celebrates Our Lady

The Legion of Mary recently arranged to bring the Appeals of Our Lady display of the Marian apparitions to MOQ. These beautiful panels were displayed in the Narthex, and many people took advantage of this opportunity to learn about these apparitions, some of which are generally unknown. This Vatican-approved international exhibit was designed and created by Carlo Acutis, Servant of God. Carlo, an artist, cartoonist and avid computer enthusiast, began the creation of the art for the panels before his death from leukemia at age 15. In 2014, after his death, the exhibit was completed and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Carlo was profoundly marked in his spiritual journey by the Virgin Mary. What an inspiration! Members also participated in other events in celebration of Mary: the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Rosary Procession



on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the annual America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally to pray for our country on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

### *TNTs Welcome New Members*

The TNTs, MOQ's over-50 group, kicked off their membership drive with a pot-luck dinner Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Memberships will be accepted until early November and can be sent to the parish office.

Activities over the last few months included: a very informative tour of Do-Space, a community computer lab open to all ages; dinner at Big Red Keno; a motor coach tour of the Whiskey Run Winery and Flatwater Folk Art Museum in Brownville, NE. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, entertainer Joe Taylor/"Mr. Memories" will perform and dinner will be catered by parishioner Bob Hurtado of Bob's Grill. Also planned for the winter is the annual Holiday Under Glass tour, a lunch and concert at Joslyn Art Museum. Watch the bulletin for dates and details.

TNTs host a Card and Game day every Friday afternoon in the St. Joseph Room and all are invited to first Monday regular meetings at 10:30 in the Trinity room. Contact Mickey Riesberg at [mickr99@cox.net](mailto:mickr99@cox.net) or 402-558-0109 for details.



### *Life Chain Sunday*

Many MOQ parishioners gathered along Dodge St. on October 1<sup>st</sup> to pray for an end to abortion. Pictured are Margaret, Emily, Chris and Gerald Righter. The life chain is held the first Sunday in October every year.

## Ladies Guild invites all Parish Women to Participate

Please join us for "Gather with the Guild" on November 14th at 6:30 in the Trinity Rooms to socialize, enjoy appetizers and dessert, and hear what we have planned for the year. Learn about the seven individual circles with social and service opportunities. We also have "ARK Angels" who provide baked goods for events and "Helping Hands" who share their time by working at receptions, funeral luncheons and fish fries.

Thank you to everyone who supported the ladies guild by purchasing Fall Festival raffle tickets, donating cakes and baked goods and visiting our booths. Guild booths at the festival were raffle sales, bake sale, cake walk, grocery booth, jar booth, dime toss, and root beer floats. The funds raised at this event are used throughout the year to fund the many activities we sponsor such as Golden Years, Funeral luncheons and many special events.

Our circles have been busy in October. We served the RCIA breakfast, worked with the rosary

making group, attended Mass at the Holy Family shrine, donated items to Bethlehem House, helped fill the pantry at Children's Hospital Rainbow House,



Fall Festival raffle grand prize this year was \$3000 and was won by John Jonaitis (pictured with his wife, Christine, and their four children).

hosted to a speaker from the F.B.I who spoke about identity theft, and held a "BOO-tique" where donated Halloween costumes were sold with proceeds going to charity.

If you are interested in joining the guild, you may contact our membership chair, Nancy Holloran at 402-333-3472, [njholloran@aol.com](mailto:njholloran@aol.com) or [moqladiesguild@gmail.com](mailto:moqladiesguild@gmail.com). We provide service to the parish in many ways and could always use additional help.

## Knights of Columbus Continues Service Tradition

Key areas of focus by the Knights of Columbus were evident in the spring and summer activities of Mary Our Queen's Knights' Council 11700.

Support for the clergy is one such focus. As they do every year, the MOQ Knights hosted a steak fry for the seminarians of the Omaha Archdiocese.



Grand Knight Steve Olson, right, and Kevin O'Hearn preparing the fare for the annual seminarian steak fry.

Members of the Squires, the Knights' organization for teen-aged boys, also were guests at the vocations-themed event.

On July 31, the MOQ Knights provided and served refreshments during the Archdiocese's priest appreciation day, which includes a golf outing and steak fry for the clergy of the archdiocese. In the spring, they put on a Czech pork dinner to raise funds for the Notre Dame sisters retirement fund.

Council 11700 also provided funds to help secure a clean supply of drinking water at a residence for priests in Father Gama's home diocese in Tanzania.

Catholic education is another focus of the Knights. Council 11700 has again approved \$8,000 in tuition assistance for students at MOQ School. It also extended tuition support to 20 students who attend Catholic secondary or post-secondary schools. The grants are available to children and grandchildren of Knights of Columbus members.

At its September meeting, the council approved funds to pay contest entry fees for MOQ School's math and robotics teams and other funds to support the Archbishop's annual education dinner.

In keeping with its support of Catholic family life, the council held its annual family picnic in August. They also participated in the Fall Festival and donated funds to pro-life organizations.

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization for Catholic men over the age of 18. In addition to its many activities and its tuition assistance for Knights' children and grandchildren, the benefits of membership include access to a variety of insurance and financial planning opportunities.

The Council meets the second Thursday of each month except July. Interested men may contact Pat Dougherty, membership director, at 402-681-1949.

**Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year at MOQ!** Each year the faculty selects a theme that serves as our inspiration and spiritual focus. The theme for the 2017-18 school year is “Finding God in All Things.” We are blessed to see it daily in students’ energy and work, the loving partnership with families and generous support of our parish.



**New Look for School Lobby:** The school lobby has a new look. Artist Ian Moreland created a metal sculpture of our school logo, “*Mary Our Queen School – Where Faith and Knowledge Meet.*” We are grateful to our



Home and School Association for making this beautiful addition to our lobby possible.

**Great American Solar Eclipse:** The 2017-18 school year started with a “totality” amazing event... the Great American Solar Eclipse. On the first day of school, students in grades 6-8 traveled to Beatrice, Nebraska, to view the Great American Solar Eclipse. A grant from NASA provided eclipse glasses and teachers prepared activities for students to learn about the science of eclipse, the 100-year anniversary of Fatima and the Homestead Act (Homestead National Monument). What an



educational first day! Students in grades K- 5 also completed lessons about the eclipse and enjoyed an opportunity to view the partial eclipse with friends and family gathered on the soccer field. Special thanks to Gretna Vision Source and the Chapman family for providing eclipse glasses for us.



**Grandparents Day:** On September 8<sup>th</sup> over 400 grandparents/friends visited MOQ as part of our Grandparents’ Day celebration. Our guests were welcomed into classrooms by excited students who were eager to share details about their classroom and friends.



The joy circulating throughout our school was visible in every smiling face – both grandparents and

grandchildren. After classroom visits, we celebrated Mass together and then our guests enjoyed a quiet moment for refreshments and fellowship. Thank you, Home and School, for hosting the reception.

**2017-18 MOQ School Board:** The School



Board will be active this year working to advise Fr. Bob and Mrs. Hoy on issues related to the continued development of our school mission.

School Board Members: Fr. Gama, Pat Hoarty, Fr. Bob, Scott Mulholland, Maureen Hoy, Mike Vlcek, Peggy Croy, Joette Dietering and Home and School Board Members, Megan Timmerman and Katie Sommer. Not pictured: Melissa Siedlik, Paul Clark, Matt Huss.

**MOQ Preschool Opens:** September 5<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of a new chapter in school history as MOQ Preschool opened its doors. We welcomed 57 eager preschoolers and 3 very excited teachers to our 2-Day, 3-Day and 5-Day programs! Special thanks to MARQUEE, the Building and Maintenance Committee, Men’s Club, Home and School Association, all those who donated toys and books, and our entire parish for the support and prayers for our new preschool. We look forward to a great year and many more to come.



**Water Bottles for Sale**

Have you seen the new MOQ School logo water bottles? Show your school spirit and staying hydrated. Plus they make great gifts! Stop by the parish office to purchase one for \$8 or order online and they can be delivered to your child in their classroom (visit the parish website at [maryourqueenchurch.weshareonline.org](http://maryourqueenchurch.weshareonline.org) and click on the water bottle at the bottom of the page).





## Men's Club Embraces Mission of Faith. Fellowship. Service

The MOQ Men's Club found a multitude of ways for members to live out their theme of Faith – Fellowship – Service.

This summer the monthly Picnics in the Parking Lot were quite an adventure. From extreme storms to extreme heat, our first three months brought a wide array of weather challenges. Even so, those that braved the elements were treated to a great time. As if to reward our parish for surviving those challenges with smiles on our faces, we were blessed with perfect weather and a fantastic turnout for our final picnic on the first Friday after school started.

The Men's Club also enjoyed participating in the Fall Festival, manning a food booth and providing drinks. Thanks to all who assisted with organizing, setting up and tearing down for this important parish event. And a special thank you to all parishioners who came to help support our parish!

This year we were honored to sponsor the first Trunk or Treat event for M.O.Q. on October 20th. The Men's Club served food and drinks, there was a haunted house put on by the youth group, hayrack rides for everyone, trunks for trick or treating, and our very own Ray Huse provided great music for the event.

In addition, Men's Club has lent financial assistance the past several months to the following: the 8th Grade D.C. Trip, sponsoring a hole at the Ben Petrzilka golf tournament, the Boy Scouts, and donating funds for other parish related items, including renovating and outfitting the coffee/meeting room near the narthex. We have also funded tuition assistance for two new students to attend Mary Our Queen this year. We are happy to support these worthy parish and school events!

Our next major event is the Wild Game Feed and we are proud to be celebrating our 25th year! Save the date for February 3, 2018. This is the Men's Club's primary fundraiser. Look for tickets to become available in December. If you or your company are interested in helping sponsor this event, please contact any Men's Club member or via phone or email as listed below.

Men's Club meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the school cafeteria. All adult men of the parish are welcome. If you are interested in learning more about the Men's Club you may contact Tim Salzbrenner at (402) 290-7199 or moqmensclub@gmail.com.

## Youth Ministry: Fun, Faith and Service

The youth of our parish have been busy! This summer they traveled to Worlds of Fun, assisted with the Winnebago Tribe's Vacation Bible School, attended a retreat at Steubenville, and went on service trips.



Erin Connelly, Anna Rasgorshek, and Audrey Daubendiek at Youth Serve.

Serving others is a key component of Youth Group. Their time with the Winnebago Tribe was unforgettable and many incredible memories were made. Seven MOQ youth participated in Youth Serve, a camp designed to teach the Catholic Social Teachings in a way that focuses on serving

others. Youth Serve is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to grow personally and in the service of others.

This fall a record number of youth are active in the Youth Ministry, with more than 55 coming to the weekly meetings. They enjoyed hosting a dunk tank at the Fall Festival and a haunted house at Trunk or Treat – both drew huge crowds! Jordan Moser, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, thanks all who support this ministry.



Gracie Schweers, Brooke Skutnik, Kylie Schweers at the Fall Festival.

**Mary Our Queen Parish Financial Report  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2017**

**Revenues**

Parish Giving	\$	2,128,645
Five Day School and Cafeteria		1,486,743
Religious Education		22,986
Other Revenues		84,694
MARQUEE Dinner Dance (net) **		185,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,908,068</b>

\*\* 185,000 check written to MOQ Parish and School  
- \$80,000 earmarked for preschool and roof

**Expenses**

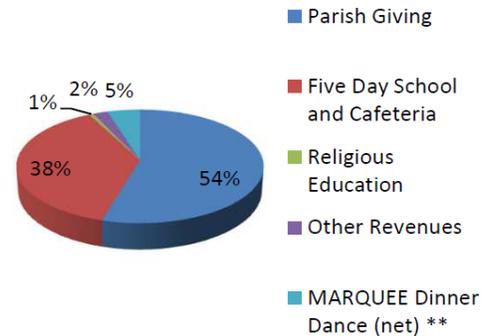
Parish Administration	\$	844,911
Five Day School & Cafeteria		2,545,273
Religious Education		120,425
Archdiocesan Assessment		205,206
Other Expenses		48,325
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,764,140</b>

Net Revenues **\$ 143,928**

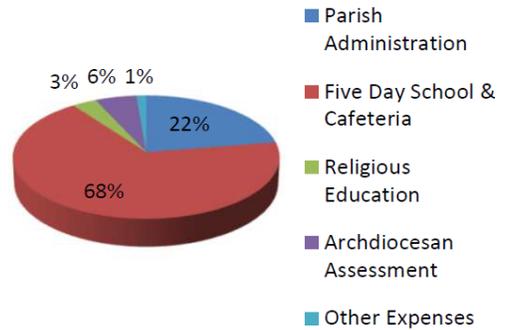
Earmarked for preschool and roof (80,000)

**TOTAL NET REVENUE \$ 63,928**

**16/17 Revenues**



**16/17 Expenses**



Notes:

Report produced through the efforts of the finance committee members.  
Report is a consolidation of parish, school, and religious education statements.

***Activities of Catholic Daughters Court Mary Queen of Peace #2423***

The Catholic daughters have been busy! In July they joined the Knights of Columbus in hosting the annual Seminarian Steak Dinner, serving desserts to over 70 seminarians and other attendees.

At the September monthly meeting a speaker from Heart Ministries, Eric Crawford, spoke of Heart Ministry's programs to serve those in need of food, toiletries and assistance with job placement. The Courts also hosted a water and koozie booth at the Fall Festival.

In October they hosted a Holiday Sale, with proceeds going to our Christmas families and high school scholarships, and will again be collecting socks on Sock Sundays. Bring socks on October 28/29 and



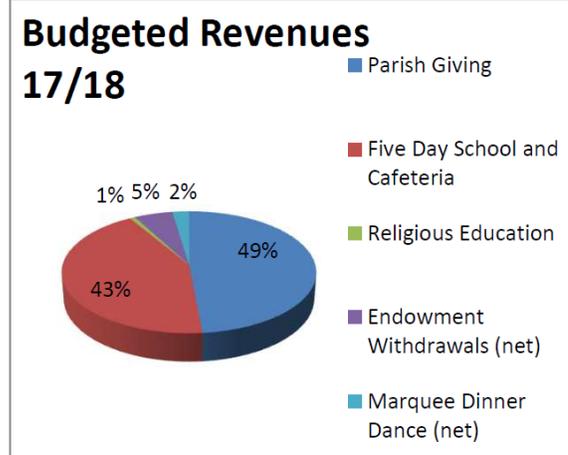
Mark Morehouse, Barb Kuechel and Mary Pat Roh at the Fall Festival tent.

November 4/5 (need is greatest for men's socks). Help them beat last years' donations of 1,154 pairs of socks! Socks will be donated to the Sienna Francis House and the Princess Ann Home.

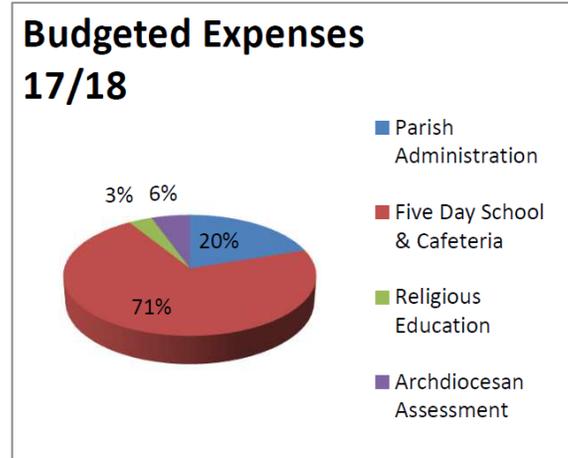
*(Continued on page 9)*

**Mary Our Queen Parish Budget Report**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2018**

<b>Revenues</b>	
Parish Giving	\$ 1,823,442
Five Day School and Cafeteria	1,610,353
Religious Education	28,250
Endowment Withdrawals (net)	206,250
Marquee Dinner Dance (net)	90,000
<b>Total Budgeted Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 3,758,295</b>



<b>Expenses</b>	
Parish Administration	\$ 747,400
Five Day School & Cafeteria	2,671,767
Religious Education	127,128
Archdiocesan Assessment	208,078
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,754,373</b>



**BUDGETED NET REVENUE** \$ 3,922

Notes:

Report produced through the efforts of the finance committee members.  
 Report is a consolidation of parish, school, and religious education statements.

**Catholic Daughters...**(Continued from Page 8)

The theme for the annual Education and Scholarship Contest is “The Lord has done great things for us. We are filled with joy.” or “Finding Joy in my life.” Categories include: art, essay, poetry, computer art, music and photography. All students in 4<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to enter in any or all categories. If you have an interested student, contact Mary Tracy or obtain an entry form through school or religious education.

**Magis...**(Continued from Page 3)

Magis members take turns facilitating meetings, which typically look like this: a) Opening Prayer b) Reflection/Sharing based on Scripture readings c) Petitions d) Closing Prayer

This group is really about the **joy of discipleship**. In our journey together, we are being challenged to listen to one another's story, and become more and more aware of how God is working to transform our life and those around us. If you are interested in hearing more about the group and possibly being part of a new group, please contact Matt Rasgorshek at mrasgorshek@gmail.com or 402.680.1147.

## Forwarding Service Requested

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*Stewardship of the Spirit* . . . July 1 – September 30

### **BAPTISMS**

Henry Joseph Barada, Mason James Bedel, Aidan Joseph Bull, John Karol Cortright, Grace May Costello, Beckett Russell Denton, Adeline Louise Doster, Jayton Montgomery Gamez, Luca James Gasparovich, Wesley Loren Howell, Tucker James Kuehn, Wyatt Edward Laux, Hank Gerald Parys, Lucille Luzanne Pleiss, Noah Sterling Rigatuso, Audriana Faye Smith, Eve Louise Swanson, Ethan Jett Swanson, Robert Michael Vavruska, Joseph Michael Whitney, Micah James Wortmann.

Josh and Molly Rausch-Davis, Jordan and Taylor Rohwer, Efrain and Anna Rosas, Robert and Quentina Schutte, Bill Stoffel, Thomas and Kimberly Strudl Xenia Vera, Zach and Katerina Wiese, Gustave and Ann Lovely Williams.

### **DEATHS**

Antonio DiMauro, Douglas D. Dworak, Sandy Keleher.

### **NEW REGISTRATIONS**

Kevin and Angela Bedel, Heather Brunelli, Dawn Ford, Jamie Frost, Ryan Grossnicklaus, Kelly Guarino Rob Holmes, Tony and Patty Martinez, Tara Meneely Munoz, Ismael and Deseray, Austin and Lisa Person,

### **WEDDINGS**

Shawn Herman & Mariah Fuchs, Richard Graves III & Taylor Duffy, Brock Spinner & Melissa Peitzmeier, Keith Belman & Sharon Kochanowicz, Kerry Kovac & Debra Roberts, Andrew Bloom & Paige Thompson, Jordan Rohwer & Margaret Owens, Kyle Schoenfelder & Ashlin Peitmeier.