

## THE GOOD NEWS



### A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

I hope all of you enjoyed a wonderful summer! Beginning Sunday, September 8th, our Schedule includes:

8:00am ~ Holy Eucharist (Low Mass)  
9:00-9:45am ~ Formation for all ages  
10:00 ~ Holy Eucharist (High Mass)  
11:15am ~ Fellowship

**I.** Clergy coming into the Chicago Diocese are given the opportunity to attend the College for Congregational Development, focused on growing congregations in their spiritual depth . . . then possibly increasing membership.

I attended in July, and now we have two projects to work on *together*.

Our Fall project: How we gather as a congregation, and

Our Winter project: Our transformation in Christ.

This Fall we will consider our “*gathering ministry*.”  
(Cf *College for Congregational Development*, pages 30-31:)

- “How we *invite*: Drawing attention to Christ and the Church, motivating people to explore Christ and the Church, and inviting people to *this* congregation.”
- “How we *greet*: Recognizing, welcoming, and extending appropriate hospitality to our guests.”
- “How we *orient*: Helping people participate and understand who we are, where things are, and how to do things in this particular place.”
- “And how we *incorporate*: The process of being knit into the congregation and its people as a local expression of the body of Christ.”

**II.** In his book, *The Second Mountain*, David Brooks, describes his spiritual journey of faith. He identifies the “walls” that blocked his spiritual

development and the “ramps” that made his movement forward possible.

I ask us to consider David Brooks’ walls and ramps to get in touch with our own. The results we will gain from our project will be conditioned by our awareness of the things that are “helpful” and “hurtful” in reaching out to others.

Here are several walls David Brooks experienced:

- First: Religious people are often really bad listeners, failing to meet people where they are: “Why is it that people who want to tell you about their religion never want to hear about yours?” Do we listen to others?
- Second: People often use religious concern to get in other people's business. While listening, are we nosy?
- Third: Religious people often settle for intellectual mediocrity. Do we offer the hospitality of possibility?

The walls that he experienced, blocking his spiritual growth, may to some extent help us identify the walls blocking ours. Potential new members don’t need to experience those or similar “off-putting” walls through us.

Do we project walls that limit our effectiveness in our efforts to grow? Or do we project ramps – ramps of invitation and opportunity in attracting new life?

- Ramp number one: The power of our Episcopal ritual. How faithfully, creatively and lovingly do we celebrate the ritual of our Episcopal tradition/identity?
- Second, how willing are we to learn, live, and express our faith in word and deed?
- Third, do we understand prayer as an encounter with God: “Thy will be done” versus prayer focused on ourselves: “My will be done.” God is God; we are not.

What have been the walls and the ramps along the road of our own spiritual journey? What walls and

ramps has St. Ignatius presented? In what ways can we improve?

Archbishop William Temple said, “The Church is the one institution that exists for those outside it.” In other words, we don’t exist for ourselves who are reached, but for those who still need reaching. How are we reaching? To whom are we reaching? Are we striving to lead others to Christ? And if we lead others to us, will they find Christ in us?

**III.** *Our* project, once begun, will be an on-going process:

- I explained the project and obtained the vestry’s blessing to conduct it at their Sun., July 21st meeting.
- I have already met with ten new folks who have begun worshipping with us since Memorial Day – asking how they found us, how we are helpful in their journey, what is lacking, confusing, sought, etc.
- On Sun., Sep. 8th I will preach on the importance of how we invite, greet, orient, and incorporate others into the life of St. Ignatius in leading others to Christ with a view to our congregation’s future.
- On Wed., Sep. 11th I invite you to come and brainstorm with me about what we are currently doing well in these areas, what we could do better, what we may not be doing at all – and set some goals.
- I will present *our* goals and feedback to the vestry at their Sun., Sep. 15th meeting, asking the vestry to include the goals we set into their long-term vision for the congregation, to be implemented by a task force responsible to the vestry and led by me.
- I will then report to the College in October – and to you in our October newsletter – on the reception this project is receiving and its

likelihood to influence and guide St. Ignatius' gathering ministry in the future.

*Fr. Brian*

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### KEEPING GOD'S PEOPLE SAFE

We have had seven parishioners complete Level One of the Keeping God's People Safe program. Thank you! A reminder that this training is required for all clergy, paid employees, those who provide pastoral services, and all persons – volunteer or paid – who work with children or youth or vulnerable adults. Church and agency volunteers who have routine access to the facilities and grounds where children or youth gather or who serve on vestry or perform other pastoral ministries must also complete this training.

The Safeguarding Online Quick Start Guide is on the counter in the office. Take a copy home to guide you. If you need any help or have other questions, contact the office.

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### FALL FEAST IS COMING!!

St. Ignatius will once again be hosting a Fall Feast. The event will be held on Sat. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:30. This is an all-you-care-to-eat meal featuring Fitzgerald's boiled fish, BBQ chicken, and ribs. The cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children (3-12).

We will have raffle baskets and a 50/50 raffle. We are in need of basket items. Sports items (Cubs, Bears, Packers, etc.), Lottery Tickets, Body Lotions or Bubble Bath, Wine, Cooking Items, Toys or anything you can think of. We also need homemade desserts.

Watch for the sign-up sheets for desserts and workers.

Thanking you in advance for all you are able to do.

Kathy Kraak

### GOLF FORE THE HUNGRY

The 4th Annual Chuck Larson Golf Fore the Hungry was held on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at the Spring Valley Country Club. The event had about 100 golfers involved and another 75 guests showed up to eat dinner. This event was sponsored by St. Ignatius/GWRS and Mellen Septic. A special thank you goes out to Bill & Sheri Mellen, Mike & Linda Mizwicki, and the Larson Family; and also to numerous people who donated prizes, helped at the event, or donated money. This year we grossed over \$15,000.00. The proceeds will be split between Open Arms Mission in Antioch and the Sharing Center in Trevor.

### SAVE THE DATES

Sunday 9/8 – **Formation classes begin** 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday 9/11 – **Discussion Series** @ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 9/15 - **Quarterly parish meeting & picnic** following 10:00 service

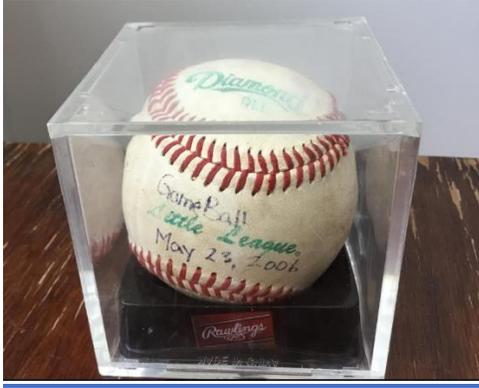
Monday 9/16 – **Worship Committee** @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9/18 – **Story Time** 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9/25 – **Home Mass** - hosted this month by the Nash family @ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9/28 – **Fall Feast** 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

## KID'S CORNER



### **Three Strikes, You're Out!**

**By Nancy McConnell**

My name is Christopher and I am a baseball player.

Last year I signed up to play baseball. Dad said it would be fun. At tryouts everyone had to throw, catch and hit. Lots of kids could throw the ball all the way across the gym. But when I threw the ball, it didn't even make it halfway. The ball never hit my bat. Catching was the worst. I told Dad there was a hole in my glove. Dad said being on the team was about learning. He said the other kids had been practicing lots. I had a lot to learn.

I tried to practice. Coach showed me how to throw the ball. But it didn't help. I was just no good at throwing.

Dad and I played catch in the backyard, but I knew it wouldn't do any good. The ball never landed in my glove, and it never hit my bat.

I went to every practice and one day it happened. I didn't think it would, but it did. I hit the ball! All that practicing had finally paid off. I could play baseball. I couldn't wait for the next game.

When game time came I knew things would be different. I got up to bat. The ball came so fast I forgot to swing.  
"Strike One!"

The second pitch was even faster, I forgot to swing again.  
"Strike Two! Strike Three."

I was out. After that every time I went up to bat I couldn't swing.

"Why don't you swing?" my dad asked. I didn't know why. I just couldn't.

All season I hit lots of balls at practice, but when game time came, I couldn't swing. Coach said I had a good arm, but it didn't seem like it.

This year I decided not to play baseball.

Coach called me.

"Hey, Chris I'd like you to think about playing baseball this year. The team needs you."

"I'll think about it." I said. My dad said I should give it another year, he said I already improved a lot. I decided not to. The team didn't need me.

Coach called again.

"We really need you," he said.

I didn't believe him, but I finally said. "Okay." I did want to see my old teammates.

On the first day of practice when I threw the ball it went farther. I hit some balls and I caught some grounders. I wasn't doing too badly.

When the first game came, I knew I could do it. I got into that batting box and just like before my arms quit on me. Three strikes and I was out. Here we go again, I thought.

Mom and dad told me just swing at anything, but I couldn't. Every time I stood on the plate my arms just wanted to stay still. I told my parents I didn't want to go to games anymore, but they said. "The team needs you."

"What for?"

One day at bedtime my mom said, "Why don't you ask God to help you with your baseball game?"

"I don't think God cares about baseball," I told her.

“Maybe not,” she said. “But He cares about you.” I thought a lot about what she said. Would God help me be a better baseball player?

The next game our team was losing 9 to 1. All the kids on the team were feeling down. It was my turn to bat. The kids on my team said: “You can do it Chris!” I was surprised. How could they say that? I never hit the ball.

“You do it at practice all the time,” Nick said. “You gotta stay in there.”

I couldn’t believe it, but the other boys were agreeing with him. I got ready to bat. My teammates all stood at the fence calling, “Go Chris, you can do it!”

“Chris, Chris, Chris!” they shouted. I had to do it for the team. Then I remembered what mom said. “God, I don’t want to let the team down. I want to do it for them, please help me swing.” I prayed.

The ball zipped towards me. My arms started moving. The bat swished through the air.

“Strike One!” called the umpire. Behind me I heard my team yelling. I thought they were mad at me. Then I heard what they were saying.

“Way to go Chris! You did it. Stay in there.” They were cheering for me.

The ball came again. My arms flexed. Tink. I tipped the ball.

“Strike two!” My teammates were cheering like crazy behind me.

Tink, I did it again. Foul ball, no strike.

The ball came again. I swung.

“Strike Three!”

As I walked off the field my team was yelling and cheering. They were giving me high fives.

“You took three big steps today!” Coach said, patting me on the back. My mom and dad were cheering in the stands.

The team was happy and excited. They weren’t mad because I struck out.

That’s when the miracle happened.

Everyone got up to bat. Everyone swung the bat. Lots of kids hit the ball. We got twelve runs! We won the game by one point.

Now at game time I know I can swing. I get a lot of strike outs but last game I got two hits and I made it to first base.

Every night I say my prayers, and I thank God because I know He hears me. But I’m especially glad because I know He cares about me.

True Story.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST

It’s almost fall, and this is one of my favorite fall recipes. To make it even more enticing, it’s a crockpot recipe so it’s easy-peasy!!!

### Crock O’Brats

5 uncooked bratwurst links, cut into 1-inch pieces  
5 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed  
1 can (27 ounces) sauerkraut, drained  
1 medium Granny Smith apple, peeled and chopped  
1 small onion, chopped  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
Salt & Pepper to taste

In large skillet, brown bratwurst. In a 5-qt. slow cooker, combine the remaining ingredients. Stir in bratwurst and pan drippings. Cover and cook on high for 3-4 hours or on low for 7-8 hours, or until potatoes and apple are tender.

ENJOY! *Faye Nash*