



THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

The Newsletter of the people of
Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

Vol. 57, No. 8

October 2020

Our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world.

From our Interim Rector . . .

TWENTY MONTHS OF WONDER

Father Dan Messier retired at the end of February, 2019, wrapping up eight years of very positive and successful ministry at St. Francis. Some of you wondered, "How do you follow Fr. Dan's ministry?" Starting March first, I wondered, "What can I offer that St. Francis doesn't already have?" Here are some of my fond memories.

That first spring, we made a few changes in the liturgy: Prayers of the People and a Consecration Prayer keyed to each Sunday's lessons, offering a fresh prayer perspective every Sunday. You liked that just fine!

In July, 2019, we began a weekly email newsletter, which you named 'News from the Pews'. It became popular because it supplemented the monthly 'Franciscan Staff' with current information and last-minute reminders. And who, I wonder, among us would have guessed how vital 'News from the Pews' would become in March, when the pandemic closed our church and offices from direct contact? This summer of 2020 Beth-el Klein began to send the 'News' by U.S. mail to our 50+ households who don't use email. This has brought St. Francis' most isolated members into closer touch with church worship and activities

During Lent, the Reverend Judy Turberg introduced 'Ashes to Go' as a service to the parish and the community. Then, during the pandemic, we began offering 'Wafers to Go' on Saturdays and Sundays, so that parishioners re-connected with the Lord in a service prerecorded each Tuesday, with consecrated wafers distributed Saturday and early Sunday, so that we might come together Sunday morning online to share eucharist together, virtually. Did you see that coming?

In the fall of 2019, we took the initiative to make pastoral contacts with parish members by a new program called TeleCare. Little did we imagine last October that by March, 2020, TeleCare would become our most immediate and reliable way to receive and give information to parish members isolated by the pandemic!

Coping with COVID-19 forced us to learn how to worship, meet and socialize online. In these past six months, Neal Hursh has shown us how to video and, with Fr. Nelson's ordination in August, even how to livestream worship from St. Francis into the homes and onto the computer screens of our members. Now we also hold Vestry meetings, Bible classes, discussion groups with Fr. Nelson and Sunday coffee hours with the Smythes...all on Zoom!

We look forward to a day soon when we can gather again for in-person worship.

In any event, St. Francis will now always tape and broadcast Sunday services for those who must stay home to protect their health.

I never feel more alive than when I am in a classroom with you, especially when we are studying the Bible together. You have responded to every study opportunity I have offered with your full participation—which is so

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From Our Interim Rector, continued
gratifying to an old professor. St. Francis impresses me with its warmth for visitors. You have welcomed with me sixteen new confirmands, and with Gary La Barre we have welcomed a score of new members—even while we are closed for worship.

This past June, the Reverend Nelson Mendoza, freshly graduated from seminary, began his pastoral ministry here at St. Francis. As we hoped, Nelson brings a fresh perspective, new skills, broad interests and a warm heart for ministry. Fr. Warren and I, and all our parish leadership, are grateful to have Fr. Nelson helping to create a wider horizon for St. Francis' future. We expect Fr. Warren to receive his visa very soon, and to be here working alongside you with new energy and plans for St. Francis. What a joy to wonder what lies ahead for you dedicated and generous members of St. Francis-in-the-Valley!

As I've said before, Sylvia and I migrated to Arizona in 2017 to support a family move. We are both church people, and we wondered whether and how we might be invited into the Arizona Episcopal Diocese. Sylvia and I will always be deeply grateful that you of St. Francis welcomed us to share so fully in your parish life, and that you have become our valued friends. My goal, personally, was to assist in church ministry and to write my novel. But before I left California, Bishop Smith had an Interim assignment for me in Casa Grande. No sooner was that finished than you invited us to Green Valley. Sylvia and I will now look forward to our next opportunity for ministry in the Diocese of Arizona. I haven't had a minute to spend on the novel—but with sermons and newsletter articles, I haven't stopped writing since my plane landed at Sky Harbor (and I wonder when that novel will ever get written). Nevertheless YOU, Franciscans, are my masterpiece!

In Christ's love,



Fr. Colville

From Our Curate,
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza
MAKING A NEW HOME

When I first moved away from home, I didn't have the money to visit my family for the first two years. (Since then that has changed). If you know anything about me, my family is incredibly important and being away from them is one of the hardest things that I endure in order to follow my vocation

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Bishop

THE REV. CANON COLVILLE SMYTHE
Interim Rector

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza
Curate

The Rev. Becky Williamson
Deacon

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*The mission of
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is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

and to travel on the journey that I have been on these past few years.

You see, growing up in a culturally Filipino family, or any family really, means being there for all the messy parts of life that are present from day to day. It means showing up for the many parties filled with bad karaoke singing, attending every baptism and confirmation for the children, and finding the strength to provide the shoulders and arms to cry into when your loved ones end up in the hospital or die. Being in community can be challenging which means functioning in a family can also be incredibly hard. These tend to be the people that you can both love or love less at the drop of a hat or a not-so-kind comment about someone's behavior (or cooking). But, despite all of the hardships and the obstacles, we try to find ways to love our family members through all of that.

Loving our family is a discipline.

Perhaps I am thinking about this more intentionally since I am about to embark on a potentially hazardous journey on an airplane to see my family back in Virginia. Upon arriving, I will greet my mother and whichever auntie has volunteered to drive with her to the airport because she hates driving on the highways alone. We will exchange pleasantries while wearing masks but still recognize that this encounter puts both them and myself at risk. But we do this because we love each other.

We all continue to live under a state of a viral pandemic which means paying particular attention to how we move and act throughout this world. In recognizing the very real threat of COVID 19, we must also recognize the hazards of being detached from our loved ones and the things that we love for too long.

Another thing that many of you will come to find out about me is that I am quite an extrovert. As such, these past few months have been incredibly hard on me since I am someone that thrives better being around people, especially the people that I love. To make matters more complicated, I graduated from school and left a community of people that loved me and moved to an area where I had no friends or family around. This was a very hard thing to do, even with the amount of love that has been poured out upon me, it's hard to be in a new city in general but especially during a pandemic.

Throughout all of this I have been wondering, "what's the plan God?" I have started to turn to prayer

more fervently than before, I find ways to participate in the Daily Office online, and I have slowly learned to love online or "Zoom coffee chats/happy hours" with friends. Much like you all, I have had to learn to build community even though it's not in the way or the practice that I prefer.

In a similar manner, I am learning to listen to God in a way that I didn't expect that I would ever need to. I have had to learn to find out what God is calling me to do despite being in a state of isolation and when the days often feel like a "choose your own adventure" novel.

Throughout October and November I will be facilitating the "Way of Love" discipline and curriculum both online and in-person which will ask our participants similar questions of themselves. We will be exploring what God might be asking of us and how we might live more faithfully into this new way of being, or this "new home" in this new way of life.

When I first moved from home many years ago, it was a struggle to feel like I would find comfort in a new place. But, much like my move from Virginia to Arizona, and then from Texas back to Arizona, I am slowly finding my way to call this place home again. As I continue to meet more of you all and am privileged to be in ministry with you, I know that God has called me here for a reason.

Wherever you are in this nesting or homecoming process, I hope that you know that you have a family in St. Francis and that we will be there to laugh, cry, and love you—come what may.

In God's Peace,

Nelson+

Grief Support Group

Once again we will be offering a Grief Support Group at St. Francis for those who have lost a loved one. The group is open to the community, is non-denominational, no charge and is facilitated by Jeannie North, BSN, MC who has had over 30 years experience working with those in bereavement. The next session will begin on Monday, October 5 and run five consecutive Mondays from 1:30—3:30 PM. It will be held in the St. Francis room which can be sanitized and where we can maintain social distancing. Masks are required. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in attending, call to register or to obtain additional information: Jeannie North at 715-205-1886.

Senior Warden's Notes

In this month's issue of *The Franciscan Staff*, we will again focus on a historical figure of maritime leadership, and after several months reporting on the lives and times of four foreign-born mariners, we bring our attention to the first American who is found to have a substantiated reputation of national service, along with being the first graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, to be named and included with nine other admirals who made the list of "The Ten Admirals and the Voyage of Character" serving as a basis for the book by Admiral James Stavridis.

Today we will learn a few facts about Rear Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan, who's most important command was not a ship, but rather the Naval War College. It was here along with other venues of intellectual leadership that Admiral Mahan established himself among other highly respected officers noted for their distinguished handling of ships and sailors as surpassing his peers in the practical and theoretical contributions to the naval service. While at the Naval War College, Admiral Mahan's work was set in place and continues to benefit our nation's geostrategic course into a second century after his departure.

Along with a handful of other intellectually-minded officers meeting in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1886, Mahan and his colleagues founded the U.S. Naval Institute which, along with its monthly publication, "The Proceedings," today reaches more than 50,000 members—officer, enlisted, and civilian—convenes countless conferences on defense issues, publishes nearly a hundred titles annually, and maintains an extensive library open to those doing research and others for pure enjoyment. Personally, I've been a member of the Institute for nearly sixty years and donate past issues of "The Proceedings" to Naval the Junior Naval ROTC Unit at Sahuarita High School annually.

But let us take a look at just who Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan was and what has been his 'leave behind' gift. He was born on 27 September 1840 in West Point, New York, and died on 1 December 1914 in Washington, DC. His true calling was to be a scholar and a teacher, while it is highly recognized he was not an accomplished sailor.

Throughout his career, Mahan enjoyed free-ranging liberties to avoid sailing both ships and sailors to war, and instead gave himself freedom to pursue the reshaping of the way the United States "viewed the world

and to show how the relatively new nation could best secure its strategic future."

In large part, by studying the past and then applying the lessons of history, Mahan did this and more. In 1890 he authored *THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER UPON HISTORY* which provided a lift to the numerous nations of Europe as well as Africa and sub-continent Asia, as they began the colonizing process of expanding their boundaries. And in some instances, wars resulted. The U.S. initially rejected this rush to divide up the world, as its focus was set on simply consolidating control of its own continental-sized nation.

Mahan wrote, "The history of sea power is largely, though by no means solely, a narrative of contests between nations...the profound influence of sea commerce upon the wealth and strength of countries was clearly seen long before the true principles which governed its growth and prosperity were detected."

And what we have just witnessed is how important this man's work has impacted the current standing of the U.S. among all nations of the world in pursuing conflict resolution, establishing and maintaining commerce thereby extending the nation's physical presence, all the while exercising policy which protects the internal interests of cooperative nations as well as its own interests.

One thing I found interesting is that throughout his life, Mahan possessed a strong religious connection and considered himself to be a "high church" Episcopalian, and that this was the unofficial but widely practiced religion of the naval hierarchy during Mahan's life span. While thought to be influenced by an uncle who was an Episcopal priest, Mahan sought to promote with an article on naval education that the sea service should seek to establish a need for young officers to have a solid knowledge of and a reliance on God through his church.

You will easily note throughout this ten-part series of which you are already at the half-way point, that while we continue to focus on the role character traits play in leading to leadership excellence, Mahan has not and will not be shown to be out of the same mold as the other nine. One major difference is that Mahan, while making his home in the Navy, actually had very little interest in managing a seafaring career for himself. For the most part, naval officers have a clear understanding of what 'milestones' one must achieve to be considered eligible for promotion. In the case of moving up from the rank of Captain to Rear Admiral,

you had best complete a satisfactory tour in command of a deep-draft naval vessel, as in an aircraft carrier, large combatant as today's large cruiser, a fleet oiler or other type of large support vessel, or a Squadron Commander of Destroyers.

Mahan on the other hand had no interest in establishing for himself a meaningful tour at sea, but rather chose an intellectually-challenging pathway, thus contributing to the successful outcome by shaping policy, procedure, and performance in his own indirect way. Again, his book *THE INFLUENCE OF SEA POWER UPON HISTORY* proved to be the subject Mahan was born to teach, and the lectures upon which the book was based became the stepping-stones for a number of naval educators throughout the world. Kaiser Wilhelm II purchased copies of Mahan's book for every ship in the German fleet.

"Mahan's genius was not that of the explorer, warrior, or master organizer. Rather, he was an intellectual—a position that does not formally exist in the Navy... nevertheless, Mahan succeeded first in creating a career in spite of the institution . . . and ultimately in teaching the Navy, politicians, and the public to think about sea power in a fundamentally new way."

Rear Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan's character trait of leadership is that of being an influencer.

Next month we will visit with Admiral Lord John Arbuthnot Fisher, 1841-1920

Wayne North, Senior Warden

Portions of my text contain material taken directly from Admiral James Stavridis' book titled *SAILING TRUE NORTH: TEN ADMIRALS AND THE VOYAGE OF CHARACTER*, Copyright © 2019 by James Stavridis, and reprinted with permission from the book's publishers, Penguin Random House LLC.

How to Access Service Videos

Go to the Parish website (www.stfranciscgvaz.org), scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see the current video; click on the arrow ► to start the video, and enjoy!

Clergy Availability

Our St. Francis clergy are still available for pastoral care and calls. Contact Fr. Colville directly at colville@stfranciscgvaz.org or 626-824-0270.

Volunteers Needed

Craig Reid, leader of our Grounds Team, has identified two areas that could use some special care. Our Memorial Garden and Labyrinth are both in need of their own small teams of volunteers to sweep, trim and look after the areas. Craig will give complete instructions and the two teams can plan their own work and schedules. They would coordinate within the team and set up their individual work schedules to keep these areas looking their best. Volunteers can work together or individually, as long as it is coordinated within the group.

If doing hands-on yard work is to your liking, please send your name and email address to Julie Reppenhagen (jrepp@snet.net). You will be contacted by Craig to start the ball in motion.

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnratr@gmail.com.

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

Annual 'Welcome Back' party

Fall approaches and many of our parishioners are returning to Green Valley (AKA God's Country) for the Winter. We invite you to our outside Welcome Back party in the church parking lot on Friday, November 13, from 3 to 5:30 pm. We will be serving a roasted chicken dinner, soda and water. Face masks will be required and social distancing will be observed for this event. The cost is still only \$12 per person (for carry-out only) and reservations MUST be made in advance by calling Sandy Eckstein (cell phone 410-808-3881) to reserve a spot and to let her know the number in your party. (Or you may email her at seckste2@gmail.com) This event has been approved by our Vestry and we will be following health and safety guidelines from the Pima County Health Department. Maximum outside event attendance has been set at 50 persons.

Please help to support our Social Activities Team Ministry; we are trying to reach out to everyone during these unusual times.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ken Adams
- 5 William T. Holt
- 6 Diane McAllister
- 7 Patricia Peissig
- 7 Ellen Sax
- 7 Country Wagaman
- 9 Ed Hook
- 9 Barbara La Barre
- 9 Charlotte Neyland
- 10 Joseph McCarthy
- 10 Nancy McGibbon
- 11 Marion Carlisle
- 11 Mildred Roach
- 11 Judy Sackman
- 12 Jim Ratley
- 13 Sandy Barnard
- 14 Anita Jacobs
- 14 Kim Kessing
- 14 Stephen Secaur
- 14 Karline Varley
- 15 Thomasina Reid
- 17 Phebe Anderson
- 17 Stanley Ravine
- 19 Mitchell Ghoca
- 21 Ken Warren
- 22 Larry Howell
- 23 Judy Bush
- 23 Ann Tenpenney
- 24 Sophie Luffman
- 26 Sandy Eckstein
- 27 Robert Long
- 27 Sue Moody
- 28 Becky Williamson
- 28 David Wright
- 29 James Barnes
- 31 Chris Arundell

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kahrmanis, Reg & Tamara
- 2 Fred & Pris Junggren
- 11 Christopher & Kristin Green
- 16 Bob & Mary Beth Bates
- 17 Bart & Janet DallaMura
- 23 Theresa & Gerald Bonser
- 24 Russ & Kim DeMarco
- 28 Wally & Helen Mullaly

My Ghost Story

This is my ghost story (actually, one of two) and I'm sticking by it no matter what might befall me.

As a young organ student—late 1950s—I, like most of my cohorts, loved to 'play at' music we had no business messing around with because it was, at that point anyway, too difficult for us to manage. Our teachers were always counseling us to stop wasting time on Charles-Marie Widor's famous *Toccata* (what was that guy doing with a middle name like Marie, hyphens notwithstanding?) and to instead concentrate on the repertoire that would build technique and also be useful as church preludes and postludes **because** that's where most of us would wind up despite our dreams of becoming concert organists *à la* E. Power Biggs. Such advice did not put the church in the most flattering light.

We all knew our teachers were right, but that didn't stop us spending valuable practice time on Widor's *Toccata* with the tacit goal of seeing who could play it the fastest. (The goal should have been discerning who could play it at all.) Now our teachers were, in spite of all their gum-flapping to the contrary, complicit in all this because they were always holding out their students—their favorites anyway—to be the most brilliant in town. This they did by putting on little 'showcase' concerts wherein their prize pupils would tackle (you guessed it) pieces like Widor's *Toccata*. Not always known for my common sense in those days I was, nevertheless, smart enough to stay out of those little contests.

Not being a pianist (just ask Sharlyn Matthews) I don't know whether young students of that in-

strument are tempted to play pieces they aren't ready to essay, but the organ presents a temptation the piano doesn't: it's a terrifically powerful instrument, capable of drowning out an entire cathedral full of singers as well as clergy outfitted with the most sophisticated public address paraphernalia imaginable.

But the most fun comes when you are alone in the church and you can crank the instrument to its fullest. The thrill of that—especially if you're young and particularly susceptible to such things—is indescribable.

Late one Winter afternoon (where I came from late Winter afternoons were gloomy, cold and forbidding) I was, as usual, seated at the console of the organ in the choir loft of the Lutheran church I attended in those days attempting to, once again, 'play at' a big, and loud, piece of music I should have left alone for a couple of decades. (Oh come on! We all did it, so don't judge me!)

The piece was by Johann Sebastian Bach (although I can't remember just which piece of Bach's it was) and I came to a mighty chord (B minor, if you're wondering) which seemed somehow to suddenly expand in height and depth, and indeed from East to West (look at Psalm 103, v 12) to the point I heard it in what seemed to be a dimension beyond anything I had ever experienced. (Words fail here.)

I then looked up into the far corner of the loft to see a figure dressed in a style I didn't know and wearing a kind of judicial-looking wig. It was Bach.

I turned off the organ, gathered my things and left as quietly as I could manage. (The End.)

Gerald

2020 Parish Statistics

Transfers In

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Sue Moody

New Members by Confirmation or Reception

Donald & Faith Misner

Gary & Anita Jacobs

Ric Pike

Transfers Out

Norm & Pat Fisher

Deaths

George Haight

Richard Sampson

Jackie Springer

William Jones

Carol (Haskins) McPhetres

Susan Meislahn

James Edward Richey

Meeting Rooms are Open for Church Use

Church remains closed for worship, but our meeting rooms are available for small church groups to meet carefully for church business. We are still not open for community use groups. Here are the guidelines to host a meeting:

1. Contact Beth-el Klein via St. Francis' phone number 520-625-1370 to schedule the date, time and room for your meeting. Beth-el will arrange for the Sextons to sanitize the room before and after use.

2. Up to 10 people may participate in the meeting.

Participants will wear masks and maintain social distance while on church premises.

Clergy Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always welcome; these funds help us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity, we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end due to adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Do we have...

your @e-mail.address?

Imago Dei Middle School

The Covid-19/Pandemic has had a significant impact on graduation planning at Imago Dei Middle School; St. Francis has shared a partnership with Imago Dei for the past nine years. This year, twenty-three parish parishioners have contributed nearly \$3,000 to the Graduation Gift Fund and carry the distinction of being recognized as this year's "Honorary Grandparents!"

We will publicize the rescheduling of a date and location for the school's Commencement Exercises as soon as this information is available.

Wayne North

Reserving Meeting Time and Space at Saint Francis

Individuals wishing to reserve meeting space at St. Francis and/or discuss room set-ups should make those arrangements through Administrative Assistant Beth-el Klein. It is **essential** your meeting be logged into the Master Calendar. If you need it, be sure to ask for 'set-up' and 'clean-up' time as part of your booking.

One week prior to your event please inventory the pantry next to the kitchen and let Beth-el know if there are enough supplies to meet your needs. A parishioner usually shops for us twice a month. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Getting Your Event into Parish Publications

Sunday Bulletin notices should be given to the Parish Administrator by NOON the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish the notice to appear. Notices should be in written form and sent via email whenever possible.

Franciscan Staff material should be given to the Parish Administrator NO LATER THAN the 10th of the month preceding publication.

Address Changes

Please let us know if your e-mail address, street address, zip code or telephone number changes. Get in touch with Deborah Harby in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

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