



THE CRUX

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY CROSS PARISH,
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA

October, 2013



SEND US YOUR IDEAS!

By Sharon and Dave Kristovich

The Crux may look a bit different, but the topics important to Holy Cross Church are still here, as well as the great pictures!

As your new editors, we look forward to the opportunity to serve our parish. We welcome

ideas, contributions, photographs and artwork from *everyone*. The deadline for the November-December issue of *The Crux* is **October 15th**. You can contact us with your ideas and suggestions by our NEW email address,

cruxathc@gmail.com or calling the Holy Cross Parish Office.

A special "Thank you!" to Dave Devall, who did a great job developing *The Crux* over the last four years.

ANGELS AMONG US

By Father Dave Sajdak

"Our Catechism states:

*From infancy to death
human life is
surrounded by angels'
watchful care and
intercession."*

One of my favorite things to do is to remind youngsters (and the young at heart) that there are angels among us, around us, watching over us. Every year on October 2nd the Church celebrates the feast of the Guardian Angels. That in itself is proof of our firm belief in the reality of angels.

Both Holy Scripture and our Tradition endorsed the fact of angels. Our Catholic Catechism acknowledges and teaches about the existence of angels: *"From infancy to death human life is surrounded by angels' watchful care and intercession."* St. Basil said: *"Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life."*

Every day millions of people watch EWTN, the Catholic TV station founded by Mother Angelica. Mother Angelica has an interesting story about angels in her life.

Her real name is Rita Rizzo and when she was around 11 years old she was crossing a downtown street in Canton, Ohio. She was preoccupied in her thoughts and not paying attention

to the traffic on the busy street. As she crossed she heard a woman's voice scream her name, and as she looked back she saw a car speeding toward her. Rita froze, closed her eyes in fright, and expected to be hit. Yet, at that moment she felt two strong hands lift her high in the air, and carry her. When she opened her eyes she was standing on the sidewalk safe and sound.

A crowd of on-lookers gathered around to see if she was alright. What they saw was that Rita seemed to be catapulted into the air and safely put out of harm's way. They could not believe that Rita survived without a scratch.

Rita never forgot that extraordinary moment. She believed she was saved by guardian angels. When she was older and entered the convent, Rita chose her religious name, Angelica, to honor the angels. She believes that God protected her and saved her life because He had something special for her to do for Him.

(See "Angels" on page 10)

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CRUSADER CORNER

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

BY CHRIS ELLIS, PRINCIPAL

“Test everything; retain what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21) describes how I hope to proceed this year.”

It has been a great start to the school year. I am honored to join the Holy Cross community. At Holy Cross School, we work to ensure that each student learns with the gifts and talents God has given. Together, with our school parents, we promote student-centered classrooms with Christ as the foundation.



Fr. Dave, Chris Ellis, Holy Cross students and parents on the first day of school. Photo by Dave Devall

The magnificent tradition of honoring our country each morning continues through our Pledge of Allegiance together as a school. Our priests: Father Dave Sajdak, Father Santa Bibiani, and Father Bill Buciferro have added to our morning with their *word of the day*. The priests present a word and explain to the students how that word has significance in their lives. It's always uplifting and meaningful.

It was wonderful celebrating Feast Week at Holy Cross in early September!

During this celebration surrounding the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the students participated in Eucharistic Adoration, veneration of the true relic of the Holy Cross, the Living Rosary and the Mass. We ended the week with our hot dog day tradition. It was a delightful day of family, friends, and alumni, topped off by beautiful weather.

Now that standardized testing is completed, students are delving deep into their curriculum. Fall festival celebrations will be here before we know it, as well as the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th.

As has happened so often for me during my short time at Holy Cross, the word "tradition" seems to surface. "Test everything; retain what is good" (1Thessalonians 5:21) describes how I hope to proceed this year. It is important to me that we honor the traditions of Holy Cross School, while we move forward together. Blessings to you and yours!

2013 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE

BY TRACY DUCHINSKY

Plan to attend the Annual Rosary Rally, Saturday, October 12th, at Hessel Park! We will gather at 11:30 AM in the Grandview/Kirby side of the park. Look for the Praying the Rosary banner.

In 1917 at Fatima, Our Lady made it clear that the Rosary is the supernatural solution to our earthly problems. In *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis de Montfort says, "Public prayer is far more powerful

than private prayer, to appease the anger of God and call down His Mercy and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering." (www.americanneedsfatima.org/be-a-rosary-rally-captain.html)

The Public Square Rosary Crusade was initiated through "America Needs Fatima". The purpose of these rallies "is to counter

the destructive secular agenda, asking God to guide every aspect of our society." Human efforts have not solved America's problems, so we turn to ask His immediate help for our nation. Without prayer, specifically the Rosary, we will not find solutions to our nation's/world's many problems. So please join us in the park to pray the Rosary on October 12th. If you have any questions contact Tracy Duchinsky at 721-2524.

FOCUS

WHO IS DON BOSCO & HIS SALESIANS?

By Father Dave Sajdak

First of all, I am amazed and so pleased that many people at Holy Cross and in the Champaign area want to know about Don Bosco and the Salesians. I sense their genuine desire to know. In fact, I find that many already know much about the saint who is dear to Salesian hearts.

I'll start at the beginning. John Bosco was born on August 16, 1815, in a tiny little hamlet in northern Italy called Becchi. He had two older brothers, Anthony (who was a half-brother) and Joseph. John's father, Francis, died when John was two years old, which put the family into deeper poverty. They were farm workers.

John's saintly mother, Margaret, taught John well about religious devotion. At nine years old, John had a prophetic dream where our Lord appeared to him, giving him the Blessed Mother as his guide to turn "wild animal" youngsters into "lambs".

Though the odds were against John ever having a formal education, much less studying for the priesthood, through Divine Providence and hard

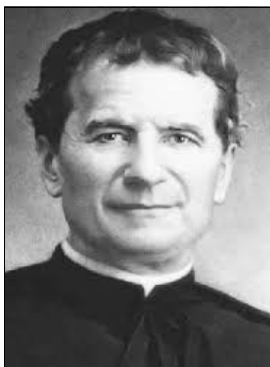
work on his own, he was ordained on June 5, 1841. Thus, he became "Don" Bosco, meaning "Father" Bosco.

While taking further pastoral courses after ordination, Don Bosco met a young boy who had come into the church of St. Francis of Assisi to get out of the cold on December 8, 1841. Don Bosco discovered the plight of hundreds of young people who were living in dire conditions in Turin. He befriended them by offering them a place to recreate, meals, and teaching of trades.

His work for the young began! And it grew and grew. Don Bosco quickly became an advocate, friend, teacher, and spiritual guide to literally thousands of street kids, giving them shelter, an education, and a family.

His influence on the young flourished. When asked how his work would continue after he was gone, Don Bosco began thinking of forming a society, a religious congregation, that would continue his work with his charisma. On December 18, 1859 Don Bosco and seventeen Salesians formed

(See "Don Bosco" on page 4)



Saint John Bosco

"Don Bosco's spirituality is simple and very practical. Basically, it is based on devotion to the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, and the Pope (the authority in the Church)."

WATCH (WE ARE THE CHURCH)

BY DEACON ED MOHRBACHER

Need a break? Want to meet others? Want to jumpstart your Advent preparations and improve your relationship with God and others?

All of these are good reasons to attend the next WATCH (We Are The CHurch) weekend, Novem-

ber 15th-17th, at the Holy Cross Parish Center. The theme of the weekend is "He leads me by still waters, He refreshes my soul." Come learn from clergy and your fellow parishioners ways to grow in our faith from the teaching and experience of others. Besides listening

to great speakers, there is time for individual reflection, reception of the sacraments and time for discussion and fun with your fellow participants. I encourage you to consider joining your fellow parishioners at the upcoming WATCH #23 weekend for a time of rest and renewal. Be prepared to have a great time and enjoy wonderful company and delicious food! We look forward to seeing you there!

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

By Deacon Ed Mohrbacher and Rosemary Smith

The Bereavement Committee was established at Holy Cross nearly four years ago. Its purpose is to follow-up with families of deceased parishioners during the first year following the death.

The process begins with attendance of at least one of our committee members at the visitation and/or funeral liturgies of the deceased. This is then followed by a phone call to a family member within an appropriate time period (2 to 6 weeks). This initial contact is to discuss how the family members are doing, what their needs may be and if the parish can be of service to

them. The family members are also informed about the annual Mass of Remembrance, celebrated on All Souls Day (November 2nd). This celebration offers families, friends and fellow parishioners the opportunity to gather together in solidarity to remember those who have died in the previous year. Invitations are sent to the families of those who have died in the previous year. Those who have been involved in any parish ministry that supports those who have lost a loved one are especially encouraged to attend this Mass.

The final committee follow-up is

on the one year anniversary of the death. A card is sent to let the family know that their Holy Cross friends still remember their loved ones, especially in our parish prayers.

More members are needed. With more volunteers, we could serve families more frequently.

For more information, feel free to contact Rosemary Smith at 356-8562 or Deacon Ed Mohrbacher at 649-5083.

DON BOSCO

(Continued from page 3)

a new religious congregation. The original members were mostly boys that grew up with Don Bosco.

Don Bosco's work spread to other cities. In 1864 he met Mary Mazzarello in Morone. She was doing similar work with girls that Don Bosco was doing with boys. In a few years Don Bosco and Mary Mazzarello (now, St. Mary Mazzarello) founded the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (the Salesian Sisters).

On November 11, 1875 Don Bosco sent Fr. John Cagliero as the leader of the first Salesian missionaries to Argentina. The Salesian Missions began, doing the same work in the style of Don Bosco in Italy.

In a little over 150 years, the Salesians of Don Bosco had grown into the second largest religious order in the Church. We are located in over 120 countries. Our Salesian Sisters are the largest women's religious order, and are also spread throughout the world.

Don Bosco's spirituality is simple and

very practical. Basically, it is based on devotion to the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, and the Pope (the authority of the Church).

St. John Bosco has inspired thousands of people, young and old, priests, brothers, sisters and lay people, to strive for holiness in their lives. The Church has recognized many of them as outstanding in holiness and deserving the titles of Saint, Blessed, Venerable or Servant of God. Some of them are: St. Mary Mazzarello, St. Dominic Savio, St. Luigi Versiglia, St. Callisto Caravario, Blessed Michael Rua, Blessed Laura Vicuna, and Blessed Phillip Rinaldi.

The Salesian motto given to us by Don Bosco is: "Give me souls and take away the rest." Don Bosco spent his entire priestly life dedicated to making young people good citizens here on earth so as to become good citizens in heaven.

Volumes have been written about the life and educational system of St. John Bosco. I hope this little "nutshell" will give you a taste of Don Bosco and a hunger to want to find out more.

"Gentleness is the favorite virtue of Jesus Christ."

-Don Bosco



*"Christ is always present in his Church,
especially in her liturgical celebrations"*

*- Catechism of the Catholic Church 1994
(passage 1088)*

RENEWED LITURGICAL COMMISSION

By Deacon Ed Mohrbacher

Father Dave, relying on the wealth of wisdom and devotion of our parish, has revived the parish's Liturgical Commission. Deacons Bob Ulbrich and Ed Mohrbacher are co-chairs of the Renewed Commission. They are encouraging parishioners to contact them regarding any of the liturgical aspects of worship here at Holy Cross. Please contact

them by one of the following methods:

Deacon Bob - [\(217\) 359-2822](tel:(217)359-2822) or bulbrich@parkland.edu

Deacon Ed - [\(217\) 649-5083](tel:(217)649-5083) or laurajean8@juno.com

etc.

In the early '60s, Bob Dylan wrote and recorded a popular song titled, *The Times They are A-changin'*. Unless you've been out of town, perhaps in another universe, you're aware that Holy Cross parish has been "A-changin'" too, the past few months. Father Steve has moved on to his dual-parish responsibilities at St. Patrick's parish in Washington and St. Monica's parish in East Peoria. To fill his shoes, we have a trio of Salesian priests: Father Dave, who is now our parish pastor, Father Bill, who is attached to the Newman Center on Campus, and Father Santa, who will say the Spanish Mass in Rantoul and also fill the role of Holy Cross's parochial vicar. Based on the Salesian concept of community among its clergy, all three priests live in Holy Cross's rectory.

On the school side of the parish, Rose Costello, Holy Cross School's long-time teacher and principal has retired and been

replaced by Christina Ellis. Christina comes to us from an Assistant Principal position at Holy Family parish in Bloomington. Father Steve and Rose were a powerful team, and together they brought life to our parish motto, "Always Home, Always Family." They are and will be missed.

As the unknown looms ahead, changing times have a way of producing anxiety. But as people of faith, we know to 'let go and let God.' In this Year of Faith, we need to have it as our parish transitions from the old to the new. Father Steve set the bar high with the relationship he established with the parish and its parishioners. Father Steve's legacy is one of compassion and a deep, profound relationship with Christ's presence in the Eucharist. He *is* a hard act to follow, but rather than see Father Dave as replacing Father Steve, think of Father Dave as building on the foundation and legacy Father Steve left behind.

If you've interacted with Father Dave at all, you know he readily mixes his spiritual message with a wry, clever sense of humor. Father Bill strikes me very much the same

way. Both priests are *exceptional* homilists. I have yet to meet Father Santa, but if he's cut from the same Salesian cloth as Father Dave and Father Bill, he will seamlessly fit in.

I'm glad that our Salesian shepherds landed at Holy Cross, and I think the Salesian approach to our worship will take Holy Cross to higher levels of spirituality. Our better days aren't behind us. I believe they lie ahead.

I'd like to thank Sharon and Dave Kristovich for taking on responsibility of our parish newsletter, *The Crux*, and for being gracious enough to allow me to contribute on a regular basis. You can find these two humble people actively engaged in a number of parish activities, and again, I'm grateful they are keeping our parish newsletter up and running.

In Christ,
Dave Devall

*"Let us serve the
Lord with holy
cheerfulness"*

-Don Bosco

Children of Hope and Faith ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR

By Tracy Duchinsky

Feeling crafty? A wonderful opportunity to support a great cause awaits you, by making crafts and/or purchasing them!

The **ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR** benefiting **CHILDREN OF HOPE AND FAITH** is on **Saturday, October 26** from **8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** and on **Sunday October 27** from **9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.** in the Holy Cross Parish Center. The benefits of this event are many; people can use their talents to help others and purchase great gifts for others or items for themselves at a reasonable

price (probably made by someone they know!), and in doing so, give hope and support to children in need. Tags, indicating the proceeds from the gift purchase benefit the Children of Hope and Faith, will be included with each purchase, letting the recipient know the gift they received has benefited a worthy cause.

The money raised through this event will provide funding for scholarships, giving orphans and needy children in Tanzania the gift of an education and hope for a better future. Lydia Patrick, the stu-

dent supported by Holy Cross, is fortunate to have a sponsor. However, there are more students in need than there are sponsors, which is why this fundraiser is important.

FREE ADMISSION. Featuring handmade treasures, homemade baked goods, concessions and craft activities for kids! For more information on how you can help, contact Tracy Duchinsky at 217-721-2524 or tded@sbcglobal.net

Clip and Save these Dates

(See articles in this issue or the parish bulletin for more information)

- 10/2 - Mary, Help of Christians weekly Mass Begins (6:30 P.M.)
- 10/6 - Life Chain 2:00 P.M. at Hessel Park
- 10/6 - Teen Mass and Dinner, St. Patrick's, Urbana 5:30 P.M.
- 10/12 - Rosary Rally 11:30 A.M. at Hessel Park
- 10/13 - CREW Meeting for High School Students, St. Patrick's, Urbana 6:30 P.M.
- 10/15 - November-December Crux Deadline
- 10/26-27 - Children of Hope and Faith Craft Sale
- 11/15-17 WATCH #23

CREW—Christ Renews Everyone's World High School Youth Group

Any interested area high school students are invited to participate in CREW—Christ Renews Everyone's World. The group meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month from 6:30-8:00 P.M. at St Patrick's Parish Hall (708 W. Main St, Urbana). For a listing of the meetings, please see the CREW calendar at <http://www.stpaturbana.org/>.

The purpose of the group is to discuss topics of faith particularly relevant to teens, hangout with awesome people and have fun. Snacks are provided!!

In addition to the two meetings each month, on the first Sunday of

the month, we have a Teen Mass at 5:00 P.M. at St. Patrick's followed by dinner & fellowship in our Parish Hall. All high school students are welcome; please bring \$5 to cover food costs.

**Our next Teen Mass/Dinner: Sunday, October 6th, 5:00 P.M.

**Our next CREW meeting: Sunday, October 13th, 6:30 P.M.– 8:00 P.M.

If you're in high school – come check it out!

A Youth Section is coming soon in *The Crux*. Student submissions are welcome!

Please send any suggestions or articles to: cruxathc@gmail.com



SAINTS

WORDSEARCH

Adalbert
Basil
Gabriel

Mary
Agnes
Boniface
Paul

Helen
Pius
Michael
Stephen

Alphonsus
Dominic
Mark

Holy Cross Church Parish Feast Week (9/8-9/15) -

Photos by Dave Devall



Eucharistic Procession.



Mass for the Healing of the Sick.



Benediction and Concert

Holy Cross Church Parish Feast Week Photos



Meal and a Movie



Living Rosary



Holy Cross Coffeehouse with special guests!

ANGELS

(Continued from page 1)

For years now, Mother Angelica has been teaching and promoting our Catholic faith on television in a real down to earth, "no doubt about it" way, reaching millions every day.

Mary Roberge told her story to *Angels on Earth*. Her three year old daughter came home with her grandparents from a garage sale. The grandmother told Mary: "I've never seen Aubree want something so intently. She just insisted on getting it."

Mary asked Aubree if Mommy could see what was in her bag. Aubree pulled out a little statue of a guardian angel. Mary gasped. She saw that angel before, but in real life.

When Mary was four months pregnant with Aubree the doctor gave Mary the news that the baby she was carrying had a good chance of having Down's syndrome. Mary was shattered. You see, her husband had left her and she was going to have to bring this baby up on her own. She worried: "How could I manage if the baby was handicapped?" Mary cried. And prayed.

As she reached for a tissue to dry her eyes, something caught her attention. She felt someone else in the room. Then she saw a blonde, green eyed angel wearing a white and gold lattice gown. The angel came closer, and strangely Mary wasn't scared, she felt at peace. The angel knelt down in front of Mary and said "Let's pray."

Mary said it was the most natural thing in the world. She got down on

her knees beside the angel. Together they prayed the Lord's Prayer. When they finished, the angel left as quickly as she had come.

Mary still felt at peace, and was no longer afraid about the baby. She whispered: "*Thy will be done.*" She was content in knowing that whatever would happen would be God's will, and God would give her the strength to raise any child. She also knew she would not be raising the child alone. God would send angels to help her raise the child.

When Audree was born, she was perfectly normal. And now three years later she came home from a garage sale with a statue of an angel that looked just like the real angel Mary saw before Audree was born.

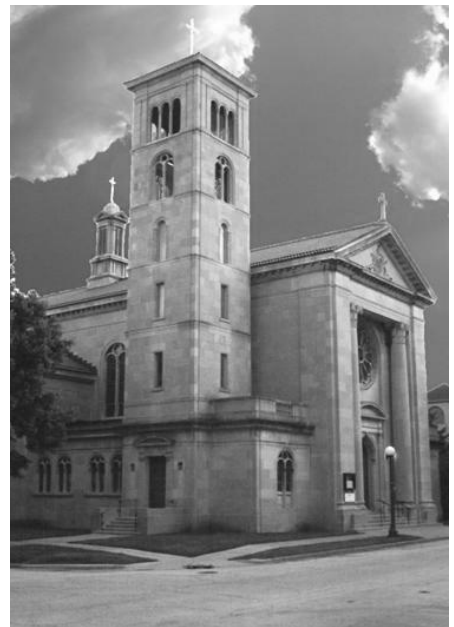
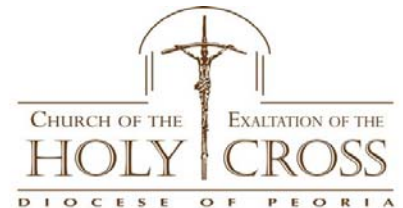
Mary is convinced that the angel was Audree's guardian angel.

Our Christian faith maintains that angels do exist. They are creatures of God -- pure spirits. They are servants and messengers of God, and because they "always behold the face of the Father in heaven" they are mighty and powerful in fulfilling God's will and in helping other creatures, namely human beings, to do God's will.

And since human beings are the top line of creation here on earth, it stands to reason that the Lord will do everything to protect us and assure us of eternal life, even to

send angels to protect and guard

us.



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