Every year in August, Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church holds a Ministry Fair. This year is no different. You are invited to stop by the cafeteria after any Mass the weekend of August 24-25 to see how our parish serves the mission of Christ in many ways—through the liturgy, Christian service, faith formation, and much more. Perhaps you have a gift to share, through singing, teaching, serving others or assisting in the liturgy as a lector or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Stop by the Ministry Fair and find a way to let your light shine!

Loving & serving the Lord at MQP

'As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.' 1 Pt 4:10

Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church is a “Dynamic Parish.” Many parishioners will tell you we have been “dynamic” for many years, for we are a faith community filled with people of prayer and generosity, love and service. This is true! And now, as we continue a five-year partnership with Dynamic Catholic, Mary, Queen of Peace is committed to cultivating even more “dynamic” Catholics. Last Advent, more than 1,200 parishioners completed a “Bigger Future” survey that paints a picture of our parish.

See the results & more, Pages 5-12.
Meet Jack Brechtel, our May steward of the month. Jack can be seen welcoming parishioners with a smile, assisting with the collection, finding seats, and whatever a good usher/greeter is asked to do. “I enjoy sharing my gifts and my time at Mary Queen of Peace for a few simple reasons,” Jack said. “I enjoy being around people where I am able to share similar faith beliefs; I enjoy seeing familiar faces at church or in the community in a low-key environment where you gradually get to meet and get to know people over time; and I am a big believer in trying to dedicate some time consistently outside of career and immediate family to volunteer in whatever capacity you can. “I enjoy doing it here and I am fortunate to live just a 2-to-3-minute drive away from Mary, Queen of Peace.” That’s why you’ll see Jack at several Masses. “I can usually help out for a few hours during the weekend/week at multiple Mass services/events.”

Jack witness with joy, and MQP is grateful!

Ellen Molina was our June Steward of the Month. Ellen shares her gifts in many ways with Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

Ellen and her husband, Henry, have been parishioners at MQP for about 15 years. As a parishioner, she said, “I love the friendly people and the warm and welcoming environment.”

She helps care for our candle stands in church, oversees the prayer shawl ministry, assists with office needs on Monday mornings, coordinates the cleaning of the altar linens, and so much more — including stuffing a few Easter eggs that we give away in church each Easter.

“I was honored to be named steward of the month,” Ellen said. “I love the service to others, which is my way of showing gratitude to God for my many blessings.

“I am happy to help whenever I can,” she said. “I’ve always liked to help others, especially those who are truly in need.”

Thank you, Ellen, for sharing your smile and reflecting God’s love and joy with Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church. We are blessed!

Bob Guise is our July Steward of the Month. Bob brings the Eucharist to one of our senior living centers. He also takes part in several rosary groups, helps with the Knights of Columbus and assists with Blood Drives. He loves sharing his gifts with others. Why?

“First, because I feel like God wants me to and, second, because God has given me the health and talents to do so.”

Bob and his wife, Karen, moved to Covington after Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home in New Orleans. “We attended several parish churches but felt at home at Mary, Queen of Peace. Fr Ronnie and the parishioners made us feel welcome. After a short while, we felt that it was time to start giving back to the Lord, for His love and kindness to us.

“I became a Eucharistic Minister and immediately knew the Lord had plans for me. I met two of the ministers who were bringing weekly Communion to one of the nearby senior living homes. They invited me to come with them, and I enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of the residents. Over the next year, I was asked to take over these duties, which I happily did. I have had the privilege and honor to bring Communion to God’s people ever since. I am lucky to have several ministers helping out each week: Brigid Dickson, Jack Leber, and Buddy Reine. When you are bringing Holy Communion to the residents, they will never forget the ‘gift’ that you brought to them!”

Bob doesn’t minister alone. “I must say that my wife plays a very important role as my support team. She is very understanding and supportive.”
Welcome, Dylan!

FourTwelve, our awesome youth group, has a new leader: Dylan Mitchell. A 2019 graduate of LSU, Dylan comes to MQP from Christ the King in Baton Rouge.

Dylan grew up on the West Bank. “I went to Catholic school and was involved in my own parish ministries and youth group,” he said. While at Archbishop Shaw High School, Dylan said he “fell in love with the ideas and concepts of youth ministry and first felt God’s prompting to work in ministry.”

At LSU, Dylan pursued a degree in psychology with a minor in religious studies. “During my time there, I became involved at Christ the King in their ministries and eventually worked for the parish my entire senior year. In addition, I was on core team for another parish’s youth group and was able to walk with high school students and really see the work that goes into youth ministry.

“My four years in Baton Rouge really transformed my faith life and my outlook on ministry. I realized the importance of a relationship with Christ for my own personal life, but I also wanted to share this. In particular, I want to share with high school and middle school students because of my experience of how a life with Christ can transform us into who we were created to be.”

Dylan is looking forward to his new journey at Mary, Queen of Peace, and we are happy to have him here. “This is my dream for the youth at MQP,” he said: “For every young person that walks through the doors at MQP to know that they are loved unconditionally even when it doesn’t make sense! My hope is that Mary, Queen of Peace can be a place where the young have a place to share the roses of their lives AND the thorns; where they can lean on each other and walk with each other to Christ with the help of Our Lady and the Saints.

“I do have a request for everyone who reads the newsletter,” he added. “I cannot do this ministry alone; this ministry relies on the prayers and intercessions of everyone at MQP. Please pray for this new chapter in my life and at Mary, Queen of Peace, and pray for the work that the Lord wants to do.”

Amen!

FourTwelve, for students in 8th through 12th grades, meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the youth room. FourTwelve Youth, for 5th through 7th grades, meets the last Thursday of each month. You can reach Dylan at dmitchell@maryqueenofpeace.org
Ava and Mia Cresap, at the young ages of 8 and 10, have already built homes for the poor. Ava and Mia are living the Gospel message. It all started last year when the girls heard a visiting priest at Mary, Queen of Peace speak about the mission of Food for the Poor, specifically about building houses in Haiti. After hearing him talk, they decided to sell “Hair Ties for Haiti,” with the goal of raising money to build homes for the poor.

In February of this year, the girls’ parents, Doug and Renee Cresap, received letters and pictures from Food for the Poor, showing them the houses their generosity built—and the families blessed with new homes. “This house is the best thing to have happened to them,” the letter said. “Because you decided to act on behalf of the poorest of the poor, tonight there will be one less family sleeping in a garbage dump, in a slum, or in a leaky shack.”

The girls received the pictures along with certificates that acknowledge “exceptional generosity in providing the gift of new life” for the Lalane family and the Joseph family in Haiti. Their mom said the girls raised enough to build two $7,200 homes, which are considered “multigenerational” and house up to 20 people.

They aren’t finished with living the Gospel, Ava and Mia said. They are $1,200 away from building another home. “Just to see their faces” when receiving the letters was amazing, their mom said. “It was one of the proudest moments as a mom … they were able to change families’ lives.”

Ava and Mia are grateful to all of you at MQP who helped them change the lives of others. If you’d like to help them build another home, visit www.foodfortheoor.org/hairtiesforhaiti

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council 12072 was installed during ceremonies in June. Many thanks to our KCs, who help Mary, Queen of Peace serve the mission of Christ in many ways.
Why do you love Being Catholic?


- Amy Berger

There are many reasons to love being Catholic, from the beauty of the sacraments to the depth and breadth of the Tradition to the great love we find in a community of believers. Mary, Queen of Peace has been asking: Why do you love being Catholic? We will compile and publish responses soon. Please enter your response at: wilbc.us.

Thank you!
In December 2018, parishioners were asked to take part in the "Bigger Future Survey," which gives us a snapshot of life and faith at Mary, Queen of Peace.

**BIGGER FUTURE: A SNAPSHOT OF LIFE & FAITH AT MQP**

According to Matthew Kelly's Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, a "dynamic Catholic" is one who has strong habits of prayer, study, generosity, and evangelization. How does MQP stack up? Take a look.

**Age of Respondents:** 30%, 65 & older; 20%, 55-64; 31%, 25-44

**Years in Parish:** 35%, less than 10; 36%, 10 to 19

*Parish founded June 1988*
**Prayer:**

**In the past 30 days, how many days have you dedicated specifically to pray?**

The most frequently reported response for days prayed in a month was 30 (44%). Over half (52% in total) prayed 21 days or more.

**Prayer:**

**On the days you prayed, what was the average number of minutes you prayed?**

62% prayed an average of 10 minutes or more per day.
8% prayed an hour or more per day.
38% prayed less than 10 minutes a day.
**Study:**

*In the past 30 days, how many hours have you spent learning about the faith?*

- 31% had spent no time learning about their faith.
- 24% spent up to 2 hours.
- 16% spent 2.0-4.9 hours.
- 12% spent 5.0-9.9 hours.
- 10% spent 10.0-19.9 hours.
- 7% spent 20.0 or more hours.

**Evangelization:**

*In the past 30 days, how many times have you shared the faith?*

- 68% reported sharing the faith four or more times.
- 23% shared the faith 1-3 times.
- 24% shared the faith 4-9 times.
- 22% shared the faith 10-19 times.
- 22% shared the faith 20+ times.
**Generosity: Volunteering**

*In the past 30 days, how many hours have you spent volunteering at MQP?*

32% reported volunteering at least 4 hours for the parish in the past month.

11% of people volunteered 20 or more hours in the last month.

**Generosity: Financial**

*Do you financially support MQP using envelopes or online giving?*

78% of respondents at Mary Queen of Peace indicate they support the parish financially using envelopes or an online giving system.
Now let us count our Dynamic ways

Of the 1,247 respondents, 802 met the threshold for "Dynamic" in Evangelization

(Here's a little note: Dynamic Catholic may reword the question for the next survey to be more specific about the meaning of "evangelizing.")

Financial Generosity (435) and Prayer (443) are similar in the number who are Dynamic.

Generosity – Volunteering (333) and Study (326) have the least number meeting the threshold for Dynamic.
Now let us count our Dynamic ways

Of the 1,247 people who took the survey, 1,075 respondents were Dynamic in at least one habit. That is about four out of five.

There is a significant decrease in the number of Dynamic respondents with the addition of one or more habits. This also means there is a tremendous opportunity to intentionally and incrementally build habits that will increase the number of Dynamics.
Dynamic Parish: Bigger Future Survey

What is the takeaway for MQP?

The results of the Bigger Future Survey give us a baseline that shows us a few things about the people of God who make up Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church:

We are people of prayer and generosity, people ready to share the beauty of our Catholic faith, and people who want to learn about our faith.

118

As a parish, according to the survey, we have 118 Dynamic Catholics – 9 percent of those who took the survey, which is a bit higher than the 7 percent average Matthew Kelly has found in his research.

Of course, we all have room to grow.
Over the next year, we will specifically work on the idea of prayer.

Meanwhile, many thanks to all those who took the survey.
Thank you for being part of our Dynamic Parish!

We will take another Bigger Future survey in the fall, so stay tuned to the bulletin and website for details!
This year has had a lot of exciting news and a lot of challenges for our sister parish of St. Benoit in Haiti.

We started the New Year with the dedication of house number three built with funds donated by Mary, Queen of Peace parishioners, with two other families donating enough funds to build two additional homes for the most needy. This will bring our total to five homes built in the last year and a half. The homes are owned by the parish and occupancy is given to the neediest in the area. In return, the occupants donate their time and talents to the parish. This has given a glimpse of hope to the surrounding community, and we look forward to building more homes soon. The cost of a home is approximately $7,000, and funds are donated by parishioners outside of our ministry work. This has been a direct spinoff of the work and commitment that MQP has offered St. Benoit.

In January, we also broke ground on the Our Lady of Fatima chapel, located in a small village north of St. Benoit and a part of St. Benoit parish. A major amount of the funds were donated by St. Catherine of Siena Catholic church in Metairie, where Father Ronnie Calkins, our former pastor, presided. Some of the other funds have been donated by parishioners of MQP and surrounding parishes. The cost of this Chapel is approximately $70,000 and at this time we are $20,000 short of completion. We are searching for donors to complete this chapel.

Also in January, the rectory roof for St. Francis Xavier Chapel was donated by St. Francis Assisi in New Orleans. The Chapel for St. Francis Xavier in Gile, Haiti, was also donated and completed by St. Francis Assisi in New Orleans last year. The chapel has become its own parish. Father Gary, the principal of the High School at St. Benoit, now presides over it.

Meanwhile, the scholarship program for university students is under way. Last school year we had 12 students studying things from Nursing to Electrical Mechanical Engineering. All students passed with high scores. The money for their degrees has been set aside for the initial 12. This year we had four new students apply for scholarships to the university level. We have secured the funds for one of the high school graduates and are looking for donors for the remaining three. The cost to send a student from St. Benoit to college is approximately $1,500 a year; it takes 3-5 years to graduate. A $1,500 donation includes school tuition, meals, room, books, and a small stipend for transportation. Therefore, the students only need to concentrate on their academics. Educating the young in a Catholic Christian environment has been a major part of our ministry from its inception in 2011.

We have also taken on bringing fresh water to the community and providing nutritious, hot meals to the students of St. Benoit. This past year, however, we have had a few setbacks. Food for the Poor cut off subsidies for the meals we feed the children. The additional cost to fully fund the meals was $1,500 each month. This fed nearly 500 students and dozens of teachers for a month approximately .13 cents a day per person. In addition, the water pump stopped working at 700 feet in the earth. Fortunately, we had funded the installation of two large in-ground cisterns over the last year. The water that was saved was able to give relief during the month-long repairs to the water pump. Repairs consisted of the extraction of 700 feet of pipe, a replacement pump, and a return installation to the bottom of the well. The $6,000 price tag for this was paid by all the generous donations of the parishioners at MQP. In 2013, we were able to get a grant from Vitamin Angels to supply St. Benoit with pre-natal vitamins, vitamin A, and micro nutrients for children under 5. That grant continues to this day and is delivered straight to Haiti for Msgr. Wildor, pastor, to transport to St. Benoit.

Also, the vehicle we purchased in 2012 has needed repairs as a result of traveling the rough terrain over the last seven years. We repair as needed, but a new vehicle will be needed soon. The mountain terrain vehicle serves the parish in many ways. It has even been used as an ambulance for critically injured parishioners. In the next year we will need to budget for a new vehicle. Your support in this effort is greatly appreciated. Finally, July 11 was the feast day of St. Benoit; people come from all over to celebrate this joyous occasion. The church is filled with music and festivities all week long.

We know the students and parishioners at St. Benoit continue to thrive with the help of everyone at Mary Queen of Peace. The preschool students recently graduated to kindergarten and all the high school seniors passed their final exams. The church is full every Sunday for Mass and the bell can be heard for miles. We are their only hope and their only source of income. Please continue to pray and support our sister parish. For information, contact mqphaiti@gmail.com
The Hispanic community ended the school year with a Spanish Mass held on May 10 at Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

Fr. Alex Guzman was the presider and Fr. John Tran concelebrated, welcoming two teenagers into the Catholic Church.

Adrian and Milena Romani made their profession of faith in the Catholic Church and received their First Communion. Three other children made their First Communion: Christopher Mejia, Abigail Mejia and Elvia Trejo. At the end of Mass, Christina Ryan received a certificate of appreciation from Fr. John for her many years of service to the Hispanic community. The celebration ended with a reception in the auditorium. Congratulations to these children and the families.

Mary, Queen of Peace is blessed with the presence of a new chapter of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, at left at their installation and above at their bake sale in May.
On the feast of the Assumption, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, three weeks away from death’s door, insisted on walking to church, saying, “It may be my last walk in this world, and I desire that it shall be to pay a visit to my God and his Blessed Mother.”

The Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul was created in Paris in 1833 by a small group of Catholic students led by Ozanam. Because his dedication to the Virgin Mary threaded through his life, it is not surprising that he rooted Vincentian spirituality in love and devotion to Mary.

As a young student, Frédéric passed through the poorest neighborhoods to attend classes. He was profoundly affected by the despair of families decimated by a cholera epidemic. Ozanam respected the poor and offered whatever service he could because he believed no one should live in poverty. Serving the poor taught Frédéric something about God that he could not learn elsewhere.

Acting on his beliefs, Ozanam and 7 friends set up the Conference of Charity. The conference connected with Sister Rosalie Rendu of the Daughters of Charity, who organized the distribution of aid from a welfare office. The new group placed themselves under the patronage of Saint -Vincent de Paul and the protection of the Virgin Mary. The Society of Saint-Vincent de Paul was born.

St. Vincent de Paul based his spiritual journey on three mysteries in the Blessed Mary’s life. Within the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, St. Vincent saw that the humble and chaste Virgin did not resist God’s workings within her. She was open to what God asked of her and let the totality of the light of God shine within her. Vincent perceived how she emptied herself to welcome God and allowed herself to be filled and clothed with God. He trusted this was how to serve the Lord.

In the Annunciation, an angel visits Mary to announce she is to be the Mother of God. St. Vincent observes how Mary’s humility prepared and sustained her to accept whatever God asks: Be it done unto me according to your word.

Vincent taught the need, to surrender to God, as Mary did, to accomplish His work and unceasingly and actively seek the Kingdom of God.

The Visitation: Blessed Virgin Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth revealed to St. Vincent a model of service to the poor. He noted how Mary hastily left her house, ready to serve her cousin. Recognizing that the quality of actually serving by performing acts that extend God’s compassion and mercy to those in need was integral to coming before God, he concluded that, emptied of ourselves and given to God, our life is at the service of the poor.

Mary, the perfect disciple of Jesus, understood the meaning and lived out the teaching of the gospel. She accepted the will of God and acted on it. Driven by charity and the spirit of those who serve, Mary inspired both Vincent and Frédéric to embody Christian attitudes and values.

Vincent understood that Mary’s humility sustained her in offering herself to God. He learned the need to serve one’s neighbors in order to accomplish God’s work and that, like Mary, we must give ourselves to God to accomplish this work.

Frederick Ozanam died on the feast of the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8, 1853. It is fitting that he died on the feast of Mary, to whom he had been deeply devoted all his life.

From a small Conference of Charity, the Society of St. Vincent-de-Paul has today spread throughout the world, fulfilling the wish of its founder “I would like to embrace the world in a network of Charity”.

Submitted by Susan Larsen Daigle, Ph.D.
Communication Chair, SVDP
For information on our St. Vincent de Paul Society, email jimmydykes43@gmail.com

Reference: Conseil Général International de la Société de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, 6 rue de Londres, 75009 Paris; FRANCE
“Marian Spirituality and the Vincentian Charism” by Corpus Delgado, C.M., Province of Zaragoza, 13.VII.2002
Let your light shine
Visit the Ministry Fair: August 24-25, after Mass