

Heartbeats

Servants of the
Holy Heart of Mary

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Who is Teaching Whom ?

By Sister Vicky Mobley, sscm

This issue is dedicated to everyone who has taken a

“Jump”

Into Newness



This September I started working with a young boy named Juan at JP II Church here in Kankakee. He is preparing for his first Reconciliation and first Communion. He is 8 years old and has special needs and I am absolutely fascinated by this boy!

Juan speaks Spanish at home but uses perfect English with me. His reading and writing are limited. He did write his name for me but it looks like it was written by a kindergarten

student. He also colors pictures in the same manner. His attention span is short so we take frequent breaks during class. He is very genial and respectful, and does everything that I ask of him behavior wise.

My classroom with Juan also happens to be the music room for the parish. The very first time I met with Juan we were taking a break. He went over to the piano, sat down, and without any music, began to play a beautiful classical piece. I was astounded! I said to him: Juan, how old were you when you learned to play? He replied: seven.

Another time he was coloring a picture, when out of the blue he said to me “what makes you angry”? I gave a short reply, asked him the same question, he said ok, and resumed coloring. A few moments later he looked up at me again from his coloring and said “what makes you sad?” I gave him a reply and asked him the same.

We were watching a short DVD about making good choices and how God always loves us even though we make mistakes. I asked him “what did this story say to you”? Without hesitation Juan replied “God loves me”, which was exactly the point of the story.

Once, when we were taking a walk while on break, Juan said to me “you know, sometimes I am good and sometimes I am bad”. He already has reconciliation down on that one!

After each class session I always thank Juan for being with me, reach out to shake hands, and he responds back with a handshake and a big smile. After my class with him last week I told him that he had done so well that he deserved an A+. I could not figure out what he wanted when he went over to the table, got a piece of paper and colored marker (a red one because that is his favorite color) and brought it over to me. I finally decided

that he wanted me to write a note to his mother telling her about the A+. He was so proud.

There is a depth to Juan that I find most intriguing. It is obvious that he has special needs as far as intellect goes, but his heart is wise and he has a certain wisdom for one so young, that most of us do not possess. I am learning so much about God and about myself from Juan. I look at him in amazement, wondering who is teaching whom.

By Sister Linda Hatton, sscm

I thought I would take a few minutes to update you all on my ministry here in the Ford/Iroquois deanery and the program of Spiritual Direction Internship in which I am participating. I continue to visit the parish communities in the deanery. On Mondays I attend St. Edmund Parish in Watseka because they are the only church that has Mass on Mondays. I feel that I have become part of a little faith community that gathers there for Mass followed by breakfast and I have become the official Monday lector. Fr. Michael Powel is the pastor at St. Edmund and St. Joseph in Crescent City. The rest of the day is spent working on upcoming events such as the Advent retreat scripts and

Retreats to Go for Facebook and the website.

Tuesdays I find myself at Assumption Church in Ashkum or trying to find St. Joseph Church in Loda. Right now Fr. Doug Hauber of the four churches in Chebanse, Clifton, Ashkum and L'Erable has asked me to help him give an Evening of Recollection and to facilitate a DVD educational series so I am in the process of completing plans for those events.

Wednesdays I travel to Claret Center in the Hyde Park area of Chicago to participate in the Spiritual Direction Internship. This is a very rich experience. We are nine interns coming from very diverse backgrounds and nationalities...two from India (one of which comes by way of Mexico), others from Taiwan, Columbia, Ecuador, Philippines, a woman Baptist minister, a Catholic deacon and myself. We meet with the two directors of the program from 10:00 to 3:00 each week. We have readings to absorb and reflect upon, input from our directors and lots of sharing and listening to one another. Each of us has at least one client that we see and we meet with our supervisor twice a month. I usually see my client or supervisor or my own spiritual director on Thursdays so I tend to stay with the John

and Judy Bumbul on Wednesday nights and return to Beaverville after my Thursday sessions.

Fridays tend to be days to venture into new territory. Last week I found a Mass in Piper City which became almost a morning of recollection...Morning Prayer before Mass, Mass, and the Rosary. And I got to meet some nice people. One priest, Fr. Marek, has the parishes in Gilman, Piper City and Roberts and I have worshipped at each at least once.

None of the parishes have a Saturday morning Mass so I try to attend a vigil Mass in the evening. This week I hope to go to Our Lady of Lourdes in Gibson City (where I was confirmed). It is the most southern parish in the Deanery (and diocese) and over an hour from Beaverville so I tend to go when I can schedule a longer time. Fr. Dong has the parish there as well as those in Loda and Paxton. When I was at Mass last week in Paxton I was happy to see familiar faces, a woman I had previously met at a CCW meeting, a couple that I served with on the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Sr. Denise from St. Joseph in Bradley (visiting her family). Sometimes I can relate to a spider who is gradually weaving a web of connections.

And that brings us to Sunday, the Christian Sabbath, and my day is hemmed by worship. In the morning I try to pray with a parish that I don't have the opportunity to visit during the week because they only have liturgy on Sunday or Saturday night. This week I hope to get to L'Erable for a 7:00 am Mass (I have been waiting for that extra hour of sleep that the time change brings before attempting this one!). Then I have the day for some Sabbath rest before celebrating at 4:30 with my "home" parish of St. Mary's in Beaverville. What a delight that is! Warm, welcoming, faith-filled people, a magnificent church structure, an energetic celebrant, and wonderful music.

So, dear ones, I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve in this area of the Church. I never realized that establishing a presence would be such a tremendous feat and I have to pray for patience. But once in a while God sends a message of encouragement such as.....last Saturday morning I was at St. George Parish for Fr. Dan Bellanger's mother's funeral and the woman in the pew in front of me recognized my insignia and asked, "Are you the Sr. Linda that we have been hearing about?" Sometimes that small town grapevine is a thing of wonder!



Sr. Linda Hatton, sscm



The picnic 50/50, gift basket raffle and presentations on St. Oscar Romero netted \$343.17 which was sent to Bethany House in the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary's name.



Sr. Loretta found this prayer for us; Sr. Carol modernized it.

There are a few different versions of this prayer. The one that follows below became popular in the 19th century. It alludes to a quote from St. Teresa of Avila where she said, "It is now very many years since I began asking [St. Joseph] for something on his feast, and I always received it.

If the petition was in any way amiss, he rectified it for my greater good."



Remember, O most amiable, benevolent, kind, and merciful father, St. Joseph, that the great St. Teresa assures us, that she never had recourse to your protection without obtaining help. Encouraged with this same confidence, dear St. Joseph, we come to you, sinners as we are, and ask of you this request: that the building that will house our Sisters be completed in a safe and prompt manner. O most compassionate St. Joseph, patron of workers, graciously hear and obtain our petition. Amen.



Halloween

In Beaverville

Thanks to Sister Linda for sharing photos of the children from Beaverville.



New Home

The new home is coming along...what a mess it's creating, though!



Groundbreaking



Blessing of New Community



Construction Site

