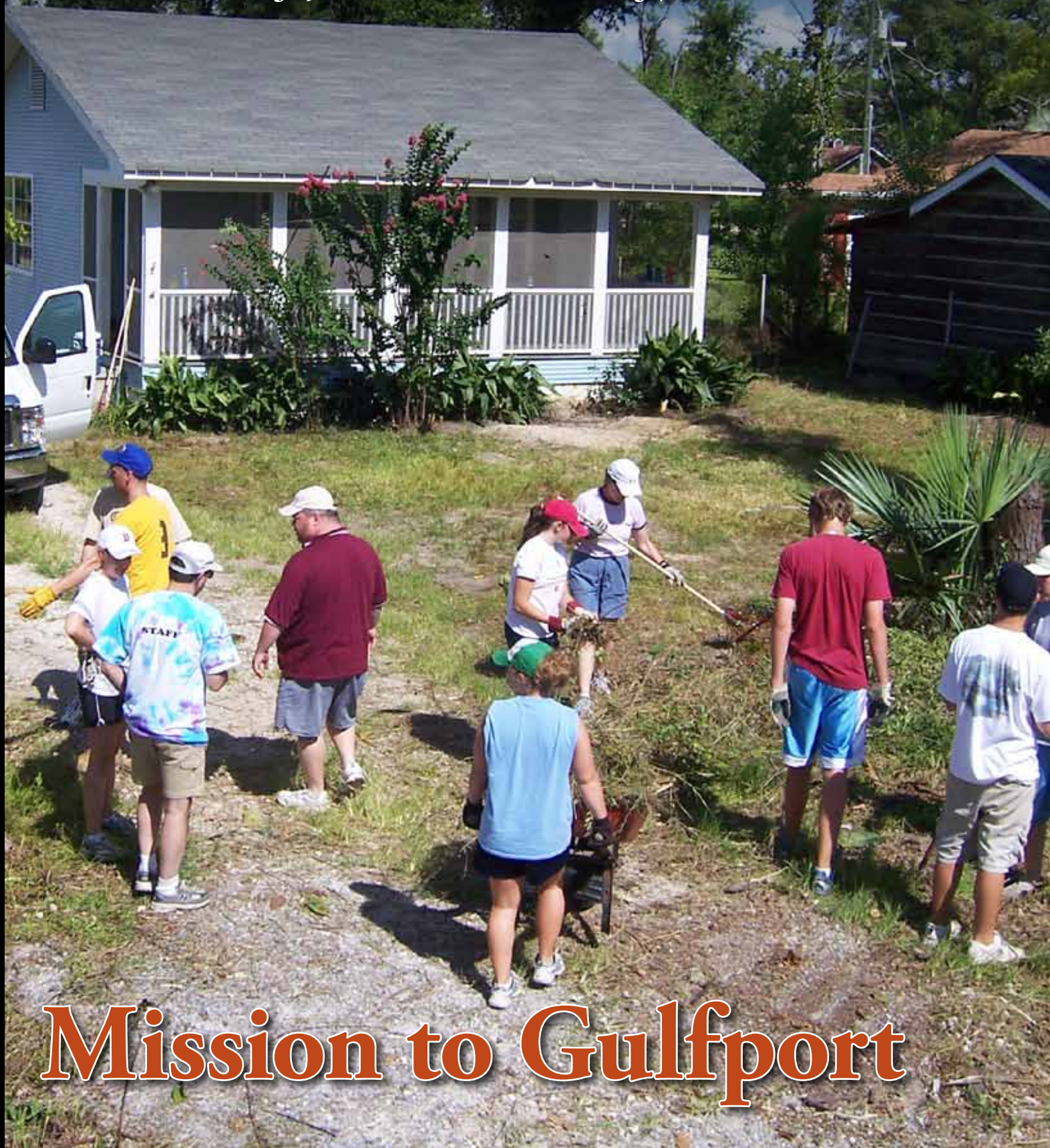


# Our Parish Family

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Acton & Boxborough, MA

Fall 2008



## Mission to Gulfport

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*Our Parish Family*

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St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Acton, MA

**NEW YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

When Tony Carbrello, the new staff person for youth ministry, confirmation and high school faith formation, initially learned of the job opening at our parish, he did not hesitate before applying. Earlier, he had attended a youth ministry retreat at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, organized by the departing youth coordinator, Jim Flanagan. “It was an enjoyable day,” he said. “Then I saw the job opening advertised not two weeks later.” His grandparents live in Worcester, and he wanted very much to be closer to them.

Although his undergraduate degree is in teaching, since graduating he had worked as a lay professional person, either volunteer or employed. “So I worked on a master’s degree in theology at St. Norbert College in Wisconsin,” he said, adding that he is certified for Social Studies in grades seven through twelve. Returning to Vermont, he had attended St. Michael College in Burlington, Tony taught high school religion for a year in Rutland.

He arrived here from the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont chancery, where he worked in youth ministry for one year. Officials decided the summer camp he directed would finally be closed, he said regretfully. “I live by the motto: leave things better than you found them. But I think it would have taken a good three years to turn the summer camp around.”

Asked what he likes best about youth ministry work, Tony mentioned he is an extrovert. He likes to bring enthusiasm to a group, telling who we are as Catholic Christians. “I like to relate things to life,” he said. Another gift he cited is empowering others to join him, really relying on the youth leadership for helping with things such as promotion and invitations to their peers.

Tony said the parish youth program here is “overwhelmingly good.” TLC, the Teen Leadership Committee, has 45 members, far more than is usual.

The Confirmation Preparation Team has probably 25 juniors and seniors, the new staffer said, and 15 adults. There are 106 ninth and tenth graders enrolled. They meet once every six weeks and are expected to come to a monthly Generations of Faith session.

Tony said he is glad to be at St. Elizabeth parish and to be working with the good people here.

*Jill Pontius*

**MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION**

In order to bring comfort and solace to families who are grieving, the Ministry of Consolation was initiated consisting of volunteers who have been trained to walk with those who are going through a difficult time. Those in this ministry may visit families wherein a member is facing terminal illness, or be present to those who have experienced the death of a loved one as a sign of God’s abundant love and the care and love of the Parish Family of Saint Elizabeth. Through a phone call, a note, a visit or follow up with the family after a funeral throughout the subsequent year, ongoing support is provided. It is in the knowledge that God encourages and strengthens us that energizes our ministry. If you are interested in joining us or for more information about the Ministry of Consolation, please contact Deb Lundquist at 978-263-4308 or at ski-n-skate@comcast.net.

**GENERATIONS OF FAITH**

As Generations of Faith enters its fifth year at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, we decided to ask for feedback from a family brand new to GOF and a family who has been with GOF from the start. The new family has children in pre-K, grade and middle school. The veteran family has children in grade school.

► *What is your general impression of the GOF program?*

**New family**

We were quite surprised and impressed with the high level of community participation among different families under the umbrella of the parish. The level of energy of the volunteers and facilitators were quite amazing to keep the group on track of what needs to be accomplished for that session. Despite the size of the participants that day, everything went well according to plan.

We felt very much welcome and included even though it was the first day for the year. The facilitators were always checking us up on our specific needs and making sure we are introduced and welcomed into the other tables. The community in general were quite responsive and made us feel included. The diversity in the community will surely provide lots of learning opportunities for other families as we bring our different backgrounds together to share in the works of God. We felt as a family that indeed God touched our lives on that day with the help of the whole community.

**Veteran family**

Definitely good. We especially like the breakout sessions to address the different age groups.

► *Were you familiar with intergenerational faith formation programs before coming to St. Elizabeth’s?*

**New family**

We have heard of it before from my sister but really never paid attention to the concept. At that time, our paradigm was to celebrate the gospel in private groups or family clusters rather than as a big community group.

**Veteran family**

No. We had been in the parish so it was a change from what we had before.

► *Did you have questions or concerns about GOF when you signed up?*

**New family**

We had reservations whether the concept will be effective in communicating the gospel with such a large group. We have been familiar with small classroom learning experiences. We even thought it was similar in format to what you will now see from born again Christian organizations, along with their healing sessions.

**Veteran family**

Not sure about it at first.

► *How would you compare GOF to previous parish faith formation programs that you have been part of?*

**New family**

It is different in approach and focus. We believe that, with an active community we can be much more effective in getting the message of the Gospel across, understood better when we learn together as a community and one family under God. Sharing our ideas, our understanding of the Gospel in a bigger larger group can help reinforce what Jesus wants us to work on (the BIG picture rather than the smaller finer details). Or what really counts as we hear from other experiences of other families participating.

**Veteran family**

Having been a catechist I could see the difficulty in what we had been doing with weekly classes. The need to get the kids to class every week was hard when people are crazy busy. GOF is much more convenient. I was concerned about whether the children would get as much out of it being less frequent.

► *What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of GOF at St. Elizabeth’s?*

**New family**

I believe it is still too early to assess the whole program but based on our first impression - we seem to be off to a very good start. Our kids are much more excited coming to the next sessions (positive indication of getting the interests of our youth) after they have gone through the first session.

**Veteran family**

The kids like it. They love eating together and the break out groups. On the other hand, the Saturday session after Mass can be a little long for the little ones. Our oldest likes it the best. We are thrilled that he is so positive and looks forward to going to GOF.

► *Has anything surprised you about GOF?*

**New family**

The kids coming out of the session seems to be more engaging and participatory - not another class or subject from the public schools.

**Veteran family**

The ability to keep everyone’s attention and dealing with all the age groups and the length of time, I was surprised it worked as well as it does.

► *Is there anything else you would like to add?*

**New family**

Having the community/family dinner at the start was effective in kicking off the session. Brings everyone together to focus on the activities ahead.

**Veteran family**

The parish is doing a good job with GOF. It is working for all different groups.

# Parish Community

## MISSION TRIP REFLECTIONS

We asked some of the teens who went on this summer's mission trip for their thoughts on the experience.

► *Why did you decide to go?*

"I heard awesome things about it; saw the photos from the previous trip. It sounded like a great experience."



"The first time, all my friends were going and I had nothing else to do. The next time, I went because you realize how much of an impact you can make on other people's lives."



"That even years after Hurricane Katrina people were not getting the help they needed."

► *What was most surprising to you about the trip?*

"Seeing all the people on the trip, some non-church members, who I hadn't seen before, some I didn't expect to see, who worked together."

"It definitely changed me. Before my attitude was in the wrong place. It was a fun thing to do and a memorable experience. I became closer to my friends and I was really proud of myself."

► *Did it change you? How?*



"Seeing the devastation makes you more grateful for your situation; we don't have to deal with that. It showed how strong faith can be. People there had hard times and still believed that they could get through it. I was making a difference. Coming home, I felt I should continue that. I felt like a better person, having the strength to help others. It's a great feeling!"



"Go for it! It was the best experience I ever had."

► *What would you tell a friend considering a mission trip?*

"It's so fun! I would encourage them to go. You become more familiar with the community and meet new friends. I wouldn't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity."

## Parish Community

### ‘KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE’

Inside the window adjacent to the ramp entrance at church, one can see from the parking lot a small, handsome lamp. Lining the room are shelves of books, Catholic books. They are a treasure and a legacy. On the left hand wall one can find writings of the early Fathers, so many martyred, that have lit the way of many into the Church. We factually know that Catholics have truly preserved the teachings and practices that Jesus handed down to us through the Apostles and their successors. This truth sets us free. We are safely following Jesus in the power of the Spirit of Truth.

Reference books include “St. Jerome’s Bible Commentary,” which is helpful to consult while reading Scripture. If you want to know what the Church really teaches, and not what others may say, the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” is another valuable reference. Approved by the pope and bishops of the world, it is poetic in places and has a lengthy index in the back.

“I think we have a great selection of Catholic books, all the kids’ books and other books of every category,” said Donna Bottari, a library volunteer. Spirituality, biography, theology, and fiction, including nuns’ mysteries, are among many others on the shelves.

The whole idea, said Maddie Kaduboski, a library founder, is to get Catholic books, videos, and DVDs into peoples’ hands. “I wanted the library because there is no Catholic bookstore around. There is no parish around that has a library. We were trying to fill that void and that still exists. It hasn’t changed.” Its current budget is \$125 annually.

The library also supports the Generations of Faith (GOF) program. The committee has prepared a book display space for participants in GOF. Cindy Harrington places readings specific to the GOF monthly themes on the bookcase to the right of the door.

“We rejoice,” Maddie explained, “when we are given recently published Catholic books.” Those that cannot be used are placed in the freebies box available to everyone. Besides the books, free Catholic magazines that people drop off at the library are available. Patrons check out books on the honor system, according to instructions on the desk.

The library was moved from the parish center several years ago to its current location in the church building. The library committee has changed over the years as people move away or on to other work. At present, the basic four are Maddie, Donna, Dorothy Dunderdale, and Sue Rigby. They meet two evenings a month at 7:15 p.m., and extend a warm welcome to anyone interested in joining their library service group. They are also looking for someone to phone parishioners, perhaps from home, to remind patrons of long overdue books.

Donna said they process the books that come in, put cards in the backs and so forth. Shelving books and replacing fraying tags are other tasks. Returned videos must be filed in the cabinet drawers. They sort through donated books and place those that cannot be used in a box for parishioners to take away for free

“It was fun meeting Maddie, Dorothy Dunderdale and others,” Donna said. “It really has been fun.”

*Lord, you inscribed  
tablets of your law  
with your own hand,  
and you promised to  
write your word on  
the tablets of our hearts.  
bless these books that  
all who read them with  
faith may grow in their knowledge and love  
for you and for one another. Amen*

Father Crie  
Benedictine Abbey, Oceanside, CA

[Author’s Note: Just before the library opened, I visited a friend in San Diego and she took me to the Abbey where her uncle was librarian. I copied this prayer from the Abbey library wall. Maddie and I had it copied and framed for ours.]

*Jill Pontius*

## Directory for St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish

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### DIRECTORY

Pastor **Rev. Walter J. Woods, STD**  
[wjw@seoh.org](mailto:wjw@seoh.org) ext. 15

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Director of Elementary Grades Faith Formation **Cynthia Harrington**  
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Liturgical Coordinator **Mary Ryan**  
[mgr@seoh.org](mailto:mgr@seoh.org) ext. 35

### SCHEDULES AND SACRAMENTS

**Sunday Masses** Saturday Vigil at 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
First Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. October through March

**Daily Mass** Wednesday through Friday at 9:15 a.m. For current information about funerals and the daily Mass schedule, call the Parish Office. At the greeting press 2, then press 1 to hear the Mass times.

**Reconciliation** Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment (Church Reconciliation Room)

**Marriages** Preparation begins at least six months before the wedding. Contact the Pastor as soon as possible after the engagement.

**Baptisms** Please call Steve Ryan (ext. 21) in the Parish Office as early as possible to make arrangements.

*Our Parish Family is published 4 times a year. We welcome your suggestions, comments, and contributions.*

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## Milestones

### BAPTISMS

Olivia Yuejan Sater  
Jonathan Connor Funk  
Elena Ann Stuntz  
Benjamin Thomas Zambrano  
Cooper Briggs Balfour  
James David Takacs  
Georgia Kathleen Amendola

Dashiell Carrick Barry  
Andrew Miles Krieger  
Matthew Richard Krieger  
Libby Ann Bassage  
Emerson Paige Klimarchuk  
Ryan Felix Pittorino  
Zachary Thomas Zipoli

### MARRIAGES

Carolyn F. Monahan and William C. Renick  
Melissa Anne Marck and Daniel J. Donovan, Jr.

### FUNERALS

Christine Boisvert Dexter  
Maura Lynn Gildea  
Kristen E. Prendiville  
June Allyn  
Marilyn Regis Driscoll  
Mary E. (Whelan) Niles  
Marion (McGuire) Molloy

Gertrude Widmayer  
Florence Ward  
Raul Reis  
Virginia Antonelli  
Robert Loomis  
Daniel J. Costello, Sr.  
Charlene M. Carell