

God is Good!

By Eddy Simon



“The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8) Outside the window of my room at the Mission there are two trees. They are quite beautiful (red maples I believe). Sometimes when I wake up in the morning the leaves are all dancing a lively dance on the tips of their branches and the branches themselves are swaying as if to the rhythm of

some unheard music. It's a delightful sight that occurs when it will at the whim of the whispering wind. Of course I cannot see the wind itself but the evidence of its working presence is obvious for all to see.

What a magnificent wonder is the Holy Spirit. Before every great work of God there is the moving, working presence of the Holy Spirit. In Genesis at the beginning of creation, “The Spirit of the Lord hovered over the deep.” At the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “The Spirit of the Lord came upon her.” Before Jesus began His public ministry the Holy Spirit led him into the desert. At the birth of the Church (at Pentecost), “A sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind,” over the apostles and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. At the consecration of the bread and wine at Mass we hear the words, “Let Your Spirit come upon these gifts and make them holy.” We never see the Holy Spirit but the effects of His presence are powerfully evident. The works of God are always ushered in by the Holy Spirit.

Fifteen years ago in the middle of the “War Zone,” (The worst section of Buffalo) the Holy Spirit came unseen like the whispering wind to an abandoned parish, to an abandoned people, to an abandoned neighborhood. He came to renew the face of the hearts of His people, to renew the face of a neighborhood, to renew the face of the earth. No one saw Him coming, no one saw Him passing through, no one saw Him go; but the (ongoing) transformation left in His wake is undeniable. It is the story of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. Come and see the goodness of the Lord. GOD IS GOOD.

Congratulations, Will!



Will Marks, son of Leonard and the late Wendy Marks, graduated this spring from Franciscan University! He is now taking a well-deserved break and plans to continue his education in a year. Our best wishes, prayers, and congratulations to Will! It seems like only yesterday...oh, we're getting' old!



Bishop Kmiec posed with Chris, Mary and Edward from RCIA at the annual Chrism Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo. Dave Topor, Michelle Marciniak, and Melanie Shoemaker escorted several of the RCIA candidates to this special Mass where the oils for the sacraments are blessed and distributed to the parishes.

Drew Bernstein led us once again during our Seder in the dining room at St. Luke's on Holy Thursday. Drew does a wonderful job explaining our connection to the Jewish feast of the Passover and the fulfillment of the feast in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Drew, a convert from Judaism, brings his knowledge and passion for the rich traditions that bind us with our Jewish brothers and shares this with our entire community each year.



Walter Reynoso leads the altar servers during the Outdoor Stations of the Cross at St. Luke's on Good Friday. The cross was carried throughout the neighborhood by different families while St. Faustina's Way of the Cross was read by Drew and Sandy Bernstein and led by Fr. Jack Mattimore, SJ. Dozens of men, women and children from the immediate community and beyond shared in this solemn and prayerful retracing of the last steps of Christ.

Elizabeth Marciniak received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Louis Church in Buffalo after completing classwork with Dave Topor at St. Luke's. The only young adult receiving the sacrament at St. Luke's this year, Elizabeth was invited to join the community at St. Margaret's to be Confirmed. Pictured is Emily Marciniak, her sister and sponsor, Msgr. James Kelly, pastor of St. Margaret's Parish, and Bishop Kmiec.

