



# The Heartbeat

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Fall 2022

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## Fr. Troy Recharges

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by Ann Williams

In September, Father Troy will embark on a six week sabbatical to the Holy Land. Sabbaticals are intended to provide priests with an opportunity to pursue professional development as well as to rest and “recharge their batteries” before returning to their diocesan duties.

Father Troy noted that his first (and only) sabbatical was immediately prior to his appointment as pastor of IHM. In fact, during the first week of his sabbatical in Rome, then Bishop Walter Hurley called to tell him he was being assigned to IHM. Fr. Troy was surprised as he had been at his current assignment in Howard City and Lakeview only four years and his term was not up. Given the enormity of moving from very small, rural parishes to the “big time” (editor’s description) i.e., IHM in Grand Rapids, he asked Bishop if he could pray about it. “You can but I already did,” was Bishop’s response. The rest of Fr. Troy’s time in Rome was not without stress.

Sabbaticals are not self-directed. The diocese offers a menu of programs from which priests may choose. In Father Troy’s case, he has chosen to participate in a program through the Tantur Institute, an adjunct program of the University of Notre Dame in the Holy Land.

According to its website: *Located in Jerusalem on a hill near Bethlehem, the Tantur Ecumenical Institute is an “oasis” where one can come to be refreshed in heart, mind, and spirit. It is also a place where one can “encounter”\* the rich sacredness of others, their faith traditions and holy sites, while experiencing a personal renewal. \* “Encounter”: an opening of the heart to experience the “other” and be “changed” by/through this mutual experience.*

It will include classes and excursions to some of the sacred places in the Holy Land. Though he has been to the Holy Land several times, Fr. Troy said choosing that site for his sabbatical was a no-brainer. “It’s where it all began,” he said.

Father’s sabbatical follows his recent trip to Uganda where he visited Father Emmanuel Tamele, a Ugandan priest, who studied for the priesthood here and interned under Fr. Troy during his time as pastor of St. Joseph in Belding. At the time, seminaries in Uganda were full and so seminarians came to the Mundelein Seminary to study and, in return, they stayed for three years after ordination to help out in the diocese. (Seminaries in the U.S. offer free or reduced tuition to educate seminarians in return for three years of service.)

For many years, Uganda has been ruled by a dictator, currently Yoweri Museveni, who followed the infamous Idi Amin. There is little electricity, no ovens, nor other “amenities” we would consider necessary. The level of poverty is almost unfathomable and everyone eats exactly the same vegetable based meal three times a day, day after day.

Much like the early church in America that built schools and hospitals, Father said the Catholic Church in Uganda is leading the way in building national infrastructure, e.g., irrigation systems and hospitals, etc. In Uganda, outpost churches are headed by “leaders.” Despite abject poverty and lack of necessities, Father says the Ugandan people’s love of God is obvious and they are joyful.



Fr. Troy with Fr. Emmanuel, his sister Vivian and nephew Tomas

# PARISHIONER PROFILE: THE JOE & KARLI SIMON FAMILY

by Sue Jakubowski

Joe and Karli Simon's paths have taken them from West Michigan to California and back, but for the past eight years, IHM has been blessed to have them (and now their seven children) as parishioners.



Joe and Karli joined the parish in 2014, when Karli was hired to teach sixth grade at our school. She spent two years with the sixth graders before shifting to her current role as our second grade teacher. Joe runs a wedding photography and videography business called "Wedding Tales," and he has also filmed school musicals, concerts, and other events, in addition to writing, directing, and producing his own first work.

Joe and Karli are both originally from the Hart, Michigan, area. They met in high school and started dating when Joe was a junior and Karli a sophomore, continuing their relationship throughout college at Central Michigan University. Karli graduated with an education degree and Joe with one in English. In 2011, they were married, and soon after, they moved to California. Karli began teaching at a Catholic school there and Joe enrolled in the St. John Paul II Catholic University, where he earned a master's degree in film and television broadcasting. It was in California that Joe began a wedding video business, and their first child, Elizabeth, was born. In 2014, they moved back to Michigan for family reasons.

Karli finds great joy in teaching at a Catholic school. She has been teaching religious education since high school and, for her, it is a blessing to weave her faith into her vocation. She especially likes teaching the sacraments to her second graders. When they begin talking about first communion, the students tend to imagine the sacrament in very concrete, literal terms. But by the time they receive the Eucharist, they have come to appreciate and understand that Jesus is really the Bread of Life. This, says Karli, is a perfect demonstration of why she chooses to teach in a faith-filled Catholic school: her students go from seeing a piece of bread to a full understanding that the Real Presence of Jesus Himself is present in the host they receive.

Karli and Joe have seven children: Elizabeth (9), Claire (7), Grace (5), Roger (4), Emily (4), Maurey (20 months), and Faith (14 months). Maurey and Roger came to them through foster parenting, a journey they felt called to pursue five years ago. Now, both boys are their adopted sons. Their biological daughters have whole-heartedly embraced their new siblings, and the love they share has allowed them to bond as a large family who would consider further foster parenting in the future.

Luckily, the Simons are able to balance their professions with their family by working as a team, and their work schedules allow them both to share parenting duties pretty evenly. Joe watches the non-school-aged kids during the year while Karli teaches, and in the summer when Joe is busy with his wedding photography and videography business, Karli is available to manage the kids.

Joe and Karli have built their lives around their faith and family. Through their example, they are trying to teach their children and students that they can go out and make a difference in life. What a good lesson for all of us!



# WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM ST. JOHN PAUL II

by Grace Brown

This past spring I spent three months in Krakow, Poland, learning about St. John Paul II while participating in the John Paul II Project. There I attended the Pontifical University of John Paul II, lived right next door to where St. Faustina received the message of Divine Mercy, and took part in retreats and pilgrimages throughout Poland as well as parts of Italy. I learned the life story of John Paul II in detail. I saw his roots and stepped into his shoes for a bit—touring the city where he lived, skiing through mountains he skied, and dedicating myself to studying as he did. I came away with a different appreciation for school and the sainted pope.

John Paul II highly valued education and saw it as a valuable tool. As I took classes on Theology of the Body, the philosophy of Karol Wojtyla, the history of Poland, and more, I prayed for John Paul II's help to be a good student and to learn as much as I could. I was inspired by knowing that, although he was a normal young person in so many ways, he still became the saint we know today. During the Nazi occupation during World War II, he was a faithful youth who made a choice of where his true loyalties lay. He was a follower of truth, and lived and held on to truth his whole life. John Paul II was put through many trials, but through it all he chose to stay close to Christ and never abandon the faith.

Currently, we are still fighting many of the battles he fought—against a culture full of death and violence, hatred and isolation. These are all things John Paul II addressed in his many writings and speeches. Sadly, I do not think my generation knows very much about the great works of John Paul II beyond his Theology of the Body. We were so young when he passed away in 2005, and therefore did not grow up with his amazing influence. The previous generation was well formed by John Paul II. Now it is time for my generation to seek him out and to learn from his example as we continue to grow.



This is what drew me to study in Poland: I wanted to know why so many people were in awe of this man's life. What did he say and do to win over the hearts of so many for Christ? Once I took the time to study him, I came to notice the way he spoke so lovingly to the world, while never watering down the truth. John Paul II was an amazing help to our modern world and I'm convinced he will help guide us through the difficult cultural battles we face today if we choose to call on his intercession. My time abroad learning about this saint showed me that truly, all of us have the ability to be saints, as long as we give the Lord our "yes" daily. He will do the rest. We need not hesitate to speak up. We need to, "never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." (St. John Paul II).

*(Left) The author, Grace Brown, in Krakow*



# FAREWELL & HEARTFELT THANKS TO BARB HEINBECK

by Ann Williams

After 19 years at IHM, parish business administrator Barb Heinbeck is retiring at the end of November and putting IHM in the rearview mirror. Earlier in her career, Barb worked as a dental assistant and then in various administrative capacities. She was looking for something new and responded to an ad in the bulletin for an office manager. She started at IHM in 2003 when Fr. Don Tuffs was pastor.



Over the years, Barb's job and responsibilities have changed and grown. Initially she primarily did bookkeeping. Today she handles all human resource matters for the parish and school, works with Father Troy on the annual budget and sits on the parish finance council. She also handles school tuition contracts, and provides other financial assistance to the school.

A proud mother of Jason, Andrew and Beth—an architect, a land owner/farmer and a nurse practitioner, respectively—Barb spends as much time with her children and five grandchildren, ages 24-9, as possible. She looks forward to being able to spend more time with them, especially her youngest two who live in Boston.

Retirement gives Barb the opportunity to indulge her love of American history. Toward that end she has sold her home and purchased a motor home to travel the country visiting historical sites and learning more first-hand about our country. Currently her motor home is parked at her son's farm and he is helping her learn to drive what is the equivalent of a city bus. She says she is getting more comfortable with it but it still is a bit scary.

Barb's initial planned route takes her south to Tennessee and then west to Texas and maybe New Mexico where she will winter. When spring comes, she will head north and eventually east and visit with her son and his family in Boston. She has identified many places she wants to see and to put her knowledge of history into context with where it happened. American architecture is another of her interests and she looks forward to seeing in person many places she knows only through photos or descriptions.

Having lived in her new home on wheels for more than a month now, Barb says she loves it. Little by little, she is making it hers. She has packed three sewing machines to indulge her love of sewing and has already sewn a new headboard and seat cushions for the interior. She is learning to use a convection microwave by trial and error and enjoying that too.

Traveling the country will be very different from what Barb has been doing for the last two decades, but she is ready for this new journey. She treasures the friendships she has made at IHM and is grateful for the meaningful liturgies that have helped her grow in faith.

We thank Barb for her service to IHM and wish her smooth sailing, new friendships and adventures and deeper faith along the way. And the door to IHM will always be open to you, Barb!



# LIVING THE TRUE, THE GOOD, AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE

by Karen Weber



Finally! A family magazine that focuses on living the way God wants us to live—happy and fulfilled lives centered on Him and His Church. *Embodied Magazine* launched in January 2022 to give families a relaxing way to incorporate their faith into everyday family life.

“*Embodied* will follow the lead of St. John Paul II by evangelizing through witness. It tells the stories of those who are living the truths of TOB (Theology of the Body) in order to remind readers who they are ...” and to whom they belong!

Many books and classes on Theology of the Body are not accessible to a wide audience. *Embodied Magazine* was created for this purpose—accessibility! Enjoy beautiful storytelling and the tangible effects of holding a well-crafted, beautifully photographed magazine in your hands.

As a Theology of the Body Campus since 2018, the parish is committed to supporting the school in its mission to learn and embrace the true, the good and the beautiful of God’s plan so we can build a culture of life and love together. This magazine is the perfect vehicle to do just that.

IHM School families were all given a sample magazine this year in their Back to School packets. With a **special promotion code**, parishioners will receive nearly 40% off the regular subscription price. Visit [www.embodiedmagazine.org](http://www.embodiedmagazine.org) to learn more. Use **Code: IHM30** for your discount.

**Subscribe soon to get the fall issue delivered to your home!**

## NEW RECTORY UPDATE

Progress on the new rectory has been steady but slower than projected due to the current shortage of construction workers. Happily, as of this writing in mid-August, the roof was being raised.

In anticipation of the new residence, the past rectory on Griggs St. was sold in late May, just before Fr. Troy’s trip to Uganda. Since then Fr. Troy has been living in the rectory at church. Projections are for the new rectory to be completed and ready for occupancy in November or December 2022.





# Solidarity in "I HAVE A DREAM"

by Marjorie Gordon

*IHM's 8th grade English class, taught by Ms. Joey Savillo, studied Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech last winter. In conjunction with their Catholic Social Teaching projects for history, the pupils studied the speech in-depth and wrote short commentaries relating Dr. King's speech to the different themes of Catholic Social Teaching.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. The speech was a part of the desegregation movement. He spoke about solidarity among all people. Solidarity means "to stand in unity with or for others." It helps us become better Catholics because when we stand together to help someone or change something that is wrong, we are doing God's work.

It is important that we are united because alone, we can accomplish nothing. Solidarity is an important part of the "I Have a Dream" speech because Dr. King's goal was to create equality with all people, and that cannot be reached unless we stand in solidarity with one another. One quote that symbolizes the theme of solidarity is, "We cannot walk alone." In order to have equality, we must walk together, and in order to walk together, there must be unity.

The "I Have a Dream" speech involves solidarity in many ways. Dr. King says, "The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny." He meant that black and white people should not let the newfound violence within the cause divide them. This speaks about how people should not allow anything to end the solidarity they build with each other.

Another section of Dr. King's speech says, "We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline." This means that the movement must protest in a peaceful manner, with dignity and discipline. This relates to solidarity because it is addressing the movement as a whole, telling people how they should protest together and stand united.

Dr. King also states, "We have come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now." The reason African Americans were there was to remind everyone of the purpose of the movement. This quote invokes solidarity because it is calling for America's attention and support. It also speaks about how people were standing in solidarity with one another.

Dr. King's purpose behind the "I Have a Dream" speech was to create equality among all people. This cannot be accomplished unless we work in solidarity with each other. Whenever Dr. King said, "We," he was speaking about *every* person who was part of the movement. In order to make Dr. King's dream come true today, we must be able to stand in solidarity with everyone.

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." It was Dr. King's hope that someday *all* people would see each other as equals, no matter their skin color.



*Marjorie is currently a freshman at Catholic Central H.S.*



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

*Fall Gathering*  
*Back in Rhythm*

Thursday, October 27, 2022  
6:30pm at Cascade Hills Country Club

**Event Details**

\$50 per person

Includes Italian pasta bar dinner

Drink tickets will be available for cash purchase

Dress is business casual or cocktail attire

Use the enclosed reply card or make your  
reservations and/or donate online at:  
**[ihmparish.ejoinme.org/2022fallgathering](http://ihmparish.ejoinme.org/2022fallgathering)**

Funds raised over the price of the ticket cost will be used to  
support the Parish Maintenance Fund, which aids in the  
ongoing repair, restoration, and renewal of our campus.

**Donations are encouraged and can be  
made in advance with reservations.**

Please contact the Fall Gathering Committee  
([fallgathering@ihmparish.com](mailto:fallgathering@ihmparish.com)) with questions.

**Thank you in advance for your generosity.  
We hope to see you Thursday, October 27th!**

**EVENT CO-CHAIRS**

Kevin & Amanada Solt  
Paul & Christy Brown

**PARISH MAINTENANCE  
FUND**

You may have noticed that over the  
summer the parking lot was torn up  
by the west exit of the school.

Roughly \$75,000 of maintenance  
funds were needed to fix the  
drainage and repair the asphalt in  
that spot which has been  
problematic for many decades.

Bye-bye sandbags!  
Proceeds from the Fall Gathering  
are critical to campus upkeep  
projects such as this.

*Thank you!*

**SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023 BEGINS**

The first day of school, August 23, kicked off with a Parent Rosary at 8 am, lead by five dads. The rosary was followed by a Parents' Coffee and Meeting in the DeMazenod Room, primarily attended by new families, of which there are 24 this year. In addition, new school families were invited to the 11:00 Mass on August 28 followed by a Munch and Mingle.

Overall, enrollment is up to a healthy 313 students. New staff will be found in the third and fifth grades as well as in Physical Education, Art, and General Music & Choir specials.

"The Joy of the Lord is My Strength" has been chosen as our school's theme for this year. We wish all staff and students a blessed year.







1935 Plymouth Ave SE  
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SEPTEMBER

10 Couples' Date Night  
26 Women's Guild Fall Potluck

#### OCTOBER

7 Couples' Date Night  
27 Fall Gathering @ Cascade Hills Country Club  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

#### NOVEMBER

5 School Auction  
12 Couples' Date Night  
27 Knights of Columbus Blood Drive  
28 Women's Guild Advent Service @7:00 pm

#### DECEMBER

3 Couples' Date Night  
11 Santa Breakfast, American Heritage Girls, 12:00 pm

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

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**IF YOU ENJOY READING THE HEARTBEAT,** *your help would be appreciated. We are in serious need of writers (ages 16 and up) as well as story ideas. For example, perhaps your group or project could use some advanced notice of an activity or is looking to increase its participation. For either, contact Deb Moore at [djbmoore@comcast.net](mailto:djbmoore@comcast.net).*



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Download the MyParish app at no cost to your IOS or mobile device by going to the App Store or iTunes. Keep in touch all week with IHM updates, news, events and more. It's a great faith-building resource.