



Parish Heartbeats: Stories of Faith In Action

Back to School ... Back to Books!

Does the smell of a fresh notebook in September leave you pining for the back-to-school days of your youth? Have you had enough summer beach reading and are looking for something a little more substantial? Did you take a vacation from your faith and are ready to spiritually reconnect? If you answered “yes” to any of the above, then parishioner Victoria Kosirog knows just where you should go ... to the St. Margaret Mary Parish Library!

Victoria has served as the parish librarian for the past two years. She acts as a caretaker for the library and has been instrumental in making it into the lovely, welcoming location it is today. Located near the entrance to the Upper Room as you enter the church building, the Parish Library has materials to suit the wide variety of spiritual, relationship, and historical interests of parishioners of all ages. Two big comfy chairs invite the visitor to rest awhile. The organized materials, categorized by topic, also make it easy to find something interesting and take it with you to go. Need a book for the little ones to peruse during Mass? Check out the shelf labeled “To Read While In Church.” Want to look at the collection from home? Go to library.smmmp.com for the on-line catalog.

Victoria is not a librarian by training but when she saw an announcement in the bulletin asking for help, she felt a familiar call. “I have a very practical approach to service. I start out in a ministry to fill a need that I have, for example I started teaching Religious Education (RE) to save money on tuition for my daughter. What I’ve come to realize, though, is that God is guiding me every day, in every decision. Teaching RE led me to grow in my own faith and become closer to my daughter than I could ever have imagined. The same thing has happened with my work in the library.” Shortly after beginning her ministry

with the library she discovered this was yet another way for her to share her blossoming faith with others. “I’m not a ‘book person’,” she says, “but working with the library has allowed me to experience them in a new way. I love to focus on how others can use this special resource the parish offers. If you don’t have time to read at home you can use the chairs and enjoy a quite moment with a book of reflections. Or take one home and take your time! We don’t have a deadline for returning a book. When you’re done, bring it back.”



Victoria enthusiastically desires to share her faith with others through all of her various ministries: Greeter, Lector, Catechist, CRHP, and Librarian. “I want people to find love and a relationship with God. I want to help make it tangible to them – for them to SEE that He’s there with them.” By sharing her time, enthusiasm, and talents with the parish, Victoria is certainly making a difference.

You can help, too! If you are cleaning out your closets and have faith-based books to share, you can drop them in the “Donations” bin at the parish library. There is also a bin marked “Free” where you can find good books that don’t fit into the parish lending collection. Some materials, such as the DVD collection “Catholicism by Father Robert Barron” are not shelved. Simply contact Victoria at vkosirog@gmail.com or 630-334-8734 if you would like to request them or if you have any questions about the parish library.

By Cabrina Attal

Parish Heartbeats is an occasional bulletin column that celebrates the ways St. Margaret Mary parishioners make a difference in the lives of others.