



The Angelus

June 2023

From the Rector's Desk

I'm contemplating the great mystery of life and death as it plays out in a very practical way in my life (and ours). I've been feeling the impact of the deaths of Ben Dobey and Ed Clabots, of course, and I've been praying into the reality of the hope we have through Christ's death and resurrection, even as I grieve these two people who have been deep threads in the fabric of our parish's life.

I'm not able to adequately summarize their lives and ministries. Ed held many positions of leadership at Grace and in community groups. But he probably meant the most to people because of his day in and day out care for and engagement with other people. The mystery of love played out in his life in a constant and often quiet way.

Dr Ben Dobey, of course, affected so many with his music at Grace and elsewhere. His presence at Grace and in Sheboygan is remarkable considering that by training and talent he could have made a home in large, metropolitan centers of music. But for many of us, his reserved, witty, and subtly attentive presence meant even more than his music.

And now Tomomi Kanemaru and I share the blessing of our marriage with you all at Grace and with other friends in Sheboygan and beyond. The beginning of a new sacramental life. Thanks be to God! And thank you for your loving support of our marriage.

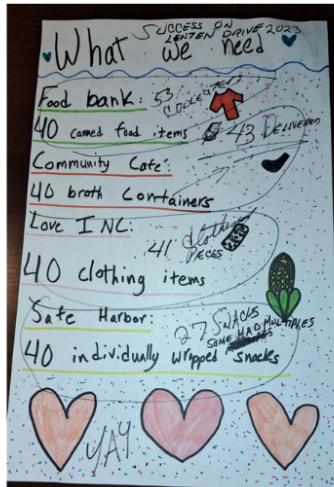
What a contrast in such a short time! Life and death right on top of each other.

I don't have any great or helpful insights into any of this. I just point out that it is precisely in this sometimes disorienting, sometimes surprisingly beautiful, but always constant juxtaposition of life and death in this world is what we are called to be more awake to than any other people in the world. Because that is exactly where the One for Whom and through Whom all things were made is, and Who is also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Peace,
WLB+



The Children's Corner



The Sunday School's goals were reached for their Lenten Drive for donations to Safe Harbor, Food Bank, St John's Clothing Ministry and the Community Cafe. Thank you to all the parishioners who contributed to make this possible.



Sunday School wrap up ended on May 21st with the children decorating cupcakes for the Community Cafe (located just across the street at St Luke's) Many thanks to Jessica Ambelang for baking and to Pat Ford Smith for delivering these cheerful cupcakes that were decorated by the small but mighty Sunday School children.



April Financial Focus

<u>April Income</u>	<u>YTD Income.</u>	<u>Annual Budget 2023</u>
\$53,454.	\$154,588.	\$311,941
<u>April Expenses.</u>	<u>YTD Expenses.</u>	<u>Annual Budget 2023</u>
\$26,446	\$110,010	\$337,664

Guild of Saint Alban



The first Christian martyr of Britain is Alban who lived in the 4th century. He was a citizen of Verulamium, a city about twenty miles northeast of London. What made him stand out was his willingness to give shelter to a Christian priest who was fleeing persecution from the Roman empire. Influenced by the priest's devotion in prayer, Alban was converted to faith in Christ. Refusing to give up the priest, he was arrested in his place. After refusing to sacrifice to pagan gods, Alban was sentenced to death, and after the conversion of one executioner, he was beheaded by another on the 22nd of June which is when we venerate him on our lectionary calendar.

Recently, Sheboygan has been identified as a site that is suited to welcome refugees as they are resettled in America. Refugee work is often associated with Alban and is the inspiration for the establishment of the Guild of Saint Alban. The mission of the Guild is to gather members of Grace who are called to walk alongside refugees that are resettled in Sheboygan. Love INC of Sheboygan County and Episcopal Migration

Ministries have also begun the process to create a local resettlement office with the anticipation of more refugees coming to this area. I currently serve as Board Chair so as that process develops more information will be shared.

For now, we are blessed with the opportunity to welcome five Rohingya families that were resettled last December. The Rohingyas are a nationless people that have been persecuted for some time within the country of Myanmar, where most of the population has existed for generations. Over the last ten years, this persecution has risen to the level where most of the Rohingyas have had to flee genocide to seek safety in Bangladesh.

Today, there are a million Rohingyas in what is now the largest refugee camp in the world and unfortunately their suffering has not lessened. Natural disasters have wreaked havoc in that area pushing endangered territorial Asian elephants to share the same location.

The support from Bangladesh is growing thin and therefore the quality of life in the camp has deteriorated. Adequate schooling for children is largely non-existent. Medicine, employment, and other important aspects of life are minimal. The need for wood to fuel the huts where the refugees live has caused significant deforestation in the area. Many have begun to seek refuge elsewhere by taking to the sea in search for a place that will welcome them. This has caused an increase in the loss of life as many of these boats are not adequate for such journeys and the receiving countries often send the boats back into the sea along with those on board.

These five families have fled many dangers and are now on a path towards thriving rather than just surviving. Since January, the Guild of Saint Alban has made themselves available to transport one of the families to doctor and dentist appointments, to the DMV, to school, to the laundromat, to the bank, to the grocery store, and many other places so that they may begin to learn how to live well in Sheboygan. As you can



Kutupalong Camp - 920,000+ Refugees

imagine there is a lot for someone to learn who doesn't speak English and has not been on this side of the world before. For those that have volunteered so far, they have not needed any additional skills or experience to perform this work. All that is required is an openness to receive those from outside the community and welcome them into their lives.

We have seen the transformation that can occur when our community welcomes others with love. This is evident in the Hmong resettlement during the 1970s and 1980s. This parish was integral in that effort and I believe is being called again to perform this holy action of love. As the Guild of Saint Alban continues their work, please keep them in prayer along with the family we are serving. The members of the Guild are Ellen Aparicio, Robert Beech, Jean-Margret Beech, Jim Gardner, Kristin Plucar, Mary Snyder, and Tom Wright. The members of the Rohingya family we have welcomed are Halima (mother), Hakim (father), Noor (daughter), Abdullah (son), Tabassum (daughter), Obaid (son), Hijbullah (son), Rahama Bibi (daughter), and Jannatal Alia (daughter).

If you believe you are also called to support this ministry then please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the other members of the Guild. And above all, please pray for this ministry. Here is an offering if you are so moved:

Saint Alban, you gave us an example of hospitality by opening your home to one in need and, as a result of this encounter, were completely changed. We ask that through your intercession we may be given the courage to offer help to those who are forced to flee their homes in search of safety. We ask that in accompanying others as you did we may encounter God in a new way. Saint Alban, Patron of Refugees, pray for us and all refugees around the world. Amen.

In His Name,
Deacon Paul Aparicio

P. S. The Guild of Saint Alban was formed to help a Rohingya family from Myanmar settle in Sheboygan. On Friday, April 21, the team was invited by our sponsor to share in the Islamic feast of Eid Al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, a holy period of some 30 days during which fasting is observed, and prayers are offered 5 times daily. Please pray for the family as they navigate an unfamiliar western world, our language, and customs. Pray for the team that they may provide God's love and sustenance to our new friends.

Meals Ministry

"Food brings people together on many different levels. It's nourishment of the soul and body; it's truly love" (Giada De Laurentis). Calling everyone who wants to share food and love. If you would like to make a meal and share your love, please call Pat Sather (920) 980-3247. Also, please call the same number if you know of a parishioner who would appreciate a meal after surgery, at the time of illness, or of loss of a loved one, or just because. Truly, the gift of food is nourishment for body and soul.

Love INC

Love INC held a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on May 16th and Deacon Paul Aparicio gave the invocation. Dawn Grabowski Program Director gave a speech centering on the Bible verses that inspire her work for Love INC. The word for the year is Build and that is the focus of our efforts for the year.

Each month Love INC sends out an email with the monthly Bulletin containing information on upcoming events and inspirational stories. It also highlights the ongoing gap ministries of the partner churches. This is how you can learn which ministries are collecting items and where they can be donated. I post a copy of the email on the bulletin board located between the restrooms on the first floor of the annex. Because it has many hyperlinks you may wish to have the actual email forwarded to you. You can call me at 920 467 0812 and leave a message on the answering machine or email me at conniecschneider@gmail.com.

You can access the Love INC website at www.loveincsheboygancounty.com. Also click on the Donate tab to see any current collection needs.

Constance Schneider,
Love INC CMC for Grace Episcopal Church

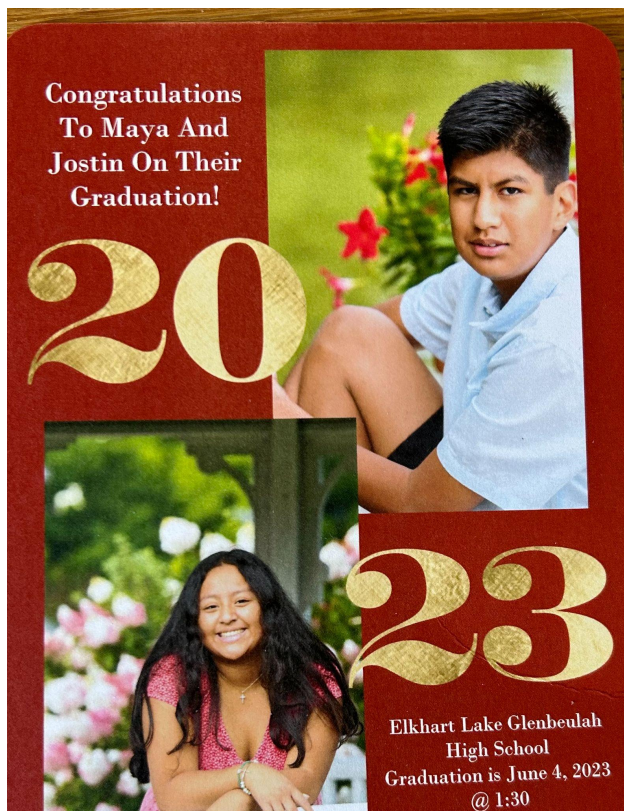


Anglican Quote

Here's something from Dorothy Sayers, a great 20th century Anglican. She translated Dante, wrote profound books on practical and dogmatic theology, and is one of the most enjoyed mystery writers in English. This quote is good for us to consider when we contemplate the Mystery of Pentecost and what real growth of our parish must be based on.

This is a quote from her book, *Creed or Chaos?*

I believe it is a grave mistake to present Christianity as something charming and popular with no offense in it. Seeing that Christ went about the world giving the most violent offense to all kinds of people, it would seem absurd to expect that the doctrine of his person can be so presented as to offend nobody. We cannot blink at the fact that gentle Jesus, meek and mild, was so stiff in his opinions, so inflammatory in his language, that he was thrown out of church, stoned, hunted from place to place, and finally gibbeted as a firebrand and a public danger. Whatever his peace was, it was not the peace of an amiable indifference . . .



Congratulations, Graduates!

Maya and Jostin McMillan are graduating from high school and were honored at All Saints' Chapel on June 4th before heading off to their school's ceremony. Maya will be attending Winona State University for Nursing. Jostin will be attending Michigan Tech for Chemical Engineering. Congratulations and all God's blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

Mark Your Calendars

- **Saturday, June 24** Eucharistic Festival, St Paul's Cathedral, Fond du Lac
- **Sunday, June 25** Bishop Matthew Gunter's visitation to All Saints Chapel
- **Sunday, July 30** Bishop Matthew Gunter's visitation to Grace
- **Sunday, September 10** Mass in the Grass, Deland Park

Thank you

I want to thank everyone for all your kindness in the last several years of Ed's illness and since his passing on May 19th. We both appreciated all the prayers; I am positive they made a big difference in our cancer journey, and I know they continue to help me now. The memories of Ed you shared over these last weeks will be kept and treasured. So many people helped with the funeral and lunch! It would not have happened without you. I continue to be astounded at the number (and amount) of donations already made to his memorial fund—especially at Grace for refugee relief. Please accept our eternal thanks.

Mary Clabots and Family

June Birthdays

Tom Crouse	6/2	Sadie Kim
Leslie Kohler	6/4	Bea Kim
Presley Norwick	6/4	Jennie Bei
Neng Yang	6/5	Dcn Mike Burg
Eric Muelemans	6/6	Jostin McMillan
Jennifer Pawlus	6/6	June Anniversaries
Jay Gosse	6/8	Barb & Bob MacEwen
Mary Ann Portz	6/12	Dcn Nicci & Don Beeck
Ber May Htoo	6/16	Tony Fessler

Parish Staff

6/19	The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, <i>Bishop</i>
6/19	The Reverend William Bulson, <i>Rector</i>
6/22	The Reverend Paul Aparicio, <i>Deacon</i>
6/28	The Reverend Deacon Nicci Beeck, <i>Parish Administrator</i>
6/30	

The Vestry

6/15	The Reverend William Bulson, <i>Chair</i>
6/16	Mary Snyder, <i>Senior Warden</i>
6/19	John Davis, <i>Junior Warden</i>
	Brian Heck, <i>Treasurer</i>
	Helen Mullison, <i>Chancellor</i>
	<i>Vestry:</i> Jack Britton, Tasha Crouse, Mary Gallimore, Jane Hanson, Shannon Luckey-Mueller, Robert McMillan, Jean-Margaret Merrell-Beech, Pat Sather, Connie Schneider

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