OUR LADY OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
PARISH

Giving

IMPACT FY26

Faith In Action




Faith In Action
In the Pews

Generosity. Mission. A Community of Faith.

Every day at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, faith comes to life in countless ways. In the joyful voices of children discovering God's love. In the friendships formed through prayer, worship, and fellowship. In the quiet compassion of parishioners reaching out to neighbors in need. And in the many hands and hearts that come together to make Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish a place where everyone belongs.

These are the stories of our parish. And they are made possible by you.

Our FY26 Giving Impact Report celebrates the people, ministries, and moments that have brought our mission to life throughout the past year. From worship and faith formation to outreach, service, and fellowship, each story reflects the generosity of parishioners who share their God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to strengthen our community and bring Christ's love to others.

As Companions on the Journey, we know that the vitality of our parish is measured not only in what we give, but in what we accomplish together. It is found in lives touched, faith deepened, friendships strengthened, and the countless ways we help one another take one step closer to Christ.

In previous years, these stories of parish life have accompanied our annual financial report. This year, as part of our commitment to thoughtful stewardship of parish resources, we have shared our financial statements in the parish bulletin and are pleased to bring you the stories of our parish digitally. While the format may be different, our purpose remains the same: to celebrate the many ways your generosity brings our mission to life.

As we reflect on the blessings of the past year and look toward the next chapter of our parish's journey, we celebrate the enduring spirit of generosity, faith, and belonging that makes Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament a vibrant community of faith.

These are our stories. This is our parish. And together, we continue to make a difference.

FY26 Parish financial reports are published in the November 22, 2026 bulletin, available online on our parish website: olbsegv.org/weekly-updates/


Faith In Action
Around the Table

I Almost Stayed Home

She had had a tough day. Staying home would have been easy. But instead, one of our Alpha guests decided to come — because she was looking forward to being there, sitting around the table and sharing the evening with people she had come to know.

That is what began happening around the tables at OLBS as we introduced Alpha this year.

We started small and intentionally, inviting 12 guests to join a core team of eight for an 11-week pilot. Two more guests joined before registration closed in Week 3. Week after week, over a meal, a video and honest conversation about life and faith, strangers became companions.

One guest who originally came expecting to help put it simply: "**I came to serve and ended up being served**." Another described Alpha as her "**safe space**."

And then something even more beautiful happened: guests became companions for others.

Seven members of that first pilot group joined the Alpha Team and helped OLBS welcome 22 guests for our first parish-wide Alpha in the spring. The woman who found a safe space at Alpha returned with her husband to help as a table host/helper. And by the end of the spring session, four more guests were interested in joining the team and helping Alpha continue to grow.

That is the impact of an invitation.

Through the shared gifts of time, talent and treasure, our parish created more than an 11-week program. We created a table where someone wanted to be after a difficult day. A place where questions were welcome. A community where people could encounter Christ and one another — and then turn around and accompany someone else.

One invitation. One table. One step closer to Christ.

And the journey continues.


Faith In Action
At Your Door

When Church Comes to You

Every Sunday, after most of us have gone home, another Sunday begins.

Ministers of Care leave Mass carrying the Eucharist to parishioners who can no longer join us in person. Some visit as many as five people in a single Sunday, entering homes with everything they need to create a small sacred space.

They pray. They share the same Sunday Scriptures proclaimed at Mass. They offer the Eucharist — the source and summit of our Catholic faith. And then they stay awhile.

Sometimes a visit lasts 15 minutes. Sometimes it lasts an hour. Because bringing Christ to someone also means bringing companionship: listening, visiting and reminding someone who may no longer be able to sit beside us in the pews that they still belong to our OLBS family.

That companionship extends beyond individual homes. Our Care Ministers visit the hospitalized and residents of senior living communities, offer Communion services and help our priests celebrate a monthly Mass with residents of Victory Centre.

And this vital ministry of presence continues to grow. Four new Ministers of Care joined the ministry this year, with more parishioners now discerning whether they, too, are called to serve.

Our shared stewardship helps sustain a parish whose life doesn't end at the church doors. Through gifts of time, talent and treasure, we accompany one another through changing seasons of life and make possible something beautifully simple:

When one of our companions cannot make the journey to us, **we make the journey to them**.

OUR PARISH
By the Numbers

Worshiping
Growing
Serving
Together

WORSHIP
GATHERING AS ONE FAMILY IN CHRIST

1,020
Average Sunday Attendance

4
Sunday Masses Each Week
(including Saturday Anticipated Liturgy)

2,004
Christmas Attendance

2,435
Easter Attendance
(Palm Sunday: 1,375)

SACRAMENTS
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST AT EVERY STAGE

49
Baptisms

59
First Communion

63
Confirmation

7
Marriages

40
Funerals

12
OCIA
(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

SCHOOL
FORMING MINDS AND HEARTS FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

155
Enrollment

23
Graduates

OUTREACH
PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

225
Meals Served

105
Families Helped

Backpack of Blessings
$10,000

Community Ash Wednesday Service
100

40
Blood Donations


Embrace Life
at every age & every stage
YOURS
MINE
EVERY
LIFE
MATTERS
Still Me.
Choose Life!


Faith In Action
Choosing Community

Worth Coming Out For

It snowed that morning. By afternoon, a few people were calling to ask the understandable question: Is Wine 'n Paint still happening tonight? It was. And all 66 people showed up.

The Women's Club had originally capped the evening at 48 participants to ensure enough supplies. But when registrations kept coming, they found a way to make room. On a snowy winter night, women and men filled the room, painting winter scenes on bricks, sharing snacks and wine, laughing and simply enjoying being together.

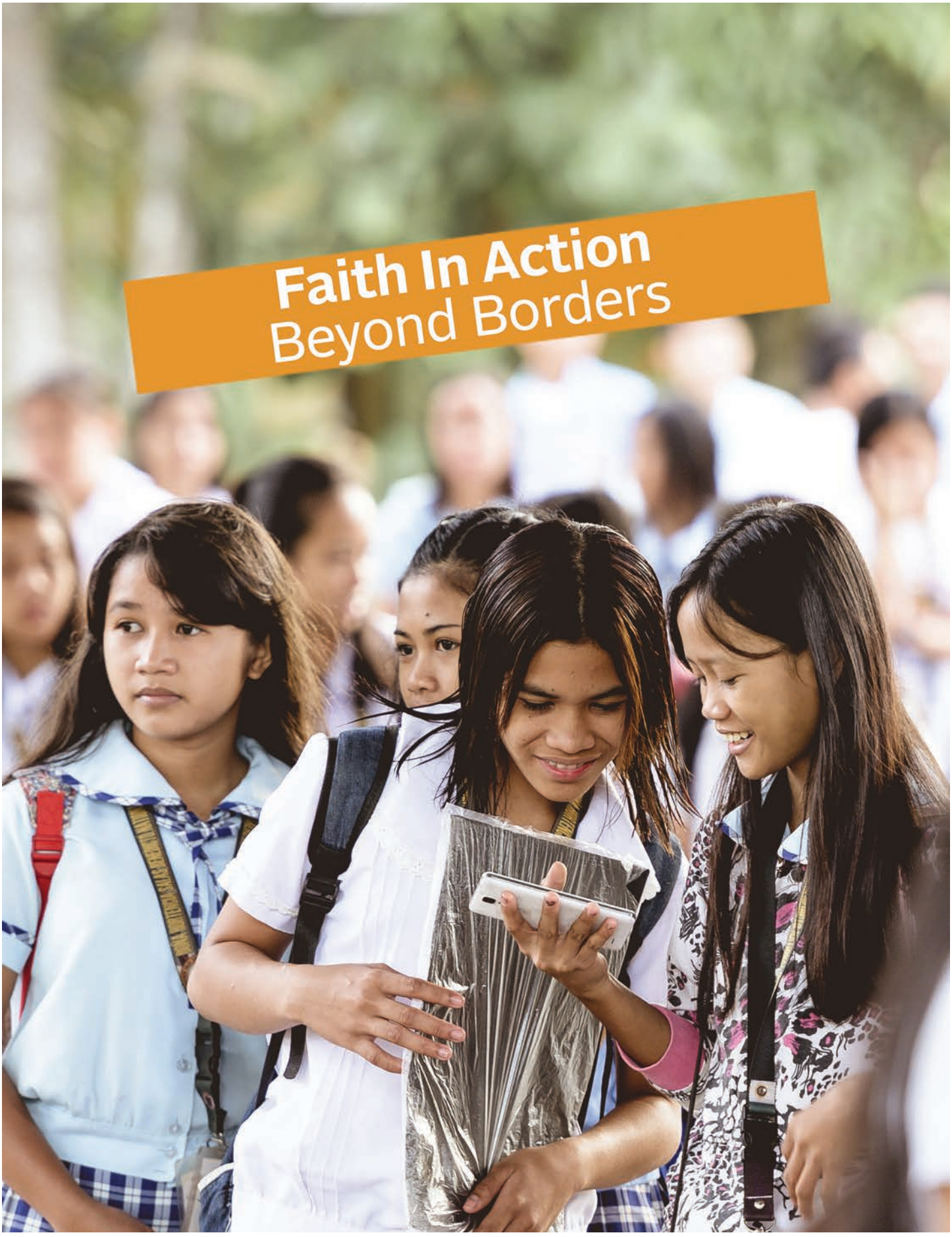
Then came one of the coldest nights of the year. This time, 12 men left their warm homes for pizza, a beer and fellowship at a Men's Group gathering.

Neither evening was obligatory. There was no sacrament to prepare for, meeting to attend or task to accomplish. Everyone could have stayed home. They chose one another instead. That choice matters.

Through the shared gifts of time, talent and treasure, OLBS is more than a place where we come together for Mass. It is a place where friendships form, new faces become familiar and people discover that there is room at the table for them.

Because sometimes taking one step closer to Christ looks like prayer, formation or service. And sometimes it begins more simply — by walking through the door, pulling up a chair and discovering that you belong here. That is how a parish becomes a family.




Faith In Action
Beyond Borders

Filling a Backpack with Blessings

The blue backpacks sat in our church vestibules throughout Lent, positioned in front of displays introducing parishioners to St. Dominic de Guzman Catholic School in the Philippines.

And our Greeters and Ushers quickly learned to keep an eye on them.

Parishioners would quietly slip donations into the backpacks as they passed by — a few dollars here, an envelope there. By the end of Lent, those gifts, together with online donations, helped OLBS reach our $10,000 goal for our **Backpack of Blessings** Lenten Almsgiving Project.

The project grew from a personal connection. Fr. Art, himself a product of Catholic education in the Philippines, had developed a relationship with the Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph and their mission to build St. Dominic de Guzman Catholic School in a mountainous region in the diocese of Malalos, near where he grew up. Over the years, he remained connected to the school, helping with expenses like utilities and needed supplies on visits to the Philippines.

This Lent, he invited OLBS to join him.

Our goal was to help St. Dominic take another important step toward accreditation by supporting needed improvements to its facilities and curriculum, including plans for a science laboratory, library, home economics room and additional classrooms. Accreditation could eventually open the door to government support and greater stability for the school and the orphans it serves.

Lenten almsgiving calls us to look beyond ourselves — to recognize Christ in our neighbor and respond with love.

This year, our neighbor happened to be thousands of miles away.

Through Backpack of Blessings, the OLBS family took something that began as one priest's personal connection and made it our own. Dollar by dollar, envelope by envelope, backpack by backpack, our parishioners helped another Catholic community continue its mission of forming children in faith and preparing them for their future.

Sometimes being **Companions on the Journey** means walking beside someone we may never meet.


Faith In Action
Across Generations

One Parish Family

Cocktails had been served. Dinner was wrapping up. The program and paddle raise were complete. Now it was time for the dueling pianos.

But before the pianists started competing with one another, they teamed up for one special request. “Happy Birthday.”

Our annual Spring Gala happened to fall on Randa Massey’s birthday. Randa is a former teacher and beloved teacher’s aide at Queen of the Rosary School. Soon the whole room was singing, and Fr. Paul led Randa onto the dance floor for a birthday dance.

For a few minutes, a fundraiser for our parish school became something even more: a room full of people celebrating someone who has given so much of herself to generations of our children.

There was something else different about this year’s Gala, too.

For the first time in OLBS history, three tables were filled by members of the broader parish community — our pastor, parish staff and parishioners, including people without children currently enrolled at Queen of the Rosary School.

They came because our school belongs to all of us.

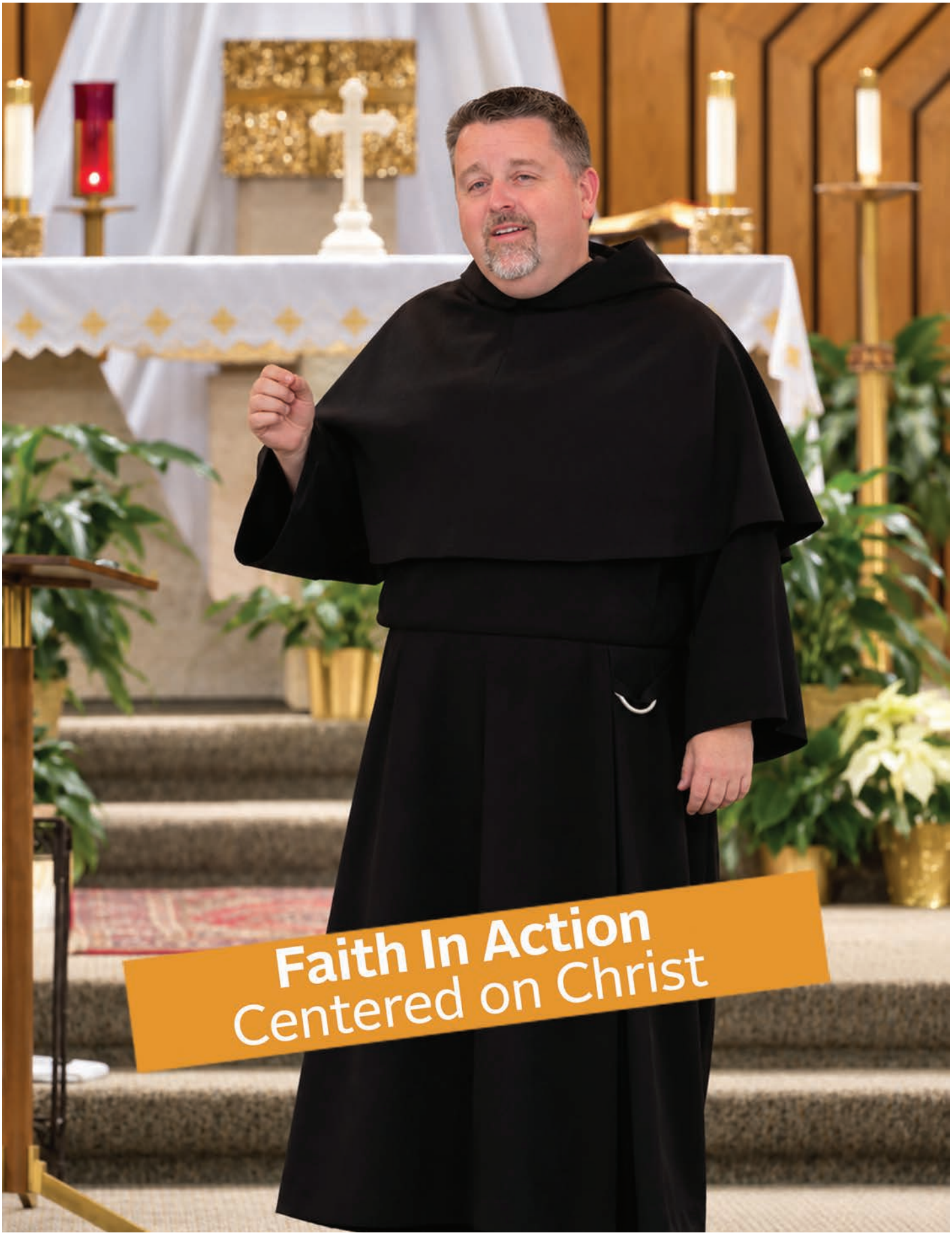
Organized by a dedicated volunteer committee with the support of our School Advisory Board, Dueling Pianos brought our parish and school communities together for an evening of music, laughter and generosity in support of Catholic education.

That support matters. Catholic education is about more than what happens inside a classroom. It is a shared commitment to forming children in faith, mind and body — a commitment made possible by parents, teachers, staff, volunteers, donors and parishioners who choose to invest in the next generation.

And sometimes we get to see what that investment looks like.

It looks like three parish tables at a school fundraiser. It looks like generations gathered in the same room. It looks like an entire community singing “Happy Birthday” as the evening’s celebration is just getting started.

It looks a lot like family.


Faith In Action
Centered on Christ

Understanding the Assignment

Fr. Tom McCarthy needed a timekeeper.

Fortunately, there was a church full of teenagers.

Each night of our two-night pre-Lenten Parish Mission, **The Restless Journey**, Fr. Tom selected a teen to keep him on schedule. The first night's volunteer was a little reluctant to interrupt a priest in the middle of his talk. Fr. Tom teased him for "not understanding the assignment."

The next night, his new timekeeper understood it perfectly.

When the teen interrupted right on cue, Fr. Tom jokingly complained about the rude interruption — and then congratulated him for understanding the assignment.

There was plenty of laughter over those two nights, but Fr. Tom also gave nearly 200 people each evening something deeper to consider.

His message could hardly have come at a more fitting time.

As OLBS continued our Multi-Site Review and discerned what the future of our parish would look like, Fr. Tom reminded us that the Church is not our buildings. **We are the Church — a people centered on Christ and walking the journey together**.

Our seventh- and eighth-grade Religious Education students joined us Tuesday evening. Our Evangelization Leadership Team offered hospitality and fellowship. Alpha witnesses shared their own stories and invited others to begin another kind of journey with OLBS in the spring. And parishioners went home with plenty to think and pray about as Lent approached.

A parish mission lasts only a couple of nights. Its purpose is to send us back into our everyday lives seeing our faith — and perhaps our journey — a little differently.

Through the shared gifts of time, talent and treasure, OLBS created space this year for hundreds of companions to stop, listen, laugh, pray and remember what holds us together even during seasons of change.

Christ does. Maybe that's the assignment.


Faith In Action
Igniting the Flame

And the Journey Continues

They came with different stories, different questions and at very different stages of life.

Our 12 OCIA candidates ranged in age from 7 to 70. Some were preparing for Baptism. Others were already baptized and preparing to receive additional sacraments, and one was seeking reception into the Catholic Church. Together, they spent months learning, praying and growing in faith as they prepared to celebrate the sacraments at Easter.

Fr. Paul sometimes describes OCIA as "drinking from the firehose of faith." There is a lot to take in. But OCIA at OLBS isn't simply about learning the rules or checking off requirements. It is about walking with people as they deepen their relationship with Christ — meeting questions with conversation, making up a session when life gets in the way and forming relationships that extend beyond the classroom. All 12 candidates completed the journey.

They joined Catholics from across the Archdiocese for the Rite of Election, experienced the Scrutinies with our parish community during Lent and, at the Easter Vigil, celebrated the sacraments surrounded by an OLBS family ready to welcome them. But Easter wasn't the end of their story.

Since then, we have continued to see them at Mass and around the parish. One joined Alpha. Another became a catechist, helping form both Religious Education students and new OCIA candidates. Others began asking about opportunities for a new moms group or a Bible study for neophytes.

And when it was time to invite people to explore OCIA for another year, our newest Catholics showed up again — this time to share their experiences and encourage someone else.

Now, as another group prepares to begin the journey, approximately 20 people have registered, many coming to us through the recommendation of someone who has already walked it.

That is what our shared stewardship of time, talent and treasure makes possible.

We create opportunities for people to ask questions. We make room for them to encounter Christ. We walk beside them as they take one step closer to Him. And then something beautiful happens. **The people we accompanied become companions for someone else.** And the journey continues.

Faith In Action: OLBS Youth

They worshipped. They served. They prayed. They traveled. They led. And along the way, our teens showed us what it looks like to put faith into action.

Throughout FY26, young people were not simply preparing for the next sacrament or attending the next class. They were taking their place in the life of our parish and the wider Church.

They spent time with senior residents at Victory Centre, helping lead games and activities. They packed meals at Feed My Starving Children. They helped younger children at Kids' Christmas Film Night and Totus Tuus. On Good Friday, they helped our parish enter more deeply into Christ's Passion through the Living Stations of the Cross.

Their own journeys continued, too — through Confirmation, graduation, retreats, national gatherings and a week of service at Catholic Heart Workcamp.

The young Church isn't simply preparing for someday. They're part of the life of our Church today.

Celebrating Faith & Leadership

Golden Rose Award

Gabby-Jessica M. • Jocelyn T.

Carlo Acutis Award

Eric L. • Niko M. *(not pictured)*






19


Faith In Action
Through the Sacraments

Faith Through Life's Sacred Moments

Christ instituted the sacraments as visible signs of His grace, drawing us closer to Him and accompanying us through life's most significant moments. This year, our parish celebrated 49 Baptisms, 59 First Holy Communions, 63 Confirmations, and 7 Marriages. We also accompanied 40 families through the loss of a loved one, offering prayer, comfort, and the hope of eternal life in Christ.

Behind every number is a person, a family, and a sacred moment. From welcoming new life in Christ to celebrating commitments of faith and love, and walking alongside one another in times of sorrow, these moments remind us what it means to be a parish family—present for one another through every season of life.



OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Queen of the Rosary Church
750 W Elk Grove Blvd

St. Julian Eymard Church
601 Biesterfield Rd

OLBSEGV.org • (847) 979-0901 • /OLBSEGV

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