

Engaging the Word: Reflections from Parishioners

Hannah Olszewski

One of Hannah Olszewski's first memories of Resurrection is from her first- and second-grade years, when she fondly recalled children's liturgy leaders "speaking our language." Now a sophomore at Solon High School, Hannah remains active by applying her vocal and instrumental music talents at liturgical celebrations.

"I love to be able to worship and praise God with my voice and [before COVID-19] my trumpet," she said. She particularly enjoys the Resurrection Worship Space, in which the altar is in the center and chairs are arranged so both halves of the congregation face each other. "The dynamic nature of our space adds to the sense of community, so everyone is engaged," she added.

To Hannah, the term "Transformative Worship" is about touching every person who comes to church and finding ways to make the teachings of Jesus applicable to everyday life. The goal, she said, is to turn each parishioner's life into something that elevates others. "When I attend Mass, I experience a



peace of mind, allowing me to focus on something besides myself," said Hannah. "By the time I leave, I'm ready to pay it forward – even if it's just a smile for someone." Hannah also pitches in to serve others outside of Mass through the Parish Day of Service and other projects.

Because of the pandemic, Hannah watches livestream Masses but admits they aren't quite the same as in-person participation. In particular, she misses communion.

Hannah feels Resurrection lives up to its reputation of including all individuals, regardless of their differences. **"We welcome everyone, whether you're new to the community, just visiting or have different views," she said.**

"Everyone brings a unique perspective and Resurrection reaches out to people of all types. I think that's a beautiful thing."

Looking ahead, Hannah is looking forward to a life-long commitment as a person of faith. "But the next step," she said, "is I gotta get confirmed."

Mike Cook Sr.

Mike Cook believes the new strategic plan sends a positive message and helps get people involved and interested in the Liturgy. Now in his 70s, he said he has witnessed many changes over the years.

"I'm old enough to remember the pre-Vatican II Mass," he said. "In those days, the priest said Mass in Latin, with his back toward the congregation."

Mike, his wife Lee and their two children moved to Solon in 1976 from another Cleveland suburb and were drawn to Resurrection and its progressive direction.

"Fr. [Louis] Trivison was very welcoming to everybody," said Mike of Resurrection's founding priest. "He was a real trailblazer in many ways." Mike recalled a Catholic parishioner whose husband was an associate minister at a protestant congregation – and he participated at Resurrection as a PSR teacher.

"Our daughter Karen was the first female altar server



at Resurrection," Mike added. **"I grew up in a traditional parish, so it was kind of a refreshing change to come to a place that embraced inclusion to a high degree and established a unique Pastoral Team. And we keep evolving in positive ways."**

Mike pointed to Resurrection's priority of actively reaching out to youth, adults and seniors to meet a variety of spiritual needs. Mike has served as chair of the Social Life Commission and the events planned by the group focused on fun rather than fundraising. Admission fees to activities were at or below cost, and the Pinocle Club covered any losses to assure all could attend. Additionally, Mike is happy with the parish's efforts to combat hunger throughout the Cleveland area.

Over the years, he has applauded the parish leaders for their unique talents. "Resurrection has been fortunate to have great homilists to spread the gospel," Mike said. "Each priest often started with a personal story or joke that got your attention, then continued to tie it in with the gospel. To me, we've always had the best homilists and speakers anywhere."

Livestream Technology: Bringing the Mass Home

COVID-19 has driven countless people to their televisions and digital devices – not just to binge-watch favorite shows or movies, but also to participate virtually in a sacred ritual that is central to so many lives: the Mass.

Fortunately, Church of the Resurrection was well-positioned to offer "tele-church" well before the pandemic hit. In early 2018, several parishioners proposed the idea of livestreaming the Mass for those unable to attend in person, along with donations to cover the cost of two wall-mounted cameras in the Worship Space. For the next two years, Resurrection livestreamed the Sunday 9 a.m. Mass and made recordings available for people to watch at their convenience.

But everything changed in March 2020. As the nation entered its pandemic shutdown period, Resurrection began livestreaming all weekend Masses and the number of virtual attendees soared.

"In the early days, we had anywhere from seven to 80 viewing households for any particular Mass," said



Julie Tragon, Director of Music Ministry, who oversees the livestream project. "When COVID hit, we were in the thousands."

During Holy Week 2020, total households numbered more than 4,700 over five livestreamed services. The current average per Mass per weekend is between 300 and 350, which includes all viewers who access the livestream via Facebook, YouTube and the parish website.

In April 2020, one of the cameras was upgraded and a group of volunteers trained to operate new pan, tilt and zoom features, allowing viewers to see speakers up close. About 80 to 90 percent of viewers watch the livestream in real time, according to Julie, which she believes helps many people feel more connected than watching a recorded version.

Kay Mitro, a Resurrection parishioner since 1981, agrees. "God bless livestreaming," she said. "I try to watch when [the Mass] is actually happening," adding that she typically joins in every Wednesday morning and Saturday evening. On Saturdays, she places a telephone next to her iPad so a friend without a computer can participate and recite responses along with Kay. "It's wonderful to have the company, and it's great for both of us," she said.

Whenever possible, Kay drives to Friday morning Mass, when attendance numbers are usually low, and looks forward to returning to in-person worship for all Masses when she feels safe to do so. "What I really miss is communion, and I prefer real hugs to virtual hugs," she explained.

Kay's first experience with livestreaming came while recovering from knee surgery in a rehabilitation hospital during the Easter season in 2019. She said it was one of the first times she was unable to attend Holy Week services in person, and was grateful to find she could participate virtually.



"Resurrection is my community," she said. "The livestream [during the pandemic] has made me feel connected to our church and allows me to celebrate with people I know. That's what makes it special."

"I appreciate everything the Pastoral Staff does to keep us connected," she added. "They are all super-great." She has talked with friends from other churches and, while others offer livestream services, "not everyone is as enthusiastic as I am."

"Growing up, Mass was always important but sort of routine," Kay said. "At Resurrection, you get drawn into it, feel reaffirmed and want to participate fully. 'All Are Welcome' should be our theme song."

An added benefit of livestreaming is the "ripple effect" afforded by the technology, allowing individuals outside the parish geographic boundaries to participate. This includes parishioners who winter outside of Ohio, plus friends, relatives and people with no prior connection to Resurrection.

"People are sharing and telling their family and friends about the livestreaming," Julie related. "It's always best to connect with our Resurrection family in person, but when it isn't possible, being able to share our mission through the livestream is such a gift. And it's not going to go away after COVID."

To watch a livestream or recorded Mass, visit:

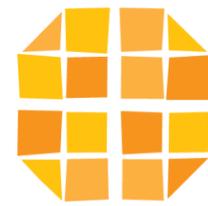
Website: <https://churchofresurrection.org/livestreaming/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/COTRSolon>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChurchoftheResurrectionSolonOH>



Emmaus 2020 Mission Statement
 We are a Eucharistic community committed to the teachings of Jesus.
 We embrace our call to love, to serve, and to build a just world.



The Third Day

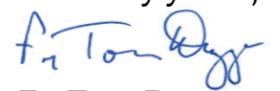
CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Dear Resurrection
 Parishioners & Friends,

They say that “some things in life are worth repeating!” I don’t think there is a truer statement as you read this newsletter, *The Third Day*. Early on in the history of Resurrection Parish, a newsletter highlighting some aspect of the parish was sent to every household. The newsletter was appropriately titled *The Third Day*, to emphasize the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and how that is being lived out here at

Resurrection Parish in Solon, Ohio. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary and announce the Emmaus 2020 Strategic plan, we thought it appropriate to bring back *The Third Day*. It is our hope that a few times during the year either a print version or an on-line version of *The Third Day* will feature some aspect of our parish. We hope you find this new version of *The Third Day* both informative and uplifting. I also hope you find contained within these words, something that

might inspire you to become more curious, more involved or enlivened about ministry and service here at the Church of the Resurrection. Like the Resurrection of Jesus who rose from the dead on the Third Day, may the stories, the faith and insight from brothers and sisters in the community give you hope and something you can pass on to a friend or family member.

Sincerely yours,

 Fr. Tom Dragga
 Pastor

CHURCH OF THE
Resurrection
 Building our future
 Celebrating our past

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Lent / Holy Week 2021

LENT

- Ash Wednesday**
 Wednesday, February 17th
 Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
 7am, 8:30am and 12:15pm
 Mass with Ashes
 7pm
- Zoom Scripture Study**
 The Parables
 Thursdays of Lent at 12noon
 *beginning on February 18th.
- Stations of the Cross**
 Fridays of Lent at 7pm
 *beginning on February 19th.
- Wounds to Wonder:
 Lenten “Mini Mission”**
 Video Reflection
 Every Monday
- Zoom Lunchtime Conversation**
 Wednesdays of Lent at 12noon
 *beginning on February 22nd.
- Zoom Conversation on Racism**
 Tuesday, February 23rd - 7pm

- Evening of Confession**
 Wednesday, March 3rd - 5 to 8pm
- Taizé Prayer Around the Cross**
 Tuesday, March 9th - 7pm
- Music In A Sacred Space**
 An Irish Rambling House
 Sunday, March 14th - 2:30pm
- Communal Penance Service**
 Wednesday, March 24th - 7pm
- Easter Food Basket Distribution**
 Monday, March 29th
- Youth Retreats**
 7th/8th Grade - February 28th
 1st Communion - March 7th
 7th-12th Grade Boys - March 12th
 9th/10th Grade - March 14th
 Confirmation - March 20th



HOLY WEEK

- PALM SUNDAY**
 Sunday, March 28th
 5:30pm Vigil, 9am and 11am Mass
- HOLY THURSDAY**
 Mass of the Lord’s Supper
 Thursday, April 1st - 7pm
- GOOD FRIDAY**
 Commemoration
 of the Lord’s Passion
 Friday, April 2nd - 3pm
- HOLY SATURDAY**
Food Blessing
 Saturday, April 3rd - 12:30pm
- Egg Hunt**
 Saturday, April 3rd - 1pm
- Vigil of the Resurrection**
 Saturday, April 3rd - 8:30pm
- EASTER SUNDAY**
 Resurrection of the Lord
 Sunday, April 4th
 9am and 11am Mass

Last year, Church of the Resurrection
 launched our new strategic plan entitled
Emmaus 2020

This edition of *The Third Day* focuses on the first of the plan’s four
 cornerstones, **Engaging the Word.**



We are a community focused on
 transformative **Worship**, a coura-
 geous **Justice** that acknowledges the
Dignity of every human person and
 a creative **Vision** that celebrates our
 past and builds our future.

- **Worship** that is central to our lives
- **Justice** that brings positive change
- **Vision** that is courageous
- **Dignity** that includes all people

Engaging the Word

Emmaus 2020
 Church of the Resurrection Strategic Plan

Join us for worship in person or online.