

March 25 - April 29, 2012

The days are finally here. For the first eleven months of this parish year, building and planning for a change was everything. During this final month, the building was finished but the MOVE was ON. The Last Mass at 8676 Orf Road became a reality. Goodbye to the Strip Mall Church. Hello to St. Gianna Catholic Church at 450 E. Highway N, Wentzville, Missouri, a real, undetached, Foundational Church building, on our own land, with a parking lot and grass to mow, snow to plow, and much greater "house" payment, electric bill, etc. And the joy of having a real presence in the community was fantastic!

Father Elliott had taken the little church of a handful of people and, with help, had gathered a sizable congregation of parishioners, about 460 families. That number dwindled a little by the time of the move because of the new location and, mainly, lack of a school factor, but the parishioners that stayed were itching to grow and were looking forward to whatever was next.

Three crews of people were arranged for the MOVE. One crew stayed at the "old" church, labeled and packed items for shipment. One crew was the transportation group, physically taking the church items over to the "new" church. And one crew was at the "new" facility ready to unload and place items where they would belong. The Brains behind this effort, The Moving Committee, did their homework and the move was accomplished in record time. That was thanks in large part to Rob Grillion, Cory Schulte and Kevin Harrell, lead men on the Moving Committee. We moved in time to have our First Easter celebration in the new building.

After the MOVE was accomplished, right away plans for the Dedication of the church went into hyper mode. Archbishop Carlson promised to come and bless the new parish. A few other regular happenings also occurred, like First Holy Communions and Confirmations. It was a very busy month.

However, before we move to the next church, let us remember in pictures where we started.



We'll always remember...

St. Gianna Catholic Church
8676 Orf Road Lake St. Louis, Missouri



The Office

When you first walked into the foyer, you saw the regular trappings of a busy church--bulletin board announcements, pamphlets of information, an office front and center with people to greet you. The Sacred Heart welcomed you, the holy water font was accessible--standard fare in a church lobby.



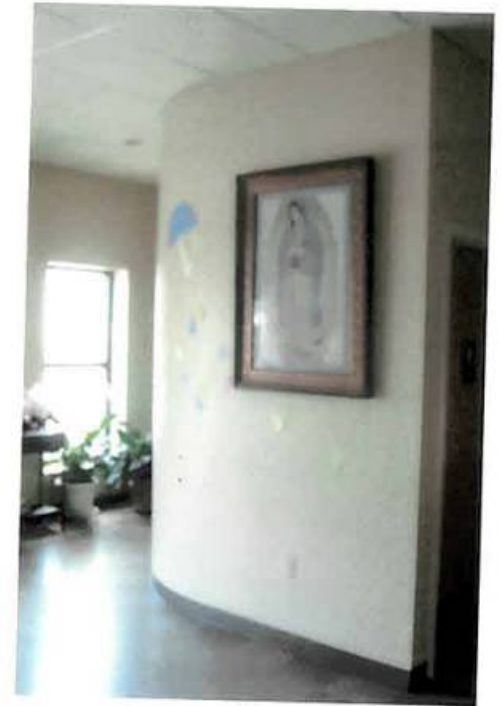
Rita wasn't quite a fixture of the place but she seemed to always be around.

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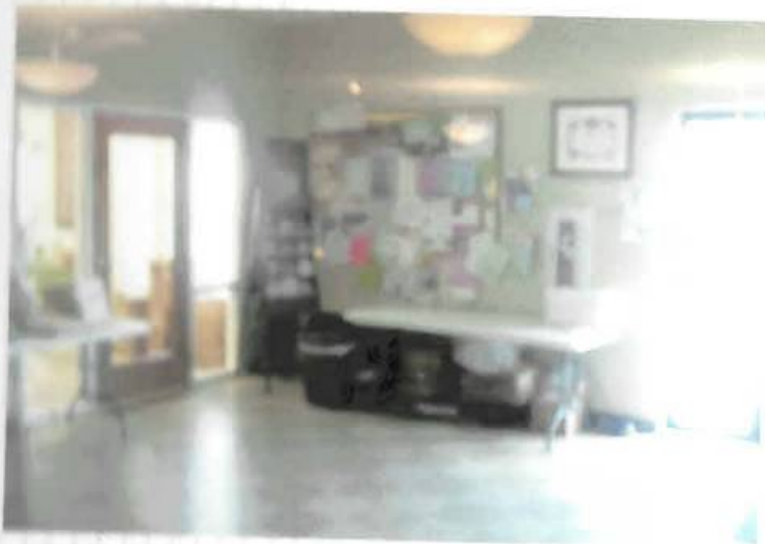


Holy Water Font



Art

The lobby- a meeting space, a center of talk and information, a place to refresh yourself, a 2nd Cry Room



Restrooms



Dedication Plaque





*There was
just
something
about this
place...*





Once you entered through the double glass doors, you entered an inner sanctum of peace, joy and beauty. There were lots of seats and kneelers but the sanctuary was front and center. Our Lord was always in the tabernacle on the altar and the sacred sense of holiness pervaded the room. Fr. Elliott's art work throughout the place helped to intensify that effect.







Adoration in this place was as spiritual as any other church. In fact, the littleness and "specialness" of this sanctuary made Adoration time a more up-close-and-personal experience.



The St. Gianna and Divine Mercy reminders kept prayers flowing and thoughts of our helpers in mind.



One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism





The Baptismal Font, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Confessional/Cry Room and Art- We had it all in our little church and we had a most sacred place.



Empty now, but this place was often filled to the brim with people praying and worshipping the Lord. It was beautiful here to us.



We say Goodbye! to our beloved Strip Mall Church!!

Our community was small but mighty and we were growing in numbers. Six years of growing together in prayer.



We thank Fr. Elliott as our Good Shepherd. In this place, he fed us God's word and Jesus's body and blood. He encouraged us when things looked impossible and helped us start again and again. He guided us to grow in our own ministries. He used his artistic talents to enrich the beauty of the place and the atmosphere of sacredness surrounding us.

Deacons Moore and Falbo added their own special spirituality to the time here, too. Whether with Deacon Moore's exuberance or Deacon Falbo's solid and sure wisdom, we were blessed!

The memories we have of our time here in our little Strip Mall Church on Orf Road in Lake St. Louis are beautiful on so many levels!





Sunday, March 25, 2012



Last Mass at
8676 Orf Rd, Lake St Louis, MO

*The last mass
at Orf Road
for St. Gianna
Church- a
sweet sorrow*

*How can we
begin to
thank God
for the past,
this day and
for those to
come!?!*



After mass, it was MOVING TIME...



Moving Instructions

YES, Dissassemble, Disassemble!



Glen unscrews church pews from the floor to get them ready for transport.



Pete carries the tabernacle out as St. Gianna waits for her turn.

Everyone gets their moving assignments -where to go and how to help.





*One box, one crucifix, one chair at a time and the job gets done!!
So many people worked long and hard to transfer items from Orf Road to 450
Highway N!! As people were packing and shipping from Orf, another crew was transporting
while the third crew was working the new church end. It was a great system!*







Now THESE guys have some hard going with those heavy pews. And there were plenty of pews to move! In and out, heave and ho, line 'em up and move'm out!! Thank the Lord for a beautiful day to move and lots of healthy people to do it.



(right page)

All this work makes people weary and HUNGRY. A little food and drink have been provided just for that need. There is water, some lemonade, ice tea, and a few bagels and bread. The Moving Team thought of everything. Hmm. I wonder what goes on the bread?!?

The most important thing to get into working order right away is Rita's computer. It is the source of all things St. Gianna Church, as per information. Jason Bolte and Dave Romine do their best to get Rita up and going. Nick Bolte is a consultant for the tech group.





Union Break Time!





Rooms were identified according to what they were to have placed in them. Items were marked with Room Letters. When people brought items into the building, they knew just where to go with them according to the markings. Less work for everyone in the end. And the system worked well! This was a well planned move! Hats off to the Moving Team!!!





Christine Hannibal and Pat Pannett put together some needed shelves for the pantry.



*(middle right)
The Parish Hall got the broken pews that still had to be repaired.*



*(bottom right)
And then there were "Jokers" who managed to show up anywhere!!*





Our NEW Home



The Office and School entrance



Hall building



Driveway access off HWY N



The front entrance of the new Church



Kitchen



"Commons" Hall with tables and Chairs



Classroom with desk and chairs



Sacristy



Conference Room



Office

Brand New Building



The sanctuary with a temporary altar



The Tabernacle and Cross



The "Commons" Hall



One of the classrooms



Office Space

The Office Area



1st Mass
March 26 2012

The first Mass held at the new St. Gianna Catholic Foundational Church was well attended. Everyone was so very thankful that the move had gone so well. The church looked heavenly this Monday morning. A very blessed place!

St. Gianna was Devoted To:



Pro Life



Marriage and Family

Panels on the Sanctuary walls



The Church



Healing



The church seemed enormous! There was room for Father to move around in the sanctuary and the art panels looked amazing around the altar. Fr. Elliott's celebration of the Mass had a special excitement to it for all of us. The Lord was present as usual but we were, oh, so much closer to Him during those moments than ever before.

*Our first gathering in the foyer...
what a nice place we had for
greetings and conversation!*



ST. GIANNA SQUIRES

April 21, 2012, Saturday. The St. Gianna Squires hosted an All Ages Dance at the Immaculate Conception Dardenne Knights of Columbus Hall on Post Road. Joe Hoerber and Nick Bolte were the Squires in charge.



NAMES FOR NEW BUILDING CLASSROOMS

With the help of an ingenious fundraiser, names for the six classrooms in the new building were picked by vote. One vote was one dollar. The money collected was used for name plates for the classrooms, for a framed picture and a biography of each saint named in each classroom. The chosen saints are some excellent role models for everyone. And the winners were:

St. Philip Neri

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

St. Francis de Sales

St. Thomas Aquinas

St. John Baptiste de La Salle

St. Ignatius Loyola



OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH CHILDREN

April 21, 2012, Saturday

Michael Allen Basler
Avery Elizabeth Bathe
Elizabeth Ann Broker
Carly Jane Brugenhemke
Drew William Chiodini
Kody Russell Cool
Mia Claire Gentili
Emily Mary Goodwin
Matthew James Hansell
Martha Alexandra Hawkins

Elizabeth Jane Jaworski
Emma Grace Kinder
Gabrielle Josephine Marquart
Garrett August Marquart
Julieann Martin
Charles Joseph McKeon
Hayden Scott McKeon
Connor Thomas McVey
Paula Andrea Murillo
Alyssa Mae Prewitt

Ethan Walter Schaefer
Gavin James Schaefer
Anna Rose Schneeter
Jadyn Michelle Schmidt
Addison Delayne Schulte
Amber Nicole Stockton
Gabriel Morris Stockton
Morgan Olivia Walkenhorst
Marshall Scott Wiater

OUR PARISH CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

April 28, 2012, Saturday,
at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

Alissa **Elizabeth** Albietz
Theresa **Rose** Bennett
Michael **John** Bosco
Jacob **Michael** Broker
Elizabeth **Ann** Colyer
Crozet **Joseph** DuPlantier
Maria **Zita** Fischer
Dustin **George** Fuca
Hayley **Cecilia** Gantner
Matthew Griese
David **Xavier** Hansell

Joseph **Paul** Harrell
Claire **Joan** Hendrickson
Angelina **Therese** Hoeber
Brandon **Pio** Jackson
Jack **Timothy** Kane
Alexandra **Cecilia** Knickmeyer
Eric **Andrew** Meindl
Devin **Pio** Nelsen
Robert **Joseph** Onder
Elizabeth **Teresa** Onder
Troy **Polycarp** Scheetner

Michael **John** Schwinn
Madison **Madeleine** Steitz
Marie **Anne** White
Casey **Martha** Wiater
Jamie **Hildegard** Wise



Alle
Day of the
Dedication of
St. Gianna
Catholic Church

April 29, 2012







The pomp and circumstance of the day was accented, rightly so, by the Knights of Columbus Knights in full garb leading and greeting the Archbishop into the new St. Gianna Catholic Church.





Archbishop Carlson blesses the outside of the church building.



The clergy procession included Fr. Elliott and some visiting priests that were special to the St. Gianna Church project.



Archbishop Carlson was followed by Deacons Moore and Falbo.



Archbishop Carlson carried his crook or crosier in reminder that he is our local spiritual shepherd. As head of the archdiocese his blessing and leadership is paramount in unifying us with all of the churches within the archdiocese.



With a full house, the Dedication Mass was filled with dignitaries, clergy, and parishioners worshipping the Lord.



The Archbishop leads us in prayer and blesses all of us.



*Archbishop Carlson
says a few words of
greetings and then
blesses, using the
incense, the new altar.*



*Deacon Falbo blesses
Fr. Elliott, also.*



*Archbishop Carlson
Blessing the Building*





Deacon Moore lights the candles on the altar and around the church proper.



The Mass continues. Then Fr. Elliott says a few words of thanks.





*Our choir lead the congregation
in praise and worship through beautiful music.*



*More views
of the
Archbishop
and the
congregation
in a beautiful
house of
worship*





The final processional at the end of the mass.



Archbishop Carlson blessing the congregation as he processes out of the mass.



*(far left)
Cory Schulte
and
(far right)
Jason Bolte
from
St. Gianna's
Council*



*The 4th Degree Honor Corps Knights of Columbus Knights
are from local Assemblies in the area.*





*(top left, 2nd from left)
Joe Hawkins from St.
Gianna's Council*

*Steve Tuffner and John Kainady,
from St. Gianna's Council*



Archbishop Carlson greeting each parishioner as they exit the church and enter the Classroom Building. First picture is with Danny Chapman. The second picture is with Knight Steve Tuffner.

Archbishop Carlson poses for some pictures in a classroom with all the Knights.



Celebrate!



The tables are ready and we can celebrate the day together with food and partying!!



Fr. Elliott with a friend and former teacher Sister Mary Williams