



## Steeped in Catholicism Growing up in rural Ireland

Busy dad Tony (Mike) Brady and his family have been parishioners at St. Hilary for three years, moving here from St. Mary's parish in Wooster, Ohio. Tony and his wife, Dr. Ann Leano, are the parents of three, all of whom are students at St. Hilary School. Recently, Tony was generous enough to share with us a glimpse into his own spiritual development and the influence his birth family has had on him.

Emigrating from Ireland in 1987, Tony became a US citizen seven years later—the year he met his future wife. A Master of Social Work, Tony worked as a social worker in Boston for a number of years before he and Ann married and moved to Wooster.

### Growing up in Ireland

Raised in a rural area of Ireland's Midlands, Tony's early life was deeply influenced by his faith. "I was one of nine children in a strong Catholic family. Basically our family lived like the Amish do in this area—we were farmers, and all nine of us went to a two-room Catholic school with no indoor plumbing and a fireplace for heat. All eleven of us worked the farm. And although my parents also operated a small pub, we were wisely sheltered from that environment. Both of my parents were hard working, and my mother was very spiritual.

"As most children in Ireland, we attended Catholic schools from elementary through high school. In our case, since there was no Catholic high school near us, eight of us attended boarding schools, starting at age 12. This was a major financial sacrifice for my parents. The school I attended was generally considered to be a preparation for the seminary.

"Our home was about 300 yards from the Catholic Church, and we all went to Mass almost every morning before school. All lined up in the pew, pretty much the same pew each time, each member of the family put money in the collection basket—basically just a tuppence (two pennies) from each child. I would call that sacrificial giving on the part of my parents. My brothers and I served Mass, and we all went to confession every week or two. Since we did not own a car, when our church was being renovated, we all rode our bikes 3 1/2 miles to the next closest Catholic church. I think experiences like that, making sacrifices for our faith, probably strengthened us and helped us get through tough times.

### Major impacts on faith

"During high school I met a missionary priest who had a profound impact on my spiritual life. It was actually his influence that made me want to become a priest. As a senior, I participated in a Teen Encounter program based on the Marriage Encounter program. That experience made an everlasting impression on my life with regards to how I view relationships and marriage and the role that God plays in the marriage relationship. The family that led that group in their home, the Maguire family, has had a lasting effect on my life to this day.

After I finished high school, I went right into the seminary, where I studied for two years, before realizing that I eventually wanted to have a family. During my time in the seminary, I had the great opportunity to meet Pope John Paul II when he visited Ireland in 1979. Meeting the Pope made another major impact on my faith.

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# Parishioners speak of giving their treasure

*In recent conversations with two parishioners—Jeff Henry and Joseph Restivo—each discussed his views about the sharing of his family’s financial treasure. Each also generously shared the impact that giving has had on their lives and the lives of their families.*



*The Restivo Family: Front, Michael, Joseph and Noah. Back, Joe and Jennifer Restivo*

“I think sharing our money has had an impact on our spiritual lives. It makes us really think about how fortunate we are and how important it is to give whatever we can to help other people.”



can drive a wedge into relationships. And they let us know that as adults our ability to give may not always be predictable. They also stressed that God always presents opportunities to give based on His own timing, not necessarily on ours, so Joanne and I try to stay alert for opportunities God shows us.”

## IEWS AND METHODS OF GIVING

“Jennifer and I,” Joseph explains, “have always agreed on sharing what we have with others. Early on we agreed that once we finished our training (they are both physicians) and paid off our college loans we would really focus on giving back. We also both look forward to the time when we can give back with our skills and training, but that will have to wait until the children are older.

“We use automated giving through Faith Direct (at [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net)),” Joseph continued, “and we’re very happy with it. At first I wasn’t sure how it would work, but after we received a mailing about it, I went to the website and found how easy it is to set up and use. I really like the fact that I can change things at any time and can designate donations not only to the parish itself but also to different ministries within the parish, such as PSR and St. Vincent de Paul.”

Jeff remarked: “Our giving to the parish is planned and happens automatically through Faith Direct. The other giving Joanne and I do varies based on the opportunities to give that we encounter in our daily lives. While there is no real strategy involved for us, I guess it’s a kind of theory based on what

## EARLY INFLUENCES

Interestingly, both men chose to speak first about their parents’ giving and how it has affected their lives. Joseph Restivo observed: “I came from a blue-collar background. My parents always gave to the Church no matter what, even when my father was out of work for a long time. As a result of their influence, Jennifer and I both feel it’s important to give back.”

Jeff Henry commented on similar experiences with his parents: “My mom and dad were very dedicated, hard-working Catholics. They made it a point to share with their children their personal views about life and giving. They stressed that we must work hard in life, save a certain amount, appreciate what we have and, whenever presented with the opportunity, give generously to others. They also advised us that it is always better to give money as opposed to lending it, because lending



*The Henry family: (L to R) Conner, Jessie, Joanne, Jeff and Nikki Henry.*

I learned from my parents. We feel very blessed that God has given us the ability to help others. We're very aware that our resources, whether financial or the ability to give of our time and energy, are gifts given to us by God. We often talk about how we will give and why—about how we will go about sharing what we have, whether the giving is personal in nature or financial.

“Joanne and I find it interesting that every day God presents us with openings to help someone or to learn about a worthy cause, and we try to address those opportunities as we see them. We're interested in a number of different causes, both in and outside the parish. We are particularly interested in St. Hilary's Homeless Ministry. We also share with each other our awareness of the rewards God gives us in return. ‘Give, and it will be given to you. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you’ (Luke 6:38). This scripture always holds true! Many good things have come our way.”

### THE IMPACTS OF GIVING

Joseph addressed the ways their giving impacts their family spiritually. “I think sharing our money has had an impact on our spiritual lives. It makes us really think about how fortunate we are and how important it is to give whatever we can to help other people. And we feel it's really important for our children that we talk about our giving with them, so we can pass on to them what we were taught. We hope that, as they grow up in the Church and are older,

“We both find it interesting that every day God presents us with openings to help someone or to learn about a worthy cause, and we try to address those opportunities as we see them.”

they will continue our beliefs by giving of their own time, talent and treasure in their lives. Jennifer is not Catholic but is very supportive of our giving to the parish. She also makes sure we all go to church and is very much in favor of the children attending the PSR program to learn more about their faith.”

Jeff comments on the impact of giving on their family. “All our children have done community service in preparation for Confirmation. Joanne and I believe this is a great way for the children to start to learn to share with the community the gifts God has given them. We love St. Hilary Parish because it is so vibrant and offers such a wide variety of initiatives and ministries. We feel it's important to support what we can to help keep the ministries vibrant.”

## STEPS IN THE TRINITY OF GIVING:

### Plan, Pray and Give Proportionately

As we launch our annual Stewardship Campaign this month, here are some steps to help guide your decision-making about how much to give of your financial treasure.

- 1) **Planning:** The decision to give requires reflection, thought and time so it is integrated with other financial decisions as part of a careful, intentional response to God's generosity.
- 2) **Prayerfulness:** Asking for spiritual guidance as you plan your giving can ease the decision-making process. Spend some time in prayer on the subject. You may be surprised how simple the decision can become when divine inspiration is involved.
- 3) **Proportionality:** The Church recommends that our giving be proportionate to what God has given us. What we choose to give back is our personal response to the generosity God has shown us in our lives.

Over the next several weeks, reflect on and re-evaluate your giving in light of your commitment to your faith. Your decision to share a portion of what you have received from God is a wonderful sign of your priorities. As you plan your commitment of treasure, consider these two things:

A. If possible, take a step to the next level of giving this year.

B. Take advantage of our on-line giving program, called Faith Direct. Go to the website [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our Parish Code, OH247, to explore or set up your account.



Linda Oravec--cooking up delights in the parish kitchen.

# She's Got Talent!

## AND COOKING IS LINDA'S GIFT

"Before I retired from nursing, some weeks I would work 60 hours and still come home and cook. I just totally chill out when I cook. Right now I am teaching my oldest granddaughter to cook. We went to Italy and took cooking classes together."

### LOTS OF HOSPITALITY

When it comes to Hospitality (the official stewardship category for the gift of cooking), Linda Oravec is a treasure for St. Hilary Parish. "I was a member of the Hospitality Focus Group as part of the Stewardship Ministry. We recommended that the parish beef up hospitality to engage parishioners. Lyn Schott went to the Parish Council to ask if we could start a hospitality ministry resulting in our brand new Eat-N-Greet."

Linda's gifts for cooking and hospitality will be confirmed by the many delighted parishioners who eagerly attended St. Hilary's first ever Eat-N-Greet event in September after the 4 pm and 5:30 pm Masses. "I thought we should have a monthly hospitality event for those two Masses, just as we do for the morning Masses on Sunday with coffee and donuts. Really, the purpose of hospitality events is to bring folks together. We'll be hosting an Eat-N-Greet at those late Masses on the second weekend of every month except the summer months.

"Kelley Lohr is my wonderful co-leader for this new event. She helps cook, plan the menus, and act as hostess. I couldn't do it without her. I was able to recruit 27 new volunteers for this, by calling people who had checked hospitality on their Stewardship Commitment Card. I ask them not only to keep the appetizers on the table but also to mingle with the parishioners—to show them hospitality. That's what it's all about!"

Linda started cooking for St. Hilary when Generations of Faith began. "I was on the

Core Committee and did all the cooking and hospitality for those events.

Now she volunteers to do all the cooking and decorating for the Youth Group's Senior Prom dinner dance on Sunday, October 10th following the 5:30 pm Mass. This year's theme is cruise to Hawaii. That's a fun event."

### NURSE, BUILDER, FUNDRAISER, ETC.!

Linda uses her other major gift, nursing, to volunteer every week at Open M. "At Open M, I help the Nurse Administrator manage their database for the doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel who donate their services to the clinic. I also perform patient chart audits.

"When I retired from 40 years of nursing, I volunteered to help the Nazareth Housing ministry (similar to Habitat for Humanity) and somehow ended up the Executive Director. Four parishes (St. Hilary, St. Vincent, St. Sebastian, and Immaculate Conception) went together to create a Catholic non-profit to provide low-income housing for families. We wrote grants, solicited donations, bought land and built houses. We built 8-10 houses in the three years I was Director.

Busy Linda is a Eucharistic Minister, knits hats for the homeless, is a member of the Prayer Ministry, is a caller for the Stewardship Campaign, and attends Journey Women.

**We speak often in this stewardship newsletter about using our spiritual gifts to give back to God—time (spending it with God), talents (using them to serve others), and treasure (sharing our financial resources).**

When parishioner Linda Oravec was asked why she spends so much time cooking for St. Hilary events, she declared with great enthusiasm—"Cooking is my gift! It's my passion! I love to cook for lots of people." Linda commented: "For some people cooking is a trial, but for me it comes easy. I have a sense of recipe, and cooking for large numbers of people is not difficult at all. I love to cook, because cooking touches lots of people, which is good. It's a way to give service to them and to give them pleasure. I also love working with the wonderful parish volunteers who help me in the kitchen!"



Ted and Linda Oravec

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## BRUCHETTA

3 TBSP. BASALMIC VINEGAR

1/2 TSP. SALT

1/2 TSP. WHITE PEPPER

MIX THE ABOVE UNTIL DISSOLVED—RESERVE FOR TOMATO MIXTURE

6 FIRM RIPE ROMA TOMATOES, SMALL CHOPPED

1/2 CUP EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

1 TBSP. FINELY CHOPPED CHIVES

1 TBSP. FINELY CHOPPED PARSLEY

2 CLOVES OF GARLIC

12 1/2" THICK SLICES ITALIAN STYLE SOURDOUGH OR FRENCH BREAD

STIR IN 1/2 OLIVE OIL AND TOSS WITH TOMATOES. ADD CHIVES, PARSLEY AND 1/2 THE GARLIC. POUR THE RESERVED MIXTURE ONTO THE TOMATOES. SET ASIDE.

IN A SMALL BOWL STIR TOGETHER THE REMAINING OIL AND GARLIC. BRUSH THE MIXTURE ON EACH BREAD SLICE AND BROIL OR GRILL UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN. 2- 3 MINUTES. WATCH CLOSELY—CAN EASILY BURN.

HEAP TOMATO MIXTURE ON EACH BREAD SLICE AND SERVE IMMEDIATELY.

NOTE: DO NOT HEAP TOMATOES UNTIL READY TO SERVE IMMEDIATELY AS THE BREAD WILL GET SOGGY.



This is Linda Oravec's wonderful recipe for bruschetta. This was requested by many delighted parishioners who attended our parish's first "Eat-N-Greet" event after the 4 pm Mass on Saturday and the 5:30 Mass on Sunday, September 11 and 12.

*Bon appetit!*



Diana Ching, Linda Oravec and Maggie Reagan prepare to serve appetizers at our first Eat-N-Greet!



*The Brady Family: Patrick, Tony, Ann, Kiara and Mia*



*In the pew at 9:00 o'clock Mass: Patrick, Ann, Kiara, Mia and Tony*

### Family traditions, old and new

“As we were growing up, our family tradition was to go to early church on God’s day. Now Ann and I do the same with our family. We almost always go to 9:00 Mass on Sundays to get us ready for the Lord’s Day. After Mass, we try to spend the whole day together, doing things as a family.

“Just as my family did at home, we now say morning and evening prayers as a family—a wonderful tradition started by my mother. So much of what she taught us has had enduring impacts on my life. As children, we all knelt together at home to say the Rosary. In our home now, we all kneel down together upstairs before the children go to bed and say a litany of nightly prayers that seems to be growing as the children learn new ones. In the morning, which is busy, we say the Guardian Angel prayer and the Morning Offering in the car on the way to school or church.

### Developing spirituality

“I do talk to the children about faith and spirituality as things come up. Because my parents taught me that God expects much of us, I want to teach my children what God expects of them. I try to teach them the importance of being good, of praying, and asking God to help them be good. And I do tell them that they may not fully understand all of what they learn about their faith until they are older.

“In my adult spiritual life, Ann has played a major role in my spiritual development. It was very important to me to marry a Catholic girl. On our first date, Ann and I attended Mass at Boston College, before going to dinner.

“I tend not to be a traditional thinker. When I studied philosophy in the seminary, I learned to probe and challenge. I also tend not to pray traditional prayers. My prayer life is more like an ongoing conversation with God as I go about my daily life. I thank Him for all the blessings He’s sent when things that arise make me realize those blessings—especially when I hear the news. And, of course, while in the act of parenting, I ask Him for patience and the ability to be a good parent.

### Catholic education

“I used to say I did not think my Catholic education had an important influence on me. Recently I have been thinking about that, partly because St. Hilary School is now celebrating its 50th anniversary. I’ve realized that I should not have taken my education for granted, and I hope that we will have Catholic schools around for the next 50 years for the sake of my grandchildren.”

### Service to others

Tony believes strongly in giving of himself to help others. That includes doing things without expecting anything in return. “If someone wants or needs something, I try to give it. If they want help or friendship, I give that. Once we have a trusting relationship, then we can talk about our faith together.

Currently Tony Brady serves as President-elect of the St. Hilary School Parents’ Association. At the school picnic this year, he helped cooked 700 hot dogs and has helped serve school lunches. He loves to garden and volunteers for the parish Garden Club when he can, including shoveling mulch. Mike also helps supervise the Children’s Liturgy. Ann Leano serves as a Lector at weekend Masses.

Because my parents taught us that God expects much of us, I try to teach my children what God expects from them.



*Mia, Kiara, Ann Leano, Tony and Patrick*

# 2010 Ministry Fair

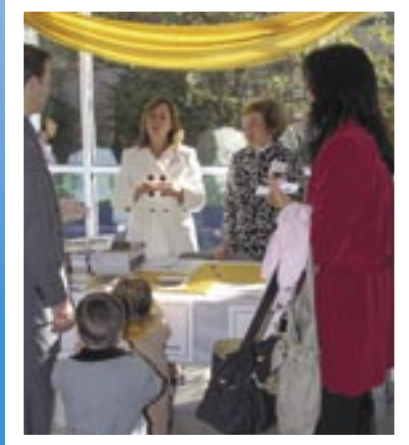
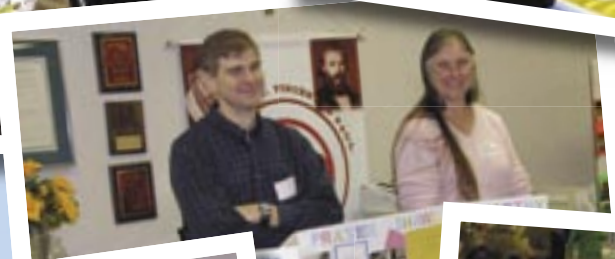
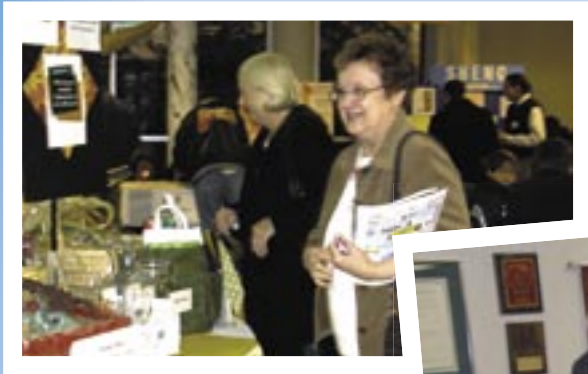
October 16 & 17 • After all Masses

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Talk with ministry members.

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Win fun and interesting prizes !



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## Stewardship Commitment Weekend **October 23 and 24**

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Ministry Fair

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## Take 3 simple steps to make God a priority in your life.



STEP 1:  
Commit your Time  
to God.

STEP 2:  
Commit your  
Talents to Others.

STEP 3:  
Commit your  
Treasure to St. Hilary  
and its Mission.