



Open heart to the Lord

Leffler finds answer to 'what God wants of me,' is ordained into priesthood



Photo by Kylie Kai of K & Camera

Fr. Taylor Leffler proceeds into St. Mary's Church, his hometown parish, on Sunday, June 3 for his first Mass as a priest. Leffler was a 2009 graduate of Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

All it takes is one thought, one single question, to trigger change in a person's life.

For West Point native Taylor Leffler, it was one specific question, and an open heart to the Lord, that sent him down a life-changing path.

That journey led Leffler to his calling in life.

On June 2, Leffler's life was forever changed as Archbishop George J. Lucas ordained him a priest at St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha.

And it was one question that triggered Taylor's call into the priesthood: "What does God want of me?"

Leffler had his life all figured out, or so he thought...

Taylor planned on attending the University of Nebraska-Omaha to study Aviation. He was going to become a pilot, and eventually work for Southwest Airlines.

Taylor was going to get married, start a family and have "beautiful, well-behaved" children. Leffler was going to travel the world. His plan all sounded so great.

"Even when he was little, his dream was always to fly planes," Taylor's dad, Dana Leffler said.

Leffler soon would find out that life is full of curveballs, and no one throws a better curveball than God.

After one year of college, Taylor knew his calling was elsewhere. And in a world that's all

2018 Alumni Banquet

Guardian Angels Central Catholic

**Class of 1943: Christopher
Batenhorst**

**Class of 1948: From left: Hen-
rietta Knievel Grewe, Valery
Neesen, Richard Knobbe, Paul
Johnson, Katherine Stalp John-
son.**



Class of 1953: From left: Roberta Diekemper Hagedorn, Bernard Volker, Delores Peatrowsky Oligmueller.

LEFFLER:

FROM PAGE 1

about 'me,' and 'what do I want,' Leffler's 'what does God want of me' question was rather out-of-the-ordinary.

"I thought that I had to plan out my whole life so that I could be successful. And then I came across Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,'" Leffler said.

"That struck me for the first time. I never really thought about God having a plan for my life. If God has a plan for my life, it'd probably be a good idea to ask him what that plan is."

From that moment, Leffler began to pray upon that and ask God to reveal His plan.

A vision of what God wanted from Taylor wasn't immediately revealed.

However, during his time of contemplation, through prayer and reflection, Leffler said different signs started to surface. One of the biggest signs appeared on a Sunday Mass during Vocations week.

All the questions about the priesthood would be answered in a 10-minute homily.

"One Sunday, I was singing in the high school choir. I remember Fr. Gerry Gonderinger got up and said, 'Today is vocation awareness Sunday.' My ears perked up," Leffler said.

"He said, 'Instead of giving a typical homily, I just want to talk about what my life is like as a priest, and what got me to the priesthood.' I didn't know at the moment I was being called to be a priest. But I knew God was really laboring for me to join the seminary."

Deep in his heart, Taylor knew God was starting to reveal the answer to his question: "What does God want of me?"

Taylor is the son of Dana and Diane Leffler. He is a 2009 graduate of Guardian Angels Central Catholic.



Class of 1958: From left, front: Marvin Peatrowsky, Mary Kreikemeier Emanuel, Joan Pospichal Mestl, Angela Toelle Mandel, Judith King Ruiz; row 2: Mary Jean Strehle Hagedorn, Rose Ann Peatrowsky Prinz, Bob Prinz, Paul Bracht. Third row, Lois Kaup Lubker, Agnes Stieren Rolf, Henrietta Meister Pane, Rita Oligmueller Throener, Roseann Meiergerd Linnenbrink, Jolene Wendt Coday, Joanne Gentrup Leriger, Gerald Knievel, James Tingelhoff; back: Harry Beck, Vincent Rolf, Frank Ortmeier, Harry Knobbe, Gerald Rolf, Don Ortmeier, Paul Timmerman, Ronald Wolken, Thomas Gentrup.



Class of 1963: From left, front: John Buse, Larry Gentrup; row 2: Diane Ulrich Carlson, Mary Patterson, Betty Luebbert Harnapp, Joanne Strehle Rice, Carol Ann Dinslage Greve; row 3: Millie Rief, Theresa Gentrup Spader, Mary Ellen Dinslage Kreikemeier, Lavina Steffen, Mary Ann Bracht Ernesti, Walter Ernesti, Ron Throener; back: Daniel Rief, Jerome Steffen, James Feldhaus, Kenneth Oligmueller, Larry Kreikemeier.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JayFest May 31, 2019

JayFest June 5, 2020

Alumni Banquet June 1, 2019

Alumni Banquet June 6, 2020



Class of 1968: From left, front: Duane Doerneman, Margaret Seeman Peplinski, Rita Nebuda Kleeman, Nancy Harstick Rief, Art Rolf, Duane Wiechman, David Schuetze, Connie Ulrich Nebuda, Linda McPherson, Jane Decker Gerths, Lynn Welding Trouba, Larry Wiese; row 2: Roland Kleeman, Dale Schlecht, Kathy Luebbert Schlecht, Pam Bliemeister Wordekemper, Mary Knobbe Stieren, Bob Dinslage, Gene Luebbert, Gerald Nebuda, Jerome Rief; row 3: Candace Uhing Metschke, Aggie Maly Evert, Robert Renner, Bob Ernesti, Richard Stieren, Tom Knobbe, Larry Wiechman, Patrick Welding, Norman Wordekemper; back: Paul Strehle, James Decker, Tom Ortmeier, Allen Evert, Dan Spinner, Kenneth Ernesti, Leon Steffen, Jim Schin-stock, Ralph Meister, Dan Schmaderer.



Class of 1978: From left, front: Mike Oligmueller, Jan Reeson, Jeff Fago, Karen King Schlickbernd, Jean Doerneman Stieren, Jean Langhorst Meiergerd, Marlene Ernesti Anderson, Nancy Engelmeyer Knobbe, Jolene Ruskamp Vogel, Randy Ortmeier; row 2: Beth Heimann Berenis, Diane Wordekemper Dirkschneider, Judy Steuter Lane, Bonnie Steffensmeier Warner, Karen Franzluebbers Ochsenbine, Lori Batenhorst Boyum, Lori Ulrich Strong, Janet Graybeal Rueschhoff, James Franzluebbers, LuAnn Kreikemeier Kathol, Carl Aschoff; row 3: Dominic Leffler, Susan Kreikemeier Hodson, Lois Ulrich Niewohner, Glen Seeman, Mike Gentrup, Pat Schlickbernd, Glen Wiechman, Bryan Knobbe, Norman Rief, David Bracht; back: David Knobbe, Peggy Heimann Berens, Brenda Hunke Ridder, Mary Jo Lueckenhoff, Glen Schuetze, Lee Hagedorn, Randy Wiese, Ron Stal, Michael Schorn, Kevin Stieren, Bruce Wolff.



Class of 1988: From left, front: David Nesladek, Scott Michaelis, Tim Bracht, Brian Drueke; back: Patty Ulrich Daberkow, Julie Prinz Meister, Kathy Gentrup Pieper, Michelle Schorn Wooldrik, Greg Aschoff.



Class of 1993: From left, front: Dara Kaup Schlecht, Don Brunsing, Chris Aschoff, Nina Ortmeier McKenzie; back: Paul Wiechman, Curtis Knobbe, Kevin Kaup, Ryan Reeson, Joe Simodynes.



Class of 1998: From left, front: Kristie Linnenbrink Fuhr, Kim Stratman Kruse, Alexis Hugo Funk, Tracy Moore; row 2: Brock Ortmeier, Zach Slage; back: Jeff Meister, Erin Kelly Johnson, Lisa Kaup Pekny, Wendi Bunn, Jeremy Franzluebbers, Karl Knobbe.

Knobbe gets recognized

Allie Knobbe, a senior at Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School, was honored as a 2017-18 Believers and Achievers



Allie Knobbe

winner by U.S. Bank® and the Nebraska School Activities Association.

Believers & Achievers is a state-wide program designed by U.S. Bank and the NSAA to give recognition to Nebraska's future leaders.

"This award means so much to me. I am extremely honored to be chosen for this award," Knobbe said.

Hunke golfer of the year

Showered with accolades all year long, the biggest honor for local golfer Hannah Hunke was recently announced.

Hunke of Snyder, and 2017 graduate of GACC High School, was selected as the 2017 Nebraska Girls' Amateur Golfer of the Year.



Hannah Hunke

While certainly a well-deserved honor, it was still a humbling moment for the local golfer.

"It was a really proud moment for me. This was something I talked about with my mom over the summer, and what I needed to do to earn this award," Hunke said.



Class of 2008: From left, front: Jeff Kirchmann, Ariel Knobbe, Carissa Kreikemeier Sturm, Katie Ridder Neujahr, Stephanie Guenther Tulsie; row 2: Jason Peatrowsky, Trenton Brichacek, Chelsea Franzluebbbers Werner, Jaci Mowinkel Pesicka, Sara Boyum Hento, Karmen Emanuel Dickes, Dan Fast; back: Alex Knobbe, Andrew Wiechman, Scott Brunsing, Nate Strehle, Josh Hagedorn, Jared Hagedorn, Trevor Spenner.

Hope inspires marchers

For Guardian Angels Central Catholic senior Hannah McGill, the hope of making a difference is why she was one of thousands of marchers at the 45th annual March for Life January 19 in Washington, D.C.

That hope of one day seeing an end to abortion is what inspired McGill and 14 other students from Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School to march.

“As I’m getting older, and growing deeper in my faith, I just wanted to stand up and show others how wrong abortion is,” McGill said. “The march was really cool. We got to be a part of something bigger than us.”

The March for Life event is the annual Pro-Life rally, which commemorates Roe v. Wade. And much like in years past, people flooded D.C. to pledge their support.

Being a part of that was an amazing experience said GACC sophomore Noah Hass.

“The energy at the march was great. Everyone from our group had so much energy,” Hass said. “We were singing and chanting. We lost our voices.”

On top of being at the March for Life, going to the Planned Parenthood building was extremely impact-



GACC students attended the 2018 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

ful for GACC students.

“Being there, with all those people, you just realize how serious of a problem this is. We were there to address that problem,” Hass added.



Bluejay girls make it 21 years in a row at state

For 21 consecutive years, Guardian Angels Central Catholic has qualified for the Class D1 girls state basketball tournament in Lincoln. Members of the state-qualifying team are, from left, front: Marissa Hunke, Ally Plagge, Lexis Haase, Allie Knobbe, Angela Jansen, Hannah Hrbek; back: manager Andie Guenther, coach Kevin Kreikemeier, Hanna Knobbe, Brenna Rief, Avery Kreikemeier, Brandi Doernemann, Greta Vering, Reece Snodgrass, Maddie Bracht, coach Father Steve Emanuel and head coach Jerry Stracke. Not pictured is manager Greta Wooldrik. Twenty-one straight tourney appearances is a state record.

GACC pleased with STEAM Lab

Preparing students to reach their fullest potential is the primary mission for Guardian Angels Central Catholic. And the school will be taking a large step forward in fulfilling that goal.

GACC integrated a new STEAM SmartLab into the school's academic curriculum for the 2017-18 school year. STEAM Labs will be located in buildings of both Central Catholic and Guardian Angels.

Components of the STEAM Lab consist of placing an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, art and math. The reason behind launching a 'lab' like this is to enhance the ability of each student in areas such as critical thinking, problem solving, information

literacy and decision-making.

"This will open up some pathways to knowledge and careers for our students," GACC Principal Kate Hagemann said. "It's just a different way of thinking. It's hands-on and reaches a wide variety of learners."

In a statement released by GACC, the STEAM SmartLab provides learners with foundations in eight basic systems of technology known as "core competencies."

The basic systems are: Alternative and Renewable Energy; Computer Graphics; Science and Data Acquisition; Mechanics and Structures; Multimedia Design / Computer Aided Publishing; Robotics and Control Technology;

Circuitry; and Computer Simulation.

With this type of learning, GACC's administration is excited about the type of impact that will be made with utilizing this lab.

"This will provide our students with an extra opportunity to challenge themselves and extend what they can already do," GACC President Fr. Steve Emanuel said. "In any school system, you encounter limits, but hopefully for us, this will extend the ceiling for all of our kids.

"We want to expose them to all different types of learning. It's just another avenue to reach kids and take them to another level," Hagemann said.

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