

Stones Cry Out

Faithful of Southern Illinois

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent the stones will cry out!" Lk. 19: 39-40 Volume 8, No.1, Winter 2015

FOSIL publishes this issue of *Stones Cry Out* in honor of Fr. Roger Karban.

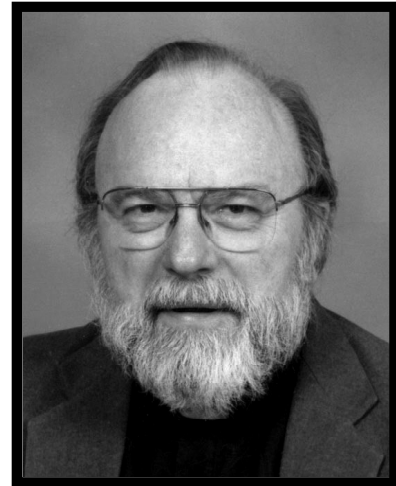
People from 28 states and 3 countries signed the congratulatory card in the Belleville News Democrat.

Congratulations ROGER KARBAN on the 50th Anniversary

of your ordination to the priesthood

We honor you, Roger, as family, friend, neighbor, student, parishioner, listener, reader, and seeker of knowledge. Thank you for inviting us to learn and grow by sharing your passion and love of the Scriptures - it now burns on in us.

*By your words, you express God's love;
by your life and leadership, you reveal God's love.*



Exerpts from the invocation given by Rabbi Sam Goldman at Roger Karban's 50th Anniversary Dinner

"Sovereign of the Universe, who created us all in love and compassion, teach us to love all that is good and beautiful in this world.

...We come together this evening to honor one of our own - Father Roger Karban, your faithful and loyal servant, who for these past fifty years of priesthood has walked among us as a friend and teacher, with love and caring. He has touched the lives of so many and with wisdom and your holy message, has inspired each of us for good.

In a world of confusion and harshness; a world wherein too many cannot distinguish between right and wrong; a world of excessive arrogance and too little humility; Father Karban stands strong and courageously to show the way to all who care to observe and listen.

We ask that your spirit, your love and your compassion guide the skills of those who watch over Father Karban's health so that his years with us may be strong and his number of years may be many and full.

Lord, you are the source of our hope and our trust, our richness, our joy and gladness. May we all be blessed by your loving presence in all that we do.

*Oseh Shalom Beemromov, Hu Yaaseh Shalom, Olenu V'all Kol Ha'olom V'Nomar Omayn.
Lord, as you bring peace in heaven, bring peace to us and to all people of the earth.
And let us all say in one voice...Amen."*

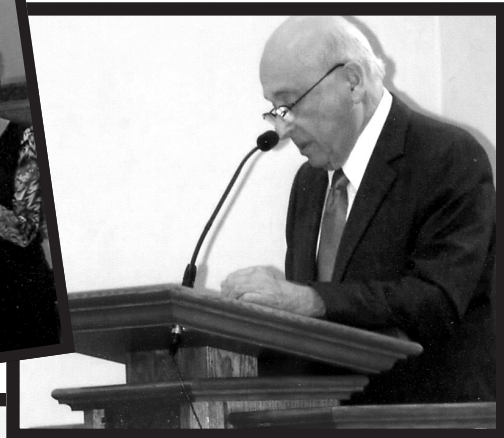
A GRAND CELEBRATION

A warm beautiful fall afternoon, a bright blue sky overhead, the sun dancing through the stained glass windows of the church that was packed with those who came to give joyful praise for the gift of Roger's life.



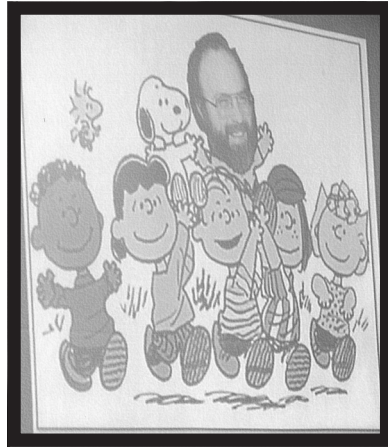
Fr. Bill Rowe leads the assembly in joyous song.

Mary Ann and Les Himstedt rattle the tambourines.



Rabbi Sam Goldman reading the Hebrew Scripture

Colorful and humorous slides took people on a stroll down memory lane, chronicling the story of Roger's life and his love of Scripture, people, and all of God's creation.

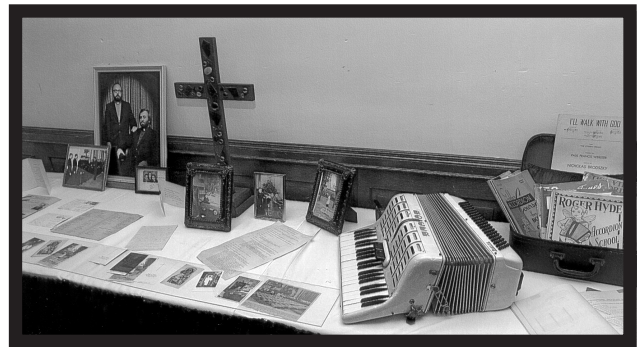


JOY, LAUGHTER AND FUN WAS EVERYWHERE...

People enjoyed a display of Roger's favorite mementoes and symbols from his life - from boyhood to the present.



Wanda Knepper, wife of race car driver, Arnie Knepper, delighted the crowd with anecdotes and stories of Roger and his love of auto racing.



In his jovial and relaxed manner, MC, Tim Rehash, a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel, amused the gathering and kept the activities of the evening flowing smoothly.



Sharing a delicious meal.



Pearl Hirsch entertained Roger and the people with some old accordian tunes, recalling the days when Roger played this instrument as a boy.



The Seiffert family enjoying the festivities.

REMEMBERING THE BEGINNINGS

Both Marg Beckmann and Marabeth Petermeyer, who have attended Roger's Breese Scripture Class for more than 40 years, shared some thoughts on what it has meant to them. Marg briefly recalled how the decade of the '60's - a time of change in the country, in the church and in people's lives - led to their decision to attend Roger's class. "Being Catechism Catholics, we had lots of questions", said Marg.

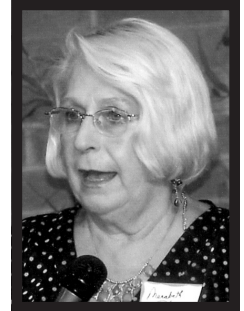
"That first night", Marg continued, "Roger informed us that by studying Scripture, we would learn the foundation of Christianity and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. He said, 'If you hang in there with me, you'll be transformed from Catechism Catholics into Biblical Catholics.' Of course, at that time, we didn't understand what that meant."



Marg Beckmann

"At class", Marabeth said, "we found a young, enthusiastic teacher with remarkable teaching skills, whose scholarship is profound; a teacher who could convey the meaning of a scripture passage in a way that ordinary people could understand."

"We found that the 'don't ask' atmosphere we grew up with was replaced with open discussion and dialogue. We found that it was more important to form our consciences than to define doctrine, rituals, rules and regulations. These classes were not only life-changing, but life-giving."



Marabeth Petermeyer

"Scripture is the heartbeat of Roger's life", added Marg. "It's the application of Scripture that drives everyday of his life. As one listens to Roger read a passage in the Bible, you can hear the passion he has for the Scriptures; you can feel the rhythm and the cadence of excitement in his voice as he gently taps the page in the Bible as he reads. And then we recall the words of Jeremiah, ...it becomes like fire burning in my heart."

In conclusion, both speakers expressed gratitude to Roger for opening the windows of Southern Illinois and generously criss-crossing the Diocese of Belleville, sharing his knowledge with anyone who wants to hear. They thanked Roger for his many acts of kindness and for challenging each of us to see with new eyes; to see how God is working in our lives.



Barbara Fiand

SNDen, Ph.D

presents a

Day of Spiritual Enrichment

Sat., April 11, 2015

9:00 - 2:30 pm

Fischer's Restaurant, 2100 West Main Street, Belleville, Illinois

For more information call: 618-277-7594 or 618-526-7063



FR. BILL ROWE PRESENTED WITH FOSIL'S KATARIA AWARD

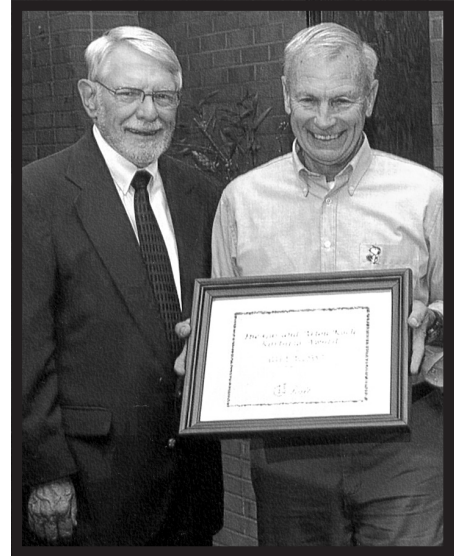
In the afternoon, Fr. Bill Rowe led the people in joyous song and praise at Roger Karban's 50th anniversary Eucharistic celebration. In the evening he was presented with FOSIL's annual Kataria Award. It was fitting for FOSIL to honor this humble and gracious man, a classmate of Roger's at the Gregorian University in Rome and ordained with Roger at the Vatican in 1964. Fr. Bill embodies the spirit and values of deceased FOSIL members, Arlou and Gus Koch, for whom the award was initiated.

Before FOSIL member, Les Himstedt, presented Fr. Bill with the award, he stated, "I recently found a quotation applicable to Fr. Bill. It's from John Newton, the author of that well-known hymn, *Amazing Grace*. He said: 'I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I hope to be. But by the grace of God, I am certainly not what I was.'

Les continued, "Fr. Bill could have made that statement his own. Why? Because the world's bishops were also in Rome for the Second Vatican Council. Besides formal theology coursework, you witnessed the momentous changes that would alter Catholic ministry - your ministry, Bill, from theological to pastoral. You are certainly not what you were when you first traveled to Rome. We are grateful for that change.

Fr. Bill, your dismissal by Bishop Braxton from sacramental ministry and pastoral parish service in Mt. Carmel is well known throughout the Belleville Diocese. Many also know that you continue to minister in a quiet, unofficial way. FOSIL takes this opportunity to publicly thank you for your ministry over the past 50 years - as military chaplain, pastor, and as a special presence within the oftentimes unjust organization we call 'church'. Despite being driven from parish and sacramental ministry, you continue to make known the good news by song, service and teaching, even without the formality of an official pulpit.

Fr. Bill, you have suffered an unjust punishment, but, following the example of the Koch's, your quiet persistence and dedication to a renewed Church is a blessing to all who know you. The Faithful of Southern Illinois proudly presents to you the Gus and Arlou Koch Katarina Award."



A NEW LIFE TO LOVE

Working through Children's Hope International, it took two years and two harrowing trips to Africa for Matt and Robyn Guempel to realize their goal of adopting a child. "It was the scariest and most amazing experience," stated Robyn.

When little Tai was 15 days old, he was abandoned and left at St. Michael's Church in Asseia, Ethiopia. A note on the baby thanked who ever would raise the child in the name of God. Robyn and Matt had found a new life to love! After eleven months of fulfilling adoption procedures, Tai finally arrived at his new home in Renault, Illinois, in the loving care of his new parents.



Three days after his arrival, Tai was baptized, Tai Michael Guempel, by Fr. Roger Karban, and into the faith family that meets at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Each week, Mom and Dad proudly take Tai to participate in the weekend liturgy and, undoubtedly, Tai is being nourished by the kind and generous spirit of the parish members. Little Tai not only gives the sign of peace to everyone at church, but to everyone he meets, including his doctor and teachers. Tai is now an official usher at the parish liturgies as he helps his dad take up the collection each week.

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Thank You ...from Fr. Bill

Dear Members of FOSIL:

"...As Roger mentioned at his celebration, a prophet is often a reflection of what the people around are proclaiming, so if I'm deserving of any type of award, it certainly would be because I have been blessed with the voices of Roger, of SIAP, and all of you in FOSIL. Each time I see that award on my wall, I will remember to thank the Spirit all of you have shared, so that, as Les said, 'I am not what I was'.

"For me, the greater 'Amazing Grace' that Les alluded to has been the way the Spirit touched me through so many 'ordinary people' - even when the church leaders seem to mess things up...it is your support and inspiration that will keep me being a presence of service to all the Spirit puts in my life. Thanks, again, for the award and for being a 'conscience of the Church' so all may grow."

...from Roger

Dear FOSIL:

I'd like to thank all who spent so much time and effort to make my 50th anniversary celebration such a memorable and moving event. You integrated things and people perfectly. There was no way I could have anticipated everything that took place. Individuals are still commenting, months later, on how much they enjoyed themselves...even the clergy. I was certainly humbled by all that happened that day. My life, and the people in it, passed before my eyes. Can't imagine what you've got planned for twenty-five years from now.