

# NOTES

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## ARATA

- ~ "...The Wirtz's had land ..." — refers to Bill Wirtz and his family, owners of the Chicago Blackhawks when the parish sought land for expansion in 1997.
- ~ "...Moms and Tots' and sister Gael ..." — Sr. Gael Gensler was Pastoral Associate during the expansion. Growing the ministries was one of her responsibilities, which she did with great success.

## BAILEY

- ~ "...he had been leading RCIA..." — Lewinski was one of the "Fathers" of The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), having begun a lifelong relationship with it when it was in its infancy, even before he was ordained.
- ~ "... Renew My Church ..." — A process in the Chicago Archdiocese that seeks to make disciples, build community, and inspire witness—in light of people's Baptism and Confirmation—working with the Holy Spirit. An earlier process, "Parish Transformation," engaged parishes in a facilitated self-examination of their community.

## BARRETT

- ~ "...the right side looks and seems wider than the left side..." — The reason for this appearance is because the sanctuary space, a large square, is bisected by a nave that is on a slightly diagonal axis instead of running parallel to the side walls in the middle of the space. This is an intentional design feature and causes the exterior roof to appear "crooked" when in fact it is not.
- ~ "...it's all Fremont Center..." — Technically this is the township where the parish, previously called St. Mary at Fremont Center, is located although its mailing address (and commonly referenced location) is Mundelein, IL.

## BEHM

- ~ "...doughnut-shaped base for the steeple..." — The church steeple was designed to be placed directly over the altar in the sanctuary, thus Lewinski's insistence on the correct location of the doughnut-hole. The steeple was originally intended to funnel light from the exterior down upon the altar; but architectural requirements thwarted the effect.
- ~ "...a church with all that glass..." — The 40-foot walls of the narthex, situated between the sanctuary and the pastoral center, are entirely glass. This was an initial concern until parishioners understood that the architect had done other major projects using glass including the Shedd Oceanarium and the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

## FR. GERARD BROCCOLO

- ~ "...the CCD office..." — Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Related to Christian education, commonly using the Catechism. It is often used to refer to religious education in parochial schools and is also known as REP (Religious Education Program). The usage here refers to a precursor of what has become known as the Liturgy Office which exists to support the Bishop of the diocese (in this case, the Archbishop of Chicago) and his parishes.
- ~ "...Mundelein Seminary..." — The seminary Fr. Lewinski attended and later taught at, in Mundelein IL. The town's population grew from 21,000 in 1990 to 31,000 in 2000 and remains there in 2020. Also known as the University of St. Mary of the Lake (USML), the seminary is named after George Cardinal Mundelein. In 1926, it hosted the XXVIII International Eucharistic Congress which was attended by 800,000 people.

## MSGR. JOHN CANARY

- ~ "...the architect and the historical connections with Mies van der Rohe..." — The architect of the new church at St. Mary's is Dirk Lohan, grandson of German-American architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969) who is often associated with the phrases

“less is more” and “God is in the details.”

~ “...Frassati school...” — An elementary and middle school, Frassati Catholic Academy was founded to serve multiple parishes during Lewinski’s third term at St. Mary’s parish. Lewinski was a key leader in establishing the school. He became its first President

**SR. AGNES CUNNINGHAM**

~ “...he came to appreciate his own baptism...” — Lewinski regularly celebrated both his birthday (February 15) and his date of Baptism (March 3). One of his nicknames was “Ron the Baptist.”

**CARDINAL BLASE JOSEPH CUPICH**

~ “...Department of Parish Life and Formation...” — This department initiated the Archdiocesan-wide process “Renew My Church” (RMC) that succeeded “Parish Transformation” which had impacted over 200 parishes in the Archdiocese. Lewinski’s work with the RCIA substantially contributed to both programs.

**BISHOP FRANZ-PETER TEBARTZ-VAN ELST**

~ “...saw the church illuminated...” — From the beginning, Lewinski’s design for the church included an illuminated steeple representing a beacon “in an oasis.” With the inclusion of the glass narthex, the building’s illumination at night is even more striking.

~ “...so many people at his funeral...” — Fr. Lewinski’s funeral on July 26, 2017 was presided over by Cardinal Cupich, several bishops, and over 120 ordained clergy (some from outside the Archdiocese and even outside the United States). The standing-room-only congregation overflowed from the sanctuary into the narthex.

**FAHEY**

~ “...he would have missed Merton...” — “Merton” refers to the monk Thomas Merton, an influential writer best known for his autobiographical account of conversion in 1948’s “The Seven Storey Mountain.” Merton resided at the Abbey of Gethsemani where Lewinski took annual retreats during his priesthood. Merton died in Bangkok in 1968, four years before Lewinski was ordained.

~ “...they could turn part of it into a golf course...” — A bit of irony in this story is that Mundelein Seminary, where Lewinski was ordained, boasts a golf course adjacent to the campus. The course occupies land that belonged to the Seminary. It was expanded to 18 holes in 1929 because Cardinal Mundelein’s doctor told him he needed to walk more. Known as the Pine Meadow Golf Club, in 1986 it was named the Best New Public Course by Golf Magazine and has received numerous awards since, including one of America’s top 25 Public Courses.

~ “...resided in the parish where he worked...” — Lewinski resided at different parishes over time, but sometimes worked elsewhere, such as the ODW in Chicago.

**SR. GAEL GENSLER**

~ “...after Mass at Diantha Hall ...” — Diantha Hall, named after a parishioner, is an expansion to the school—including a gym—that St. Mary’s completed long before Lewinski’s arrival. Soon after, he selected the gym for weekend services because it could hold twice as many people as the old church. This required parishioners to set up and tear down the folding chairs and wooden platforms each weekend, which they did for five years until the new church was dedicated in 2002.

**HERTEL**

~ “...in 2017 at St Theresa in Palatine...” — Lewinski resided at St. Theresa in a Chicago suburb while working at the Archdiocese in Chicago. He passed in the rectory at St. Theresa on July 19, 2017.

~ “...a box of gold tiles he wanted inlaid...” — “The Pivotal Pastor” shows Lewinski arranging these tiles. A photo of the cross appears on the cover of this book.

**BISHOP GERALD KICANAS**

~ “...something that could be valuable to other parishes...” — This theme can actually be traced back to Lewinski’s childhood as an altar server (See Zygmunt’s

remembrances.) It manifests at the seminary, during his sabbatical in 1994-1995, his application of his learnings to the St. Mary's expansion, and later Archdiocesan programs. In short, a vibrant liturgy was Ron's life-long pursuit.

#### **SR. ELAINE MARIE KLUGIEWICZ**

- ~ "...one class for each grade at Pullman..." — Though born in Hammond, IN, Lewinski's family moved and he attended Assumption B.V.M. Elementary School in Chicago's South Side community known as Pullman.
- ~ "...you could see the reaction in him..." — Sr. Klugiewicz was probably the first to observe this lifelong trait of Lewinski's. Though humble and vocally self-critical, recognition by others provided Lewinski an inner satisfaction and motivation to achieve more.

#### **LOHAN**

- ~ "...I first visited the Farnsworth House..." — The Farnsworth House was designed and constructed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Dirk Lohan's grandfather, after World War II. It is a 1,500 square-foot one-room weekend retreat in rural Plano, Illinois. The steel and glass house was commissioned by Edith Farnsworth, and is one of AIA Illinois' "25 must see" buildings in Illinois.
- ~ "...I went up to St. Mary parish and looked around..." — While it doesn't seem unusual for an architect to explore, the belief by the project team is that Dirk Lohan was the only architectural candidate to "walk the site" and show a special interest in the potential of the project.
- ~ "...the character of a big barn in terms of shape..." — Some parishioner's comments about an artist's rendering of the design was that it reminded them of a corn crib between two pig pens. The critics apparently didn't recognize the irony in their comment. The parish had asked the architect to retain the rural nature of the farming community.
- ~ "...hide it but make it audible..." — The 2,800+ pipes of the organ at St. Mary's are installed in a room-sized alcove above and behind the altar. A wall of vertical wooden slats hides the pipes, except for a cutout on the right side which exposes some of the largest ones. Thus the visual appearance is ornamental without being distracting. Furthermore, fabric installed behind the wood slats visually hides the pipes but allows the sound to penetrate into the sanctuary. Thus, it is hidden, but quite audible.

#### **DEACON JOHN LUCAS**

- ~ "...It is truly a reflection of who he was..." — This statement echoes one by Cardinal Cupich when, while presiding at Fr. Lewinski's Funeral Mass, he stated "to worship in this church is to be in the presence of Ron Lewinski."

#### **LYMAN**

- ~ "...The ceremonial doors..." — The story of these doors, which had been discarded from the plans until an act of Providence, is related in "The Pivotal Pastor."

#### **MARKIEWICZ**

- ~ "...that is what happened..." — The "Pastoral Statement of US Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities" (rev. 1989) states: "Accessibility involves far more than physical alterations to parish buildings. Realistic provision must be made for Catholics with disabilities to participate fully in the Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations."

#### **STOWE**

- ~ "...program for people with special needs called SPRED..." — The Special Religious Development (SPRED) Program serves children and young adults with developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism, and learning disabilities.

#### **THOMPSON**

- ~ "...Another book [by Merton] was about contemplation..." — Likely "The Springs of Contemplation" or perhaps "New Seeds of Contemplation."

#### **FR. BOB TONELLI**

- ~ "...not music that the older people adapted to..." — As an example, a 1993 survey at St. Mary's showed that nearly 80% of parishioners over the age of 65 preferred only

organ music, compared to 50% of those between 55 and 65, and less than 25% of those under 25. During Lewinski's pastorship, instruments were expanded from organ and piano to include french horn, harp, violin, trombone, trumpet, tuba, guitar, flute, hand bells, and tambourine.

- ~ "...people don't understand: this is an American thing..." — in "The Pivotal Pastor," the chapter "A Campus Walk-through" describes Lewinski confronting this mis-perception.
- ~ "...Ron had asked if I had ever seen the Basilica of St. Clement..." — "Clement" also happens to be the name of Lewinski's father.
- ~ "...We needed an idea about how we could say farewell to the old church..." — St. John's parish was fortunate to convert their old church into a Parish Center. Soon after arriving at St. Mary's parish, Lewinski promised that the old church would not be grazed. He made this promise without knowing how the parish would be able to grow within the limited confines of the existing campus. He had faith they would find a way. The old church continues to be a house of worship on the parish campus.

#### **SR. CORINE WALSH**

- ~ "...Liturgy of the Hours..." — Another of the contributors mentioned that Fr. Ron would be the first to recommend that everyone pray the Liturgy of the Hours. It is available in book form as well as the app "iBreviary" for tablets and phones.
- ~ "...what he was doing and how he did it..." — This is a reference to the \$11 million expansion project that Lewinski led during his first term at St. Mary parish. Over the course of six years, the number of households doubled, ministries quadrupled, and a new church was built that holds four times more than the old one.

#### **WASHBURN**

- ~ "...an abbey that really had an effect on the committee..." — This is St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, IL. Early in the project, a team of parishioners accompanied Lewinski during visits to locations that could provide ideas and inspiration about what a future St. Mary's parish might look like.
- ~ "...the altar and an adjoining backdrop..." — see LOHAN, "hide it but make it audible."

#### **JIM WOJCIK**

- ~ "...the entire parish should go through the RCIA process..." — Although there is a "process," Lewinski's approach to RCIA was to enable someone to pursue it as inspired by the Holy Spirit rather than as a rigid curriculum with pre-defined beginning and ending points.

#### **FR. PETER WOJCIK**

- ~ "...somebody interrupting a wedding..." — See also Howard Fischer's "Vigil" comments.

#### **ZAGULA**

- ~ "...the "why" behind everything..." — These questions are addressed in "The Pivotal Pastor," as well as in a document at St. Mary's parish office which is used by docents for guided tours of the facility.