

Anne Osdieck

Living Our Faith

Meet Anne

I've been a parishioner since: 2006. Bob and I moved from Kansas City to St. Louis to be close to our three sons who all stayed or moved here after college. Finding the right parish was as important as finding the right house. SFX was the second church we visited, and right after the homily we both knew we found the spiritual home we were looking for.

Living my faith: After retiring from teaching art at St. Alban Roe, I wanted to work with the poor. I became a volunteer in College Church's Outreach program that helps people receive their birth certificates and state I.D.s. There I met Vicki Simon, who needed a partner to start an overflow shelter, which we called Winter Inn. I continue to be active in both programs, and I also sing in the Choir and serve on the Faith Enrichment Committee. In addition, I write for a Sunday liturgy prep site, liturgy.slu.edu.

Why I'm involved: I stay involved for two reasons. The first is the College Church community that is constantly reaching out. If there's a need for anything -- volunteering, discussion groups, organizing or teaching -- people in our parish always come forward. Groups evolve into communities. We're one large community made up of smaller ones that, together, reach out to everyone. Todos, todos, todos, as Pope Francis says.

The second reason is that I learn from the poor. Jesus was poor. He had "no place to lay his head." Also, St. Vincent de Paul said, "We are all poor." We're poor and rich in different ways. Let me tell you about M.J. He came to Outreach to get a birth certificate and I.D. He wants to give back, so he returns to the College Church Ballroom every Tuesday to help folks connect and to find employment, shelters, phones and sober living. He inspires me to reach out. And then there was a year when the Winter Inn shelter was open constantly and we couldn't find enough innkeepers. One time a guest stepped up to be the innkeeper. All the other guests loved being there that night.

Three words that describe SFX: Welcoming, Engaging, Transforming.

My neighborhood: We live in Eureka. It's a long way, but on the bright side, it's fun to watch deer in our yard.

Fun Fact: Remember: We are all poor, so God takes care of the guests at Winter Inn. One time I came to the shelter and remembered that I had forgotten to bring breakfast. Carl Thenhaus arrived at 9 p.m. to be the innkeeper and said, "Oh, I brought some breakfast rolls." Another time someone discovered that an older man was not going to be able to get down to sleep on a low cot. A first-time, student volunteer went and found a higher cot...from who knows where. I never saw it before or after. The hand of God and the power of community are constantly at work.