

Getting To Know....

Peg & Ray Daull

Written by Vic Gideon

Sunday is not a day of rest for Peg and Ray Daull. There's an eight-thirty Mass for Peg, singing in the choir at St. Ann, a once-a-month Healing Mass at St. Martin de Porres for Ray, then either one delivering communion to people who attend Mass, and, on this particular Sunday, for Ray, a funeral service at 3:00.

"This is what I've been called to do," said Ray, a church deacon.

The couple became parishioners of Communion of Saints through Christ the King, members at the former Catholic church on Noble Road where they got married in 1970, a church that merged with St. Ann, St. Philomena, and St. Louis to form Communion of Saints in 2010.

"The Eucharist," Peg said about the most important part of COS for her.

And the last year has been particularly fulfilling for the Daulls.

"The way Father Marshall is directing us, there's a much greater awareness of the Eucharist," Ray added, who became a deacon at Christ the King in 1993. Later, the pastor, Father Michael Wittman, made a request before he died in 2006 to Peg and Ray for them to make sure the work continued at the Ozanam Center, a food pantry and clothing bank in East Cleveland.

Faith has been with Peg and Ray from the beginning. The couple met in Put-In-Bay at the Catholic Alumni Club on a weekend neither wanted to be there, the weekend after the Robert Kennedy assassination.

"I'm Irish," Ray said. "I wanted to go to the funeral."

"Please God, send me a man who can help me get to heaven," Peg remembered praying before they met. "I don't care what he looks like."

Then, looking at Ray, she smiled and joked, "Obviously!"

Ray – a St. Ignatius graduate who went to St. Jerome – worked at The Plain Dealer for 35 years, mostly in management, leaving in 1992, immediately taking a job at Rose-Mary, a non-profit organization that serves children and adults with developmental disabilities, where he worked until 2017. He's also been with the Knights of Columbus since 1958, joining the Windemere Council in 2010.

"God has been in our lives for so many important things," Ray says about the move from the Plain Dealer to dedicating his career to helping those in need.

Formerly Peg Prendergast, Peg grew up on Caledonia Avenue in Cleveland Heights and went to Christ the King, graduating from Ursuline Sacred Heart High School on Euclid Avenue by the former Huron Hospital. She started her career working at what's now the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities before having children.

Maura, born in January 1972, lives downstairs in their duplex off East 185th Street in the North Collinwood neighborhood of Cleveland and Brigid ("My family says that's the real Irish spelling," according to Peg), born in December 1978, lives in Canton with her husband. Peg then taught kindergarten and reading for more than 30 years, first at Christ the King and then at St. Francis School in Cleveland near Superior and East 71st.

The couple celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on November 14th and, at the beginning of their marriage, chose to live in East Cleveland, their commitment to East Cleveland even extending to Ray serving as a councilman in the city in the late 70s.

"We wanted to be in an integrated neighborhood," said Peg. "That's the way heaven's going to be."

Despite moving to North Collinwood in 1979 to take better care of Peg's mother, they never left Christ the King and then Communion of Saints Parish.

"The outreach in the community," Ray said of the most rewarding part of being a parishioner. "That's something that just really, really inspires me and keeps me wanting to continue to be a part of the parish."

"We are involved in Communion of Saints because we love doing the outreach for the poor at Ozanam Center and Ray's very involved in St. Vincent De Paul, making home visits," Peg echoed about the couple's long-time association with the parish.

"It's a unique parish in that we serve some of the most affluent areas of the city as well as probably ground zero when it comes to poverty down in the East Cleveland area but we come together and we do it," Ray said. "People willing to give of themselves and their time to make things happen."

