



Christ the King

COURIER

Volume 1, Issue 4

Christ the King Catholic Church

February, 1999

LENT... A Time of...

Decisions, Decisions

by Father Brian Carey

Jericho, one of the most ancient cities of the world, is a good day's hike from Jerusalem. Close to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, in the great Valley that runs from Syria in the north, through the Red Sea, and south through most of the African Continent.

West of the city rises a high mountain which is now known as the Mount of Temptation because tradition tells us this is where Jesus experienced His temptations in the Judean wilderness. We read of these in Matthew 4; 1-11, Mark 1; 12-13, and Luke 4; 1-13.

In our Liturgy we relive, in a symbolic way, the Life of Christ. As one of our songs says, "We remember, we celebrate, we believe." It is in the season of Lent we recall these temptations of Jesus and His fast in the Judean wilderness. It was in the face of these temptations that Jesus made specific decisions to be faithful to God, His Father.

The wilderness, the desert, in Hebrew tradition, is part of the real memory of deliverance from slavery, the forty year trek through the desert to the Promised Land. It was a time of struggle and desperation and difficulty, but also a time of awareness of God's active presence in their life and history. In their later history the Lord often reminds them of this and invites them to return to this closeness to Him, like in Hosea 2; 16 & 17 "so I will allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart... She shall respond there as in the days of her youth, when she came up from the land of Egypt." In the desert wilderness there is a sense that there is nothing there but God and yourself.

It is like God is saying He wants us to Himself, alone, without other concerns or distractions, so we can give Him all our attention, and He gives us His.

We do not physically go to the desert, but in Lent we do try to create an atmosphere, a sense of that awareness of being somewhat alone with God by depriving ourselves through fasting or by foregoing some of those things we like, by more committed prayer time, by almsgiving and by caring for others.

All of this is an effort on our part to repent or turn away from sin, and to convert or turn to God.

In our repentance we seek to discover what it is in our life that comes between us and God. Remembering the temptations of Jesus, we reflect on what temptations we face: self satisfaction, wealth, materialism? We try to discover where and how and when we need the grace to take steps to develop a closer relationship with the Lord. This grace comes to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation which the Church invites us to celebrate especially in this season.



All of this we do in preparation for celebrating and expressing our belief in the great act of salvation and redemption, which God did for us in and through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. This we recall on the three sacred days or the Sacred Tridrum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. These events are the culmination of our Lenten observance and practice, indeed of our whole Liturgical Calendar. Even Christmas, celebrating the Lord's birth, leads us on toward the Christian Passover. Easter is a time of renewal for us. We renew our Baptismal commitment to live in and by the Spirit we received at Confirmation, in constant communion with the Lord in the Eucharist.

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are called the Sacraments of Initiation because it is through them we begin to live in union with Jesus Christ, and by His grace and power to become more like God's children in the ways in which we think, speak and behave.

Editor's Note

Dear Parishioners,

This issue marks the end of the first year for *Christ the King Courier*. It hardly seems possible that a year ago I sat in a Parish Council meeting and was given the opportunity to be the editor of a *newsletter*, which turned out to be a thirty-two page *NEWSPAPER!* Our publisher, Father Bob Baker had a vision. . . I hope we have met and gone beyond his expectations.

Our staff is magnificent. I can't begin to describe what a great team we have become. During this quarter we've faced quite a few obstacles, some of which could have put the paper way behind schedule, **BUT** didn't. We've had the flu. . . a strain that left some of our team homebound for days...even weeks. News of sickness in the family took one of our staff out of town, and we weren't sure when she would return.

One obstacle was having to deal with disappointment. A training class was canceled because the college didn't have substitute teachers available to teach the class.

However, there was also good news. One of the staff, Gary Pristupa has a new job but unfortunately it necessitated his leaving the paper. We've also had to say "goodbye" to Jacki Davis. She is devoting herself more fully to heading the "Landings" ministry. Good luck to both of you.

On the positive side, James Claxton joined our staff at the beginning of this quarter. Although we tease him unmercifully about being too quiet, he is a wonderful proofreader and an asset to the paper.

Our team is made up of dedicated and loyal individuals who go that extra mile. They are spontaneous and fun loving. Those of you who volunteered for the newspaper during our *Time and Talent Fair* will be contacted soon. If you want to be a part of it...the excitement of deadline dates, last minute changes and corrections, going to events, writing/rewriting. . . please feel free to come to our newcomers meeting. The date and time will be publicized in the church bulletin.

Get ready...get set...we need YOU!

Christ the King Courier

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Newspaper Staff:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Donna Baker</td> <td>Kathy Nichols</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James Claxton</td> <td>Eileen Porter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill Dougherty</td> <td>Kathy Purtle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leroy Garvin</td> <td>Meredith Reno</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blanche Inglesias</td> <td>Mary Ann Sullivan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wanda Klima</td> <td>Jo Thomas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linda McCreary</td> <td>Joanne Wnuk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dottie McMillan</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jane Middleton</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Donna Baker	Kathy Nichols	James Claxton	Eileen Porter	Bill Dougherty	Kathy Purtle	Leroy Garvin	Meredith Reno	Blanche Inglesias	Mary Ann Sullivan	Wanda Klima	Jo Thomas	Linda McCreary	Joanne Wnuk	Dottie McMillan		Jane Middleton	
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The mission of *CHRIST THE KING COURIER* is to provide our Christ The King Family with information and news regarding our faith and parish ministries. The goal is to share information, happenings, and stories that abound within the ministries of our parish in the hope that people can use this information to bring you closer to God and our parish church family. Wisdom and enlightenment are two of many of God's gifts, and through *CHRIST THE KING COURIER*, parishioners can share in the joy, love, and fellowship of Christ the King Parish. Our desire is to serve our God, share his message of love and hope with all, and to encourage others to spread the message of the Gospel of Christ the King.

As the official publication of our parish family, *Christ the King Courier* sees the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians as exemplifying the content and character of this publication.

"As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom He loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body." Colossians 3:12-15.

The *Christ the King Courier* is a quarterly newspaper published by Christ the King Catholic Church. Publisher reserves the right to refuse articles, poetry, advertisements, etc. contrary to paper's policy and standards. The appearance of advertising in these pages does not imply endorsement of businesses, services and products. Readers must exercise prudence in responding to advertising in all media. Political advertising not accepted. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

From our Pastor

Father Robert J. Baker

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Christ The King Parish,

Progress continues on our efforts for the Sister Therese Horan Library and Media Center Project at Christ the King School.

The contract for Phase I of this undertaking has been negotiated with the low bidder, the Fannin Company.

Phase I involves placing a second story addition on the one-story classroom building adjoining the parking area. This will enable us to construct classrooms whose space will be displaced when existing classrooms are eliminated in the building where the present library exists. We will then be able to expand the library facility in Phase II of this project.

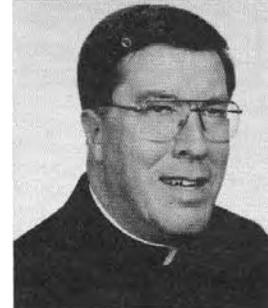
We thank our parishioners who have increased their Sacrificial Giving or given memorials to help this effort. The generous concerted cooperation of everyone will help see this worthwhile endeavor to completion, and our children will be the beneficiaries now and in the future.

A properly equipped library, computer lab, and science lab facility is a must for a school to meet the educational demands of the modern world.

Thanks to all who are helping us meet the educational needs of our school children!

Our Baptismal Font construction efforts are also underway in the Gathering Area, thanks to the generosity of the Fritch and Ponder families, and other generous donors.

We plan to have this effort completed in time for the



celebration of Baptism for our adult Catechumens at the Easter Vigil ceremony. The preferred method of Baptism for adults in the Catholic Church is by immersion, and such Baptistries are being placed in the new churches under construction in our diocese.

Our prayers are with our Catechumens and Candidates for entrance into our Church as they prepare with the help of our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program for becoming one with us in our wonderful Catholic faith.

May the holy season of Lent be a time of grace and blessing for all of us as we enter more fully into the mysteries of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord this Lent, Holy Week, and Easter!

God bless you always!

Sincerely Yours in Christ The King

Father Bob Baker

Memorials

Media Center	\$600,000
Media Offices	50,000
Theological Library	50,000
Computer Lab	100,000
Science Lab	30,000
Counselors Office	30,000
Teachers' Offices	30,000
Fifteen Classrooms (Each)	50,000
Art Room	60,000
Spanish Teachers' Office	30,000
Elevator	50,000
Life Teen Office	60,000
Saints' Francis & Clare Shrine	40,000

Sister Therese Horan Library & Media Center Memorial Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

In Memory of: _____
Name

In Honor of: _____
Name

Baptisms: We would like to announce the following people who were recently baptized into the Catholic Church

Tristan James Thompson	Oct. 11	Maurina Lynn Elizabeth	Downer
David Chance Thompson	Oct. 11		Nov. 22
Lee Sandra M. Arocho	Oct. 11	Andrew Doyle Galant	Nov. 24
Bichat Charleus	Oct. 17	Ryan Fredrick Ayrey	Nov. 29
Judith Charleus	Oct. 17	Xavier Gargantiel Parco	Nov. 29
Carly Grace Rogers	Oct. 18	Justin N. Green	Dec. 6
Justin Lee Lumbag	Oct. 24	Robert Cole English	Dec. 6
Celine Princess C. Punzalan	Oct. 24	DeAundre John Roberts	Dec. 6
Tiffany Michelle Ricker	Oct. 25	Dylan Thomas Jones	Dec. 13
Kaylee Rae Pepper	Oct. 25	Dylan Christian LaFrence	Dec. 13
Brittany Judith Ricker	Oct. 25	Rachel Holly Motel	Dec. 17
Kimberly Nicole Ricker	Oct. 25	Thomas Hoa Tran	Dec. 20
Chandler Dawn Dubberly	Oct. 25	Luna Teresa Huynh	Dec. 20
Marissa Leeanne Hamilton	Nov. 1	Emily Veronica Mauch	Dec. 27
Joshua Ray Rivera	Nov. 1	Julie Ann Grace Tiamzon	Toledo
Jessica Nguyen	Nov. 8		Dec. 27
Gydeon Dennis Fernandez	Nov. 14	Robert C. Getzan, II	Dec. 27
Makayla Elaine Martin	Nov. 15	Hanna Rae Wrublusk	Dec. 27
Lay Van Le	Nov. 15	Darren Roger Bello	Jan. 10
Linda Le	Nov. 15	Tommy Pham	Jan. 17
Len Thi Le	Nov. 15	Veronica Tran	Jan. 17
Tyler Makenly Boudreaux	Nov. 22	Sydney Elise Driscoll	Jan. 18

Received into full communion of the Catholic Church:

Lynda Clifton Heying	Nov. 7
Ray John Oxenreider	Jan. 3

Welcome: We would like to welcome the following individuals and families to Christ the King Community.

The Tracy Ard Family	The Douglas Johnson Family
The Blane Bennett Family	Mr. Stephen Johnson
The Brady Bennett Family	Ms. Barbara Kychun
Mrs. Edith Bennett	Mr. Jay Lamusga
Mr. Kelly J. Bennett	The Frantz Loiseau Family
The Edward F. Bischof Family	The Joseph Lourcey Family
Ms. Stella Meza Bonham	Mrs. Margo Meadows & Family
Ms. Cherrie M. Burden	Mrs. Janice Merriman & Family
The Steve Callegari Family	Ms. Laura R. Moore
Mr. Paul C. Case	The Raphael Parco Family
The Libertad Cruz Family	The Ted Petit Family
Mr. & Mrs. Moises Davis	Mr. & Mrs. Rodolfo Pineda
Mr. Dean Delgado	The John Ricker Family
The Dan Driscoll Family	The William Rogers Family
The Erwin Eckstein Family	The Matthew Smith Family
The Damon Fernandez Family	Ms. Sandra S. Spurney
Mr. Ben Guzzone, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Pat Sturney
The Donavon Hamilton Family	Mr. Jim Thibault
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holmes	The Camilo Tiero Family
The Leslie Howell Family	Johnnie Wadley
Ms. Jennifer Janik	The Errington Watkins Family
Mr. & Mrs Brent A. Johnson	

Deaths: The following people are recently deceased members of our parish for whom we offer our special prayers.

Alice I. Villers	Sept. 15	Mary E. Elian	Nov. 21
Cecelia Kozicki	Sept. 16	Joseph W. Arnett	Nov. 30
Clifford Scharringousen	Oct. 14	Grady David Callaway	Dec. 7
Mathie J. Griffin	Oct. 14	Theresa M. Ramirez	Dec. 14
Lisa Angela Brannen	Oct. 15	James S. Laughrey	Dec. 17
Alice D. Tucker	Oct. 29	Esperanza Tanalgo Oquindo	Dec. 18
Clara W. Gilstrap	Nov. 6	Florence Denn	Dec. 23
Beatrix C. Allen	Nov. 6	Elmedia M. Bushey	Dec. 29
John B. Lucy	Nov. 10	James Alva Robertson	Jan. 5
Jerome F. Shea	Nov. 14	Myrtice Muscato	Jan. 20
Luke G. Galant	Nov. 20		

Marriages: We would like to acknowledge the following parishioners who were recently united into the Sacrament of Marriage.

Thuhong T. Phan & Quoi Binh Tran on October 17.	Carmen Lillian Bradford & Brent Andrew Johnson on November 14.
Jeannie S. Nicholson & Andrew W. Phillips on October 31.	Deborah Ann Saunders & William Max Glover on November 20.
Debra Kountz & Dennis Scobie on November 7.	Anna Lyn Alberto Tan & Antonio Andrew V. Tan on November 21.
Lynda Clifton Heying & William L. Heying on November 7.	Jennifer Aquino Tanalgo & Soriano Dickson Blancas on November 28.
Irene Remo & Albert Batarion on November 14.	Patricia Lee Japour & Franklin Daniel Japour on December 5.

CHRISTIANS

Caring for each other

Buhangija Parish
Tanzania, East Africa
Sept. 20, 1998

Dear Christ the King Parish,

I want to acknowledge with thanks your recent check #1812 for \$200, and to share with you some of the things we've been able to do with it.

With the heavy rains we had last year, many of the people's mud brick houses were damaged, and need to be repaired before the rain comes again in a month or so. Also with the flooding that took place, many families don't have adequate food supplies, and we're helping to supplement these as the people prepare for another rainy season.

We always pray for rain, but we're asking the Lord this year,

Buhangija Parish
Oct. 27, 1998

Dear Christ the King Parish,

I want to thank you for your gift of \$200 of Oct. 12th, just received.

One of our parishioners is Joseph Mihambo who is legally blind, but he makes a meager living for himself and his wife Elizabeth who is totally blind. Joseph is a water seller. We helped him to buy a small water cart with bicycle wheels in which he can transport 6 gerry cans of water at a time. He carries water each day from shallow wells at some distance to people in his village who don't have water nearby.

Buhangija Parish
December 3, 1998

Dear Christ the King,

I have received, with much appreciation, your gift for the months of September, October and November.

It is almost comical the way the weather plays cat and mouse with the people here. One year we're as dry as an old bone. The next year our roads and bridges are washed

"Remember, Lord, two years ago you withheld the rain, and we had a drought. Last year you opened the flood gates and we had - floods. This year we're asking, please, right down the middle!"

Thanks for your help, and we ask for the backup of your prayers, so that in His mercy the Lord will give us enough, but not too much rain.

Does your school have the 13 tape video series, *The Field Afar* on Maryknoll's work, that was shown on the Odyssey channel? My work here is shown on one of the segments. It's now being offered for sale from Maryknoll, N.Y.

Prayers and blessings from us here in Shinyanga, Tanzania.

Father Brunelle

Because of illness he got behind on his rent where he and his wife were staying, so they were evicted. He asked me to help him build a small house of their own.

So your gift has paid for the 1st stage - getting the mud brick walls up and a simple roof put on. To really make it livable they need an outside door and two or three windows, an outhouse and a small kitchen.

We are very grateful to you for making it possible for Joseph and Elizabeth to have their own home.

God Bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Brunelle

away. This year the weather maps show rain all around Tanzania, but we're only getting dribs and drabs.

So the food situation is again on the agenda, and people are already putting their needs before us. Without your help many would be in real difficulty.

So, again, my thanks and prayers for God's blessings.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Brunelle

Shelley B. Everett
Attorney at Law

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Fr. Carey celebrates 40 years of service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ

How do you measure time and commitment? If you were looking for a yardstick to help you measure, then you need look no further than Father Brian Carey, C.S.SP.

Last November, at a special Mass and luncheon in his honor, the Christ the King family celebrated Fr. Carey's 40 years of service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Adding to the celebration was Fr. Carey's brother, Patrick, a native of Ireland who travels abroad a great deal on business. Patrick was able to set up his schedule to participate in the Mass and lunch celebration honoring his brother.

"We had a celebration in Ireland," Patrick said, "but I was thankful for the opportunity to be here for the American part of the celebration."

There are seven children in the Carey family, five brothers and one sister, and they had gathered in Ireland to recognize their brother's service to the church. Also in Ireland were the Holy Ghost Fathers from Fr. Carey's graduating class. It was a "big" event for the Carey family.

While the event was huge in Ireland, Patrick said the celebration in Jacksonville, Fla. was equally grand.

"After all, this is his flock, all these fine people at Christ the King," he said. "I'm grateful the church was able to adjust the celebration date which allowed me to attend."

But it was more than just 40 years of service that were celebrated. You need only look at the colorful pieces of art created by students of Christ the King school to understand what this gentle man meant to this community. "Happy 40th," "A Harvest of Blessings," "Thank You, Father Carey, Holy Messenger," and "Father Carey, A Sheep for Every Year You've Been A Shepard," were just some of the many messages conveyed.

How do you judge your accomplishments for forty years? You don't, says Fr. Carey.

"I don't count my life in years," he says with a wry smile. "It's just a stage along the journey. It's a wonderful occasion to give thanks to God, celebrate with our Christ the King family, and enjoy the day."

Fr. Carey said his life had high spots and low spots, but, with God's Grace, he has loved the journey.

Part of that journey took him to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. For eight months he lived in Jerusalem on the Via de la Rosa as part of a sabbatical bible study.

"There were 45 students of 16 different nationalities from Yukon to Tasmania," Fr. Carey said. They were all English speaking, but Fr. Carey said he found the experience enriching, and at times, humorous.

"They thought I spoke like an American," he said.

Fr. Carey gave a slide presentation in November on his

trip to the Holy Land, and talked to parishioners who attended for over an hour. There were many fond memories.

"You couldn't pin down any specific day or event and say it stood out, because there were so many wonderful memories," he said.

One of those memories was his weekly traverse to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

"The place grew on me it was special because it was where I loved to go and pray, or just sit outside the Lord's tomb in silent reflection," he said.

During the trip, Fr. Carey said he and his classmates spent an entire week in a silent retreat. Can you imagine not being able to say a word for an entire week?

"That's what we did," Fr. Carey said. "We were on the Mount of Beatitudes on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. We received a brief lecture each day, after which we were on our own."

As Fr. Carey reflected, a bright sparkle illuminated his eyes as he spoke of how he was in walking distance of the commemorations of the "place of bread loaves and fishes" and the "Primacy of Peter."

"The area had a different feel, for me, personally," explained Fr. Carey. "It was a tough place. When you are traveling you can get a real sense of the desert and wilderness. You can envision the people traveling the desert and, if not for the air conditioned bus, a taste for

hot, arid, dry desert that had to have parched many lips and taken many souls."

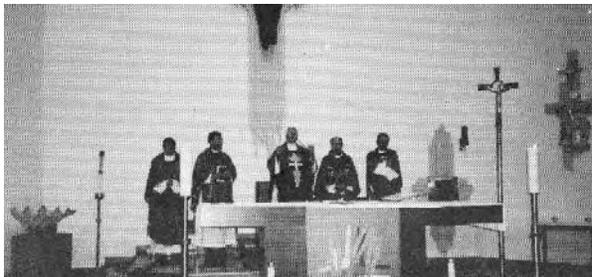
What attracts people to Fr. Carey is his gently nature and unwavering commitment to Our Lord. His soft voice and sweet Irish accent will ease your fear and create an immediate kinship. His twinkling eyes and vibrant smile warms the heart and brings hope. If you had to go into battle against sin, against the evils of the world, you would want him by our side, confident of his commitment to God, his love for his fellow man, and his service to all.

You can't measure success in years, but rather in the way you touch other peoples' lives and how they touch your life. At a time when Christ the King honored Fr. Carey, he honored our parish with his own gift - the *Our Lady of Tenderness* icon. It's golden glow is much like the brightness of this charitable man's heart.

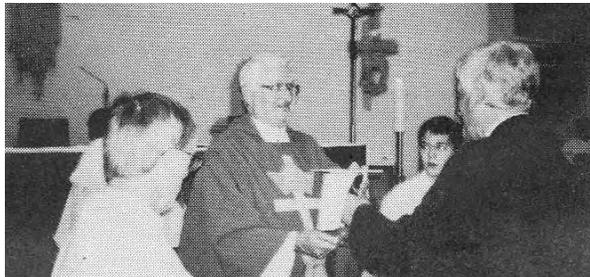
As we go through our lives, through the love of Christ, we are fortunate to be touched by others. How lucky are we to be touched by this wonderful man, so quick to give, so quick to love? Very lucky, don't you think? Thank you is not enough so...

God Bless You and Keep You Always, Fr. Carey.

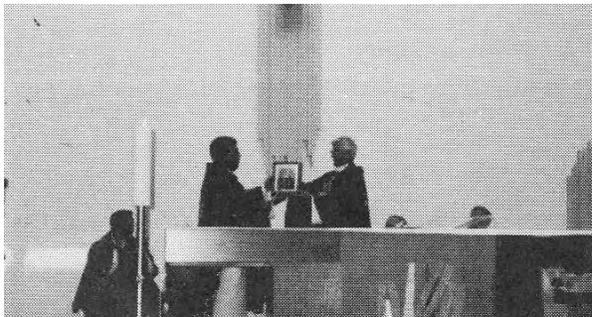
The Mass



Fr. Carey celebrates Mass and also marks his 40th anniversary of service to the Lord and the thousands he has touched.



Fr. Carey accepts his holy chalice from his brother, Patrick, during the presentation of gifts at the mass that marked his 40 years of service to the Church.



Fr. Carey presents a beautiful *Our Lady of Tenderness* icon to Fr. Baker as a gift to Christ the King to thank the entire parish for their love and support.



Fr. Carey shows the *Our Lady of Tenderness* icon to his brother, Patrick, and Sister Teresa. The icon was a gift from Fr. Carey to Christ the King.

The People

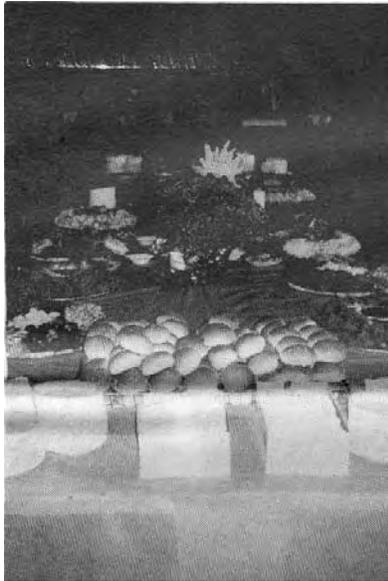


(left) Fr. Baker congratulates Fr. Carey on 40 years of service to the Church.



(right) Friends and family gathered during a special luncheon to commemorate Fr. Carey's many years of love and service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Food



(left) A tremendous feast adorned tables in the Parish Hall.



(right) A cake's message thanked Fr. Carey for his years of service.



(right) The hundreds of parishioners who gathered to wish Fr. Carey many more years of service enjoyed the scrumptious food.

The Entertainment



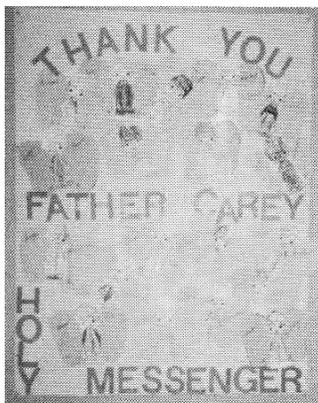
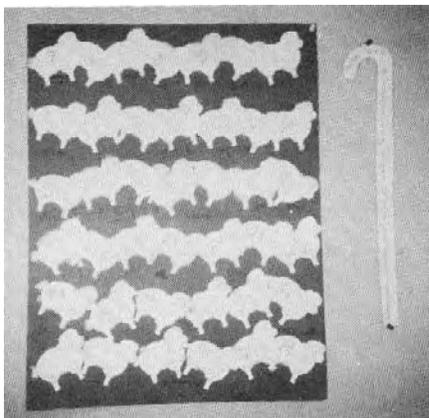
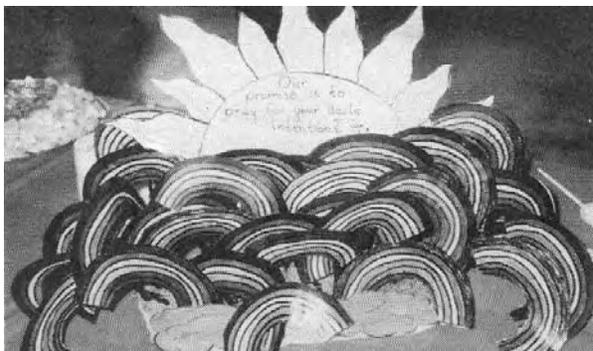
Tim Dougherty, Fr. Baker, and Bernie Sans tickle the ivories during Fr. Carey's anniversary luncheon.

The Entertainment Continues



Violinists David Wallace (left), 5, and Noelle Solis (far right), 3, as well as the other members of the Suzuki Violin Group, perform at Fr. Carey's luncheon to honor his service to God.

Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign



Photos and Story by Bill Dougherty & Christ the King Courier Staff



In the Beginning... Gems of His Crown

by Eileen Porter

The Lord smiled on Christ the King Parish when Cy (Cyril) Kothman moved to Jacksonville in December 1956 and joined our fledgling parish.

Cy was born in the German speaking town of Burketsville, Ohio, a small town of about 20 families, most of whom worked for either the railroad or the grain elevator. Cy's father was the town butcher.

Cy did not begin to speak English until he started school in 1918. After finishing elementary school he went to Immaculate Conception High School in Celena, Ohio. From there he went to the College of Pharmacy at the University of Cincinnati and earned his Pharmacy degree in 1941.

While attending the university, Cy had a part time job at a local drug store, and this entailed taking a bus to work. He noticed an attractive young lady who boarded the bus several stops from his own, but did not know how to meet her. Fortune shone on him, however, when several weeks later the young lady came into the drugstore with a prescription, with of course her name, Mary Gertrude Reinke and her telephone number. The enterprising young man called her and invited her to go to dinner. She accepted. Wedding bells followed.

Cy's first permanent employment was as a medical representative for the Eli Lilly company, and it was a transfer by

A look at the life of Cy Kothman



Cy Kothman with Ed Reason at the Christ the King Clinic

this company that brought him to Jacksonville and Christ the King.

While still in Ohio, Cy and Gert were blessed with two daughters. The oldest Anne, her husband Carl Albanese and their daughter live in Denver, Colorado. Their second daughter Kathy, and her husband Gerry Weedon and their daughter and two sons live in Jacksonville.

In 1960 Cy opened a drug store in Jacksonville Beach which was destroyed by hurricane Dora. He then moved his pharmacy to a shopping center in Jacksonville Beach and maintained it until 1972, when he sold the store and remained to work for the new owner.

Cy's first assignment at Christ the King was as a member of the four member Finance Committee under our founding pastor, Father W. Thomas Larkin (now Bishop

Larkin). Cy continued to work with finances when Msgr. John Lenihan became pastor and again when Msgr. Mortimer Danaher became our pastor. He is still active in the parish under Fr. Robert Baker.

Cy was a member of the Stewardship Committee from its inception until several years ago when he resigned this position.

Cy has fulfilled many other positions at Christ the King in both advisory roles and a 'hands on' roles. Today he serves as lector at the daily 8:15 mass. When Christ the King opened its Health Clinic in 1993, he became the first pharmacist at the clinic and is now pharmacist emeritus of the clinic and is available to the clinic when needed.

Sadly, Gert passed away in 1989 and several years later Cy

moved to the Atrium, an assisted living facility. At this time he was ordained a Eucharistic Minister so that he might bring the Holy Eucharist to his neighbors, some of whom were no longer able to get to Mass.

While we at Christ the King have been blessed by Cy's dedication, so has the Jacksonville community at large. During his semi-retirement he continued to function as relief pharmacist at various pharmacies around the city. He noticed that an abnormal number of prescriptions were being written for amphetamines (uppers) and Quaaludes (downers) by a few physicians. He brought this to the attention of the Duval Medical Society, and with the cooperation of Dr Guy Selander established a program that reduced the prescriptions of these drugs by 75%. This local volunteer program became the prototype for a national program administered by the Federal Drug Administration.

Cy is an avid bridge player. At one time, his wife Gertrude and he were in charge of the Christ the King Bridge Marathon. Cy continues to play bridge almost daily at the Arlington Senior Citizens Center.

We are all blessed to know Cy. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have worked with him are twice blessed, and we all have the opportunity to worship with him.

Thanks Cy, we love you.

Decisions, Decisions... continued from page 1



Patrick Carey with Father at his 40th Anniversary

Those who wish to join our Church commit themselves through the celebration of these Sacraments. These Sacraments are the Rite of Christian Initiation for which those participating in the RCIA process are preparing and forming themselves. This is why they receive special instructions, reflect on God's word at our Sunday Liturgy, and celebrate other rites and blessings. If they so desire, those who are already baptized will be confirmed in the Holy Spirit and be in communion with the Lord in the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Celebration. Those who are not already baptized will celebrate all three Sacraments of Initiation.

Lent, for these candidates for full communion with our church, is

a period of scrutiny in preparation for their Easter decision and commitment. Their sponsors, and the RCIA team assist and guide them along this path.

We receive them in a spirit of welcome and hospitality. We support them by our prayer, our concern and our example. They come with faith and expectation. They have many gifts and talents which we invite them to share with us in our various ministries and services. Help them feel part of our faith community by involving them in our community life and worship. They are God's gift to us, filled with the Spirit anew. For them we give thanks joyfully.

At Easter will we be able to say, "we have decided to follow Jesus?"

1999 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal Workshop at Christ the King



Fr. Bob Baker, Cissy Keegan, Pat Thomas, Gloria Nebrich, Grace Berke, and Jane Middleton take time out during the Stewardship Appeal Workshop to enjoy dinner. The hall was decorated with scenes of Italy, and Jean Sell even made aprons for the occasion. Don't miss the next issue of *Christ the King Courier* with further information regarding this important Workshop

Profile... From Despair To Hope

by Kenny Alston

It has been a very long way for me from the cotton fields of Georgia to the St. Vincent de Paul farm, to Italy where I lived for 14 months, to Medjugorje where I lived for almost three years.

Along the way in my journey, I experienced many new ways of living that had a direct impact on my life forever. My name is Kenny Alston, and I am grateful today because I have been afforded the opportunity to have friends in my life who love me because I am a Catholic. I have chosen and accepted the way that has been proposed to me by this faith.

Why would it be difficult for someone to say yes to God? It was easy for someone such as myself because I lived in darkness for 23 years, using cocaine and other drugs. For this reason I lost all contact with reality, and created another world around me... one of illusion. To live in darkness is not something I would wish on anyone, but I know that today in our society, many individuals and families from all walks of life are living in darkness.

My story began when I was 14 months old. I was newly adopted into a family that was able to give me the love I needed for my early development. Growing up in this family was very rewarding spiritually. My mother taught me the importance of going to church, helping the poor and being obedient and respectful to my elders. My life was laid out, but one stumbling block for me was growing up in the rural south. I was subjected to the old south rules of segregation, and I lived for the day I could leave that sort of life and treatment. My only way out was through sports, so I used my height and became a success on the basketball court. Lo and behold, the college recruiters came knocking on my door and offered me the world if I would play basketball for them. I had finally arrived, and now I was going to take my family and loved ones out of poverty and into the riches of big time life.

While thinking of this life, I forgot the spiritual aspect of living, and fell into desperation shortly after leaving home at the age of 18. I enrolled at Valdosta State College on a basketball scholarship with dreams and expectations. But I did not realize that I was jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire.

I was not prepared for the life that I began to encounter. To fill the emptiness I chose drugs and immediately thought I had found the solution to all my problems. The rest is history. I managed to hang in there for four years while experiencing academic, social and life problems.

Today many ask me why I chose to use drugs. Everything was



(l-r) Father Suet, Kenny Alston, and Father Gerry Pincine



(l-r) Donna Barker, Sister Elvira and Kenny Alston

there for me. My road to success was presented to me on a silver platter, and I blew it all. For the next 23 years I used drugs, abandoned my daughter, hurt the ones who loved me. I married and divorced twice.

Finally, I found the solution to my problems. One old man told me about a place called St. Vincent de Paul Society. They were giving away free bus tickets to anywhere with proper ID. I went to this place and received all the things I could get, and when I was going out the door, a voice inside spoke to me and in return I spoke to the man who was helping me. In that moment, I asked for help with compassion and humility, and he told me about the farm. He arranged an interview for me the next day. That was June 20, 1994 and the morning following that big day I entered our community for all the wrong reasons.

I wanted only to gain weight, hide from the world and do what I wanted. But right away I saw something different. I saw true happiness, peace and contentment on the faces of young men who had at one time in their lives used drugs just as I had. In the chapel that afternoon, I heard the young men sing, and I knew right away that I was in the right place.

I said that I would stay for a while because these guys had soul. My new life started with many changes that I was not accustomed

after experiencing a conversion of the heart, I began to understand the concept of changing the life. I came to believe and realize that the problem was not the drug, but the environment in which I had chosen to live. In the community you are able to live with true people with whom you are in contact each and every day.

After 14 months I once again was on the move to the great, but war torn country of Croatia, and to our community in Medjugorje where the Blessed Mother has been appearing for many years. My conversion continued and I began to meet many English-speaking pilgrims who were looking for solutions to their problems. Medjugorje was definitely a turning point in my life, because I became a Catholic there, and established friendships with many people from around the world who are instrumental in my life today.

In December of 1997, I asked our founder Sister Elvira if I could come home. I was at the stage of wanting to come out of community and start anew again in the world, doing the will of God and not my will. After eight months of struggling with this decision, I finally came out of community in August of 1998 and was accepted with much love and friendship into the family of Christ the King and the L'Arche family where I live and work today.

I must say that Father Baker really inspired me on this journey from darkness into the light, and today I thank God because He manifested in Father Baker the vision to help the poor people who fall into drug addiction and alcoholism.

I also thank God for Sister Elvira's vision to expand into all parts of the world, to embark on this mission of goodwill for God.

I also thank Harbor House because they welcomed me with open arms and made a place for me. It is true when God said that there is a mansion in heaven for us. I know today that there is one for me, and with the help of my new family at and around Christ the King, I don't have to suffer in loneliness and solitude anymore.

It has been a very long way from those cotton fields of Georgia to a university campus to two failed marriages to desperation for two years in a migrant farm camp to St. Augustine, Fl. and our Lady of Hope community. But every step of the way was worth it, and the experiences and new life that God has given me are priceless. Who would have thought that after 25 years I would actually be enrolling in classes to FINISH a degree I had started in 1971? This is just one example of the many gifts that God is able to provide if only we believe in Him, and we are willing to suffer, because only after the suffering will come the joy.

to—no telephone, television, cigarettes, newspapers, girls, and only one shower per week. Everywhere you went someone was following you around like you had stolen something. I really felt like a criminal.

Later I would come to understand and appreciate this type of togetherness and love. The community does not use doctors or therapists, but they use one addict helping another, showing him that it is possible to change; setting an example in the prayer, work and service that is done without pay in our community. We call this person an angel of God, and after many years of actual experience, we have found that there is no better help for a person who lives in desperation, whether he or she gets there with or without drugs.

The road in community is very difficult, but life is difficult for each and every one of us. The community teaches us that with God as number one in a person's life, all things are possible. For that reason, I am able to write this article and send a message to the world and our Christ the King community that there is life after death, a death that is not necessarily physical but spiritual.

After eight months I was transferred to Italy where I stayed in the community in two different houses and began to learn Italian. Living in a different culture was most difficult in the beginning, but

The Feast of Christ the King

Here is a "lens-eye" view from the camera of Bill Dougherty as our church family celebrated the Feast of Christ the King in the parish hall on Sunday, November 22. If the "ham and eggs and all the trimmings" look good, it's because they were.



Parishioners enjoy ham, eggs, grits, a biscuit, and orange juice.



The Knights of Columbus volunteer kitchen staff serves breakfast in the Parish Hall.



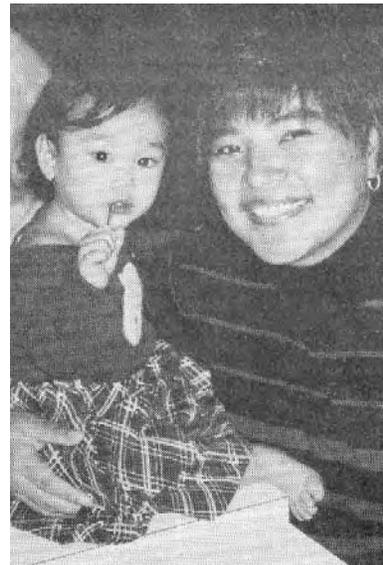
Maria Anania, in her lovely white dress, knows good cookin' when she eats it.



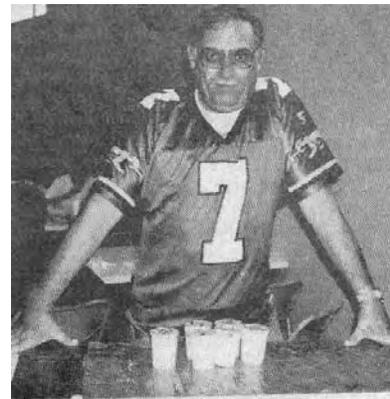
Fr. Carey drops in at a table to thank a few of the hundreds of parishioners for coming.



Great Donut! Maria Barretta, 21 months, sitting on mom's (Jane) lap, knows what she likes.



Jennifer Vega, 11 months, loves spending time with her aunt, Rose Luyando.



Jack Badgro passes out orange juice adding some Florida sunshine to everyone's days.



(left) Timothy Gagnon, 9, with his dad, Greg, brother Nicholas, 4, mom, Suzette, and sister Chris, 7, share breakfast.



(right) Fr. Baker welcomes a new parishioner to Christ the King, Quinton Gardner, who was born on Nov. 18, 1998. Holding Quinton is his mom, Carolina, with dad (Fred) and the rest of the family looking on.

Pope John Paul II - Reflections on 20 years Of His Papacy

Homily by Bishop W. Thomas Larkin, Founding Pastor of Christ the King

It is a great joy to be back here at Christ the King Parish. It was in October 1954 that I said the first Mass in this Parish on the campus of Jacksonville University. It hardly seems possible that the years have passed so quickly.

I want to thank your Pastor, Father Baker, for his gracious hospitality. You are fortunate to have such a great priest as your pastor. He studied in Rome, where he obtained his doctorate in Theology, was a professor at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary for several years, and Rector of the Cathedral of St. Augustine before coming to Christ the King parish. But above all he is a true pastor who loves and serves his people.

I also want to thank Deacon David MacNamara who was active in Christ the King Parish when I was pastor back in the 60's and then Dave came to St. Peterburg and helped me for 10 years in the Chancery. He was instrumental in our obtaining a Catholic Radio Station, one of only half a dozen in the country.

Finally, I want to thank you the people of this Parish, and congratulate you on all that has been accomplished in 44 years. I speak not only of the buildings that have been constructed, but especially of the many ministries of education and charity that you have initiated. You are an inspiration and example to all of us.

The story is told of a priest who was standing at the door greeting people after Mass when a crotchety old man came up to him and said: "You priests aren't so hot. After all you're only 50% effective. Half the babies you baptize don't stay Christian, half the adults you convert don't stay converted, and half the people you marry don't stay married."

"That may be true", said the priest, "but we are 100% effective in one area." And the old man said: "What's that?" And the priest said: "All the people we bury, stay buried."

Today I would like to talk about someone who has been very effective in his ministry in the Church.

October 16th, marked the 20th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II and Thursday, October 22nd marked the 20th anniversary of his installation as the 263rd successor of St. Peter, the first Pope.

Instead of the usual homily on the reading of the day, I thought it

might be of interest to present to you something of the life of Pope John Paul who will certainly go down in history as one of the greatest successors of Peter.

On October 16, 1978 at 6:18 pm. Rome time, 100,000 people waiting in St. Peter's Square saw the white smoke rising from the makeshift chimney of the Sistine Chapel. Everyone looked up at the center balcony of St. Peter's Basilica from where the announcement would be made.

Just under a half hour later, there was more applause as the lights went on in the Great Hall, the window above the balcony opened slowly and Cardinal Pericle Felici stepped forward.

He made the announcement: "We have a Pope", and then he gave the name Karol Cardinal Wojtyla of Cracow, Poland. It caught the whole world by surprise. After 455 years of Italian Popes, the Cardinals had done not merely the unexpected but the unthinkable. They had shown more inspiration and more courage than anyone had thought to credit the five for. They had chosen the first Polish Pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church, the first to come from Eastern Europe and certainly the first Pope to come from a nation under a communist rule. He was also the youngest Pope, at 58, for more than a century. The possibilities for the future were mind-boggling.

What is the Pope like? He is difficult to describe because he is a combination of many things - a priest, a poet, a philosopher, an actor, a professed contemplative, and athlete. Perhaps it can be summed up by saying that he is not only a good and holy man, but a very dear and exceptional human being.

I first met Karol Wojtyla in 1947 when he and I were students in Rome. We lived together at the Belgian College, a house of residence, and took classes at the University of St. Thomas. At that time little did I dream that he would one day be Pope and that he would ordain me as a Bishop. As I look back now I remember him as a dedicated young man who took his studies seriously. He obtained his doctorate Summa Cum Laude. At the same time he was a very warm and personable human being. He had a great facility for languages and would often converse with us Americans in order to improve his English. One time we gave him money for a vacation and he used it to go to the lowlands where he ministered to the needs of Polish refugees.



Before he came to Rome to begin studies for his doctorate in 1946, he had gone through many trials and tribulations that prepared him for his role as a leader of men.

He was born on May 18, 1920 in the little town of Wadowice, about an hour's drive from Cracow. His mother died when he was only nine and soon after his only brother died. When he was 18 he and his father moved to Cracow. It was now 1938 and Karol entered the University of Cracow where he studied literature and philosophy, and in his spare time began to study seriously for a diploma in drama. A fellow student of that time said that everyone was quite sure that he would be an actor.

The happy days of university life came to a sudden end, however, when Hitler attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. Two days later World War II had begun. Hitler announced that the Poles would be slaves of the German Reich. Every educated person in Poland was regarded as an enemy and marked for destruction. The policy of wiping out the Polish Jews, intelligentsia, nobility, and clergy was known to the Germans by the tidy name of "House-Cleaning".

Within a few days of arrival in Cracow, the Germans had closed the University where Karol Wojtyla was a student.

At that time he went to work in a stone quarry outside Cracow, but he did not stop being a student and the university had simply gone underground. Powerful forces were at work in the young Wojtyla. All around him he saw suffering and misery; men and women famished and reduced to the level of chattels; children snatched from their parents and deported; Jewish families brutally rounded up and sent God knows where; schools and universities closed down; and then the constant fear: fear for one's family and friends, fear for oneself, fear of the knock on the door in the middle of the night; of sudden arrest by the Gestapo. The brutality he witnessed every day, the degrading conditions in which he and his fellow laborers toiled. His

misery was compounded by his father's death in the first year of the war.

It was at this time that his eyes were opened to themes that would characterize his ministry: the immense compassion, the sensitivity to human dignity, the respect for manual labor, the longing to serve, the awareness of love as the driving force of life and the perception of reality that transcends the observable world.

It was in those months of terrible trial and tribulation that his vocation to the priesthood and a life of service to his fellow man was born.

His vocation had been born of the chaos and savagery of the occupation which had driven him to put his life at the service of others, to keep the flickering flame of humanity alive in such profound darkness.

On January 12, 1945, the German occupation came to an end as the Russian liberators swept through Poland like a tidal wave. In six years the Germans had killed 6,300,000 Poles, (3 million of whom were Jews). About one quarter of the entire population of Poland had been killed.

Karol Wojtyla now came out of hiding and continued his theological studies openly at the University. On November 1, 1946 he was ordained a priest and was sent to Rome for further studies. It was at this point in his life that I first met him.

He finished his course in June 1948. By now the communists were beginning to show their true colors as the rulers of Poland. More than 700 priests had been thrown in prison. I remember asking Karol if he wasn't afraid to return to Poland. His answer gave some insight into his character. He said: "Of course I am afraid, but I feel that my duty is to be with my people who need me." He could have easily obtained a position in Rome or somewhere else in the world, but he freely chose to return to his homeland despite the great probability of imprisonment and death.

continued on page 11

New School Dedicated to Bishop Larkin



by Linda McCreary

The following is taken from an article by Steven Sims, Port Richey.

Voicing his appreciation that the man for whom (the school) was named could be present for its opening, rather than a posthumous honor, Bishop Robert N. Lynch joined students, faculty, family and friends for the dedication of Bishop Larkin Catholic School in Port Richey.

"The person after whom your school is named was the second bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg for a little over 10 years," Bishop Lynch told the children and others gathered outside the new school building's main entrance.

"I'm thrilled he could be here," Bishop Lynch said. "Most of the time, when they name something for a bishop, he's in heaven. But today Bishop Larkin is here and will do the dedication."

Bishop Larkin recalled the words he first shared at last year's

ground breaking for the school: "I thank you all for the great honor of naming the school after me," he said. "But you do take an awful chance," he quipped, "because you never know when you name it after somebody living how they're going to turn out."

Bishop Larkin then said that in addition to providing academic excellence: "The best way to ensure our children's happiness and well-being is to instill in them Catholic traditions which involve belief in God, our loving father, and the practice of the Commandments, and love of our neighbor. . . those are the things that you are going to be taught here."

Bishop Lynch also announced that the new pastoral center in St. Petersburg, scheduled for completion in 2001, would also be named after Bishop Larkin.

Bishop Larkin's sister, Clarice, attended the dedication. "I feel very proud of him, and I'm happy that he could live to see this," she said. "It will be an honor to him and will help the people here very much in their religious education."

Brief facts on Bishop Larkin -

He was the founding pastor of Christ the King. Larkin Road is named after him. He's been a priest for fifty-one years. Bishop Larkin was the 2nd Bishop of St. Petersburg.

School News...

Blue Ribbon

by Joanne Wnuk

Christ the King Catholic School submitted application for the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. The participation process is a long and complex application that took tremendous commitment to complete. Thank you to the faculty and staff for their dedication. They

deserve a great deal of respect. The National Review Panel that evaluated our application granted us eleven exemplary scores and fifteen strong. While our school's application did not qualify for the next round this year, the process is a benefit to us as a tool for assessing our school's character and performance.

Southside Nursing Home

The seventh grade walked to Southside Nursing Home to provide Christmas music for the

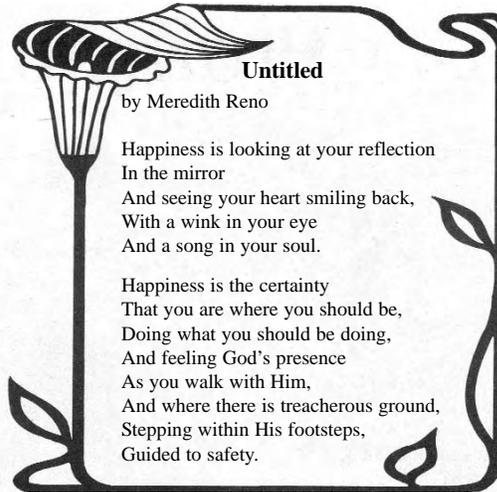
patients. Thank you for sharing your talents with others. Your music was most appreciated.

Room Mothers

by Joanne Wnuk

The Christ the King Room Mothers are soliciting some of your 'trash.' Please save Boxtops for Education labels (General Mills

products), Campbell Soup labels, and Eckerd's receipts. Each of these companies support education and offer rewards to participating schools.



Untitled

by Meredith Reno

Happiness is looking at your reflection
In the mirror
And seeing your heart smiling back,
With a wink in your eye
And a song in your soul.

Happiness is the certainty
That you are where you should be,
Doing what you should be doing,
And feeling God's presence
As you walk with Him,
And where there is treacherous ground,
Stepping within His footsteps,
Guided to safety.

REGISTRATION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL YEAR 1999-2000 WEEK

by Joanne Wnuk

by Joanne Wnuk

Registration for the next school year, for students presently enrolled in Christ the King School, will be held February 1-5, 1999. Due to our waiting lists, it is imperative current Christ the King students be registered during February 1-5. Siblings of students already enrolled at Christ the King School may also register at this time.

Open registration for new families will begin on February 16, 1999. Students must meet the academic and behavior criteria for admission to be accepted. Students seeking admission to Pre-K and Kindergarten must be three (3), four (4) and five (5) by September 1, 1999.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated the week of January 31-February 5. There will be fun activities, prizes and special treats for all students.

An Open House for families interested in Christ the King School will be held on January 31 after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. The facilities will be open and tours will be conducted. Those interested in enrolling their children in Christ the King School, stopped by and introduced themselves. The week ended with Friday morning Mass and a Friday evening social.

Look to the Courier for further articles in the next issue.

Reflections

continued from page 10

Upon his return to Poland he was assigned to parish work He managed to stay out of prison by keeping a low profile. After a few years as a parish priest, he was appointed professor of social ethics at the Catholic University of Lublin where he was also chaplain to the students. He was beginning to write a good deal and to publish his poetry.

On September 28, 1958 he was named Auxiliary Bishop of Cracow: on December 30, 1963 he was appointed Archbishop of Cracow and on June 26, 1967 he was made Cardinal, and, of course, on October 16, 1978 he was elected as the 263rd successor of Peter and took the name of John Paul II.

John Paul II has traveled more than any Pope in history - having made almost ninety trips abroad, visited 120 countries and logged more than 600,000 miles.

He has published more writings than any Pope in history and he has canonized more saints than any Pope in history.

He was responsible for the two most significant events in the line of accomplishments since the Second Vatican Council: the revision of the Code of Canon Law which took effect on November 23, 1983. This is the code that will

govern the church for decades to come.

The second great accomplishment was the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a summary of all the official teaching of the Church.

On the political scene Pope John Paul had a great part to play in the overthrow of communism in Soviet and Eastern Europe.

The Holy Father has set in motion a three year preparation for the millennium, the year 2000. He has called upon all of us Catholics to pray, do penance and work for the evangelization of the world.

We Catholics can be extremely proud of our Pope, John Paul II, who has been referred to by people of all nations, races, and religions as the greatest moral leader in the world today.

The Holy Father has accomplished all that he did because he is a man of prayer. In one of his recent talks, the Holy father mentioned that prayer is his first priority.

I can remember as a student how the Holy Father would spend at least an hour a day praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

Let us pray for him that the Lord will continue to give him wisdom and courage as he leads the world into the next century.

Profile of a Parishioner Who Attends Mass Daily

“Two Very Good Methodists Brought Me Back to the Church”

Christ the King Courier (CTKC) interviews parishioner Elmer Aponte.

CTKC: When did you stop going to church?

Elmer: When I was in my late teens, I ‘ran away’ from my church. I did not go to Mass or anything anymore; except for saying my prayers before bedtime. I joined the armed forces and went out just to have a good time doing all the things that a reckless young man does without thinking of the Lord.

This went on for many years until I became friends with the V.P. of Finance for the company I worked for. I learned later on that he belonged to the United Methodist Church in our town. Being an Elder in his church his duties included going around giving teachings, seminars, and evangelizing.

One day as I was working on a house I was building, he stopped by to say hello. Before he left he asked me if I could say a few prayers with him. The prayers he said were so powerful that the heavens seemed to open up and a Hand came out reaching for me. This is how I felt after being away from my church for so many years. My friend did not try to recruit me to attend his church. He was just doing what the



This article was the result of a survey taken of parishioners attending daily Mass. Elmer Aponte responded giving his reasons for trying to attend Mass daily.

Eucharist Minister Elmer Aponte

Lord sent him to do. In other words, he was instrumental for my coming back to the Lord.

CTKC: Did you come back to the

Catholic church then?

Elmer: No. I came to Jacksonville in 1987, I attended the Sunday services at the Arlington United

Methodist Church, thinking I would be happy there. The Pastor, Rev. Robert H. Brittain was very kind and understanding. Somehow, I didn’t seem to be spiritually satisfied. There seemed to be something missing. So, one Sunday I went to Resurrection Catholic Church in Arlington and when I entered the Church, I felt something indescribable inside. I fell on my knees and broke out into tears. The tears were a combination of joy, repentance and guilt. I couldn’t thank the Lord enough for showing me the way back home.

I wrote a letter to Pastor Robert N. Brittain at Arlington United Methodist and explained to him what had happened. He was very understanding. For a while I attended Sunday Masses at San Jose Catholic under Msgr. Lenihan, because it was the closest to my home at the time.

CTKC: How did you get to Christ the King Parish?

Elmer: I moved again and ended up near Christ The King Catholic Church where I met Fr. Gerry Vallee (deceased), who was so understanding. I made my confession to Fr. Vallee and he gave me counseling for a period of time and finally I was fully reconciled with my church. Later, Msgr. Danaher, then pastor at Christ the King, made me a Eucharistic Minister. I became a Rectory volunteer under Pat Thomas, working in the front office.

I also joined the bingo volunteers and was given the job of contacting the volunteers prior to the night of the games. I worked along with George Callahan (deceased) who kept the records. In those days George Callahan was the Chief Sacristan. He taught me everything he could about being a Sacristan. He taught me the correct way to prepare the Altar for the Holy Mass, and how to handle all the sacred items in the Sacristy. He also taught me how to be an altar server.

CTKC: What has attending daily Mass meant to you?

Elmer: My life changed from night to day since I started to attend daily Mass. The day I can’t attend Holy Mass makes me feel like I was absent from the Lord’s breakfast table.

When we enter this world,
we’re surrounded by love,
comfort and care.
Don’t we deserve
the same
when we
leave?

For help coping
with terminal illness
call Hospice Northeast
268-5200

HOSPICE NORTHEAST
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4266 Sunbeam Road Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 268-5200 Fax (904) 268-9795

The Green Thumb Club

by Joanne Wnuk

The Christ the King Green Thumbs Club, which is part of our After School Program, is planning two Spring projects to enhance our school grounds. They would appreciate donations of fine mulch, pine bark mulch, 12-inch stepping stones (round or square), bags of small white stones, small bedding plants, black plastic bags, hand tools such as digging trowels, forks and gardening gloves. Gift certificates to Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Lowe’s or any nursery stores would also be appreciated.

The students hope to begin digging in February and thank you in advance for your donations.

The young gardeners would appreciate donors dropping off the items, but would be happy to make arrangements for picking up the donated materials. Please call Joanne Wnuk at 724-2954, in the school office.

When In Rome



Pat Thomas, Fr. Baker, Msgr. Danaher, Francis Scholtz and driver at the entrance to the Swedish Brigidines Sisters House in Assisi



Assembly Hall of Christian Brothers Generalate, (l-r foreground) Pat Thomas and Fr. Baker

CTKC interview with Fr. Bob Baker (Pastor) on his recent trip to Rome.

CTKC: What was the occasion for your trip to Rome in December?

Fr. Baker: The occasion for this visit to Rome was the *Second International Conference on Stewardship*, though people were hard-pressed to recall when the *first international meeting* was held.

People who have been involved in promoting Stewardship, especially members of The Board of Directors of our U.S. National Catholic Stewardship Council, were invited to attend. From Jacksonville, Francis and Barbara Schultz, Msgr. Mortimer Danaher, Pat Thomas and I attended.

The Vatican sent two renowned representatives, Cardinal Joseph Tomko, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, who spoke on the topic "Stewardship: A Way of Evangelization," and Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, President of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum." Archbishop Cordes discussed the "Theological Pillars of Stewardship."

Both were fine talks that reflected the Vatican's strong support of Stewardship.

There were other excellent presentations including one by Dr. Elinor Ford on "The Importance of the Message of Stewardship to Children in The Universal Church" and another by Archbishop Marcel Gervais of Ottawa, in Ontario, Canada, on "To be a Disciple is to be a Steward."

The ecumenical character of the conference was reflected in a presentation by Reverend Dr. D.

Edward Taylor, Director of Stewardship for the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, USA, a church that has been practicing stewardship for over a century.

CTKC: What is the best definition of spiritual stewardship?

Fr. Baker: One cannot define "Stewardship" without talking about its spiritual base.

The First Letter of John (4:10) tells us that *Love* is not so much our love for God, but rather "God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away."

Stewardship involves, first of all, discovering God's great love for us. We do that best in prayer, which, at its best, is an intimate union with the God of love.

Here at Christ the King parish, daily Mass and daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament help foster this relationship with God, who is defined by St. John as *Love*. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." (1 John 4:16)

Stewardship is our way of passing on the great love that God has for us, that we have *personally* experienced. There's an old axiom in philosophy, "*Nemo dat quod non habet*." "Nobody gives what he doesn't already have."

Those who have experienced God's generous love are the ones who give generously. That's the bottom line. Those who have experienced God's love *want* to give of their time, talent, and treasure. Love and generosity beget love and generosity.

The measure of our giving is, in a sense, a measure of our faith in God and our experience of His

great love for us. God is not a stingy God. People who know God's love know that, and they are innately generous people.

Stewardship can therefore be defined as the intimate, personal experience of God's tremendous love for us and the willingness to share that love by the giving of our time, our talent, and our treasure to God, His Church and His needy people.

CTKC: Besides the International Conference on stewardship, what was the highlight of your visit?

Fr. Baker: Francis and Barbara Schultz had never been to Assisi. So we arranged a one-day side trip to visit this special site made holy by St. Francis and St. Clare. Because of the earthquakes in September of 1996, Assisi has become like a ghost town, with the number of pilgrimages falling off dramatically.

Major repairs are underway on the Basilicas where St. Francis and St. Clare are buried. Scaffolds are up on the side of the Basilica of St. Francis and on the front of The Basilica of St. Clare, but we were able to enter both basilicas and visit the tombs of the two saints.

One cannot visit the uppermost church of The Basilica of St. Francis, where severe damage was done to frescoes created by Giotto.

We also traveled up the hill to the hermitage of St. Francis where he would go for silent prayer, now the site of a monastery.

Assisi is one of my favorite cities, and anyone visiting Italy would be at a tremendous loss if their itinerary did not include this holy city.

Francis and Barbara Schultz would agree.

CTKC: Do Romans really believe that Rome is the Eternal City?

Fr. Baker: Romans have special pride in their city; and they should, because it is a unique and special city. It is the city of emperors and popes. It is the city where Sts. Peter and Paul gave up their lives for Christ, and a host of martyrs after them.

Rome holds unique artistic and sculptural treasures and preserves some of the most beautiful churches in the world, including St. Peter's Basilica.

I lived there, during my days of study (1972-75, and again in 1992) and only experienced the tip of the iceberg in viewing some of the greatest religious and secular art and artifacts in the world.

CTKC: What preparations are they making in Rome for the flood of tourists during the year 2000?

Fr. Baker: Rome is getting a thorough cleaning in preparation for the Jubilee Year - 2000, as it will be a pilgrimage site for the entire Church. We are discussing the possibility of a pilgrimage to Rome for Christ the King parishioners in the year 2000.

The facade of St. Peter's is covered with scaffolds. The colonnades by Bernini are being cleaned and restored also. Efforts are being made to accommodate additional parking in Rome.

Given the number of tourists we saw in Rome in early December of this year, we truly wondered how Rome will handle the flood of tourists and pilgrims expected for the year 2000.

I'm sure suggestions, and donations, would be welcome!

Frank and Martha Grossholz's Golden Jubilee Celebration October 24, 1998 Christ the King Catholic Church

By Bishop W. Thomas Larkin,
Presider

When Frank and Martha invited me to celebrate this Mass on their 50th wedding anniversary, I readily accepted. They were pioneers in this parish since the time we celebrated our first Mass on the grounds of Jacksonville University in October 1954—44 years ago. I baptized their children and gave them their First Holy Communion.

Even after I left Christ the King parish, some 30 years ago, we have kept in touch. And so it is a joy for me to join them and their family on this happy occasion.

I wanted to be here today because Frank and Martha exemplify so well in their lives the model of Christian spouses and parents. If they could have previewed this part of my talk they would probably have omitted it, but I think that it needs to be said.

Today when we have so much materialism and secularism in our society, and when as a result so many marriages fail, it is important to have role models like Frank and Martha. They are people of faith who always put God first in their lives, and this love they have for God overflows to each other and their children. They were at Mass on Sunday, said their prayers every day and were involved in the life of the Church. At great sacrifice they saw that their children received a Catholic education, and most importantly, their children saw their parents put their faith into action.

Let me just offer a few reflections on the kind of married life every Catholic husband and wife should reflect as have Frank and Martha.

As we read the Bible, we find that the recipe for a happy marriage is contained in the Judeo-Christian principles, enunciated by Our Lord, namely trust in Divine Providence, love of husband and wife, the generation and education of children, respect of children for their parents, and the outreach of love that all members of the family should have for the whole human race. In the past few decades, however, these principles have been gradually chipped away. All we have left is materialism and selfishness that can never be the basis for any stable personal relationship. Our materialistic society must accept a great deal of blame for the breakup of married life today.

We are living in a time when divorce rates are sky-rocketing, traditional family values are being



**Bishop Larkin, Frank and Martha Grossholz and Father Baker
celebrate the Grossholz's 50th Wedding Anniversary**

ridiculed and alternative lifestyles are being espoused by celebrities and community leaders. Even in the midst of these attacks, however, there seems to be a longing for happy families centered around happy marriages.

I am sure that most of you have heard of Knute Rockne who was a legend in football history. During the 20's he was the coach of the Notre Dame football team, and won several national championships. Not many are familiar with the fact that he was an exemplary family man. He never forgot birthdays, weddings and other anniversaries. He always set aside time in his busy schedule for his wife, Bonnie, and their four children. He prayed and played with his family and taught his children their Catechism.

On March 31, 1931 the plane on which he was traveling crashed in a Kansas wheat field. Rockne's body was found with the rosary in his hand. He was a model father and husband and his example as a family man was an inspiration to the hundreds of young men whom he coached at the University of Notre Dame. Deep down most people realize that a family like Knute Rockne's is the real source of happiness and stability in our society.

Because we have seen where the world is going without God and moral principles, society is beginning to realize that it is good and even necessary to work toward a happy family and happy marriage, because the family is the basic unit of society.

The real secret of a happy marriage, however, is not money, power or pleasure. The real secret is holiness. If you are good, you can love another unselfishly, and if you

are good you are truly lovable yourself. The holier you become the happier your marriage will be. The things which God does not like in you, your husband or wife will not like either. If you are not a person who is good, you cannot be a person who is lovable. If you are selfish, or untruthful, constantly looking for material things to make you happy, God does not like this and neither will your spouse.

By holiness we don't mean saying so many prayers or attending so many devotions in Church. These are means to an end, but not the end itself. By holiness we mean accepting God's will in our lives, living the kind of life he wants us to live. Being patient, kind, honest, forgiving, helpful.

All this means expressing love. It is important to understand what love for each other really means. We are not speaking here of romantic infatuation, but of true love, the kind of love that keeps marriages going for over 50 years. Feelings can come and go, but love endures. Married people must love one another despite all their failings and weaknesses. Their love must be willing to sacrifice and to give for the sake of the beloved. Their love must be like that of Jesus who laid down his life for us. Any husband who loves his wife in this way, and any wife who loves her husband in this way, is living in a marriage that deserves the title Sacrament.

As a young couple pronounced their vows on their wedding day, Jesus reaches out to them and in His loving gesture transforms their human love into his own. Every time they are faithful, tender, considerate, every time they reconcile, every time they are thoughtful or unselfish, a new surge

of God's love will enter their lives. Each time the image of Christ Himself will grow brighter within them. This is the Good News that Jesus has made known to the world through the sacrament of Christian marriage.

It is not easy, however, for a couple to effectively reflect the love that Christ has for his people. They must know the love of Christ themselves. Prayer is an indispensable part of every sacrament, and marriage is no exception.

I am sure you have seen a copy of that beautiful masterpiece, The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci. After the famous artist had finished his painting, he called on his fellow artists to inspect it. They were all unanimous in their praise of their colors, the lines and life-like figures.

Finally, one of them exclaimed: "Look at that silver cup, I cannot take my eyes off it." Immediately Leonardo da Vinci stepped up to the canvas, and with a stroke of the brush blocked out that silver chalice, and then he turned to the others and said: "If that cup so attracts your attention, then it must go. Christ is the center of that picture, and all eyes must be drawn to Him."

We can say that Christ is the center of every Christian marriage, and if it is to be successful, husband and wife must continually model their lives on his. The closer you come to Him, the closer you will come to each other.

As a bishop in the Church, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank and Martha for the inspiration and example they have given to those who are struggling with their marriages. You have been a tremendous support to all married couples and consequently to priests and bishops. Your lives, Frank and Martha, are an extraordinary example of how marriage is a sacrament. I would like to thank you most of all for living as husband and wife, for loving each other, for making the sacrament a commitment that you made to each other. Your love is good news for all of us. St. John tells us that God is love. Then God must certainly be present here today in this church as we witness this love of fifty years.

I thank you Frank and Martha for allowing me to be part of this ceremony. I thank God for your wonderful witness of what married life should be, and I pray that the Lord will bless you with many more happy years.

School News...Young Poets

by Joanne Wnuk

Earlier this year Mrs. Lotze's writing classes entered a poetry content for young poets from Florida. Five Christ the King entries, out of thousands, were accepted for publication in the 1998 anthology of *A Celebration of Florida's Young Poets*.

Laurels to Monica Del Campo, Jenny Oakley, Cyril Rodrigues, Sophia Solano and Annie Zarzoso.

We join the publisher in congratulating you on the acceptance of your poem. Being a published poet gives you the recognition, satisfaction and reward that your talent deserves.

Couples Honored At Anniversary Mass November 21

by Lucille Guzzone

Gray November skies were no indication of the glistening beauty inside the building. The new Sacred Heart Church on the Westside of Jacksonville was a mere dozen weeks old, and its freshness augmented the already reverent atmosphere. An oversized cornucopia reflecting the Fall season was arranged on the floor of the altar. Above it a golden Crucifix, depicting the crucified and risen Christ (a work of art in itself), was the focal point of the entire church. Soft earth tones on the walls and ceiling contrasted with the vivid colors of the stained glass windows which were recessed in the arches of the structure. Indeed, this holy place was a perfect location for the anniversary mass celebrating couples in the Diocese of St. Augustine who had been married for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years and more.

Bishop John Snyder, along with Monsignor Madden of Sacred Heart, celebrated the Mass. In his homily the Bishop reflected on the Thanksgiving season, indicating that a durable marriage merited a significant reason for giving thanks. He also mentioned that this particular church's name was appropriate for a celebration of human affection, as Jesus' love for His church is mirrored in each spouse's love for one another.

After renewing the marriage vows, each couple approached the



Bishop and received from him a certificate and a single rose and a few kind words. At the conclusion of the Mass and before proceeding to the Parish Center for the reception, the congregation had the opportunity to mingle with the Bishop in the gathering area. As he shook hands and shared his genuine feelings of warmth, it was clear that his sincere aura of joy and pleasure was an overwhelming contribution to the happy and upbeat mood of the event.

Over 200 couples attended; 93 of these celebrated 50 years or more; 4 of these, over 60 years; and the longest at 66 years. A dozen of the honored pairs are members of Christ the King parish.

These are the couples and how many years they have been married:

Eugene & Marciana Bajacan	25 years
Frank & Phyllis R. Bauman	50 years
Glenn M. & Debora D. Blanchard	25 years
John Hogan & Mary Ann Bleskan	40 years
Robert & Carmel Brodeur	50 years
Frances C. & John A. Damato, Jr.	52 years
Vernon & Emma Duncan	56 years
Lucille Pauline Guzzone & Benjamin Joseph Gozzone, Sr.	35 years
Bernard & Joyce Kunka	45 years
Kirk & Edna Newton	64 years
Manuel & Lulu Tablante	25 years
Helen & Tom Williams	35 years

Christmas Memories

By Kathy Nichols

For me Christmas time has always meant a time for 'going home'. In all my years, I have never missed a Christmas at my parents' home. Even though it's no longer my home, it still holds all the memories of the past. My family and I enjoy our four hour trip south to visit my old abode in Seminole, Florida where my parents have lived since I was ten.

My mom is known for the huge variety of cookies and *potitsa* (sweet nut bread) she bakes. All five of her children helped by shaking the sprinkles on the *spritz* cookies. What a mess! Today my mom saves a few trays of cookies so her grandchildren can also 'help'.

Traditionally, we've always opened our Christmas presents just after dark on Christmas Eve. I remember that our church had a children's midnight Mass and we always attended. It was beautiful.

Today, we take the children to Mass at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and then we go back to mom's and open gifts. Since my husband Mark and I have had our own children, we started a new tradition. The children leave milk and cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve and the kids find their stockings stuffed on Christmas day.

Another tradition we have in our home is the Advent Calendar. My children love opening the little doors. Decisions have to be made to such questions as "Who has the

even days and who has the odd?" and "Who's going to get sent to their room for opening two or three doors in a row?"

Through all the chaos of the holiday season, which now pretty much starts after Halloween, it's easy to forget the real meaning of Christmas. This year I was so pleased to see a "Happy Birthday Jesus" cake for the children at one of their Christmas parties. What a great way to keep our focus on what Christmas is really about.

Christ the King Parish has a tradition my family loves and looks forward to "the Advent Tree", a project sponsored by St. Bernadette's Circle. We pick off ornaments from the trees on the altar; go shop to find the 'right' gift and wrap them in colorful paper; then bring them back to place them in the manger that is set up in the Gathering Area. It really brings home to us that we give gifts that others less fortunate might know they are loved and thought of in a special way.

I don't see anything wrong with all the traditions that have come to mean "Christmas" to us. I really enjoy all the preparations. Through the years I've become more and more aware of the presence of God, and His Son whom he sent to earth to save the world. As time goes on I hope my children will come to understand God's plan and that Christmas, with all its traditions, will then hold deeper meaning in their hearts. Just as it has for me.

An Open Letter to Engaged Couples

Dear Couple,

The Sponsor Couple program is one of the three programs offered by the Diocese for marriage preparation.

This program uses the "Evenings For The Engaged" materials which seek to:

- * Give couples help in deepening and strengthening their relationship.
- * Help couples realize the importance of their marriage for them, and for the church.
- * Motivate couples to strive to have a great marriage.
- * Allow engaged couples to experience Catholic marriage through the example and witness of married couples in their home, where the sacrament is lived.
- * Enable engaged couples, through couple to couple sharing, to experience marriages that are loving and tender, open and honest, healing and forgiving.
- * Open engaged couples to the lived awareness of the beauty and sanctity of the vocation of marriage.

* Help engaged couples realize the love and support of the church.

The program consists of six sessions each dealing with a specific area of a couple's relationship. Each of the evening sessions is scheduled for approximately one and a half to two hours, usually once a week, in the home of the assigned sponsor couple.

If you elect this program, please bear in mind that you must contact the coordinating couple at least two months (preferably three), prior to your wedding date to allow time for assigning a sponsoring couple and scheduling the sessions.

May God Bless Your Union,

Jim and Mary Ann Middleton
Sponsor Couple Coordinators
(phone 743-3953)

(For information regarding the Engaged Encounter or Pre-Cana day, call 308-7474)

Advent a time for hope for CK families

Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

Advent was a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ. At Christ the King, a variety of events led up to Christmas Day.

Four Sundays prior to Christmas, the first Advent candle is lit. Each successive Sunday, another candle is lit until all four burn brightly to announce the arrival of Christmas.

Advent Trees were decorated and placed on the altar. The decorations were picked from the tree in an annual event that has become more than a tradition at Christ the King. Hundreds of tags, with the neat, hand-written names of people of all ages and needs, cut out on brightly colored construction paper, fill every available spot on the trees. The tags also contain the special Christmas wish(es) of those who wouldn't normally get a present. But thanks to the generosity from the loving

parishioners in the Christ the King family, many found out that dreams do come true.

The Church preparations for Christmas added to the festive holiday spirit as volunteers busily helped the Christ the King staff. There were decorations to be hung, choir practices, bells to ring, and music to score. All these things were important because it was time to gather Our Lord's family together to celebrate His birth.

On Christmas Eve, there were four Masses, culminating with the Midnight Mass. More Masses were held on Christmas Day. The pews were packed as parishioners gathered with family and friends, and even invited those who didn't normally get a chance to attend a Mass. It was a time to share family, love, and the joy of our Savior's birth.

Tim Dougherty, 12, lights candles in preparation for midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Thousands filled the pews to give thanks and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.



(left) Patty Maroney plays her flute during the Christmas Eve midnight Mass.



(right) Fr. Robert Baker, along with the altar servers and Mass volunteers open the midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at Christ the King.



(left) Bernie Sans, Music Director for Christ the King, conducts the Hand Bell Choir during their performance at midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

(right) The Christ the King Hand Bell Choir performs *Carol of the Bells* during midnight Mass.



**Story and photos by
Bill Dougherty**



(left) The Christ the King Adult Choir sings *Little Drummer Boy* during the midnight Mass.



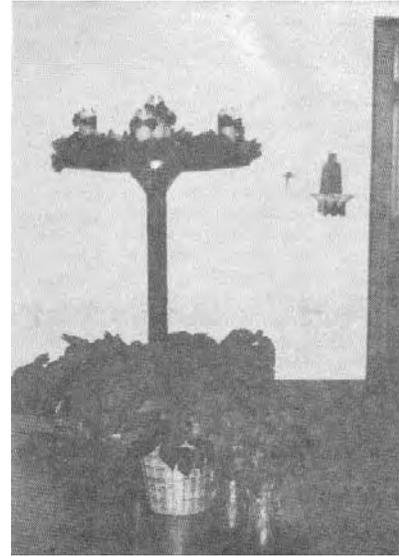
(right) Tony Trotti reads from the Holy Scriptures, *Isaiah 9: 1-6*



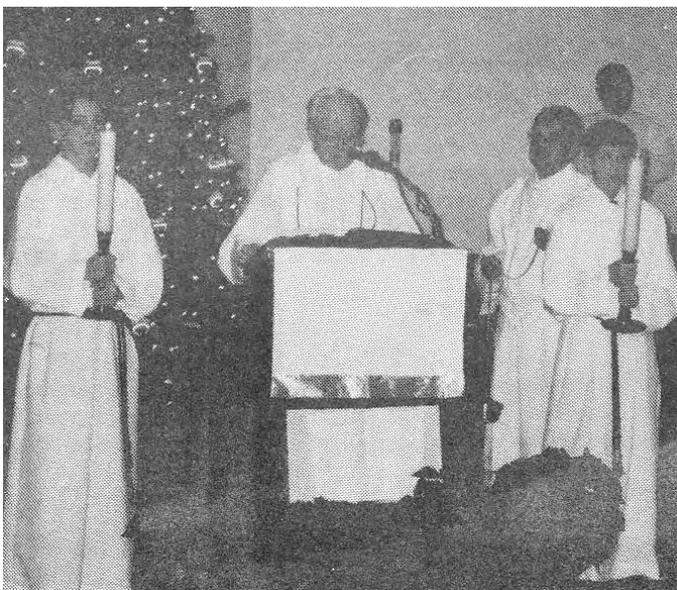
Fr. Robert Baker, celebrant for the midnight Mass, uses incense to bless the altar. The incense added to the sights, sounds, and color of the festive celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.



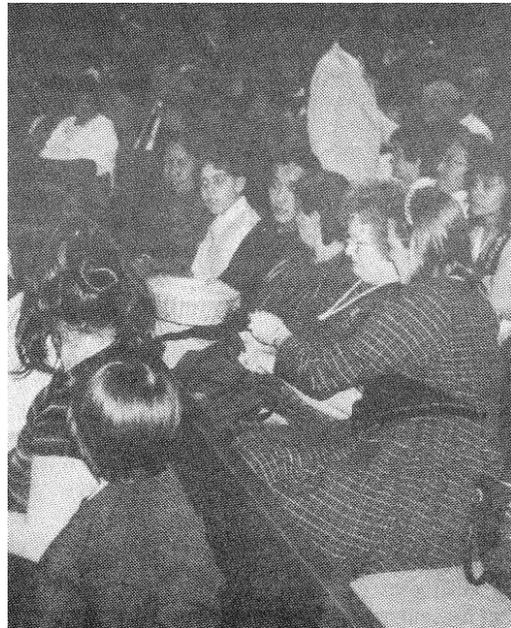
The statue of the Virgin Mary seems to watch over parishioners who attended Masses in celebration of Advent on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



(above) Advent candles burn brightly during the holiday season, marking the four Sunday's prior to Christmas Day.



Fr. Neil Carr, S.J., tells parishioners to remember that Christmas is "a state of mind that stays with us throughout the year" during his homily at midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.



In the spirit of Jesus Christ, parishioners at the midnight Mass on Christmas Eve give with charity and faith during the collection.

1998 Advent Tree Ministry

by Trudy Cameron

Once more our annual Advent Tree project was a huge success. On the final day of December 13th, it was beautiful to watch the pile of presents grow hour by hour until 6 P.M. when we started packing. There were over 1200 names and desired gifts written on colored paper ornaments hung on the Advent Tree in November. We contacted different charities in the fall to secure these names from the following places:

Mental Health Association
Harbor House
Oakwood Villas
Boys Home
Silvercreek Apartments
All Saints Nursing Home
First Coast Rehab & Health
Children's Home Society
Foreign Seafarers
St. Vincent dePaul Farm
Department of Children & Families
Catholic Charities
St. Gerard House

It takes many people to complete a project of this size. Cutting out the ornaments, wiring them, hanging them on the trees, and finally packing and delivering them. It was very gratifying to see so many people willing to help in any way, particularly the Sunday night we sorted and packed the presents. People of all ages came wanting to help. One couple loaded their truck with over 100 gifts for All Saints Nursing Home and delivered them that night, driving all the way to 105th Street and Blanding.

Another couple packed their truck for Monday morning delivery to the Children's Home Society. The lady volunteer from the Mental Health Association came with her sons to help us. Others worked until everything was packed, and several came back Monday morning to finish delivering every present.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of Christ the King parishioners. The thing that makes this project so rewarding is that in many cases our gift is the only Christmas present that person gets.

It has been a joy and privilege for me personally, and my Circle of St. Bernadette, to have organized this project for the past eight years, and we thank each and every one of you who helped in any way.

Some of the "Thank You" notes that have come into Christ the King follow:



From the White Family

"My daughter and I would like to thank you for the beautiful gifts of love. Thank you."

From Marie

"Thank you very much for the Christmas gifts for my sons. They will open them Christmas Eve at our family gathering. I appreciate your help in making this Christmas a nicer one for my children."



From the Lamp Family

"Just a brief note to say thank you for the gifts for my children. They were greatly appreciated. Your church does a wonderful thing and may God bless each and everyone of you."

From the Lester Family

"I do want to thank you for so kindly sending these gifts to my children. I really do appreciate the toys. I also wish you a Happy and Merry Christmas. And to let you know you'll truly be blessed."

The Ward Family wrote:

"I'm writing to thank you for the Grow-n-Go activity cart you bought for my son, Tyrone. Thanks to Christ the King Catholic Church, my son will have a big smile on his face on Christmas morning. We will take good care of it. Thank you and God bless."

The White Family wrote:

"Writing this letter to let you all know that I appreciate the Sears gift card that you gave my baby for Christmas. His name is Jonathan. Thank you so much and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

The Smith Family wrote:

"...I would like to thank you so much for the beautiful toys that you kindly delivered to my children...I would like to thank you for making my kids Christmas the best and may God continue to bless you in Jesus name."



Oakwood Villa:

A family from Oakwood Villa
"Happy Holidays & much thanks and love."

From Katrina

"I'm writing on behalf of the Geathers and Bakers. I just want to let you know that we appreciate the gifts you've purchased for them. I'm wishing you the very best and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you and the rest of your congregation."

From the Campbell Family

"We would like to thank you for the great gifts. It was very nice of you to be so thoughtful, to send me and my brother a gift. We really appreciate you all for being so giving. I would like to also say that

'Thanks' to people like you, there will be a lot of us in Oakwood Villa Apt. who will be very happy and thankful.

Anonymous

"Thank you all for the Barney's school for Amanda. She was a happy little girl when she opened it. Thank you for the bike and helmet for Briana. She was so happy she cried. She is too big for the bike she has so she gave it to Amanda. Thank you for the remote control car for Daniel. He really likes it too. Also thank you for being so nice for giving the children at Oakwood Villa Apt. a gift every Christmas. That is why I just put anything on the list because you all are being nice and getting them something. So thank you all very, very much and God bless you all for helping our children. Thank you all for opening your hearts to all of us!"



Mental Health

Sara wrote:

"I want to thank you and your church for all the gifts to the Mental Health patients. Without your help we could never do our Project Cheer. Everyone was so happy to see the gifts."



Silver Creek Apartments

To the Members of Christ the King Catholic Church:

I would like to extend my deepest thanks for the gifts that your church gave my apartment complex. It was greatly appreciated and needed. I hope God blessed you all with a wonderful Christmas just as you blessed us.

Thank you,
Minnie

From Priscella

I would like to say thank you for caring about me and my family over the holidays and giving us the gifts that really gave them a great feeling.

Thank you and keep us in your prayers. Thank you!

From Barbara

Thank you all for my son's gift for Christmas that he got from you all. Thank you!

From Zelda:

I would like to say thank you for the gifts my family got for the holidays.

Thank you very much!

Attn: Christ the King:

I ... would like to extend my appreciation on behalf of the Christmas gifts that were given to my family and every other family in Silvercreek complex.

Thank you
May God bless
Ruby



First Coast Health

The residents of First Coast Health and Rehabilitation Center are truly blessed to have people like you help make their Christmas extra special with your gifts. They asked me to express their genuine sincerely felt gratitude.

Happy Holidays,
P. J. Franklin



Boys' Home Association

Dear Trudy,

On behalf of the boys, **thank you, thank you**, for making many Christmas wishes come true. I asked the boys how their Christmas was, many of them replied enthusiastically, "I got awesome toys!" or "I got everything on my wish list!"

We appreciate you helping us create such a special and exciting holiday for our children, you all proved to be natural "Santa's Elves." Your continued support during Christmas is a true blessing, because it is a joy to watch the kids with beaming smiles wear new clothes and play with new toys.

On behalf of the Boys' Home staff thank you again for caring and supporting our children, we wish the best to you all in 1999!

Sincerely,
Lucretia D. Simmons



Persons Unknown:

- * "Thank you for the gift. I love them all...I forget what you got me, but I still love it."
- * "Love and happiness to all. Thanks for the gifts."
- * "Thank you for my bike. I love it and I play with it. Thank God and thank you for my gifts too."
- * "I thank you for the gifts I got. I was not here last Christmas, but I still got gifts. And you are a very nice person..."
- * "Thank you for the beautiful gifts. I needed them, they came of good use. Thank you for the years past... May God bless you and your family always and forever. Thank you."
- * "I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."
- * "Merry Christmas. Thanks for coming. We love you."
- * "I appreciate all the things you do for us."

“I Always Wanted To Write Sports”

Christ the King Courier (CTKC) interview with *Times Union* sports columnist and parishioner, Gene Frenette.

CTKC: When did you first start thinking about writing sports, and how did you prepare yourself for your career?

Gene: I actually first thought about writing sports for a living back in eighth grade. Growing up in Vermont I was an avid reader of Jim Murray's syndicated sports column. My last year of Little League, my father decided to give up coaching so that I would have one season of knowing what it was like to have someone else as the coach. Well, that coach happened to be one of the best sports writers in the area. When I was a sophomore in high school he allowed me to go with him to games and help him keep statistics. About a year later, I got a job covering high school sports for the local weekly paper. I've been working in the newspaper business ever since.

CTKC: Is sports just a big business or is it a fulfillment of man's need to compete and accomplish goals?

Gene: There's a line from the football movie *North Dallas 40* in which Nick Nolte's character laments the paradox of his profession. He says, and I'm paraphrasing here: "Just when I think football is a game, you make it a business. And when I think it's a business, you make it a game." I say it depends on what level of sports you're talking about. At the professional level, it's almost entirely about big business. It's about profit margins, how much money they can siphon from the wallet of Joe Q. Public. Not just to buy tickets, but souvenirs, T-shirts, jerseys, hats and however else they can make money. Pro sports owners are not just after the league championship. They buy them, first and foremost, because they hope to



The Frenette Family: (left) Dot, Joey, Kelly, Gene and Sean

get richer than they are. And that's not a criticism. It's simply one smart businessman taking advantage of the American capitalist system. While a lot of attention is given to the NBA lockout and other labor problems in sports, I still believe a large segment of sports at the amateur level is about reaching goals and the joy of competing. Many young kids have big-league dreams, but the reality is about only one in 10,000 kids will go on to play some type of professional ball. That's why it's important that if parents encourage their kids to play sports, they emphasize the fun aspect of just trying to do their best and enjoying the moment. If it leads down the line to a college scholarship or pro contract, that's great. But don't make the long-term goal of financial gain as the reason for playing sports. It's a shame that the innocence of playing sports "just for the fun of it" is getting lost at a younger and younger age.

CTKC: How does your Catholic Faith impact your reporting on sports?

Gene: I can't honestly say that I've written many columns or stories where my Catholic faith has impacted my reporting, though it probably affected it somewhat. Two years ago I did a five-part series on faith in sports. The media, by its inherently cynical nature, tends to dismiss athletes who want to give God the credit for their success. Either because they don't believe the athlete is totally sincere

or they're simply tired of hearing about it. I wanted to do the series because of what I noticed among many Jaguars; how committed many of them seemed to their faith. It turned out to be maybe one of the three or four best things that I've been most proud of writing. After that piece appeared, I started noticing how much attention faith in sports was given by other local and national media. Earlier in my sports writing days, I'm not sure I would have had the initiative to pursue such a story so vigorously. Having attended Christ the King for 15 years, with someone like Monsignor Danaher being such a strong advocate of Catholics not being hesitant to show their faith, it helped give me a different attitude toward those who are very vocal about God. There are many athletes who believe strongly in God, but also believe that they should not use their access to the media to advance their religious platform. I can respect that. But as long as the athlete is sincere and not too pushy about it, I see nothing wrong with a player publicly giving God the credit. People see enough of athletes receiving publicity for all kinds of negative things. I think the more they see high-profile celebrities praising God in a sincere way, only good can come out of it.

CTKC: What was your best sports column? The best sports event you covered?

Gene: I've probably written about 2,000 columns in my years at the *Times Union*, so I don't know that I

can make that call. What stands out as a really good column to a writer isn't always received the same way by a reader. But just to pick a couple recent columns: one serious and one totally tongue-in-cheek - I'll say the one I did on the Jaguars' reaction to Maddie Clifton's tragic death and one I did poking fun at Fred Taylor for his touchdown celebrations. As for the best sports event I ever covered, I'd have to say the college basketball Final Four. I might have picked the 1989 World Series, if only there hadn't been an earthquake on my birthday.

CTKC: Name some athletes who you consider great role models for youth?

Gene: The role model thing is a tough question because it's often based on perception. The media always think they know athletes better than just about anybody, but the truth is we don't spend much time with athletes beyond interviewing them in the locker room or seeing them at public functions. I don't think it's fair to make somebody a role model based on what we see on television or interviews. I feel at ease advocating Brunell and Coughlin as quality role models.

CTKC: Your advice to young girls and boys who compete in sports?

Gene: My advice to kids who compete in sports is simply to enjoy each moment. Play because you want to, not because Mom or Dad or your friends want you to play. And as tempting as it is to look up to athletes that you know only through television, remember that success on the field doesn't always translate into success off the field. When picking role models, you're much better off choosing people that you know on a personal basis. The closer you are to somebody, the easier it is to make judgments on whether this is a person you really want to imitate.



by Meredith Reno

A fine drizzle fell all day that Saturday, December 12th. Little did I know that it would be a disguised blessing. Due to the inclement weather, the living Nativity was going to be held inside the church.

To participate in a living Nativity is an Advent gift, to participate in a living Nativity presented by L'Arche Harbor

House is a blessing. The purity and innocence of these very special performers brings the meaning of Christmas home. No commercialism, no Santa Claus, no chestnuts roasting on an open fire; only the pure love, hope and anticipation of this glorious season.

For those of you who may not know, L'Arche Harbor House is a fellowship of developmentally disabled residents and the

dedicated people who live and work with them. They are visible manifestations of God's love. As the program began with the appearance of the angel Gabriel speaking to Mary, I felt my heartstrings quiver and my eyes begin to tear. The entire church participated, singing the carols that punctuated the program.

Refreshments were served at the main house after the

performance. There were smiles not only on the faces of the core members, but in their eyes, reflecting the smiles in their hearts. Hugs and kisses were abundant fare, no less sweet than the goodies to be eaten.

L'Arche Harbor House presents the living Nativity every year. If you missed it this time, plan for it next year. If you were there, thank you.

Living Nativity

Parish Nurse Ministry

by Barbara Hanuscin

The Parish Nurse Ministry wishes all parishioners a healthy and happy new year. If we can assist you with referrals, help you to find sources of health information, or support services available within the community, as well as national organizations related to specific health problems, please call the St. Vincent de Paul message line and leave a message requesting a call back from the Parish Nurse Coordinators.

A number of parishioners are taking advantage of the free monthly blood pressure checks which are offered on the first Sunday of the month after the 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. Masses.



Our work in developing the proposed Visitation Teams for the elderly and shut-ins is taking longer than expected. The newly required background checks have slowed progress. It is very important that all who may have contact with our children or elderly parishioners do pass a background check. Our thanks to those who have signed up for this team at the *Time & Talent Sunday*. We sincerely hope that 1999 will be the year this new project will take flight.

Your continued prayerful support is appreciated. If you have any suggestions or issues of concern relating to health and safety, please contact either Donna Baker at 641-0698 or Barbara Hanuscin at 724-1776.

Trees for Sale



by Mary Ann Sullivan

While most of us spent the long Thanksgiving weekend shopping, watching football or decorating our homes for the holidays, Father John Tetlow and a group of volunteers were unloading over 345 Christmas trees for a Christmas Tree Sale at Christ the King. Father Tetlow for many years sold Christmas trees as a teenager on Cassatt Avenue. Little did he know that years later, he would be using his expertise as a salesman to help in a fund-raiser for vocations and the Life Teen Program.

Early in the fall Father Tetlow made a special trip to Jefferson City, North Carolina, near the Virginia border to order the trees. Varieties of trees were carefully selected, checked for size and fullness and labeled personally by Father John. Many hands helped in setting up the trees once they reached Christ the King. The

corner of the baseball field took on a holiday look with a tent, lights and lots and lots of trees.

Volunteers spent many hours manning the tree lot and making sure everyone got just the right tree for their home. (Many thanks to those who gave up their leisure time in aiding this fund-raiser.)

The funds raised during this endeavor will be used toward two programs. Half the money raised will go toward our Life Teen program, which started in our parish last fall. The other half will go toward Vocations; assisting men and women who have received a calling from God.

Thank you, Father, for the beautiful trees that graced the sacristy during Christmas. We would also like to thank you for all the work you have done. Your unending service to God, our church family and the youth is greatly appreciated.

Blood Drive

by Linda McCreary

The semi-annual blood drive at Christ the King Parish was held on December 6, 1998. In cooperation with the Florida-Georgia Blood Alliance the parish donated 31 units of blood. This donated blood is available for any parishioner or their family member to draw on, if ever necessary, through coordination with the Christ the King Blood Drive Coordinator.

Of note, we have a new coordinator Karlene Simmons. We offer her our thanks and appreciation for her assumption of the Coordinator responsibilities.



A very special thanks to you, Martin, for all your hard work in organizing and chairing the blood drive. You did a great job!

Our next blood drive will be in early May, 1999, but you may donate at any time during the year. Be sure to mention that you are donating for Christ the King Catholic Church.

As you are probably aware, there has been a severe shortage of blood, and donations are critically needed.

CHRIST THE KING HEALTH CLINIC



Bishop Larkin, Janis Polsenski, Father Baker and Bishop Larkin's sister, Clarice, at Christ the King Clinic.

by Linda McCreary

Christ the King Health Clinic opened in May 1993. It was the culmination of a dream of former pastor Msgr. Danaher to provide quality healthcare for those without health insurance coverage.

Janis Polsenski, a long time Christ the King parishioner, has been the administrator of the clinic since its founding. Janis and her faithful volunteers have been largely responsible for this important ministry.

Father Baker surprised volunteers on November 21, 1998 when he brought Bishop Larkin and the Bishop's sister, Clarice, to the clinic for a visit. The clinic is very successful, and is often the recipient of visitors from other dioceses who drop by to learn more about running a free clinic.

The clinic is manned by volunteer doctors, nurses, medical technicians, lab technicians, pharmacists and clerical help. Through the cheerful spirit of helping others, the clinic is able to provide medical assistance to as many as 85 patients on a busy day.

Most supplies and medications are donated by doctors and pharmaceutical representatives.

Services provided range from treatment for high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart ailments to performing school physicals and immunizations for school age children. Free medical treatment (and hospitalization if necessary) is provided to Duval County persons in need of these services. Referrals are also available for services not provided at the clinic.

New patients to the clinic are welcome, and must be interviewed to determine if they meet guidelines set by the HRS. If these guidelines are met, the patient and his/her immediate family may come into Christ the King Clinic for treatment as needed.

The clinic is open on the fourth Saturday of each month, except for November and December, when it is held on the third Saturday due to the holidays. Christ the King Health Clinic is located at 1736 University Boulevard South, and hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you feel you would like to give of your time and talent or treasure to this deserving ministry, please call Janis Polsenski through the rectory at 634-8544, ext. 3.

St. Vincent DePaul News



Christmas Food Basket Project is in high gear

Food Baskets

On Saturday, Dec. 19, 20 active and 18 associate members of our conference at Christ the King filled and delivered 45 Christmas Food Baskets to needy families in our parish area. This followed a similar project held on Saturday, Nov. 21, when 50 baskets were handled for

the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to the generous contributions donated by our parishioners, this year's baskets were by far more complete than those we have distributed in the past. We are sure the recipients were most grateful.

Year in Review

The Christ the King Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul enjoyed a very successful and productive year in 1998. This was due, in a large part, to the support and cooperation of the parish in time, talent, and treasure.

Our membership now is composed of 35 active, 41 associate, and 17 contributing members. Active members are those who attend our weekly meetings and make the actual calls on the needy. They determine what kind of assistance or counsel we can give.

Associate members are those who help us on special projects such as our Holiday Food Baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also, as a result of an increase in the number of associate members in 1998, we were able to start two new programs—a limited transportation program for parishioners, and a new SVPD office in the rectory. This office is open Monday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to handle walk-in persons needing assistance.

Contributing members are those parishioners who regularly support us through financial donations.

In 1998 we assisted 658 families in the parish area with

\$11,028 in food, clothes and furniture, and \$28,631 in financial aid (rent, utilities, temporary housing and medications). In addition, 438 referrals were given for assistance by other agencies in the city. Also 50 Thanksgiving and 45 Christmas Food Baskets were distributed in addition to the food mentioned above. In all, over 3,000 hours of service were given by our volunteers. Besides the assistance provided within the parish area, we contributed \$700 in hurricane disaster assistance, \$300 in assistance to overseas conference, \$1,000 in assistance to other conferences within the Jacksonville District, and \$1,000 towards building a house in the new SVPD Home for the needy in Haiti.

In the near future, we will be conducting an orientation meeting for those persons who indicate an interest in our ministry. This meeting will explain the various types of membership, the purpose, and function of our ministry. In 1999 we hope to add additional members to start a program of visitation to the sick and elderly of the parish. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Watch the bulletin for details.

The poor will always be with us and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be there to assist them.

School News...

Confirmation

by Joanne Wnuk

Bishop Snyder conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on eighth grade students on February 1st, 1999.

The students prepared for this Sacrament for many weeks. The study of Confirmation is based on the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The students are active and responsible for their acceptance of this important sacrament.

The students attended a Confirmation retreat at Marywood on January 13th. This retreat is a day of prayer, exploration and acceptance of their commitment to the Catholic Church.

Classroom

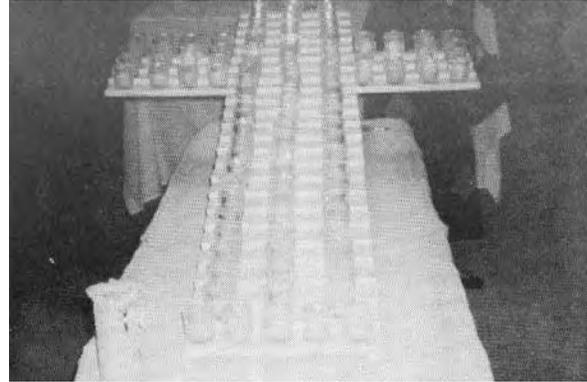
by Joanne Wnuk

Kindergarten A is doing a transportation unit which will include a trip to Craig Field, a visit to the hospital, and a visit from a dental hygienist.

Kindergarten C is studying the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. The children are going to bring in their baptismal picture to share with the class. The children will meet with Fr. Thanh in the church and act out a baptism.

First Grade students, with the help of Mrs. Pichardo, planned an activity for Martin Luther King Day. They thought and wrote about their dreams for our community.

KC Memorial Mass



by Grace Berkey

The Knights of Columbus, Council 4727, celebrated their annual Memorial Mass on November 6, 1998, at the Council Hall. Monsignor Danaher was the celebrant. Before the memorial service, Monsignor Danaher celebrated Mass, delivering an inspiring homily, as usual.

The Memorial service is held to remember those Knights who have gone on ahead, and to ensure that they are not forgotten. It is most appreciated by the more than eighty families and friends

involved, and surely revives memories and emotions in those in attendance.

The 114 Memorial candles were placed in the shape of a cross. As the name of a deceased Knight was called, a family member or friend came forward and lit one of the candles on the cross.

The ceremony was dignified, quiet, and emotional as each of the candles, one after the other, was lit.

The Knights of Council 4727 are to be thanked and commended for their thoughtfulness and consideration in conducting this very important service.

Knights of Columbus

by Butch Ferrizzi, Grand Knight
Arlington Council

You've probably seen the local K of C council building where Knights and their families meet. But where do the Knights of Columbus come from? What do they stand for? And what are they all about?

The Knights stand for a world of good things. K of C programs and projects make a difference in every community and country where they are found. Faith, Family and Fraternity make up the foundation upon which the Knights of Columbus stands.

The Knights of Columbus began in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn. in March of 1882. Father Michael J. McGivney called together a small group of pioneering Catholic laymen and founded a society designed to provide financial assistance for the widows and orphans of its members.

Father McGivney's original idea grew quickly into an organization of Catholic men and their families dedicated to promoting the concepts of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Today there are nearly 1.6 million members. Last year the Knights donated over \$106 million to charitable and benevolent causes, and \$18 million in donations to programs for people with mental illness. Donating

money is only part of the K of C story. Knights give away something even more valuable—their time. Last year alone, the Knights of Columbus gave 49 million man hours to volunteer services.

Families are the building blocks forming the foundation of society. When families thrive, so does society. However, in these times, families are doing less and less together, and they are becoming fragmented. The Knights of Columbus is a family organization which helps families grow together in love while assisting the Church and the community.

Every K of C Council provides a wide variety of opportunities for family involvement such as volunteer service projects, picnics, communion breakfasts, dances, Easter egg hunts, Christmas parties, and First Friday Mass. All these activities and many others benefit the families involved, the parish, and the community.

If you're a practical Catholic man at least 18 years of age, the K of C may be just what you've been searching for. You can become as involved as you wish. The Knights offer an opportunity for fellowship with people who share the same beliefs, and recognize the same duty to God, to family and to folks down the block. If you're looking for an organization that can enrich your family's life in every way, your search is over.

Tiger Cubs Visit the Farm



Tiger Cubs and residents of the farm take time out for a group picture

by Donna Simons

Our Tiger Cubs planned a field trip to Our Lady of Hope Community, better known as the farm. This community was established four years ago. Sister Elvira, an Italian nun, and Father Baker made it possible for this farm to come to St. Augustine, Fla.

Sr. Elvira has opened these communities all over the world to

help men and women heal from past weaknesses. The men in St. Augustine learn about and depend on God as the center of their being, and live off the land.

We began with Mass, celebrated by Fr. Baker, in their beautiful chapel, shared lunch and played relay games. The guys showed the boys the animals, the gardens, and shared their faith. It was a wonderful and full day!

Project Hope



by Linda McCreary

(Excerpts are from The St. Augustine Record, November 14, 1998 article by Mike Grogan, Staff Writer.)

Project Hope is a relief organization appropriately named as it provided aid and hope to millions of Central Americans whose lives were crushed by Hurricane Mitch in October 1998.

Christ the King parish participated in this worthy project by collecting blankets and water in a truck whose use was volunteered by Powers & Company. Ray Corriveau then delivered these items to St. Augustine for transportation to the Central America countries via Miami and the World Relief Organization.

Project Hope is the result of Catholic high school students at St. Augustine's St. Joseph Academy, searching for a way to come to the aid of the hurricane victims. Led by Student Council president Shannon McCarthy and fellow student Josh Alexander, the

students began coordinating through the school administration a community-wide effort to collect relief items to be sent to devastated Central American countries such as Honduras and Nicaragua.

The city of St. Augustine said it would allow its two fire stations to be used as collection points. Both Wal-Mart and K-Mart also set up collection spots in their stores.

The articles were transported to Miami where the World Relief Services collected the items and flew them to Central America.

Articles included blankets, canned food, powdered milk, bottled water, hand-held can openers, baby food, baby diapers, formula, baby bottles, band aids, peroxide, Neosporin, aspirin, Tylenol, paper products, personal hygiene items, flashlights, batteries and candles.

A special thanks to Ray Corriveau, Tom Thomas, Henry Nguyen, and Kenny Alston for helping to load and unload the truck. And thanks to all parishioners who participated in Project Hope by filling the pickup truck with blankets and water.



Bernie Sans has several piano students who attend Christ the King. He occasionally has them perform during the offertory during the Friday Mass, or during one of the Sunday Masses. Pictured is Hanna Christian, a 3rd grader, performing a piece on the organ.



Rocky DiGeorgio has his Jacksonville Suzuki Strings playing again. This time, the group congregated at Hemming Plaza to play Christmas music in anticipation of the arrival of Santa Claus.



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Single & Single Again



Single and Single Again group dining out

by Leroy Garvin

As 1998 came to an end, we at Single and Single Again looked back to see what a great year it has been, and we wish to thank everyone who worked to make it so successful.

Just a quick glance though, as we remember some of our favorite activities. During the year we bowled, dined out, played pool, went to the movies and to the theater and had picnics by the lake. And that was just the weekends! We've also "danced our year away."

Our dances have proved successful, especially our Christmas dance. The dance took place on December 5th in the Kingdom. Some 180 came to enjoy our favorite disc jockey, Howard Grover's repertoire. The evening was praised by all who attended.

Single and Single Again is an excellent way to meet people and to learn about yourself and others. These meetings can be a lifeline for the lonely. During the year we've been privileged to meet new people and forge new friendships. We want to reach out to single, divorced or widowed people of all ages and denominations.

When people get together and share, things are bound to happen. Two of our members decided that

they wanted to learn more about Catholicism and joined our RCIA. This past year we even had two weddings from our group!

We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Shirley David Hall at 7:30 P.M., we participate in or plan all sorts of activities such as line dance lessons, game nights and guest speakers. Let us not forget potluck dinners (we have really great cooks in our group.)

The second Tuesday of each month is when we plan the activities for the following month. Everyone is encouraged to come with ideas for things to do as a group.

Now, as we move into 1999 and our second anniversary, we hope to continue our growth by working with other single groups in and around the Jacksonville area, as well as working with ministries of this parish to sponsor future events. We already have several activities planned and about eight dances scheduled.

Come join us next Tuesday and see what you've been missing!

Cadette Girl Scouts



Cadette Troop 188 combine talents with Brownie Troop 310 for craft day

by Patty Maroney

Scouting is about learning new things and helping out in your community at the same time. Boy and Girl Scouts learn independence and responsibility while having fun.

Cadette Troop #188 has made two trips to the University of North Florida (UNF) led by Ranger John Golden. They are currently working on four outdoor patches. We have one trip left to UNF to earn these patches. Among other things the girls learned about forest fires, animals, trees and what a tree looks like when hit by lightning.

We had a camping trip to Camp Chowenwah, November 20 through November 22, 1998. This was lots of fun!!! Girls aged 11-17 participated. This was a very interesting trip. The girls did holiday crafts, had a magic show, and singers were there and Santa Claus even came. Our troop had daily capers and they performed them efficiently.

On December 7, 1998, Cadette Troop 188 combined their talents with Brownie Troop 310 for a Christmas craft day. Tara Crisp and Cara Titoni helped the Brownies make candy cane reindeer. Molly Crisp and Cali Gartland helped them with a beaded candy cane to hang on the tree and an edible wreath made out of cornflakes, marshmallows and M & M's. They enjoyed that one a lot. Tori Matzen and Alena Maroney had a game area where they played musical chairs and a variety of goodies were given to the Brownies.

On December 17, 1998, our troop had a Christmas party. All the girls made crafts and each brought food that they made themselves. We made a Christmas tree for the priests at Christ the King and gave it to them the same day. As the girls presented the tree, they sang, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Just a quick note to let all the parishioners know that the girls will be selling girl scout cookies soon. The funds that the girls raise help with activities all year long.

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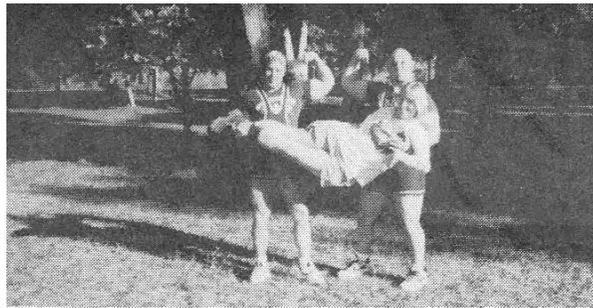
By Nancy Powers,
Volunteer LIFE TEEN Coordinator

LIFE TEEN Core Members are asked to dedicate one year of their life to the youth of our Church. That means they agree to commit themselves to participating every Sunday afternoon and evening, as well as meet during the week to rehearse and plan for the upcoming LIFE Nights and Retreats. Many in today's world may say the commitment is too intense, too hard in this day of "no time" but for our teens we can give no less.

Most of us have heard of an incredible organization called Big Brothers, Big Sisters, where adults are paired with youth who are in need of a mentor, role model, and friend. This organization requires, at least, a one year commitment in order to participate in the program because they feel the youth need the continuity in their lives in order to develop true one-on-one relationships. LIFE TEEN is no different.

LIFE TEEN hopes to transform the lives of our high school teens. We can only do this if we, the LIFE TEEN Core Members, really reach out to our teens on a weekly basis and be their friend and mentor. The continuity will allow the teens to open up to us and only then can we truly help them deal with the pressures they face daily and in many cases those pressures are huge. At a recent LIFE Night on healing, the teens were asked to state those areas they wanted healed in their lives. Some of the responses were:

- Fear of losing friends and family
- Smoking
- Hate
- Peer Pressure / Sexual Activity
- Stealing
- Lack of Self Esteem
- Lying
- Anger
- Devil Worship
- Fear of Death
- Bulemia
- Drugs



Bobby "Nitro" Hadden and Bobby "Ironman" Patko carry Ashleigh Ghioto away



Mollie O'Neill's "Gladiator Team" at a LIFE TEEN gathering

How can we, as Church, minister to these youth without developing strong relationships with them first? How can we expect to help them when we're not around them consistently? Any dialogue towards Truth must be nurtured and these teens must feel the love of Christ through us - the LIFE TEEN Core Members. What an honor to be present for them.

Currently the LIFE TEEN program has 11 dedicated Core Members and five Partnership Parish Youth Directors available on a weekly basis to our youth. In a world which typically lacks commitment, we couldn't be prouder of this awesome group. We are always looking for more individuals who want to dedicate one year to this incredible ministry. The rewards are great. This is what

some of our current Core Members are saying:

Donna Barker, (first grade teacher at Christ the King): "LIFE TEEN makes me a better person because it makes me push myself beyond my comfort zone to express my faith to others."

Bobby Hayden, (budget analyst for CSX): "Im enthusiastic about LIFE TEEN because it gives me the chance to work for the Lord and to make a difference in these young people's lives. And it's all about winning souls to Christ. Amen."

Erin McGuigan, (full-time student at FCCJ and part-time pharmacy technician): "The reason I do this is the payment I get out of it. And it's not monetary payment, it's a spiritual payment. I get to see the result of me being there for these kids and hearing their parents give compliment after compliment. And

it's just a great honor for me to be involved in this."

Helene Meyer, (mother and upper level manager at Jax Port): "I have been involved from the beginning and seeing the LIFE TEEN program realized has been so rewarding for me. It's a privilege seeing the kids grow and become young adults. Being around them keeps me young. I really am enjoying it."

Angie Miller, (full-time student at FCCJ): "The most rewarding part of LIFE TEEN is being able to show my Christ to the teens and learn from the Christ I see in them."

Robert Riker, (customer consultant for a national mortgage company): "I love being a Core Member because of the joy that comes from the teens excitement and happiness. Throughout LIFE TEEN I've seen the love that is shared with each other, a love that's as big as the ocean. But most importantly, I've seen a true love for the Lord. I always hear of the negative stuff with teenagers, but I don't see it with these kids. Most people don't make the time to get to know them on an individual basis. If they would, they would see the great potential in each one. I love being involved with LIFE TEEN, and I will commit to this program for as long as I can."

Alicia Villotti, (full time UNF student and part time office manager for a local jewelry merchant): "The Church asks us for our gift of Time, Treasure, and Talent. Since I'm a college student, I don't have a lot of treasure but I want to participate actively in my religion. LIFE TEEN has given me the opportunity to give my gift of Time. I can already tell that gift is being returned to me through the joy I feel seeing, close up, these teens mature in their faith. To me LIFE TEEN is an awesome program."

So, if you've thought about getting involved...Now's the Time. Make LIFE TEEN a part of your New Years Resolutions. Be a gift to our teens in 1999. You won't regret it!

Life Teen Mystery Dinner Theatre

by Helene Meyer

On Oct. 4, the Arlington-Southside Life Teen presented a Mystery Theater and Dinner to the teenagers of our partnership parishes, Assumption, Resurrection, Holy Spirit and Christ the King. Young people from as far away as Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Church of Palm Coast and San Juan del Rio in Mandarin attended this fun filled evening. There were over 200 teenagers in attendance.

After the regularly scheduled Life Teen Mass at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, the young people were invited to the cafeteria for a five-course meal and dinner theater

presentation. The cafeteria had been magically transformed by the Parents for Life group into a courtroom setting.

The production was to determine whether Jessie (Rachel Ghioto) had really witnessed the acts of the Holy Spirit and was truly changed, or if she was lying and remained the same old person she had always been. The prosecutor - Sylvia Sinful (Helene Meyer) presented a powerful argument. Her witnesses included Jessie's third grade teacher, Miss Crabtree (Donna Barker) and Pope John Paul II (Robert Riker). Other witnesses included the Assumption Church Choir and the Christ the

King basketball team (these witnesses were two of the tables of teens, assisted by Ashleigh Ghioto and Erin McGuigan.)

The defense attorney (Rebecca Trumbull), however, came back with a far more convincing argument. Her most credible witness was Jessie's best friend, Sarah (Helen Hickson). Sarah, together with the cheerleaders from Holy Spirit (teens led by Alycia Vilotti), testified on Jessie's behalf. The witnesses for the defense swayed the jury (more teenagers assisted by Angie Miller) to find her innocent of all charges.

While the jury was deliberating, the other teenagers were deciding

how they felt about Jessie's guilt or innocence. Almost unanimously, they approved the decision of the jury. Judge Jehovah (Bobby Hayden) then ended the trial.

Between acts, the Parents for Life served up a delicious meal which they had worked very hard to prepare. The five-course meal was a huge hit, as were the parents who donned black and white to "wait" tables.

The entire evening was a huge success! Our thanks to all of those parents, teenagers, Core Members and youth ministers who helped with Life Teen's first theater production.

Win Friends, Influence People?

by Pat Setser

Interviews conducted with members of Christ the King Council of Catholic Women (CKCCW) revealed that membership in this organization did create friendships, friendships which have sustained. Listen to what some members had to say.

Pat Humbard joined Circle Three over twenty years ago and she says, "My Circle is really something, and I cherish my friends."

And Rosalie Andrews said "I joined Circle Four over forty years ago to meet people. We have had the nicest times and some of the best parties! Recently, my husband died and my Circle was there to support me."

Emma Duncan remembered oyster roasts, Communion breakfasts and barbecues for the entire parish.

Helen Pierce (currently President of CKCCW and a member of Circle Three for over forty years) spoke highly of her friends from her Circle. She also revealed that support in times of need was a hallmark of her Circle.

Friendships were created by joining Circles and these friends have become more like extended families. Circle members have supported each other in their times of need and in their times of celebration. They have played together and have prayed together. They have created memorable relationships and cherished friendships. Wouldn't you like to join and develop this kind of a support system of friends?

There are presently seven Circles which meet once a month. Some meet in the daytime, some in the evening and one even meets on Saturday. The meetings include spiritual and social activity. The Circles assist the parish in various

ways and this is how you *can* influence people. We help at special events such as sacramental and anniversary celebrations by preparing and serving food, we support St. Vincent de Paul, St. Gerald House, and the Soup Kitchen by donating money and gifts.

Our activities during the year include a Day of Reflection, quarterly general meetings with speakers for all Circles, a covered Dish dinner, a Bake Sale, a Mass/Living Rosary, Christmas Party, a Card Party/Style Show and Luncheon, and a Communion Breakfast Party.

Monthly, different Circles celebrate birthdays of residents in a local nursing home by taking cake and singing. They also help in the parish by serving coffee and donuts on assigned Sundays. Each first Saturday they come together after morning Mass to pray the rosary.

Over the years, we have worked at the Hospice Northeast Angel Tree Memorial in December, and have also supported "Camp: I Am Special" through their style show and by donating scholarships and lunches to their camp.

Thousands of service hours and prayer hours are offered each year for the church and the community. Our contributions to the parish have included the ceiling in the parish hall, the railing outside the Shirley David Hall and a donation toward the sound system in the chapel.

As you can tell from this information, we are friends who share our gifts, serve the Lord and parish community, and support one another. We desire new friends who would like to share, serve, and support. Lasting friendships may be your reward! Call me at work (388-0746 ext. 14) or at home (399-3198) and I will be happy to give you more information.

M.O.M.S. Ministry



Recent Celebrants of M.O.M.S. Program



MOMS Core Team: (standing l-r) Sister Paula Hagen, Donna Simons, Judy Koziolk, Patricia Japour, Marilyn Nygard, Patti Sloan (sitting) Michele Putala and Trina Steffen

by Trina Steffen

who went through the MOMS Sessions.)

The MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) Group ended their fall season with a Celebration reception and dinner last October 28th. Sister Paula, the founder of MOMS, Pat Cook, the guest speaker, and Pat Thomas joined in welcoming the new MOMS Celebrants. Session facilitators Irene Ekkawi, Suzy Ludwig, Diane Koch, Pam Petit and Ann Semper bestowed Certificates of Completion on each of these very special ladies. Angel pins were given to the celebrants to give to their "prayer sponsors". (A "prayer sponsor" was assigned to each lady

I'm sure each new celebrant had her own reflection of her time spent sharing experiences, stories, and of course "journaling". But Julie Burke took an inspirational moment to record her feelings. When her poem was read, the understanding hearts of new and old MOMS glowed in their faces.

MOMS creates an awareness of the inner sacred self and brings new strength to family relationships and our Christian community. Julie put to words what each of us felt after completing MOMS, and we thank her. Her poem follows:

*MOMS is special in so many ways,
Where we all get together to lighten our days.*

*A place to write our feelings and to share
With women that you know will always be there.*

*A group that will love and pray for each other;
To support and understand what it means to be a mother.*

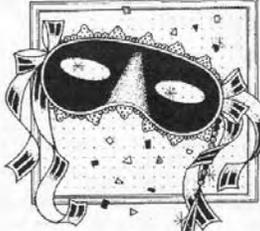
*In MOMS we have built ties that no one will break
With friends we have and continue to make.*

*With our journals complete and our hearts filled with
love;
May we all live our lives with God's blessing from above.*

*This time has meant more than you will ever know.
May God bless you all.*

By Julie Burke

**Christ The
King's Parish
Council Invites
You To**



Mardi Gras/99

Join us for:

- Music and dancing
- Heavy appetizers
- Cash bar
- 2 drink coupons
- Door prizes

**Saturday
February 13th
7:00 pm at the Kingdome**

You Don't Want To Miss It!

Donation: \$10.00 minimum
(includes above)

to benefit Sister Therese Huran Library & Media Center building fund

For more information contact Donna Simons at 745-4881

Reflections On The Season Of Lent

by Bernie Sans

Ash Wednesday

My good friend, Elaine Rendler, tells the story of being taken to Mass on Ash Wednesday by her grandparents. The imposition of ashes with its accompanying words were powerful and fascinating to her. Her grandmother explained to her the meaning of those mysterious words: *Memento homo quia pulvis es et in pulverem reverteris.* ("Remember, man, that thou art dust and to dust thou shalt return.") The ritual disturbed her. Young as she was, the ashes and their implications about her grandmother's mortality had a lasting effect on her. She tells me that it was the first time she realized that her grandmother would die one day. As she got older, she identified ashes with the notion of self-denial. This took the form of church practices such as fasting and abstinence. Collecting money for the poor in Lenten mite boxes was a standard practice for us kids. We were encouraged to donate our candy money to the mite box.

I started to pay attention to the Ash Wednesday scriptures when I started to play the organ at my parish in Chicago. They told us to give alms and fast, and how and where to pray. I still wondered why we wore ashes all day in public when the opening sentences of Matthew's gospel told us, "Be on guard against performing religious acts for people to see." Isn't wearing ashes contradictory to the message of the Ash Wednesday gospel? Perhaps. But, something else is going on. A young priest I knew in Milwaukee enlightened me about wearing ashes in public in the nineties: "It's an identity thing, Bernie! It's Catholic identity." I think he was on to something. Maybe that's why Catholics who don't go to church on a regular basis still want to receive and wear their ashes to be part of the community.

"It's an identity thing, Bernie! It's Catholic identity."

Lent I

The reading from Genesis tells of the fall of creation. This story will be repeated at the Easter Vigil, but the ending will be different. At the Great Easter Vigil we will hear of creation in its original state of perfection as restored by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through his resurrection.

This is the last season of Lent in this century and this millennium. Pope John Paul II invites us to make all of 1999 an Advent—a

season of preparation for the Jubilee year of 2000. I don't think he's suggesting the use of poinsettias and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" for Lent; however, maybe we should consider the creation story as an invitation to journey back to the Garden of Eden where all things were perfect. Let us show concern for the ecology of the planet that the balance of creation might be restored. Let us work for justice so that this world may be as perfect for its inhabitants as it was when man and woman first walked in the garden.

Lent II

In the story of the transfiguration, Christ was again proclaimed the Son of God by a voice from the heavens. Remember, we heard this last January 10th on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: "This is my beloved Son." The fact that Moses and Elijah stood beside him at the transfiguration indicates that Jesus was in very good company; he wasn't just anybody. God's voice from the heavens said "Listen to him." We too are called to pay attention to Jesus.

In the first reading Abram is a wonderful example of someone who never doubted or questioned God's instructions. Several thoughts cross my mind as I reflect on today's readings in relation to Pope John Paul II's letter, "*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*" / "As the Third Millennium Draws Near."

We are indeed headed for a new land—the third millennium. At the beginning of the first millennium, Christ was alive and calling for a new world of justice. The second millennium brought the so-called Dark Ages and a Renaissance. How will we enter the third millennium? Abram did not know where he was going, but he trusted in the Lord. The disciples went with Jesus to pray and saw him in a new way—with eyes of faith. Possible messages? Stop the busyness. Slow down. Pray. To listen to the Lord, you must stop talking. Even choir directors. Even priests. Even children. Even choir members. Even parishioners. Everyone must stop and listen.

This is the last season of Lent in this century and this millennium. Pope John Paul II invites us to make all of 1999 an Advent - a season of preparation for the Jubilee year of 2000.

Lent III

Today, those who are preparing for baptism, confirmation and eucharist at Easter will be prayed over at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass and our role as assembly members will be to kneel and bow our heads and pray silently with and for the elect, to stand and sing "Lord, hear our prayer" in response to the intercessions for the elect. We call this ritual a scrutiny: Today's is the first of three.

The scrutinies are solemn rites, accompanied by an exorcism, celebrated on Sundays designed to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ. As assembly members, all should be aware of what we are doing.

Even though the response to the intercessions is "Lord, hear our prayer," notice that this is not the Prayer of the Faithful. Remember the history of the Mass of the Catechumens and the Mass of the Faithful? (Those my age or older will have some recollection of this.) In the early church, the catechumens did not stay for the entire liturgy; dismissed after the homily, they were not present for the Prayer of the Faithful. That prayer belonged to those in full membership—the faithful. These intercessions at 5:00 today are for the elect.

Lent IV

The readings of the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A contain the major conversion stories of our faith: the woman at the well (who represents our personal sinfulness); the man born blind (who represents the human condition); and Lazarus (who was raised from the dead). Even though this year's readings are mainly from the gospel of Matthew, these cherished stories are taken from John, chapters 4, 9 and 11. In the scrutinies each week, after the proclamation of one of these great stories, the priest prays over the elect that they may be freed from the power of sin in their lives.

Lumen Gentium / *Light of Nations*—one of the sixteen original documents of the Second Vatican Council—is quoted in *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* # 33: "The Church, embracing sinners to her bosom, is at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, and incessantly pursues the path of penance and renewal" (LG8). Now His Holiness calls for a greater purification of the church before this coming year of Jubilee in 2000

because we leave behind a millennium of weakness and sinfulness. In *TMA* the Holy Father calls us to purify ourselves "through repentance, of past errors and instances of infidelity, inconsistency, and slowness to act." John Paul II calls for repentance in other areas: 1) We are asked to beg the Holy Spirit for the grace of Christian unity and to reach out ecumenically in order to overcome the divisions of the last millennium. 2) We are asked to beg forgiveness as a people and as a church for intolerance and even the use of violence in the service of the truth (*TMA*, 34-35).

Lent V

It's at this time that I become like Lazarus, gone from the land of the living for a while. My mom used to remind me it was time to go to the local mall and get a glamor shot of myself, frame it nicely and leave it with her, with assurance that I would return sometime after Easter. Liturgical musicians will not return to reality, and therefore life, until after they collapse Easter Sunday afternoon and rise sometime late at the end of Easter week!

I am constantly reminded: this season is holy. This is not the time to put on a liturgical "show" for the rest of the parish. This holds true for all ministers. If we haven't stopped to pray, to deepen our relationship with the Lord and beg forgiveness for our sins (particularly neglect of our loved ones), this last week before Holy Week may be our only chance.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Today's celebration begins with great flourish. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem is certainly a significant part of the church's liturgical year, but it is secondary to the proclamation of the Lord's Passion. From the Passion onward, the mood of the liturgy is solemn and serious. This day and its liturgies begin the most important week of the year for Christians: Holy Week. This week and its celebrations: the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in St. Augustine and the Easter Triduum celebrated in each diocesan parish church, help us to recall salvation history and its culmination in God's plan for His Son, our Lord and crucified, dead and risen Savior. Also, this week, we welcome into full communion with the Catholic Church all those in our parish and in the dioceses throughout the world who have been preparing to join us through prayer and study in the R.C.I.A. program.

What a joy this week brings!

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

Confirmation



By Peter Dang

The Vietnamese Community was preparing, waiting and anxiously anticipating the coming of Bishop John Snyder to 1) confirm our young children who were organized and taught by the Vietnamese Staff, and 2) visit the Vietnamese community.

Many individual and different ministries took part in coordinating this event. For instance, the catechists had been preparing the children since last September and throughout the summer. The welcoming committee, the choir, the elder group, the liturgist, the food committee, and the staff were busy planning and rehearsing.

On Oct 25, Bishop John Snyder confirmed 14 Vietnamese children, and on this occasion we celebrated

the Bishop's birthday. It was a most joyous day for our community to be able to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit.

In September the Vietnamese Community celebrates the Mid-Autumn festival (similar to Halloween). Last year we celebrated the festival at Christ The King's Kingdom. This celebration is a Chinese tradition that was brought to Vietnam, and is practiced in all Vietnamese regions that have Chinese settlements. On this day young people and adults are alike in enjoying eating mooncakes, lighting shaped lanterns (moon, star, spaceship, fish, and dragon...) and gazing upon the large and bright moon.

There are many tales told at this festival. Here are a few of them:

Legend of the Maiden

One folklore goes this way: A beautiful maiden, known as Sixth Sister Yao (being the sixth daughter), was given a heavy weaving task by her domineering mother-in-law.

On the 15th day of the eighth moon, she was given more cotton to weave than she could handle. She was told to complete the task by daylight an impossible demand.

The maiden weaved all night, and when the light from the oil lamp went out, she went outdoors to weave by the moonlight.

Then came a great gust of wind. Looking up, the maiden saw a dragon boat coming from the moon bearing the legendary Chinese immortals. She poured out her woes to the immortals and went

indoors as it was getting chilly and there was no more moonlight to weave by.

The next day, her mother-in-law found a golden loom in place of the old one. Realizing that this could only be of heavenly origins, she was overwhelmed and was ashamed of the way she had treated her daughter-in-law and vowed to do well.

So the folklore has it that the immortals leave their moon palace on a dragon boat every year during the mid-autumn night. Anyone lucky enough to see them will have whatever they touch turns into gold.

Thus hopefuls stay up late to gaze at the moon.

Legend of Chang E

On the boxes of mooncakes, you often see a lady floating towards the moon. She is Chang E, "the moon lady/goddess."

Chang E was wife of Hou Yi, the divine archer. He was ordered by the God of Heaven to round up the 10 suns creating havoc on Earth. Instead, he shot all but one sun and was banished to Earth as a human being. Chang E accompanied her husband.

One day, Hou Yi obtained the elixir of life from the Queen Mother of the West. He told his wife that if one person drank it, he would fly but if two shared the potion, they would be eternally youthful.

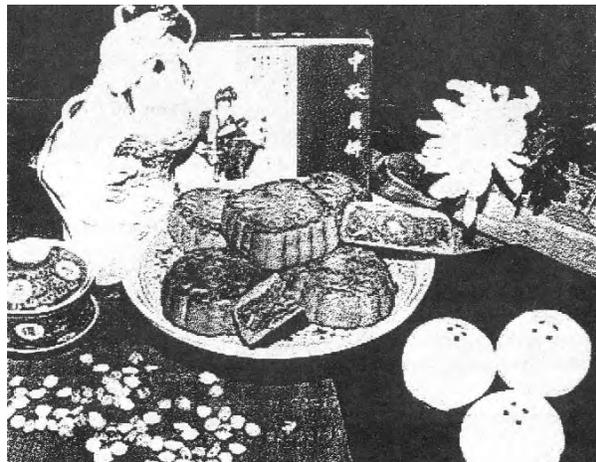
Unable to put up with her husband's ways any longer, Chang E drank the elixir and flew to heaven. The arrow from an envious human, Feng Meng, who coveted his superpowers, later killed her husband.

Another version said that Hou Yi stored away the elixir but Chang E discovered and drank it. She flew to the moon and changed into a threelegged toad.

From that day, Chang E ruled the lunar kingdom while Hou Yi reigned over the solar kingdom. Both meet once a month on the 15th day when the moon is full.

So perhaps the festival was initiated to celebrate their union.

The Secret Message



Another tale has it that the festival came about during the time the Mongols invaded China. To prevent the Chinese from organizing an uprising, they were forbidden to communicate with one another.

Secret messages were then hidden inside round cakes and in

this way, the Chinese managed to send the message out for an uprising to overthrow the Mongol invaders.

The eating of mooncakes was to commemorate the victory over the Tartars. This practice also signifies a time of joy and peace.

Widow & Widowers Support Group

by Isabelle Fusco

Have you suffered the loss of a spouse? Do you feel alone; will the emptiness and sorrow ever diminish? Do you wonder where to turn to? We may be able to help you.

On September 15, Christ The King Widow/Widowers Support Group held its initial meeting. We had a good turnout.

This is a Support Group of parishioners who have lost a loved one and are anxious to help others. Please pray for this new ministry that it may help make life more

meaningful for those who need love and compassion. Everyone in this group has suffered the loss of a spouse.

If you or someone you care about could benefit from our group, please attend the next meeting. We usually meet the second Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rectory, but in February we are going to meet at the Golden Corral at 12:30 p.m. for a luncheon. You can contact me, Isabelle Fusco, at 724-5186. Watch the bulletin for further details. Realize that you are not alone.

Grandparents Mass



Grandparents and children singing during Mass



Amy Rillstone, Kristen Schanze, and Sydney Franklin of the Children's Choir at the Grandparents Mass

by Kathy Nichols

"What are some of the things that you have learned from your grandparents?" That was the question Father Baker asked of the children. An important response was "patience".

The Grandparents Mass has been a tradition at Christ the King School - always celebrated the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The grandparents and children participated in the Mass by proclaiming the readings and presenting the gifts together. Kristen Steffan performed an organ number during the Offertory. The children's choir led the songs throughout Mass. The kindergarten classes gathered on the altar and

sang a special song for their grandparents.

Those children without grandparents were honored to adopt Sister Therese and Ray Hauck as grandparents. Janet Morton presented them with a special gift for all they do for the school and the church.

Following Mass, the congregation proceeded to the Parish Hall and the Kingdome for a light breakfast and entertainment. Rocky DiGeorgio and Bernie Sans, plus the student violinists, performed Christmas tunes on stage in the Kingdome.

What a wonderful day honoring some of the people we need to be most thankful for—our grandparents.

November Kindergarten Field Trip



by Kathy Nichols

In preparation for Thanksgiving, the kindergarten class traveled to Fort Caroline National Park to learn about Indian

life of long ago. They proceeded through the museum and saw many artifacts such as canoes, baskets and weapons. A hike through the 'forest' concluded after the visit to the Fort.



Volunteers at the wrapping table during the Christmas Boutique

by Kathy Nichols

The Christ the King School Christmas Boutique is an annual event. This season's boutique was held on December 11 and was a huge success. The students of Christ the King and Morning Star took pride in being able to shop independently for their parents, siblings, and other relatives.

Throughout November and early December, the room mothers for each classroom asked parents to send in six gift items per child. Those gift items were then sold at the boutique. All the items were priced very modestly, and were

displayed on tables in the Kingdome, just as they would be seen in a regular store.

On the day of the boutique, parents sent their children to school with money to go shopping. The students were brought in by class and given 30 - 45 minutes in which to shop.

Volunteer parents were available to assist the younger children with their purchases. Volunteers worked as cashiers and were also posted at the gift-wrapping table.

Each child was very proud of his/her accomplishment. What a wonderful idea during the season of giving!

Bishop Kenny Students Earn Honors

The following are students from Christ the King parish who have earned First and Second Honors for the first quarter of the 1998-

1999 academic year at Bishop Kenny High School. Congratulations! Keep up the good work.

- Said Bajalia
- Elizabeth Bango
- Kimberly Barnhart
- Miranda Bateh
- Karen Birdwell
- Jessica Black
- Holman Chua
- Nathalie Chua
- Megan Cody-Rakauskas
- Andrew Courtwright
- Matthew Crews
- Nydia Diefenbach
- Margaret Donahoe
- Stacy Engels
- Nicole Ghanayem
- Leslie Godley
- Elena Gonzalez-Chavez
- John Goodbread
- Amber Howard
- Francis Javato
- Jason Johnson
- Amanda Kehrt
- Kaye Lagdaan
- Kristian Llave
- Kelly Loughran

- Elizabeth Ludwig
- Melissa McKeon
- Nicolas Merolle
- Matthew Mucciolo
- Michelle Myers
- Jennifer Nogas
- Jay Nolan, Jr.
- Jonathan O'Neal
- Charles Parliament, IV
- Stephanie Preeschl
- Patrick Purcell
- Agata Ratajczyk
- Tomasz Rekas
- Michael Ricafort
- Brandon Rist
- Linda Rowan
- Matthew Schmitt
- Justin Stamper
- Shannon Statham
- Michael Taylor
- Sarah Tuskey
- Jonathan Veniard
- Peter Vergenz
- Ashley Wheeler
- Robert Zeaiter

Buddy Mass



The 'Buddies' during Mass



'Buddies' doing the responsorial

by Kathy Nichols

Every year, one of Christ the King's fifth graders is paired up with one of the first graders, and the duo are deemed "Buddies." This relationship goes on until the older buddy graduates from Christ the King.

At the same time, the younger "buddy" then becomes a fifth grader, and should be ready for the challenge of helping a new first grader.

The "buddies" meet periodically for storytelling,

playing, talking, etc. It means so much to a first grader to be able to look to an upper classmate, and know they have a friend.

A "Buddy Mass" was celebrated the first Friday in December. Each first and fifth grade student participated in the Mass in some way. This year, each grade also brought up their class banners.

After Mass, the "buddies" and their parents had a small breakfast in the parish hall.

School Christmas Program



by Kathy Nichols

The inns are full. What shall we do? This was the dilemma the third graders pondered as they portrayed the biblical characters during their musical production. The program highlighted the events leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Each third grade child took the stage at some point to deliver his or her rehearsed line to the audience.

Rocky DiGeorgio spent several weeks rehearsing with the children. He directed both the stage and musical portion of the program.

Following the play, the second through eighth graders led the audience in singing Christmas carols. Everyone left the event with more Christmas Spirit and with a deeper sense of the "real" meaning of Christmas.

The Season of Lent

The holy season of Lent is a special time of intense prayer, acts of charity, almsgiving and fasting and the frequent reception of the Sacraments, all leading to a deeper relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

There are six Sundays during Lent, the last of which is called Palm Sunday

or Passion Sunday, which begins Holy week.

The Easter Triduum is a liturgical highpoint of the church year; and Catholics are encouraged to attend the three important liturgies of the Easter Triduum: The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday liturgies.

The present laws of the Church regarding fast and abstinence during the Season of Lent are as follows:

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are *days of fast*. On days of fast, one full meal and two lesser meals are allowed; eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics who have reached their 18th year are bound by this law until the beginning of their 60th year.
2. Ash Wednesday and *all* Fridays of Lent are also *days of abstinence*. On days of abstinence, meats should not be permitted. The Law of Abstinence binds all Catholics who have completed their 14th year.

The New Code of Canon Law states:

"On these days (of penance), the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, to deny themselves by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully and especially by observing the fast and abstinence..."

Lent & Easter Schedule

Our Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday, February 17
6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross
On Fridays during Lent, following the 8:15 a.m. Children's Mass & on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.

Tenebrae Concert
7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 20, Cathedral Choir

Healing Mass
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 24 by Father Edward McDonough

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A parish celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled for Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m. in the Church

Holy Week Schedule

Palm (Passion) Sunday - March 28

5 p.m. Vigil Mass, March 27
7:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:00 noon
2:00 p.m. Vietnamese
5:00 p.m.- Life Teen Mass

Holy Thursday - April 1
6 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday - April 2
1-3 p.m. Join Fr. Neil Carr for a meditation on *Christ's Seven Last Words*
3 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
4 p.m. Maronite Rite Service in the Sacred Heart Chapel
6 p.m. Stations of the Cross
8 p.m. Vietnamese Celebration Of The Passion

Easter Celebration Schedule

Holy Saturday - April 3
8 p.m. Easter Vigil
11 p.m. Maronite Rite Service

Easter Sunday - April 4
7:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:00 noon
2:00 p.m. Vietnamese
5:00 p.m.- Life Teen Mass

Please join us for our Lenten Dinners!
Our Delicious Fish Dinners begin on Ash Wednesday and are held each Wednesday during Lent from 5 - 7 p.m.
Our menu consists of fish, baked beans, coleslaw, bread, coffee or tea.
Cost per adult, \$3 and children under 14, \$1. Take out available.

Christ the King Ministries

Lector Ministry

A Lector is an instrument of God's grace and proclaims His word for our Christian Community. Call Lucille Guzzone, 724-9617.

Daily Adoration

We need people who are willing to sign up for one hour a week so that someone is praying all during the day. Adoration is in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Please call Blanche Iglesias at 725-3968 or sign up on Time and Talent Pledge weekend.

Nocturnal Adoration

Held on the first Friday of each month from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. There are eight groups who rotate their hour each month. If you would like to join us in this prayer ministry, call Marty Polsenski at 384-4392.

Eucharistic Ministers

Assisting the clergy in the distribution of Holy Communion either during Mass or by bringing the Eucharist to the homebound or hospitalized. Candidates are chosen by Father Baker as recommended by the priests and staff members of the parish. Elizabeth Tadros, coordinator.

Ushers

Men and women who commit to attend the same Mass every week. They are requested to wear a navy blue jacket and to assist the celebrant as needed. Call Howard Sell at 744-5937.

Altar Society

Individuals who care for the vessels, vestments and linens used in the Liturgies. Call Anne Olinto at 725-1611.

Altar Server Ministry

Interested youth 5th grade or older and who have received First Holy Communion. Once trained they are entered into a rotating schedule for the Masses. Contact Jim Litchkofski at 646-0694.

Catholic Scouting Committee

Adult individuals interested in providing youth ministry through the scouting program. Meets 4 times a year; organizes and implements "Catholic camporee" for all Scouts once a year; attend spring awards ceremony. Training provided. Call Nancy, 745-3751.

Life Teen

Youth ministry program with a strong focus on the Eucharist. Meet Sunday for Mass (usually at 5 p.m.) and Life Night (fellowship) afterwards. Call Nancy, 398-1961

Life Teen - Core Team

Over 18, have a love for teens and are not currently a parent of a teen. Meet on Sundays at 6:15 p.m. in the rectory. Call Nancy Powers at 398-1961 for more information.

Parents for Life-Teen

Adults or parents interested in supporting the Life Teen program. Membership is open to all adults regardless of whether or not you are a parent. Activities are creative, fun, exciting and diverse. Call Jeanette, 725-7559 or 354-4846.

Sacristans

We help prepare for the celebration of Mass. For more information on how you can be a Sacristan call Ray Hauck, 641-0205.



Music Ministry

Any individual who has a talent with music or can play an instrument or just interested in the Singing Choir, Handbell Choir, Funeral Choir, or being a Cantor for Mass, call Bernie, 724-0080.

Gift Bearers

Families, Individuals or Parish ministries who want to bring the gifts to the altar during Mass. Call Kathy Weedon at 221-5468.

Mass Greeters

Welcome all who come to Mass. This team may offer the only contact many parishioners have in our faith community. Great opportunity for adults and families. Contact the chief usher at the Mass you are attending for more information.

The Legion of Mary

Men or women who offer their services to their pastor, to aid him in performing spiritual works in the parish. Members may be active or auxiliary (praying). Weekly meetings are held every Monday at 7 p.m. in the rectory. Call James Scott at 757-8423.

Religious Articles Gift Shop

Volunteers who staff the gift shop before and after Sunday Masses and Wednesday Marion Mass. Call Maureen McCook at 642-2725.

Rectory Office Volunteers

Adults willing to volunteer a morning/afternoon/all day Monday thru Friday 9-5. Different positions available: receptionist, clerical, computer operator. Call the Rectory at 724-0080 for more information.

Grief Ministry

For those who have lost loved ones. Contact Isabelle Fusco at 724-5186 for information on the next time they meet.

Sponsor Couples

Needed married couples to help engaged couples discern if marriage is for them. Call Jim/Mary Ann Middleton at 743-3951 for further information.

CKCCW

Our board meets monthly, September-June, to guide our seven circles who meet at various times during the month. Our General meeting is the last Thursday of each month at 7 PM. We welcome new members. Call Pat, 399-3198.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

We were founded by people who care about the problems of those around them. We care and would like you to share the care with us. For information on how to become a Vincentian call Russ, 634-8544, x1, and leave a message.

St. Vincent de Paul Transportation Ministry

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport parishioners to Mass, Doctor's Appointments, etc. Call 634-8544, x1, leave a message.

St. Vincent de Paul Visitation Ministry

We need volunteers to visit the sick/elderly of the parish. Leave a message on 634-8544, x1.

Clown Ministry

Come join the fun. Be a clown! We minister to people of all ages needing cheer. Call Janyce Jendryn at 721-7854 or 398-3911.

Marriage Encounter

A program designed to teach married couples how to better communicate, to strengthen and support Christian marriage. Contact Emilo and Theresa Gonzalez-Chavez 721-0012.

Stewardship Committee

Participate in a vital leadership group devoted to discovering and communicating insights into Christian discipleship and their application to stewardship as a way of life. Monthly meetings plus activities throughout the year. Call Patricia Thomas, 724-0080.

Child Care Center

Adults wanting to share their talents in the three different subcommittees: educational, plant facilities, and fund raising. Contact Theresa Little at 724-7239.

Bible Study

Individuals wishing to study the Bible. They meet Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. and another group meets at 7 p.m. in the rectory. All are welcome to join. For more information contact Father Brian Carey at 724-0080.

Faith Sharing Small Groups

Small groups of people meeting in private homes to discuss the Sunday readings and sharing how these readings relate to our daily lives. Contact Jean O'Connor, 727-9590.

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Preparing people to enter the Catholic Church through an inquiry and catechetical process. Call Marie or Lyle Stewart, 721-2849.

Vacation Bible School

A week long summer program (usually in August) for children ages 4-11 years to help deepen their faith and involvement in the Christian community. Fun for everyone. Call Diana Mattox at 928-9224.

Adopt A Player

People of our parish who would like to contribute toward the cost associated with registering a child for a C.K.A.A. sport call John Largey at 743-8496 or the office 725-0338.

Single and Single Again

Alone? Join us! We're the Single and Single Again Support Group, meeting new friends and enjoying social activities. We meet Tuesdays, 7:30 PM in the Shirley David Hall. Call LeRoy, 725-3472.

Childcare on Sundays

Christ the King Childcare & Religious Formation for pre-school children on Sundays in the Shirley David Hall. Free of charge. Call the rectory for information on how you can help in this ministry.

Advent Tree

A program that puts smiles on faces of people at Christmas time. Those who share time and talent in this ministry help put up the Advent Tree with special paper ornaments. Parishioners choose ornaments to take home, purchase the gift, return the ornament with the gift attached to it. Volunteers needed to help distribute the gifts to nursing homes, orphanages, etc. Call Trudy Cameron at 724-0511.

Parish Council

The Parish Council is a consultative body that the Pastor can pray and reflect with, and ask for assistance to guide in the overall care/ministry of the Parish and the enhancement of its mission. Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Rectory. Call Mike Mackin at 744-6659. It is made up of representatives

(President, Chairperson or Facilitator) from each ministry in the Parish, as well as representatives from the Finance Council, Christ the King School, Christ the King Daycare, Athletic Association, Scouts, Knights of Columbus, Marriage Encounter, Sponsor Couples, and Wedding Coordinator. Elections are held every two years to elect a President, vice-president, secretary-recording, secretary-clerical from the body of representatives.

Christ the King Catholic School

Grades Pre-K thru 8th grade. The principal is Janet Morton. The school needs volunteers on the school board, at the cafeteria, office, library, clinic, as a room mother, etc. Call 724-2954.

Speakers for Career Day at Christ the King School

On Career Day we need several people to volunteer to share information about their careers/vocations with the children. If you would like more information, please call the school at 724-2954.

C.C.D.

Opportunity for students grades 1-8 to learn/experience the Catholic faith with others in their age group. Sessions held September-May in the school on Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Sunday Mass attendance required. Call Subdeacon Eli Shami at 721-3334.

C.C.D. Teachers

Needed certified teachers to teach grades 1-8 catechism. If you feel called to reach out to young people this may be the place for you. Call Subdeacon Eli Shami at 721-3334.

C.C.D. Volunteers

Volunteers needed for Wednesday nights during the school year to help teachers and clerical staff. Call Subdeacon Eli at 721-3334.

Christ the King Courier

Interested in publishing a newspaper? We need proofreaders, reporters, photographers, etc. We meet Wednesdays in the rectory at 7 p.m. Call Judy at 724-0080.

M.O.M.S. Ministry

Ministry of Mothers Sharing, is designed to encourage prayer, discussions, and friendships between women of all ages. Call Donna Simons at 745-4881.

Hispanic Ministry

We wish to develop a parish ministry to worship and meet the spiritual and social needs of the growing Hispanic population at Christ the King. We meet every Monday at 7 P.M. for Bible study in the Rectory. Call Rosa Townsend, 744-9231.

Habitat for Humanity

Forms partnerships between those in need and those who are willing to put their faith into action by donating their time, talent, and treasure to construct such housing. Call Bill Damato at 642-8920.

Christ the King Clinic Volunteers

Staffed by Doctors, Registered Nurses and ancillary support people from Christ the King Parish. They donate their services the fourth Saturday of each month 9-1p.m. Call Janis at 398-4392.

Parish Nurse Ministry

Nurses who belong to Christ the King Parish willing to volunteer their time and talent to support the ministry of health within the parish. Call Barbara at 724-1776.

Christ the King Blood Drive Needs Volunteers/Coordinator

Twice a year Christ the King Church along with the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance holds a blood drive. Call Marty, 384-4392.

Coordinator of Volunteer Services

If you would like to volunteer your Time, Talent, & Treasure but not sure what you would like to do or maybe you're in a ministry but not the one you want, call Al Martin, 744-4302.

Cursillo

A Renewal movement of individuals in the Church who want to deepen their faith and enhance their walk with Christ. Call Carl Ludwig at 724-8485.

K' Cees

Organization of Catholic Women, an auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 4727. They help/support the Knights. Meetings are at the Knights' Hall on Merrill Road on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. Call Laura 220-7671 for info.

Queens and Kings

Our lively senior citizens socialize on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30-4 p.m. September through June. Do come to enjoy! Call Pat Hubbard, 396-6073.

Knights of Columbus

Organization of Catholic men and their families dedicated to promoting concepts of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. If you are a practicing Catholic man at least 18 yrs. old, interested in fellowship with people who share the same beliefs, call Butch Ferrizzi at 641-3643.

Christ the King Athletic Association (CKAA)

Serves children (ages 5-12, boys; 5-15, girls) who believe that youth athletics provide valuable lessons in citizenship/teamwork. Call John, 743-8496/office 725-0338.

Boy Scouts

Troop 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys 6-12th grade. Meet Tuesdays, 7 p.m. in the Scout Hut-Cut-Call Rob 396-2242.

Cub Scouts

Pack 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys in 1st-5th grade. Den meet weekly in the Scout Hut. Call Dave Waters 721-6567.

Girl Scouts

Girls of different age levels that meet weekly or bi-weekly in the Shirley David Hall after school or in the evenings. Call Nancy D'Antoni at 745-3751.

I. M. Sulzbacher

Individuals who give two hours of their time to 400-500 men, women and children the third Tuesday of each month by saying grace, serving dinner and cleaning up the kitchen. Call Donnell, 743-6174.



Beautification Committee

Individuals and families who want to beautify the church grounds. Meet the third Saturday of every month 9-12 noon in the church parking lot by the fountain. Come join us in beautifying His House. Call Barbara Saar at 743-3430.

Church Decorating

Decorating the church and gathering area, during different seasons of the church. Contact Terri Vogelsang, 634-8544 ext. # 5.

L' Arche Harbor House

Mutual ministry with members and assistants, building community support and awareness to the needs and gifts of the disabled members of the L' Arche Harbor House family. Call Ms. Kelly, 744-4435.

Respect Life

We are a ministry wishing to make a difference in people's lives either by supporting the Saint Gerard House, Project Rachel, Respect Life Pilgrimage and the Diocesan Respect Life Program. Sign up at the Time and Talent Fair or contact Patty or Mike Maroney, 743-9227.

Landings

Works with Catholics who have been away from the Church for a period of time and wish to return. Contact Jackie Davis, 743-6667.

Child Safety Tips

by Dan Scanlan

Safety.

As any parent will tell you, safety is the biggest priority when it comes to one of the great gifts God has given us—our children.

And while it's been a few months since 8-year-old Maddie Clifton was buried at Oaklawn Cemetery following a tearful funeral at San Jose Catholic Church, the question of how to keep our children safe from those who wish to do them harm is still paramount in the hearts and minds of many of us.

How do we protect the children we love when even our neighbor could do them harm? And above all, what do we tell our children when they are not under our protective wing, as they fly from the nest to play ball, ride their bicycles or just be kids?

Maddie Clifton was last seen alive Nov. 3, as she was playing in her Southside neighborhood. As soon as her family reported her missing, local police and hundreds from the Jacksonville community spent a harrowing week searching the community, hoping to find her. But in the end, the city was shocked to learn a neighborhood acquaintance had been arrested in her death.

As soon as word of the death was announced, Christ the King parishioner and veteran Jacksonville Sheriff's Office member Gus Carlson went to Maddie's school, San Jose Catholic, to offer assistance. Until a recent transfer to a Community Oriented Policing Strategies program in Arlington, Sgt. Carlson was a senior member of the department's Community Affairs Division's Crime Prevention Unit. That included supervising the Officer Friendly program, which sends trained officers into area schools to teach students about personal safety and how to deal with strangers.

Carlson said it was tough at the tight-knit school, especially since many students knew Maddie and her family and many of the students' parents had joined in the search for the missing girl. Although his main message to the children was "not to let their guard down," Carlson said one warm and loving message was learned by many that day.

"It brought a community together, especially her classmates, who came together in prayer and support of her family," he said. "But it also reemphasizes that you need to think crime prevention and child safety year-round, not just because an incident occurred. Everyone has their guard up now, but what happens a few months down the road when everyone forgets. You have to think safety 12

months out of the year." With that in mind, Carlson offered parents and children some year-round safety tips, whether they are at home, at play or at school.

For example, the best way to walk to and from school, if your parent can't drive you, is to walk with a group of friends. He said, "Travel in groups. Walk with other children." "Know what a stranger is," Carlson said, "It can be someone you know as well as someone you don't know."

Above all, never go into anyone's home unless your parents know who they are and give permission, he said. If you don't know the person, stay away from them. And if a person in a car asks you for directions, run away. "Normally, adults don't ask children for directions," he said. "In shopping malls, if you get separated from your parents, don't go looking for them (your parents). Find a merchant and ask him to call security or tell him you are lost. Tell a security person or a police officer—don't go wandering off."

What if a child sees someone strange in their school or hanging



around the parking lot? "That is what your teacher is there for," Carlson said. "Immediately leave the area and tell a teacher or principal, or some school personnel," he said.

Carlson also told them that the same thing goes if a stranger does more than just ask a question or tries to start up a conversation. If someone makes a grab for a child in a kidnapping attempt, Carlson said the child's best defense is his/her voice. "Bring attention to

yourself—scream, run away and find a responsible adult like a merchant or store owner or a security person in a mall," he said. "Remove yourself from the situation."

And sadly, as the Maddie Clifton case showed, even someone you know can be a concern. Clifton's accused killer was a neighborhood boy, someone she and her parents knew. "Parents have to be mindful of not only other children but adults. If an adult pays special attention to a child, that is usually not normal," he said. "You have to watch out for someone in the neighborhood who pays extra attention to your child, and don't let your child into other persons' homes unless you really know these people and you have visited them. Things happen."

Finally, Carlson advised parents that they can no longer just wave good-bye to their children in the morning, or after school and say, "See you at dinnertime." Parents need to know where their children are and whether you trust whom they are with. "Use your gut feelings and instincts," he said.

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by Father Neil Carr

On November first, I boarded a KLM airliner in Detroit along with 42 others (2 of them Jesuits) to begin an Ignatian pilgrimage to Spain. Our goal was to visit some of the "hot spots" which were significant in the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). When at Christ the King in September, I promised to report on that journey.

We landed in Amsterdam only to board a plane for Madrid, capital city of Spain. And a beautiful one it is, frightfully rich not only in history, but in its magnificent sculptures, gardens, trees, parks and buildings. The city is situated on a higher elevation than any other European capital. Berne (Switzerland) included. Standing next to the city's Cathedral-Basilica, high on a hillside, is Europe's largest building, the Royal Palace. It contains more than 7000 rooms (!), but it is used now only for state dinners when heads of state visit. The royal family lives more modestly about 10 miles out of town.

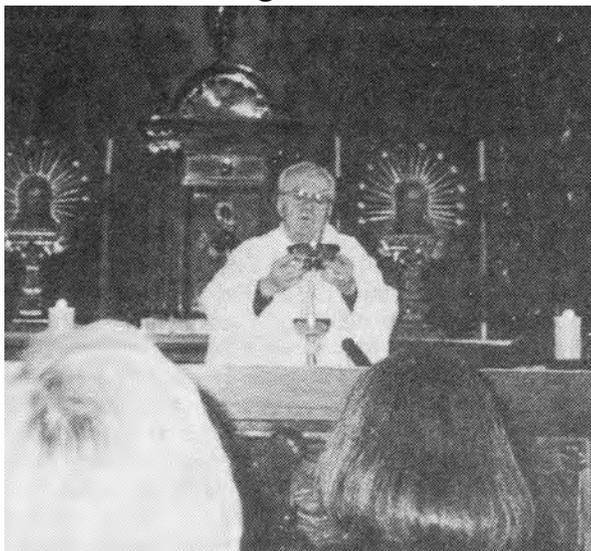
The next day our bus took us to Carmelite country, to Segovia and Avila, ancient walled towns which are both meaningful sites in the history of the Carmelite Order. In Segovia, a real charmer, St. John of the Cross worked and is buried. He is as revered as the reformer of the men's Carmelite Order as Theresa is of the women's branch of the same Order. Unique in the town is the aqueduct, built by the Romans 2000 years ago, which bisects the town. Standing about 8 stories high, it carried water into the town from nearby mountains until very recently!

In Avila, we celebrated Mass in the Cathedral (as ancient as the town) and visited the monastery where Theresa started the reformed Order of Carmel for women. Whereas St. John of the Cross seems at times to have lived in a mystical world of his own, Theresa had her feet very much on the ground. One story from her life has endeared her to me. On feast days which called for celebration, partridge was the attraction at the community meal (partridge being the equivalent of our turkey). At one point, the young Sisters in the community looked on aghast while Theresa, their Mother Superior, attacked the bird voraciously. Aware of their disapproving looks, she stopped long enough to say: "Sisters, when it's prayer time, pray; but when it's partridge time, partridge!" My kinda gal!

After another night in Madrid, we were driven north to Burgos, another walled town built around what is known as Spain's most striking cathedral. After Mass in the cathedral, we lunched in town before boarding our bus for the notorious Basque country, home of a fiercely independent people who for centuries have wanted political freedom from Spain. It was also the home of Ignatius of Loyola.

We arrived at Loyola Castle, his birthplace, about dusk and spent the night there in the retreat house nearby. The next morning, we three Jesuits concelebrated Mass for the pilgrimage group in the room in which Ignatius endured a year-long convalescence from a broken leg

A Spanish Sojourn



which he got while commanding Spanish troops in defense of the town of Pamplona. But it was in that room, too, that he came to the decision to leave his family and wealth behind, radically change his life-style and give himself totally to the service of God, whatever form that might take.

We drove east now, past the city of Pamplona (known to most Americans for its annual "run of the bulls" early in July) and on to Xavier Castle, home of St. Francis Xavier who met up with Ignatius at the University of Paris and was eventually one of the founders of the Jesuits. Xavier Castle was unique in that it is surrounded by a moat, has a drawbridge and windows on the third level from which boiling water could be poured on enemies scaling the walls! But it also had a small chapel in which Francis and his family prayed regularly and which has a crucifix over the altar which shows Christ with a big smile on His face. I have never seen that before.

We spent the night in a nearby town called Jaca. On our way to Manresa the next day, since we were close to the French border, we had some strikingly beautiful views of the Pyrenees, snow-capped at this time of year.

We arrived at Manresa at nightfall, where we said Mass in the cave where Ignatius spent the better part of each day for over a year in prayer. He would attend Mass each day in the main church of the village (about 400 population in his day, about 40,000 today), work in a local hospital for his board and lodging. Then he would find long hours when he would go to his cave overlooking the river Chardoner and absorb himself in prayer. It was here that he had several visions and at one point, down on the bank of the river, was given an extraordinarily clear insight into the great mystery of the Trinity. During this time in the cave, he recorded his spiritual experiences, a document which later blossomed into the *Spiritual Exercises* for which he has become

famous and which form the basis of Jesuit life and spirituality.

It is understandable, then, that our party remained at the Jesuit retreat house, built over the cave, for a three-day retreat. We three Jesuits took turns in giving the retreat talks. During this time, I was privileged to say a private Mass in the cave.

After our retreat, we drove to Montserrat, the spiritual heart of Catalonia, the section of Spain in which we now were. There, high up in the mountains, is the Benedictine monastery which houses the renowned "Black Madonna" at whose shrine Ignatius hung up his sword as a symbol of the surrender of his life to God before he traveled on to Manresa.

At Montserrat, we joined 40 to 50 monks in their concelebrated Mass after we had climbed several stories to venerate the Black Madonna, patroness of Catalonia. It is situated very high above the main altar and visible from the floor of the church, as are the people who climb to touch it in a never-ending stream. We returned to the church at 1 o'clock to listen to the famed boys' choir of Montserrat, centuries older, incidentally, than the Vienna Boys Choir.

By day's end we had arrived in Barcelona where we settled in for the night. This is a city of several million people, as was Madrid, but it differs from Madrid in that it is a more compact city. That means lots of heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It also boasts a subway network which carries a million people a day. And there's history everywhere you look.

Ignatius came here and studied Latin (church language of his time) with fourth and fifth graders. He also had his eye on going to the Holy Land to walk the roads Christ had walked. So he begged for his living in the old part of the city, especially outside his parish church, Santa Maria del Mar, where I had the privilege of saying Mass for our pilgrimage group.

Two churches will live forever in my memory: the old cathedral just across the plaza from our hotel, and Sagrada Familia, already referred to as the new cathedral although it will not be completed for another 60 years or so. More later on that.

The old cathedral of ancient Gothic structure is lined with chapels dedicated to various saints popular at the time. These chapels were all funded by various guilds, the equivalent of our labor unions. In a room off the chapel, usually behind the altar, they kept their books, so a heavy grill work fronts each chapel to prevent vandals from entering.

In later years, the general public became more wealthy and many families wanted to have their own chapels. Since the cathedral proper could contain no more, a cloister was added which was attached to one side of the cathedral. But there was no way to secure their family and business documents, grills being impossible in that setting. As a consequence, they had to hire an armed guard to protect their valuables. The window is still there from which he could, if needed, shoot down intruders. But the poor man needed sleep at night. So they decided, centuries ago, to cage in 13 geese who would be sure to raise a ruckus at night sufficient to awaken the sleeping guard. Thirteen geese are there today. Thirteen because St. Eulalia is buried there in the crypt under the main altar and she was 13 years old when she was martyred.

The real eye-catcher, though, is the to-be cathedral Sagrada Familia. Named in honor of the Holy Family, it was started 160 years ago and is an architectural masterpiece already, even though only the apse and two sides are completed. It is impossible here to describe the history of its building or the details of the facades already in place. You have to hear it all from a knowledgeable guide and be on the scene. The people of the city say, "it will be finished when it is finished". No rush. How wonderfully different from our American "hurry it up!" The reason for taking so long is that no contributions are accepted from government or corporations. Donations must come from the pockets of ordinary citizens, which are given as penance for their sins. Hence it is called an "expiatory" cathedral.

Incidentally, the royal family in Spain, King Juan Carlos, his wife Sophia and their three daughters, are deeply loved by the citizenry. The youngest daughter was recently married in the old cathedral (the one with the geese), and works in a local bank.

Finally, it was a flight from Barcelona to Amsterdam and on to Detroit, tired but grateful for a safe and exhilarating trip. I remembered the people of Christ the King in my prayers at every stop we made, and continue to do so back home.

Father Neil Carr, SJ is assigned at a Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He is a former associate pastor from Christ the King and is scheduled to return here at Easter to do "Seven Last Words".