



Christ the King

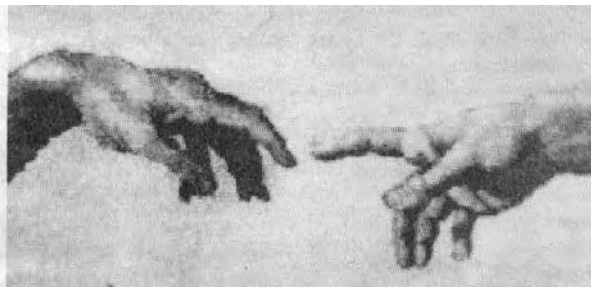
# COURIER

Volume 2, Issue 1

Christ the King Catholic Church

May, 1999

## Sabbath Rest



### Who Created You?

## A Reflection on the Lord's Day

by Brian Carey, C.S.Sp.

In answer to the above questions I assume that all of us at Christ the King would respond "God" to the first question, and "Jesus Christ" to the second.

If that is the case, it seems perfectly natural that we should acknowledge that in some way. To have been created and redeemed is a grace, a free gift of God, for which we ought to give thanks.

We look to our Tradition to discover an appropriate way to do this. God Himself has told us to make the *Seventh Day Holy*, to set it apart from the other days so we can spend time with Him and one another without the distraction of the work and toils of everyday living. And Jesus Himself designated celebrate His Supper as the way to remember Him.

The Jewish people observe the Lord's day on Saturday, which they call *Shabbat*. God promises many blessings to those who keep His Sabbath faithfully. But also, many times in the books of the prophets the Lord reprimands them for not



### Who Redeemed You?

observing His Day and so missing His blessings. In the gospels it seems that in Jesus days there was good observance of the Sabbath at least in some ways.

The first Christians were Jews. After the Lord's death, resurrection and ascension they continued to worship in the Temple and Synagogue on Saturdays. But the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47, tells us that they also gathered in their homes for the "Breaking of the Bread" as Jesus had commanded them to do in His memory. The "Breaking of the Bread" obviously refers to the Lord's Supper, the "Eucharist", as we call it.

After the year 70 A.D., when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans, all Temple worship came to an end. That Christians continued to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays is attested by St. Justin the Martyr, from Nablus just north of Jerusalem, about the year 100 A.D.:

On Sundays there is an assembly of all who live in towns or the country, and the memoirs of the Apostles are read, which are called the gospels, or the writings of the prophets. Then the President admonishes us and

# Editor's Notes



New volunteer in training? Do you think we begin too young? Pictured above: June Morgan with granddaughter, Carolyn.

## Our First Anniversary!

The Courier Staff and friends met at "Steak & Ale" on March 26 to celebrate our First Anniversary. It was an evening filled with fun, fellowship and good food. Our pastor, Fr. Robert Baker, asked the Lord's blessing.

After dinner, certificates of appreciation were presented to all the Staff members. As a special surprise, each member of the staff received a shirt with Christ the King Courier Inaugural Staff imprinted on it. "Thank you, Tony!" for your friendship, help and now our wonderful shirts!

I want to thank all who read the Courier. Your response to our

efforts has been great! We hope to hear more from you as time goes on.

Please feel free to write to us anytime. If you have an idea or a special event in your family which you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to submit an article and any pictures you would like to include. Several people have already done so and seem pleased with our presentation of what they have had to say.

Again, the staff has worked hard to bring you information, interviews from parishioners, events of the last quarter and a taste of what will be in the next issue. Sit back in your easy chair, relax, and enjoy reading.

## Christ the King Courier

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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,

The summer months are upon us once again, and Father Brian Carey's wonderful cover story highlights the importance of the Sunday Liturgy and Sabbath Rest for all of us who are followers of Jesus.

Though we all look forward to, and deserve, a summer vacation and a break from our daily labors, we never take a break from serving the Lord.

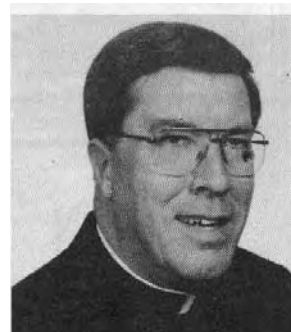
Our Sunday celebration of the Liturgy is a cornerstone of our faith in the Lord; and our Church calls us all to celebrate that day with fervor, faith, and prayer and to take leave of our usual workday obligations to give greater time to the Lord, to family, and to the fostering of our friendships.

Pope John Paul II's recent Encyclical Letter on the Lord's Day, *Dies Domini*, reminds us of God's call to make Sunday holy!

We thank all the people in our parish who help us celebrate our Sunday liturgies with deep faith, great reverence, and joyful praise in song. This Sunday gathering is so crucial to our building of our faith community that only an illness of ourselves or of a family member committed to our care can justify us in failing to join our brothers and sisters in the Lord for Sunday worship.

We commend those who show their deep faith by faithful commitment to Sunday Mass on the Lord's day, and those who attend an additional Mass or daily Mass during the week!

Our special thanks to Ron Lynch, and the Lynch family, for providing the wooden structures that frame our outdoor Stations of the Cross at our House of Prayer. Ron was helped in this project by



Henry Nguyen, who gave a protective coating of varnish to the Stations and placed the roofing material on the top for us.

Take advantage of their inspired labors by making the Stations of the Cross there yourself, as the children of our school did the Friday before Holy Week. Our House of Prayer is available for all people of our parish involved in parish ministries. Just call Pat Thomas at the Rectory to reserve your "Day Away to Pray."

We thank you for your patience, and caution around our building site, during construction of Phase I of the project in honor of Sister Therese Horan at Christ the King School and our adult baptismal font construction in our Gathering Area, all of which should be underway this summer.

A blessed, peaceful, and faith-filled summer to all our parishioners and friends of Christ the King Parish.

God bless you always!

Sincerely Yours in Christ the King,

Father Bob Baker

## Catholic Volunteers in Florida

Combine volunteer service with spiritual enrichment...become a Lay volunteer in Florida! The Catholic volunteers seek to promote the values of social justice by direct service to farm workers, homeless, hungry, low-income parishes, unwed mothers, and others in need. This is accomplished by degreed or work experienced individuals volunteering to dedicate their education, talent and experience in a ministry of service, on a full-time basis for one year while receiving a stipend and basic accommodations. For more information:



**Catholic Volunteers in Florida**  
P.O. Box 702  
Goldenrod, FL 32733-0702  
(407) 331-6444  
**You can make a difference!**

## Baptisms:

We Would like to announce the following people who were recently baptized into the Catholic Church

Zico Roberto Tierro	Jan 23	Michelle Anderson	April 3
James Richard Scanlan	June 10, 95	Norma Frye	April 3
John Michael McVearry	Jan 31	Scott Palmer Frye	April 3
Matthew Vaught Considine	Feb. 7	Michael Kingry	April 3
Hannah Catherine Shami	Feb. 7	Paul Edward Loyd	April 3
Lam Philips Mguen	Feb. 16	Mary Lou McCall	April 3
Donald Eugene Wright, Jr.	Feb. 21	Margaret Jean Marshall	April 3
Richard Brandes Sharp, Jr.	Feb. 21	Lesley Newman	April 3
Anthony Hung Nguyen	Feb. 21	Deborah Padgett	April 3
Tyler Chin	Feb. 27	Karen Scott	April 3
Michael Lee Vliet III	Feb. 28	Clark Rutherford Scott	April 3
Seth B. Gozar	March 7	William Wilson Underwood	April 3
Quinton Cordell Gardner	March 7	Darren Waldeck	April 3
Faith Scoones	March 7	Mary Collins Weldon	April 3
Megan Renee Mary Fallon	March 14	Betty Jo Woehrmeyer	April 3
Eric Michael Sievert	March 20	Jeannie Sharon Phillips	Oct. 31, 98
Alexandra Volpe St. John	March 21	Alec Anthony Soares	April 11
Amy Fallon	April 3	Caitlyn Nicole Curtis	April 11
Dacia Knowles	April 3	Rebecca Kay Schroder	April 11
April Marie Matthews	April 3	Tina Motel	April 11
Giap Thi Le	April 3	Trynity Lynn Fosbenner	March
Phuong Thi Nguyen	April 3	Miryan Andrea Leon	April 18
Thao Thi Nguyen	April 3	Andrew Joseph	April 18

## Welcome:

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

The George Nagle Family	The William St. Jean Family
The Donnie Wright Family	The Emiliano Bunag Family
The Tom McCrone Family	The Carlos Canjura Family
The Kevin Stone Family	The Steven Curtis Family
Jeffrey Birchland	The Miguel Leon Family
The Eric Turchyn Family	The Wanda Ballard Family
The Jeffry Asher Family	The John Nolan Family
The Kym Urso Family	The George Beining Family
The Kenneth Craig Tew Family	Michael Evans
Arturo Penās	Mary Warming
The Steven Soares Family	Ed DeMiranda, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jesus Cuapiaco Jr.	Sandy Mayor
The Bradley Saad Family	The Kathryn Poloclak Family
Daniel Abeyta	Vivian Fisher
The Edward Jackson Family	The Gilberto Resto Family
William Baldwin	Scott Baldwin
Rachel Kern	

## Deaths:

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

Harold Neuendorf	Feb. 1	Capt. H. A.(Hank) Steele	March 20
Paul Culberhouse	Jan. 24	William Wallis	March 18
Antonio Rivera	March 9	Nina Dovi	March 25
May Mack-Hale	March 12	Katherine Wielgus	March 25
Lucille Schelldorf	March 6	Ray Oxenreider	April 8
Ruth Guthrie	Feb. 23	Emily Butler	April 5
Alicia Greene	March 12		

## Marriages:

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

Michael Salvador Quindoza & Elenita Dela Cruz Aguda on Feb. 13.	Jack Eugene Norman & Anne Marie Shami on April 10.
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Rena Zamora Garcia & Elvia Raquel Lorenzo-Lvaces on March 20.



On March 26 after the 8:15 Mass, Father Baker arranged a very special event. All the students met at the *House of Prayer* for the Outdoor Stations of the Cross - Photo & comments by Kathy Nichols

## Letters

Buhangija Parish  
Jan. 27, 1999

February 9, 1999

Dear Christ the King Parish,

Reverend Father Robert Baker  
Christ the King Parish

Most sincere thanks for your very generous gift of \$500 at Christmas.

As you are no doubt aware from news reports, Africa is a continent beset with many problems, and several of its more than 20 countries are among the poorest in the world. Among these is Tanzania, and it's not because of wars or conflicts with its neighbors, but its resources are very limited. Most people depend on agriculture for their life needs, and that depends on the weather. This year the rain is more than two months late, and food supplies are very low.

Families have been coming to us who are completely without food, and it is only with the help of gifts like yours that we are able to provide at least a minimum of food until crops, now planted, can be harvested in two or three months' time. You are the ones who through us are "feeding the hungry." It's not easy to meet the needs—because there are so many, but with your help we are doing what we can. So we ask God to bless your generosity and to provide for all your needs. Kindly continue to keep us in mind and in your prayers as we serve these people in your name, for the love of Our Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. E. Brunelle

Dear Father Bob:

Congratulations to you and the editorial staff of your parish newspaper, the *Courier*.

Lots of great pictures and good articles. Impressive to say the least!

Every parish in the diocese should be fortunate enough to have such a means of communicating with and building the parish community.

Please extend my praise for a job well done to all concerned.

May the love, peace, and joy of Jesus Christ be with you.

Sincerely,

Francis N. Scholtz  
Director  
Diocese of St. Augustine  
Catholic Center



## Memorials

Sister Therese Horan Library and Media Center	\$600,000
Media Offices	50,000
Theological Library	50,000
Computer Lab	[TAKEN] 100,000
Science Lab	[TAKEN] 30,000
Counselors' Office	30,000
Teachers' Office	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...	[partial donation] 40,000

Sister Therese Horan Library  
and Media Center  
Memorial Fund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

# Vocations and Priestly Formation

by Seminarian Joseph B. Fetter

Vocations can begin anywhere, even in a hot tub...

Be careful near the water! Snakes, alligators; Jesus! The dangers are many; one of them a vocation to the priesthood. Two thousand years ago, Jesus "caught" four of His best disciples while they were washing their nets next to the Sea of Galilee.

A passage taken from Luke's gospel states: "Simon Peter fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord. I am a sinful man.' Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid. From this moment on, you will be a fisher of men.'" Luke 5, 8-10.

Two years ago, Jesus began baiting His hook for me from the waters of a hot tub. The most common question that I am asked is, "How were you called to be a priest?" As my parents were driving up from the coast of Florida, they decided to stop overnight in Jacksonville. They both wanted to unwind in the hot tub. There was another gentleman sitting in there with them, so my dad struck up a conversation with him saying, "So what do you do for a living?" The gentleman answered, "I am a priest, as well as the Vocations Director for the Diocese," (Fr. John Tetlow). "Really," responded my parents, "Our son is thinking about a vocation in the priesthood." Fr.

Tetlow replied, "Have your son call me!" - and so I did.

At the time, I had just completed my undergraduate studies at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota (which is just one hour north of Minneapolis), with a degree in sociology and theology. Fr. Tetlow had sent me the application, wanted me to write a biography, and include letters of recommendation. I met with him in Milwaukee, Wis. with all these documents. I then went before the Diocesan Vocations Board, and was accepted into the diocese two years ago. I am attending St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, completing my graduate studies in theology and seminary formation for obtaining a Masters in Divinity in preparation for priestly ordained ministry.

*"The harvest is rich but the laborers are few."* Matthew 9:37

In an article written by Sr. Cathy Bertrand, S.S.N.D. "People still choose religious life and priesthood, but the number is declining." In North America, there are fewer religious clergy and fewer people in seminaries of formation. In the late 50's and early 60's, there were higher numbers entering priesthood and religious life, but that was an unusual and unique time. Statistics from *The Cara Report* Summer 1997; Vol. 3, No. 1, states that in 1996, the average age for a diocesan priest

was 58, men religious 61, women religious 69. Twenty-four percent of diocesan priests were over 70, which is the average retirement age for priests.

	1965	1997
Total priests	58,132	48,097
Priestly Ordinations	994	521
Graduate-level Seminarians	8,325	3,292
Parishes without resident priests	549	2,393
<b>Total Catholics</b>		<b>46.6m</b>

The average age for seminarians in 1993 was 32, whereas it was 25 in 1966.

*"Here am I Lord; I come to do Your will."* Psalms 40:8-9

The Church, says Sr. Bertrand, needs to strengthen its priestly ministry with happy, healthy people who have a desire to make a difference in the Church and the world - even in the midst of struggle and confusion; people for whom God is significant and who have a burning desire to be of service to others. The Church needs people who have leadership skills and can work well with a variety of people. No one is born a priest. Vocations are *God-inspired* and *home-made*. It is those among us who have what it takes to live and serve in this way who are called forth.



Taken from the book of Isaiah: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said; 'Send me!'" Isaiah 6: 8

Let us pray:

**Prayer for Vocations**  
(National Conference of Catholic Bishops)

O loving and gracious God,  
Father of all,  
Bless your people  
in every time and season and  
provide for their needs through  
Your providential care.  
Your Church is continually  
in need of priests, sisters and  
brothers to offer themselves  
in the service of the Gospel by  
lives of dedicated love.  
Open the hearts of  
your sons and daughters  
to listen to Your call in their  
lives.  
Give them the gift of courage  
to follow your call.  
May they have the spirit of  
young Samuel who found  
fulfillment in his life  
when he said to you,  
"Speak Lord, for your servant is  
listening." (1 Samuel 3, 10)  
We ask this through  
Christ the Lord.  
Amen

## The Light of the World



Floyd Townsend, Eli Shami and Ray rehearse



Ray Oxenreider with Christ the King Adult Choir

by Dolores Bianco

*Matthew's Gospel 5:16 states: "your light must shine before others that they may see the good that you do and glorify your heavenly Father."*

Ray Oxenreider (1927-1999) was a shining example of these words in action. The past twenty

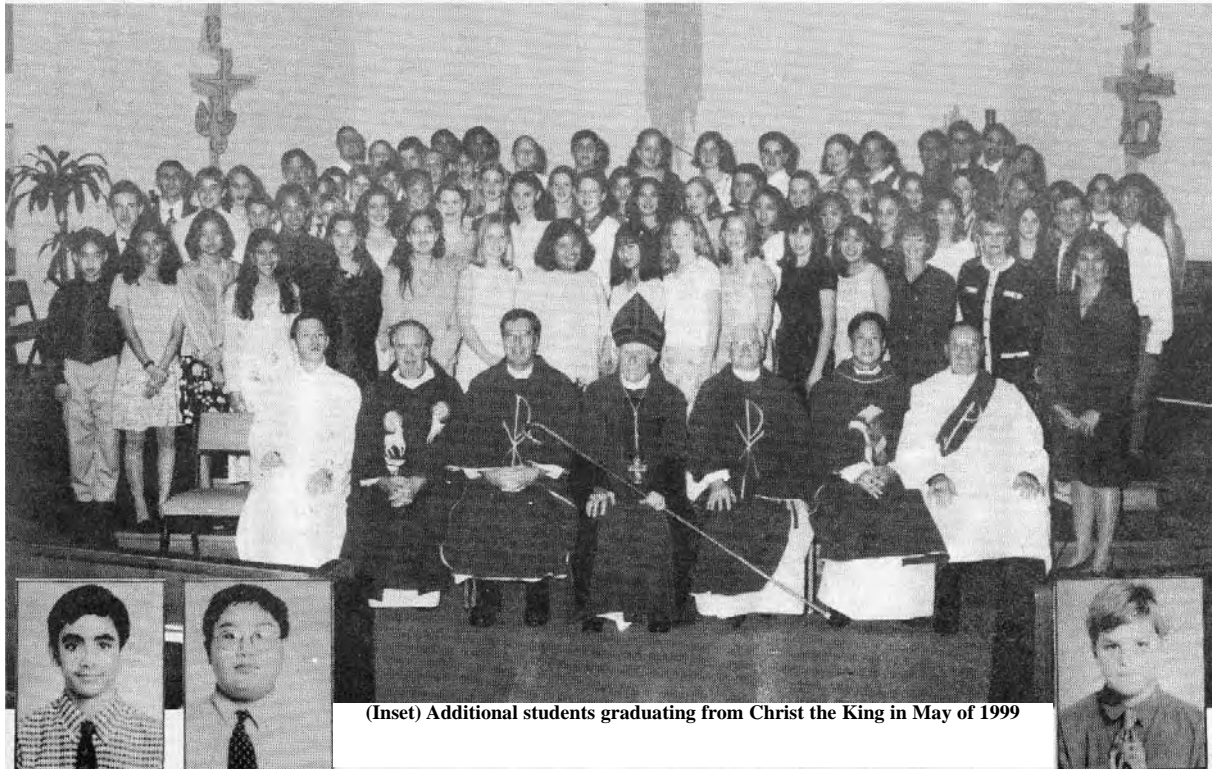
years he drove a friend to Christ the King Church every Sunday for 7:00 a.m. Mass. The two sat in the front pew. Ray's friend passed away four years ago; yet Ray, not of the Catholic faith, continued attending the same Mass - now sitting in the church's back pew. A fellow parishioner, Helen Mead, approached him and suggested he enter the RCIA program. She would be his sponsor. He accepted

her invitation and was an interested and active participant. He also fulfilled his love for singing by joining the Adult Choir.

His contribution to both programs was interrupted when a visit to his doctor to check leg pains found him to be suffering from leukemia. The future looked dim. For this reason, Father Carey conferred the Church's Sacraments. On February 7, with tears in his

eyes, Ray received both Holy Communion and Confirmation. He continued to participate in both the RCIA and choir, often coming in a wheelchair, until the disease progressed enough to keep him in and out of the hospital.

The Lord took Ray into His heavenly home on April 8, 1999. We at Christ the King will always remember the good that he did and the light that shone in him.



(Inset) Additional students graduating from Christ the King in May of 1999

## Healing Service



Father Edward McDonough led the Healing Service

by Meredith Reno

Father Edward McDonough says that he is often asked how many people receive healings during his services. He said that he always answers, "everyone". I was fortunate enough to have attended Fr. McDonough's healing service on February 24.

The church was packed ... standing room only. Families were in attendance as were many people who were physically handicapped in some way. As Fr. McDonough led the congregation through prayers I began to sense a heightening of energy in the church. I had never been to a healing service before, so this was a

new experience for me. I did not know what to expect.

Several people were invited to give testimonials on their own healings. I listened, never doubting for a moment that these were true accounts. Father explained that there were three kinds of healings: physical, emotional, and spiritual. The testimonials were about physical and spiritual healings.

Father blessed those who had shared their experiences and then walked throughout the church, blessing and healing and sprinkling holy water on everyone. I watched many people faint at his healing touch. He touched me as well, and I felt an increase in the energy around me that made me sit down,

but I did not faint. I wasn't sure if there had been a personal healing or not. I did, however, feel a sense of peace overwhelm me.

The service ended and everyone left, as did I. I had made one special request for a healing for my father. I requested a spiritual healing for him. My father is terminally ill with cancer and has been away from the Church for more than fifty-five years. I had no idea if my prayers for his healing would be fulfilled.

Last Saturday, February 27, I flew to New York to tell my father good bye. He requested that all four of his children be there. While I

was there, he not only allowed a priest to come to him, my father received Holy Communion for the first time in over fifty years. He has accepted the end of this life and is at peace with his impending death. The request I had made at Father McDonough's healing service had been fulfilled. My father received a spiritual healing. I received peace; peace of mind, peace of heart and peace of spirit ... a healing in all three modalities, the physical, emotional and spiritual.

Yes Father McDonough, you are right. You do heal everyone. Thank you.

## Healing Prayer

by Eileen Porter

There is nothing as selfless as praying for another whether it is a dear friend or someone we do not know. It is asking Our Lord to bless another and to help that person heal spiritually or physically. This was the message of Mr. Francis McNutt on March 1, 1999 in the Parish Hall.

About 200 people enjoyed a pot luck dinner and a spirit filled evening with Mr. McNutt. Parish Council President Mike Mackin introduced our pastor Fr. Robert Baker, who in turn presented Mr. McNutt. Mr. McNutt and his wife Judith, who are members of Christ the King Parish, founded Christian Healing Ministries (CHM) in 1981. This ministry is dedicated to

praying for those in need of healing, physical, emotional or spiritual. The goal of CHM is to teach others the power of healing with prayer along with the traditional medical and psychological approaches to healing.

After he finished speaking, Mr. McNutt answered questions from the audience. He then invited members of the assemblage who felt the need of healing to come forward. Several people responded and Mr. McNutt prayed over them in the name of the Lord. It was a moving experience to see this demonstration of faith on the part of Mr. McNutt, as well as those who asked for the healing power of prayer.



## Hundreds enjoy St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Hundreds of Christ the King parishioners celebrated the Feast of St. Patrick in the Parish Hall following the noon Mass on March 7.

A traditional St. Patrick's Day fare of corned beef, cabbage, bread, cakes, cookies, and green beer were prepared by the Knights of Columbus volunteers. Monsignor Mortimer Danaher, former pastor of Christ the King, helped Father Robert Baker with the "blessing of the meal."

Entertainment was provided by International Irish Tenor Mark Forrest, and also by Christ the King's Suzuki Violin Strings Band.

It was a sea of green hats, sweaters, shirts, and of course, beer. Old friends were greeted and new friends were made. The entire celebration would not have been possible without the dedicated volunteers who cooked in the kitchen or manned the serving lines for food and drinks.

While the celebration came a little early, it still touched the hearts of many Christ the King parishioners who enjoyed delicious food, great fellowships, and shared their love for Jesus Christ, Our Lord.



Father Baker and Monsignor Danaher give the blessing for the meal during the St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Parish Hall.



L to R: Father Baker with his mother Rosemary Baker, Sister Therese, his aunt Alice Willman, Monsignor Danaher, and Father Baker's uncle George Willman share a moment during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration



Dolly Casterlin mans the cake table during the celebration held in the Parish Hall



Christ the King's own Suzuki Violin Strings Band perform for parishioners at the St. Patrick Day luncheon



Father Bob Baker thanks Mark Forest for the memorable songs he performed



Parishioners enjoy a traditional Irish meal of corned beef, cabbage, cake and even soda bread

*Story by  
Bill Dougherty*

# A Visit to Rockwell



**Fr. Tom McCarthy welcomes Jerry and Mary Ann Sullivan to Rockwell College**

by Mary Ann Sullivan

*Parishioners Jerry and Mary Ann Sullivan recently returned from a trip to Ireland. One of their visits was to the town of Cashel, and Rockwell College (Fr. Sean's alma mater) where our Fr. Tom McCarthy is stationed.*

Touring the beautiful country of Ireland is something everyone should do - at least once. The countryside is breathtaking, the history is awesome, and the people are gracious and friendly. We were fortunate enough to be able to meet with Fr. Tom McCarthy and learn a little bit about the history of Rockwell College.

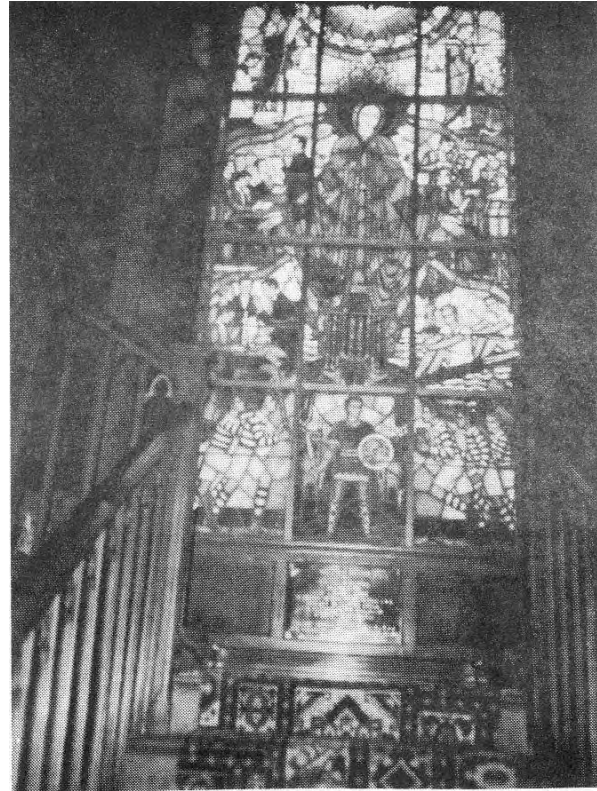
Fr. Tom knew of our plans to visit him, so he was not surprised by our phone call. (Fr. Carey saw to it that we had very good directions to Cashel and Rockwell College). Father looked well and he seemed very pleased to see people from Christ the King. He graciously

invited us to have lunch with him at the College.

Rockwell College is in the middle of the countryside and it has loads of land and a large lake. Football (rugby) fields were to the right and, what seemed to be a pine forest to the left. It was beautiful. Entering, what we perceived to be the rectory, we came upon a wonderful stained glass window above a double stairway. The window had a large image of Our Blessed Mother surrounded by the different activities that go on at Rockwell: students in prayer, in class, playing musical instruments and in sporting activities. It was very unusual.

Father Tom showed us the trophy room and invited us into a private dining room for our luncheon. We enjoyed a lovely meal as he explained the history of the college.

The land that Rockwell sits on was once part of an estate of Richard Boule, Earl of Cork. In



**Stained glass window of Our Blessed Mother at Rockwell College**

1841, it was used by the Marquis of Waterford, the mansion being used as a hunting lodge. The grounds eventually came into the hands of the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1864, where it became a Secondary School for boys. The motto is *Inter Mutanda Constantia* meaning *Constancy Amidst Change*.

The 130 year old 'College' (boarding school) today has over 450 students, from ages 12 to 18. It is now a coed school; most of the boys live on campus while the girls live in homes throughout the area. Food service was one of the main areas of study; as we saw many trophies displayed in that field. Father told us that the state wanted to teach the course, so the subject was forced out of the curriculum. In Ireland, the state pays the teachers salaries in parochial schools; so apparently the state had some pull

in removing a secular subject from the course study. The campus encompasses a 23 acre lake, an indoor heated swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course and a gymnasium.

Concluding the luncheon, Fr. Tom recited a lovely poem about friendship and prayed for our safe journey home. Before leaving Father introduced us to a number of people on staff, and then he showed us the 100 year old chapel of St. Patrick. It was a pretty chapel, that was more like a small church.

We said our good byes until June 10<sup>th</sup>, when he is due to return to Jacksonville.

We appreciated Fr. Tom taking time out of his schedule for us. He put a very personal touch on our trip to his homeland. We will remember it always.



by Leroy Garvin

Nearly 40 members from five different churches found 'More Mardi' and 'More Party' in the Mardi Gras dance sponsored by Christ the King Parish Council and hosted by M.O.M.S. Ministry and the Day Care Center. The Kingdom was transformed into New Orleans with its brightly colors of purple, green and gold. The traditional beads were handed out to all who attended.

Members from Christ the King, St. Joseph, St. Catherine, the Episcopal singles and Trailblazers danced and dined. Many wore colorful costumes that added an extra spice to the evening. Also

## More Mardi and More Party!

adding spice, was some Cajun food that was served.

The evening tested the dance skills of the singles who tried their steps to all types of music. The large round decorated tables provided everyone the opportunity to converse, make new friends, and rest the wary toes.

Proceeds from the evening went to the Building Fund for the Sister Therese Horan Library and Media Center.

The Single and Single Again Group were happy to be a part of this Parish Council event and we hope it will become an annual tradition that we all can take part in as a community.

*Shelley B. Everett*  
**Attorney at Law**  
**Family and Criminal Law**  
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submitted by Troupe Turner

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I am going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am commanding you to build an ark."

In a flash of lightning, God delivered the specifications for an ark. "Okay!" said Noah, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints.

"Six months, and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You'd better have the Ark completed, or learn how to swim for a very long time."

Six months passed, and the skies clouded up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard weeping - and there was no ark! "Noah," shouted the Lord, "where is the Ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!"

begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the



## Noah's Ark If It Happened in 1999

Ark construction project, and Your plans didn't meet code. I had to hire an engineer to re-draw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system." "Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard. I had to get a variance from the city planning commission." "Then I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Commission that I needed

the wood to save the owls...but they wouldn't let me catch any owls, so no owls."

"The carpenters formed a union and went on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer. Now we have sixteen carpenters going on the boat and still no owls."

"Then I started gathering up animals and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to my taking only two of each kind. Just when I got the suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't

complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on Your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being."

"Then the Army Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe. Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission over how many Croats I'm supposed to hire. The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country. And I just got a notice from the State about owing them some kind of use tax. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for at least another five years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth?" Noah asked hopefully.

"No," said the Lord sadly. "The government already has."

*continued from page 1*

encourages us to imitate the beautiful lessons we have heard.....Then we all stand and pray together.

When we have finished, bread and wine and water are brought up, and the President offers prayers of thanksgiving. All present receive some of it, and the deacons take some to those who are absent.....Contributions are collected and left with the President so he can help orphans and widows and those in need.

So on Sundays we all come together. This is the First Day, on which God transformed darkness and matter, and made the world; the Day on which Christ the Savior rose from the dead.

As you can see, we still live by this Tradition. Sunday is a memorial of Resurrection Day.

In accordance with Hebrews 10: 25 which says "Do not absent yourself from the Assembly", the Church has always seen participation in the Sunday Eucharist as a serious obligation from which one should not easily be excused. Our Tradition continues that of the Jews by which unnecessary work is forbidden on the Lord's Day, so that we can spend time with our God and our family and friends. Changes in society and culture seem to be robbing us of this aspect of the Sabbath. To be in the Spirit of the

Lord's Day we should ask "could I do this some other day?" rather than "can I do this or that on Sunday?" We can be influenced by a kind of practical atheism which we find around us. That is, acting and living as if there were no God, and Sunday observance doesn't matter.

In face of this tendency, our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has written an Encyclical Letter on the

Lord's Day, "*Dies Domini*". An Encyclical Letter is one written by the Pope to the Bishops of the Church to be circulated to all the faithful.

In this letter he tells us that on the Lord's Day we rejoice in God's Creation, of which we are the crown. This Day God asked us to make Holy. It is the Day of the Lord's Resurrection and the day of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the

### Shabbat Shalom The Jewish Sabbath

Between noon and 2 P.M. on Fridays all offices, businesses and stores in the Jewish sectors of Jerusalem close. Traffic is at peak. There are long lines at the bus stops. People are scurrying along the sidewalks. You best get out of their way, because they are all rushing home for the beginning of Shabbat. They greet each other "Shabbat Shalom" - "may you have a peaceful Sabbath". An hour before sundown the city sirens sound to let everyone know that the Sabbath is about to begin. Mothers get the table ready for the Sabbath meal, prepared to light the candles.

"We are no longer slaves", the Rabbi said. "The Lord our God freed us from that". Our God tells us 'to sit down'. [That is what Shabbat means.] Leave your work aside, spend some time with me and with each other that I may bless you. You don't have to carry anything. For too long you carried clay, and straw and bricks and water. Don't go anywhere to do anything. Just sit with me and one another. Let's enjoy each other one day out of the seven."

At the Friday evening service in the synagogue all turn toward the large west facing window and stretch out their arms in welcome to receive the Sabbath as a spouse, a beautiful gift. The Song of Songs, that great Bible love-song, pictures the meeting of the Lord and his People. On the Sabbath husbands and wives are encouraged to make love and families and the community to reconcile. On the Sabbath it is wonderful to see all the families walking together or sitting in the parks and so on.

In Jerusalem it is a real day of rest. At the evening meal on Saturday a braided candle is used to remind all to weave the sacred of the Sabbath into the profane of the other weekdays.

**What a beautiful gift the Sabbath is!**

first day of the week, a new beginning. At the Sunday Eucharist we gather in the presence of the risen Lord as a pilgrim people. We are renewed by His Body and Blood, and prepared for our mission of evangelizing and Christianizing the society and world in which we live. Sunday reveals to us the real meaning of Time and reminds us that Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega is the Lord of all time. Even our calendars are redeemed when they are attuned to the Lord of Days.

When our lives center on the Lord's Day we prepare ourselves for the Day of the Lord, when He will return to gather us into His Father's Kingdom.

From my own experience I know that when I give the Lord His time I always have plenty of time for what needs to be done. When I don't, there seems to be no time for anything, and everything seems rushed amid hassle.

One of the prayers of the Maronite Mass says "Come in peace, O Day of the Lord". On the Sabbath Jewish people greet one another saying "*Shabbat Shalom*" - "may you have a peaceful Sabbath".

We ourselves choose whether we see the Lord's Day as obligation and burden, or opportunity for receiving blessing.

May your Lord's Day be welcome and blessed.



On February 17, Ash Wednesday, Christ the King began its liturgical Season of Lent.

In ancient times the period of preparation for Easter differed in length in various countries. Later it was so arranged that forty days of fast would precede the great Feast as a reminder of our Lord's fast in the desert.

In the Old Law, ashes signified grief or repentance. In the Early Church, penitents did penance in sackcloth and ashes.

During the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Ash Wednesday, Christ the King parishioners, including more than 100 CCD students, recognized the old law and focused on the future as they marked the beginning of Lenten season.

During the Mass, Fr. Robert Baker blessed the ashes with special prayers, sprinkled them with Holy Water, and incensed them. As each child or adult

approached the altar, Fr. Baker, along with the other priests of Christ the King, put ashes on each forehead of the Faithful and said, "Remember, man, that you are dust, and into dust you shall return."

Lent is a time of repentance; it's also a time of renewal. During this holy time, Christ the King parishioners participated in the Rite of Reconciliation and pledged to do their best to live by the Word of God. For the Christ the King family, it was a time of reflection and prayer, of fasting and cleansing, and of making a commitment to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

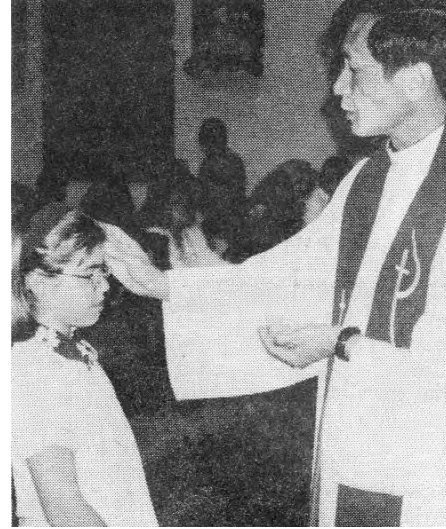
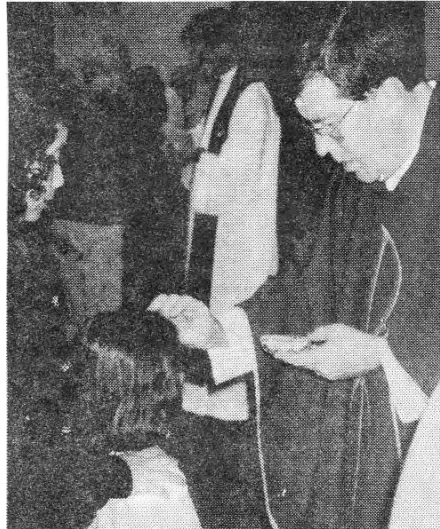
With the ashen crosses on their foreheads, all members of the Christ the King family left Mass with a new sense of resolve to be better persons for their God and their neighbor.



Ray Hauck reads the lesson of the Lord during the Ash Wednesday Mass.



An altar server places the Holy Cross by the altar during the Ash Wednesday Mass.

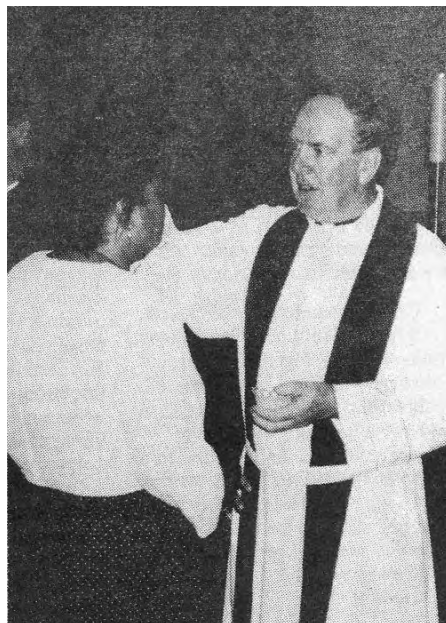
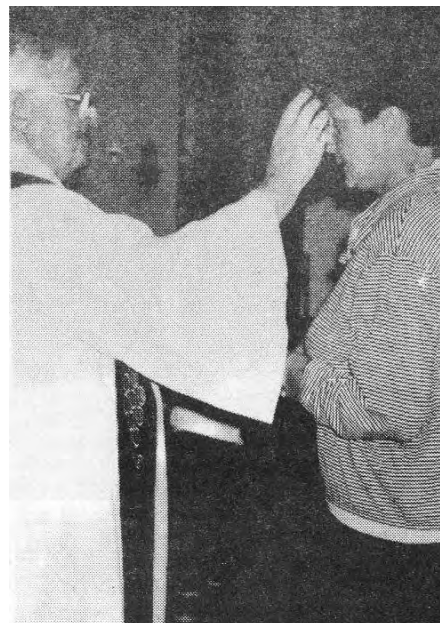


Father Baker, Father Thanh, Father Carey and Father Sean place an ash Sign of the Cross on Christ the King parishioners, including students from CCD who attended the Ash Wednesday Mass



The opening procession begins the Ash Wednesday Mass

*Story and Photos by  
Bill Dougherty*



# News From The Pews - R.C.I.A.



Chick special delivery for Father Brian Carey from the RCIA group

by R.C.I.A. Team Members

Eight months ago, in July 1998, following a call from God and guided by the Holy Spirit, a group of 24 people embarked on a long journey of faith, called *conversion*. These people began in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Inquiry Class and continued into the instruction phase of the program.

At Christ the King parish, these RCIA classes have been taught by Fr. Brian Carey, C.S.Sp., assisted by eight lay volunteers. Beginning on the first Tuesday evening of September, the RCIA Candidates have met every Tuesday evening for approximately 1 1/2 hours.

Over the ensuing eight months these 24 Candidates, each accompanied by a Sponsor, listened, prayed, and studied, and by February, they had reached the crossroads of their faith journey. On February 6, 1999, the Candidates attended a Day of Discernment/Reflection. "Discernment" is a special gift from the Holy Spirit to ascertain the will of God in one's life. The day consisted of prayer, reflection, witness talks and discussions, ending with Mass, celebrated by Fr. Carey.

Fifteen days later, on February 21, 1999, the 24 Candidates, their Sponsors, and the RCIA Team celebrated the *Rite of Election*, at which the Candidates formally declared their desire to continue

their conversion to Catholicism. In a solemn ceremony at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the Candidates were invited to sign their names in the *Book of the Elect*.

The ceremony was then continued at 3:00 p.m. in the Cathedral in St. Augustine, officiated by Bishop John Snyder. Along with 222 other Candidates (1/3 of the over 800 Candidates in our Diocese this year) from other parishes throughout the Diocese, the Christ the King Candidates and Sponsors were presented to Bishop Snyder, who signed the *Book of the Elect* from each parish in attendance and later met with the Candidates and Sponsors. The program was highlighted by the musical accompaniment of Bernie Sans and the Christ the King Choir.

During the month of March, three *scrutinies* were celebrated. The scrutinies belong to the *Period of Purification and Enlightenment* and are meant to deliver the Candidates from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. These scrutinies should heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the Candidates and to strengthen all that is upright, strong and good.

The Candidates underwent their first Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Holy Week, which culminated with their acceptance into full communion with the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday night.

## MARDI GRAS FUN!

by Trina Steffan

Beads, balloons, beads, good music, beads, great food and more beads were featured at the Parish Council sponsored Mardi Gras Dance. One hundred-eighty very festive people attended this event in February. The ministry groups, MOMS, Day Care and Girl Scouts saw to the details. If you haven't already heard what a wonderful time it was, I'll provide some details!

Patricia Japour, M.O.M.S. Celebration Coordinator, and Karen Anderson put together a list of volunteers which included the scouts, who transformed the gym into a glittering atmosphere of purple, gold and green. Ten foot trees with twinkling lights, on loan from Eugene and Michelle Norton, surrounded the dancers and festive assembly. Gaiety, good food and lots of dancing were on the agenda for the evening.

When asked if he was enjoying the evening, Fr. "Twinkle Toes"

Sean replied, "It was fantastic. What a wonderful evening of dancing and sharing with friends."

Judy Koziolk took time off the dance floor to say, "I love to dance and I don't get to very often. It was wonderful to be with people I know and to dance...dance...dance... and have fun without the worries."

Mudville Grill, Subway, Soloman's, Publix and Albertsons helped provide a delicious assortment of warm and cold hors d'oeuvres. "Always ask," is Donna Simon's motto when seeking donations. Theresa Little, Day Care Director, must share the same inspiration. She helped acquire an impressive list of door prizes that brought many a smile to the winners: Jaguar tickets, symphony tickets, Tree Steakhouse dinners, and gift certificates to the Outback restaurant, just to name a few. With music from Bourbon St. and Glenn Miller, and a variety from Disco to Country, everyone had their favorite music played. The music



Charles "Yogi" and Donnell Baer celebrated his birthday at Mardi Gras

from "Grease" made more than a few leather soles tap their toes.

The evening was truly a delightful opportunity for everyone to share with old friends and make

some new ones. The beckoning call of the music filled the dance floor continuously thanks to a delightful DJ. Everyone had a wonderful time.

# Moral Truth, Conscience and American Democracy Address of Pope John Paul II to bishops of the United States at their *ad limina* visit (June 27, 1998)

I WARMLY WELCOME you, the pastors of the Church in the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, on the occasion of your *ad limina* visit. In my meetings so far this year with the United States bishops, we have considered some principal aspects of the new evangelization called for by the Second Vatican Council, the great event of grace by which the Holy Spirit has prepared the Church to enter the third Christian millennium. One essential part of this task is the proclamation of moral truth and its application to the personal lives of Christians and to their involvement in the world. Therefore, I wish to reflect with you today on your episcopal ministry as teachers of moral truth and witnesses to the moral law.

In every age, men and women need to hear Christ the Good Shepherd calling them to faith and conversion of life (cf. Mk 1:15). As shepherds of souls, you must be Christ's voice today, encouraging your people to rediscover "the beauty of truth, the liberating force of God's love, and the value of unconditional fidelity to all the demands of the Lord's law, even in the most difficult situations."<sup>1</sup> The question posed by the rich young man in the Gospel - "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?" (Mt 19:16) - is a perennial human question. It is asked in one form or another, explicitly or implicitly, by every human being in every culture and at every moment in the drama of history. Christ's answer to that question - to follow Him in doing the will of His Father - is the key to the fullness of life which He promises. Obedience to God's commandments, far from alienating us from our humanity, is the pathway to genuine liberation and the source of true happiness.

In this year of preparation for the Great Jubilee dedicated to the Holy Spirit, let us remember that our efforts to preach the Good News and teach the moral truth about the human person are sustained by the Spirit, who is the principal agent in the Church's mission.<sup>2</sup> It is the Holy Spirit who "brings about the flourishing of Christian moral life and the witness of holiness amid the great variety of vocations, gifts, responsibilities, conditions and life situations."<sup>3</sup> In your dioceses and parishes, I urge you to make a special effort this year to increase awareness of the powerful activity of the Spirit in the

world, for it is through His grace that we experience a "radical personal and social renewal capable of ensuring justice, solidarity, honesty and openness."<sup>4</sup>

## Today's cultural crisis calls for moral teaching

Given the circumstances of contemporary culture, your episcopal ministry is especially challenging, and the situation which you face as teachers of moral truth is complex. Your parishes are filled with Catholics eager to lead responsible lives as spouses, parents, citizens, workers and professionals. These men and women, whom you meet daily in the course of your pastoral mission, know that they should live morally upright lives, but often they find it difficult to explain exactly what this implies.

This difficulty reflects another side of contemporary culture: the scepticism regarding the very existence of moral truth and an objective moral law. This attitude is quite prevalent in the cultural institutions that influence public opinion, and, it must be said, is commonplace in many of your country's academic, political and legal structures. In this situation, those who try to live according to the moral law often feel pressured by forces which contradict the things they know in their hearts to be true. And those responsible for teaching moral truth may feel as if their task is virtually impossible, given the power of those external cultural pressures.

There have been similar moments in the course of the Church's 2,000-year history. Yet today's cultural crisis has distinctive characteristics that give your task as moral teachers a real urgency. This urgency touches both the transmission of the moral truth contained in the Gospel and the magisterium of the Church, and the future of society as a free and democratic way of life.

## Good of the person lies in doing the truth

How should we define this crisis of moral culture? We can glimpse its first phase in what Cardinal John Henry Newman wrote in his letter to the Duke of Norfolk: "In this century [conscience] has been superseded by a counterfeit, which the 18



Bishop Larkin, founding pastor of Christ the King Parish, with the Pope during the early days of John Paul II's papacy

centuries prior to it never heard of, and could not have mistaken for it, if they had. It is the right of self-will." What was true in Newman's 19th century is even truer today. Culturally powerful forces insist that the rights of conscience are violated by the very idea that there exists a moral law ascribed in our humanity, which we can come to know by reflecting on our nature and our actions, and which lays certain obligations upon us because we recognize them as universally true and binding. This, it is frequently said, is an abrogation of freedom. But what is the concept of freedom at work here? Is freedom merely an assertion of my will - "I should be permitted to do this because I choose to do it"? Or is freedom the right to do what I ought to do, to adhere freely to what is good and true?<sup>5</sup>

The notion of freedom as personal autonomy is superficially attractive; endorsed by intellectuals, the media, legislatures and the courts, it becomes a powerful cultural force. Yet it ultimately destroys the personal good of individuals and the common good of society. Freedom-as-autonomy, by its single-minded focus on the autonomous will of the individual as the sole organizing principle of public life, dissolves the bonds of obligation between men and women, parents and children, the strong and the weak, majorities and minorities. The result is the breakdown of civil society, and a public life in which the only actors of consequence are the autonomous individual and the state. This, as the 20th century ought to have taught us, is a sure prescription for tyranny.

At its roots, the contemporary crisis of moral culture is a crisis of understanding of the nature of the human person. As pastors and teachers of the Church of Christ, you remind people that the greatness of human beings is founded precisely in their being

creatures of a loving God, who gave them the capacity to know the good and to choose it, and who sent His Son to be the final and unsurpassable witness to the truth about the human condition: "In Christ and through Christ, God has revealed himself fully to mankind and has definitively drawn close to it; at the same time, in Christ and through Christ man has acquired full awareness of his dignity, of the heights to which he is raised, of the surpassing worth of his own humanity, and of the meaning of his existence."<sup>6</sup> In Christ, we know that "the good of the person lies in *being in* the Truth and *doing* the Truth."<sup>7</sup>

In this Christian anthropology, the nobility of men and women lies, not simply in the capacity to *choose*, but in the capacity to choose wisely and to live according to that choice of what is good. In all of visible creation, only the human person chooses reflectively. Only the human person can discern between good and evil, and give reasons justifying that discernment. Only human beings can make sacrifices for what is good and true. That is why, throughout Christian history, the martyr remains the paradigm of discipleship: for the martyr lives out the relationship between truth, freedom and goodness in the most radical way.

## Holy Spirit preserves the Church in the truth

By teaching the moral truth about the human person and witnessing to the moral law inscribed on the human heart, the bishops of the Church are defending and promoting not arbitrary claims made by the Church but essential truths, and therefore the good of individuals and the common good of society.

If the dignity of the human person as a moral agent rests on the capacity to know and choose what is truly

continued on page 12

# Pope's Address continued from page 11

good, then the question of conscience comes into clearer focus. Respect for the rights of conscience is deeply ingrained in your national culture, which was formed in part by emigrants who came to the New World to vindicate their religious and moral convictions in the face of persecution. American society's historic admiration for men and women of conscience is the ground on which you can teach the truth about conscience today.

The Church honors conscience as the sanctuary of the human person: here, men and women are "alone with God," whose voice echoes in the depths of their hearts, summoning them to love good and avoid evil.<sup>8</sup> Conscience is that inner place where "man detects a law which he does not impose upon himself, but which holds him to obedience."<sup>9</sup> This being the case, the dignity of conscience is demeaned when it is suggested, as the defenders of radical individual autonomy claim, that conscience is a wholly independent, exclusively personal capacity to determine what constitutes good and evil.<sup>10</sup>

Everyone must act in accordance with conscience. But conscience is neither absolutely independent nor infallible in its judgments; if it were, conscience would be reduced to the mere assertion of personal will. Thus it is precisely a defense of the dignity of conscience and of the human person to teach that consciences must be *formed*, so that they can discern what actually does or does not correspond to the "eternal, objective and universal divine law" which human intelligence is capable of discovering in the order of being.<sup>11</sup> Because of the nature of conscience, the admonition always to follow it must immediately be followed by the question of whether what our conscience is telling us is true or not. If we fail to make this necessary clarification, conscience - instead of being that holy place where God reveals to us our true good - becomes a force which is destructive of our true humanity and of all our relationships.<sup>12</sup>

As bishops you have to teach that freedom of conscience is never freedom *from* the truth but always and only freedom *in* the truth. This understanding of conscience and its relationship to freedom should clarify certain aspects of the question of dissent from Church teaching. By the will of Christ himself and the life-giving power of the Holy

Spirit, the Church is preserved in the truth and "it is her duty to give utterance to, and authoritatively to teach, that truth which is Christ himself, and to declare and confirm by her authority those principles of the moral order which have their origin in human nature itself."<sup>13</sup> When the Church teaches, for example, that abortion, sterilization or euthanasia are always morally inadmissible, she is giving expression to the universal moral law inscribed on the human heart, and is therefore teaching something which is binding on everyone's conscience. Her absolute prohibition that such procedures be carried out in Catholic healthcare facilities is simply an act of fidelity to God's law. As bishops you must remind everyone involved - hospital administrations and medical personnel - that any failure to comply with this prohibition is both a grievous sin and a source of scandal.<sup>14</sup> This and other such instances are not, it must be emphasized, the imposition of an *external* set of criteria in violation of human freedom. Rather, the Church's teaching of moral truth "brings to light the truths which [conscience] ought already to possess,"<sup>15</sup> and it is these truths which make us free in the deepest meaning of human freedom and give our humanity its genuine nobility.

## Objective moral norms are foundation of democracy

Almost 2,000 years ago, St. Paul urged us "not be conformed to this world" but to live the true freedom that is obedience to the will of God (Rom 12:2). In teaching the truth about conscience and its intrinsic relationship to moral truth, you will be challenging one of the great forces in the modern world. But at the same time, you will be doing the modern world a great service, for you will be reminding it of the only foundation capable of sustaining a culture of freedom: what the Founders of your nation called "self-evident" truths.

From this perspective, it should be clear that the Church addresses issues of public life not for political reasons but as a servant of the truth about the human person, a defender of human dignity and a promoter of human freedom. A society or culture which wishes to survive cannot declare the spiritual dimension of the human person to be irrelevant to public life. Cultures develop as ways of dealing with the most profound experiences of human existence: love, birth,

friendship, work, death. Each of these experiences raises, in its unique way, the question of God: "at the heart of every culture lies the attitude man takes to the greatest mystery: the mystery of God."<sup>16</sup> American Catholics, in common with other Christians and all believers, have a responsibility to ensure that the mystery of God and the truth about humanity that is revealed in the mystery of God are not banished from public life.

This is especially important for democratic societies, since one of the truths contained in the mystery of our creation by God is that the human person must be "the origin, the subject and the purpose of all social institutions."<sup>17</sup> Our intrinsic dignity and inalienable fundamental rights are not the result of social convention: they precede all social conventions and provide the norms that determine their validity. The history of the 20th century is a grim warning of the evils that result when human beings are reduced to the status of objects to be manipulated by the powerful for selfish gain or for ideological reasons. In proclaiming the truth that God has given men and women an inestimable dignity and inalienable rights from the moment of conception, you are helping to rebuild the moral foundations of a genuine culture of freedom, capable of sustaining institutions of self-governance that serve the common good.

It is a tribute to the Church and to the openness of American society that so many Catholics in the United States are involved in political life. As pastors and teachers, your responsibility to Catholic public officials is to remind them of the heritage of reflection on the moral law, on society, on democracy, which they ought to bring to their office.

Your country prides itself on being a realized democracy, but democracy is itself a moral adventure, a continuing test of a people's capacity to govern themselves in ways that serve the common good and the good of individual citizens. The survival of a particular democracy depends not only on its institutions, but to an even greater extent on the spirit which inspires and permeates its procedures for legislating, administering and judging. The future of democracy in fact depends on a culture capable of forming men and women who are prepared to defend certain truths and values. It is imperiled when politics and law are sundered from any connection to the moral law written on the human heart.

If there is no objective standard to help adjudicate between different conceptions of the personal and common good, then democratic politics is reduced to a raw contest for power. If constitutional and statutory law are not held accountable to the objective moral law, the first casualties are justice and equity, for they become matters of personal opinion. Catholics in public life render a particularly important service to society when they defend objective moral norms as "the unshakable foundation and solid guarantee of a just and peaceful human coexistence, and hence of

genuine democracy," for it is through our common obligation to these moral norms that we come to know, and can defend, the equality of all citizens, "who possess common rights and duties."<sup>18</sup>

A climate of moral relativism is incompatible with democracy. That kind of culture cannot answer questions fundamental to a democratic political community: Why should I regard my fellow citizen as my equal? Why should I defend someone else's rights? Why should I work for the common good? If moral truths cannot be publicly acknowledged as such, democracy is impossible.<sup>19</sup> Thus I wish to encourage you to continue to speak out clearly and effectively about the fundamental moral questions facing people today. The interest with which many of your documents have been received throughout society is an indication that you are providing much needed guidance when you remind everyone, and especially Catholic citizens and Catholic political leaders, of the essential bond between freedom and truth.

Dear brother bishops, a time of crisis is a time of opportunity as well as a time of danger. That is certainly true of the crisis of moral culture in the developed world today. The call of the Second Vatican Council to the people of God to witness to the truth about the human person amidst the joy and hope, grief and pain of the contemporary world is a call to all of us for a personal commitment to effective episcopal leadership in the new evangelization. By focusing the attention of the faithful and all your fellow citizens on the extremely serious moral choices before them, you will help to bring about that renewal of moral goodness, solidarity and genuine freedom which the United States and the world urgently need. Entrusting your ministry, and the priests, Religious and laity of your dioceses to the protection of Mary, patroness of the United States under the great title of her Immaculate Conception, I cordially impart my apostolic blessing.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 107.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, n. 64.

<sup>3</sup> *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 108.

<sup>4</sup> *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 98.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. *Homily at Baltimore*, Oct 8, 1995.

<sup>6</sup> *Redemptor Hominis*, n. 11.

<sup>7</sup> *Address to the International Congress of Moral Theology*, April 10, 1986, n. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, n. 16.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>10</sup> Cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, n. 16.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. *Dignitatis Humanae*, n. 3; *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 60.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. *General Audience*, August 17, 1983, n. 3.

<sup>13</sup> *Dignitatis Humanae*, n. 14.

<sup>14</sup> For sterilizations cf. *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Quaecumque sterilizatio*, March 13, 1975, AAS [1976], pp. 738-740.

<sup>15</sup> *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 64.

<sup>16</sup> *Centesimus Annus*, n. 24.

<sup>17</sup> *Gaudium et Spes*, n. 25.

<sup>18</sup> *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 96.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. *Veritatis Splendor*, n. 101.

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## Stations of the Cross



by Linda McCreary

Stations of the Cross were held twice each Friday during the Lenten season after the 8:15 a.m. Children's Mass and at 7:00 in the evening.

The morning Stations of the Cross were very humbling as children from Christ the King School read passages from the booklet *The Way of the Cross*. This booklet is a child's version which puts the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ into words and examples easily understood by the children.

At the evening service, those who attended were invited to "walk" the Stations of the Cross with the priest and attendants. Many people chose to do so, and developed a small procession as they moved from station to station.

A fifteenth station, "the Resurrection," has been added to the stations (the Passion of Christ is meaningless unless the Resurrection is kept in mind). The fifteenth station is said before the Resurrected Christ at the tabernacle.

A plenary indulgence may be gained by praying the Stations of the Cross.

## Outdoor Stations of the Cross



by Ron Lynch

Tradition, history, and a tie to the past are what spurred me to construct and install the shelters for our outdoor Stations of the Cross. During the time I was here as a student in the Sixties, there were outdoor stations where the rectory and the new church now stand. The area was heavily wooded and cut through with a small path. Along the path were the Stations of the Cross, providing a quiet, natural, and personal opportunity for prayer.

When the land was cleared for construction, the stations were removed. I had described them to Valerie, my wife, a few times and thought that new outdoor stations could be a positive addition to our parish.

The first location considered was in the woods behind the scout hut, but for various reasons was eliminated as a site. Father Baker, whose blessing was received for the project, suggested the *House of Prayer* beyond the baseball field. It was a good selection.

After the site was defined, the size and style of the shelters was

discussed. I needed to see the stations Father Baker had in mind so the shelters would be large enough. When I saw them, I was surprised to see they were the stations from the old church, now our cafeteria and added another link to the early years of our parish. Fabrication began.

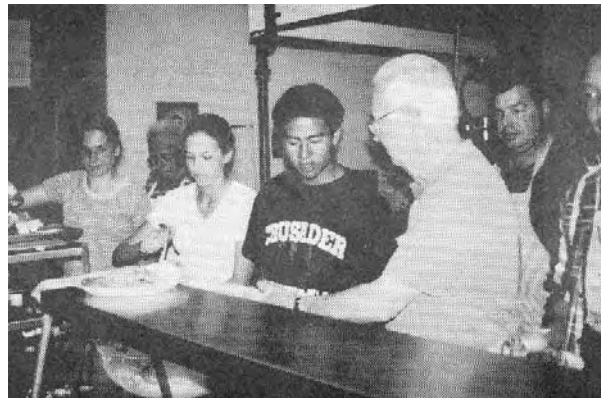
It wasn't long before the shelters began taking shape. They were installed two or three at a time with the help of my daughters, Elizabeth, Victoria and Allison. The path through the woods where seven of the stations are located was not difficult to cut in one afternoon with a hand sling and pruning shears.

Henry Nguyen installed the roof shingles and hung the individual stations inside the shelters. Henry had already coated them with polyurethane to protect them from the elements.

All of us involved in this effort hope you experience the Stations of the Cross and enjoy the serenity of the location.

Oh, by the way, I knew the original path well because it was a great place to hide if I was late for Mass on Friday mornings. Until I got caught!

## FISH FRY!



by Linda McCreary

As I approached the Parish Hall on Ash Wednesday, the wonderful aroma of frying fish wafted through the air. Inside the Parish Hall people were waiting in line for the wonderful fish dinner. As a day of fasting and abstinence, this meal was most likely the largest meal of the day for most of the faithful.

The food was cheerfully prepared and served by volunteers. Christ the King and Bishop Kenny High School students were evident everywhere behind the serving counter assisting with filling the plates as people passed through the

line. They were earning their community service hours, and looked like they were having fun doing it!

The fish was a whiting filet and was prepared either baked or fried. I personally indulged in the fried version and it was done to perfection—crisp and flavorful. Other goodies were baked beans, cole slaw or applesauce, and bread. A variety of drinks was available, and desserts were sold by Christ the King School Safety Patrol.

It was evident from the noise level in the hall that everyone was enjoying their fish dinner. We look forward to next year's fish fry!

## Seven Last Words



by Meredith Reno

I sat in the church waiting for the Last Seven Words of Christ to begin, the barrenness of the altar echoing the emptiness I felt within. I wasn't sure exactly why I had come, I only knew that I was where I was supposed to be. Fr. Carr had taken ill, and so I didn't know what to expect. With the death of my father the week before, and the serious illness of one of my students, I felt hollow. As the service began, Fr. Baker's words made a dent in my emotional armor, but it was the children's choir, the sweetness of their innocent voices singing out to the Lord that caused the first tear to glide down my face.

As Fr. Tetlow spoke about the fourth and fifth words, I was freely crying, and feeling myself being filled once again with a renewed faith, stronger and purer, cleansed of all the pain and doubts I had experienced over the last few difficult weeks. Those fourth words, "Father, why have You

forsaken me?" wrapped around my heart and made me realize that what I had been experiencing was in fact, a rite of passage ... a very personal Lent. A part of me died that day, but as a butterfly emerges from its dark chrysalis, so did I emerge from the depths of my loneliness and despair.

I had said that I was there because I knew that I was supposed to be, and that proved to be true. The solemnity of the service, followed by the Passion, made me realize again what a gift it is to be one of Christ's own. The promise of Easter, filled me with such a profound joy, not just for me, but for my father, and my student, that the tears were no longer bitter; they were tears of faith, hope, and love.

And so it is with utmost joy that I say thank you to Frs. Baker, Tetlow, Sean, Carey, Thanh and Deacon Dave, as well as the children's and adult choirs. You made this Good Friday a part of the life blood of my inner faith, and showed me that I wasn't lost, only temporarily sidetracked.



*Christ the King Courier (CKC)* interviews Dr. Katherine Considine, M.D.

**CKC: When did you start thinking about a career in medicine?**

**Katherine:** Actually, I started realizing my interest in medicine early in grade school. I vividly remember enjoying reading encyclopedias about science and the human body. I found that I was fascinated by the complexity of our bodies and later wanted to expand this into a career. Of course, in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades the mention of planning to become "a doctor" just prompted a pat on the shoulder, since it really couldn't be taken seriously at that time.

**CKC: Was becoming a physician your goal?**

**Katherine:** Yes, when I later decided that my interest lay in this area. There was never any doubt in my mind that I would pursue medical school, even though many persons urged me to reconsider, citing the length of study and the demands of a physician's lifestyle. (Even my grandfather told me to consider a more attainable goal, although my great-grandfather was a physician).

**CKC: Where did you go to medical school, residency, etc.?**

**Katherine:** I attended the University of Alabama (Birmingham) for Medical School, and completed my Emergency Medicine Residency at University Hospital in Jacksonville in 1986.

**CKC: When did you meet your future husband? What was his profession?**

**Katherine:** I met my husband, Tracy Joseph Considine, on October 31, 1988 in Miami where we both lived at the time. He was a young attorney working to build his practice and now has an office in Jacksonville. We were introduced at the Vizcaya Mansion Halloween Party by a mutual friend who thought we had similar values and backgrounds.

**CKC: As an emergency room physician how do you manage the raising of four children and your work schedule?**

**Katherine:** In practicality, Emergency Medicine is the ideal specialty for me, not only because of my exposure to all ages of patients and virtually all areas of medicine, but also because of the

flexibility of schedule that allows me to work shifts on nights and weekends or times when "Dad" can be at home. Without question, my family priorities come before work. I am greatly blessed with four beautiful children (ages 6, 4, 2 & 5 months) and a wonderful husband who is extremely supportive of my career. I currently work part-time and Tracy encourages me to stay active in my practice. I am, however, thankful I can still be at home and available to enjoy my children's school activities. (To coin Dr. Laura's phrase, "I am my kids' Mom").

**CKC: What does Catholic schooling mean to the Considines?**

**Katherine:** As professionals, we want our children to have a quality academic education and enthusiasm for learning, but as Christians and Catholics we believe that providing our children with a Catholic education complements our teaching of the sacraments and gives a continuity and foundation for the growth of their spiritual lives, as well as their commitment to God, Our Father.

**CKC: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, God the Son, was a healer - of both spirit and health. Does the satisfaction that you have in saving lives bring you closer to your Faith?**

**Katherine:** Absolutely, and as the years pass I see more that Our Father is the ultimate healer. As a physician, I am only an instrument through which He works. I am always in awe of His power and love as I see Him at work, in times of both great joy or great sorrow and loss. I am constantly aware of the precious gift of life, and having children makes me even more conscious and thankful of my role in restoring or preserving the health of loved ones. *Each day is truly a gift from God*, which we should use accordingly and for which we should be thankful.

**CKC: Any advice to young people on how to determine what vocation God has in mind for them?**

**Katherine:** Our Father gives us each talents and gifts that are unique. The importance of a great Christian education is to realize the fullest potential God has given us. Of course, we must be willing to listen to our Lord speaking to us and calling us to His service, whether to a vocation in the church, medicine, or wherever He leads us. It is important to stay in school and work hard, and study God's word in



The Considine Family



Dr. Katherine Considine at home with her children



Dr. Katherine Considine at work

order to grow in spirit, challenges of life and the Lord's work in your life.

**CKC: Do you have a favorite biblical verse?**

**Katherine:** With God's help, I graduated high school as valedictorian in Landover, Maryland in a class of

approximately 600 students. When we published our motto (our favorite saying), I remember being slightly timid about mine because I was never very openly verbal about my faith, and being religious wasn't exactly 'cool'. But looking back, it couldn't be more true today in my life: *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart* (Psalms 37:4).

## How it all Began...

# The Early Days of Christ the King Parish

by Bishop W. Thomas Larkin  
Founding Pastor

In August 1954 I was home on vacation in Mt. Morris, New York. One evening Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley phoned to tell me that he was assigning me to found a new parish in the Arlington area of Jacksonville as soon as I returned from my vacation.

I knew very little about the Jacksonville area, and had no idea where Arlington was. At the time I was assistant pastor at Holy Family Parish in North Miami. In the year 1954 the Diocese of St. Augustine embraced the whole state of Florida except the pan handle west of the Apalachicola River.

Upon my return from Mt. Morris to North Miami, I packed all my belongings in my car and headed up Route One. There were no interstates in those days. In the meantime I had phoned Bishop Thomas McDonagh, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Augustine, and pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Jacksonville Beach. He very graciously invited me to stay with him until I had made living arrangements in Arlington.

I arrived in Jacksonville on September 11, 1954 and immediately began to drive around the Arlington area with Emmanuel Danese, a well-known realtor. My first objective was to find some place where I could celebrate Sunday Mass (Saturday night Masses were still unheard of).

Jacksonville University was recommended as a possible location, so I visited the President and explained that since I was beginning a new parish I needed a building to hold Mass on Sunday. He was most gracious and offered the use of a small wooden frame building on the campus that held about 150 people.

The first Sunday 125 people showed up and it was soon evident that we would need larger quarters. I again approached the President who offered us the use of the gymnasium which served as our church for a year. We set up a portable altar on the gym floor and the congregation sat on the bleachers.

For week-day Mass I used the chapel at what was then known as St. Mary's Home, a residence for children from broken homes and staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was located just adjacent to our parish property. Sister Miriam Joseph, the superior, was most gracious in allowing us to use St. Mary's for our various meetings.

The parish property which was purchased by the Diocese some years previously was located, as it is today, at the corner of Arlington Road and what is now known as Larkin Road.

Soon after I arrived in Jacksonville I called a meeting of the

men of the parish and explained that we desperately needed a building on the parish property where we could meet and socialize, but our problem was that we had no money. Jim Fogarty, one of the pioneers who had been at the first Mass at Jacksonville University, said that he would undertake the construction of a wooden frame building that could be put together with volunteer labor and some donations.

Several volunteers working Friday night and all day Saturday under the guidance of Jim Fogarty finished the building in two weekends. It became known as the Clubhouse. For more than 20 years it served as a social hall where we held meetings, had Friday night Bingo, and coffee and donuts on Sunday. During Monsignor Danaher's tenure the Clubhouse had to be dismantled to make room for the gymnasium.

Once we had a place to meet, the first item on the agenda was to initiate a fund raising program in order to build a combination school and church. This was completed by December 1955. It consisted of 6 classrooms on the second floor and an auditorium on the first floor that served for additional classrooms separated by curtains during the week and Mass on Sunday.

In March 1955 we purchased a three-bedroom house on Mickler Road just off the parish property. We added two offices and this building served us for almost ten years.

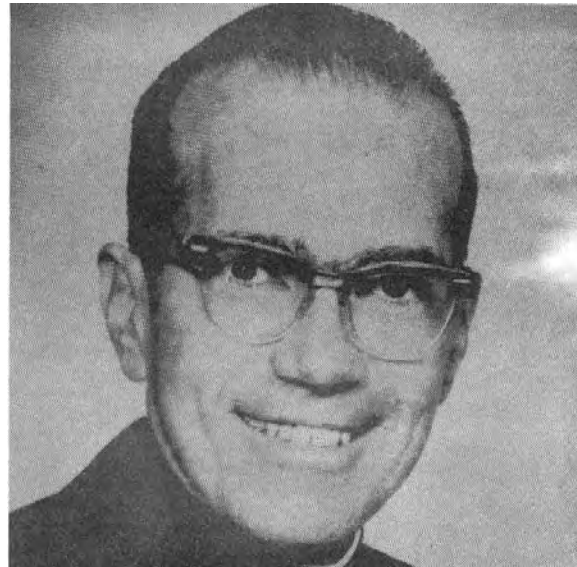
In 1957 we dedicated a temporary church and converted the first floor of the two-story building into classrooms. A second building with six more classrooms was added in 1959.

In 1964 the Rectory and offices were built and we moved from the old residence on Mickler Road into our new home. This completed the building program during my pastorate.

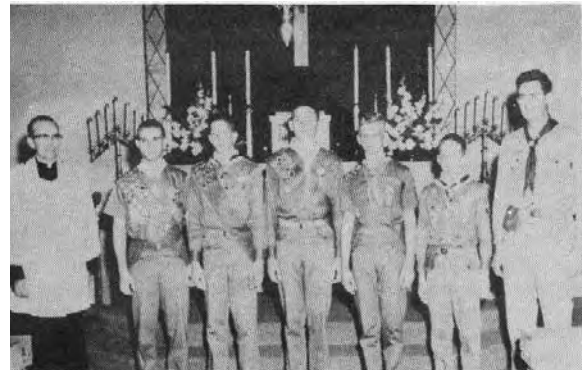
It was a sad day for me when I was transferred to St. Cecelia's Parish in Clearwater. I had been at Christ the King Parish for 13 years and had come to know and love so many wonderful people. On December 11, 1967 I packed my bags, loaded the car and with heavy heart headed for Clearwater to begin a whole new era in my life.

For twelve years I was pastor of St. Cecelia's Parish in Clearwater. On May 27, 1979 I was ordained Bishop for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome by Pope John Paul II. For reasons of health I resigned as Diocesan bishop in May 1989. Since then I have kept busy with diocesan ceremonies and pastoral ministry at St. Cecelia's Parish.

It has been a very fulfilling life and I am grateful to God and all the wonderful people I have met along the way for making it so enjoyable.



**Early Days - Father W. Thomas Larkin, STD, founder of our parish**

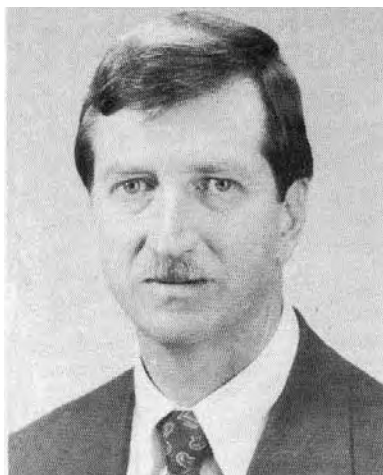


**(Early Days) Honors at the Altar: Father W. Thomas Larkin and Scoutmaster R. W. Coyle with boys**



**Can you identify any these altar boys at Fr. Larkin's Mass on Palm Sunday? Let Judy at the Rectory know their names (724-0080)**

## E. McRae Mathis Named Circuit Judge



by Staff Reporter

Governor Jeb Bush has named Christ the King parishioner E. McRae Mathis, "Mack", as the next circuit judge in the 4th Judicial Circuit, which covers Duval, Clay and Nassau counties.

Judge Mathis, a 23-year veteran of the State Attorney's Office, was sworn into office on April 29. He was assigned to Family Court.

A native of Perry, FL, he graduated from the University of Florida and Memphis State University School of Law. He joined the city Consumer Affairs

Office upon earning his law degree and then joined the State Attorney's Office in 1976.

Mathis most recently served as Chief Assistant to State Attorney Harry Shorstein. Before that, he headed the Special Prosecution Division where he focused on white-collar, consumer and economic crimes, particularly crimes against the elderly.

"Mack" Mathis, 49, is married to Florida Times-Union Senior Business Writer, Karen Brune Mathis, and they have two children at Christ the King Catholic School; Eric, 11, is in fifth grade and Alex, 9, is in the fourth grade.

## CHANGE OF HEART

Received from Laurence M. Foley  
Submitted by Thomas "Josh"  
Porter

Mom got up early Sunday morning and got the kids ready for church. Dad sat in the living room, reading his newspaper and looking out at the snow.

They'd had the conversation before, but nothing had changed. "Why don't you go with us this week?" she asked. He didn't look up from his paper. "You know why," he said out loud and then in his own mind finished the answer with "A truly great God wouldn't care about puny humans anyway." The man replayed the argument in his mind: "If God is so perfect and great, why would He care about helping us? If God is so powerful, why would He make His son become a human being? Why would He stoop so low to help us...if God is really so great."

The house was silent except for the sound of the logs crackling in the fireplace. From the other end of the house came a strange thump. The man put down his paper and walked down the hall.

Outside the window huddled a group of birds. In confusion and fear they had flown into the

window pane and fallen to the ground. They huddled together in the snow, trying to figure out what to do next. The man felt sorry for the birds. He thought to himself, "The birds could go in our barn, and they'd be warm there." So he went outside and opened the door to the barn. Then he waited in the cold. The birds didn't move.

"I know. I'll shoo them over to the barn door," the man thought. But as he tried to herd the birds to the barn, they simply scattered. Only after he left them alone did they come back to their spot in the snow.

The man had one last plan. He went back in the house and got a loaf of bread. Carefully, he tore off pieces of bread and made a path to the barn door. But the birds just huddled closer together, ignoring the gift of life which the man was offering.

Stumped, the man stood looking at the birds, wondering just what it would take to get them to safety. He thought to himself, "If only I could become a bird and lead them to safety, then they wouldn't have to die." He stopped and thought about it again, and finally he understood.

The next Sunday, things were different.

## Jubilee 2000

## How to Gain Indulgences



My dear friends,

In his document, "The Mystery of the Incarnation," the Holy Father urges us to spend the great Jubilee Year 2000 repairing our own relationship with the Lord by engaging in acts of penance, prayer and charity.

The specific acts are listed in a document, "Conditions for Gaining the Jubilee Indulgence," which was issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office that deals with matters of confession and absolution. Basically, it states that plenary indulgences can be obtained:

■ By making a pilgrimage to specific churches or shrines located in Rome (including the catacombs), the Holy Land or the diocesan cathedral or a local church or shrine so designated by the bishop (see accompanying box).

■ By participating, during that visit, in a liturgical celebration such as Mass or vespers, or spending time before the Blessed Sacrament and ending the meditation with an Our Father, a profession of faith (the Creed) and a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

■ To those ordinary ways of gaining indulgences the Vatican has added a few others for the Jubilee 2000, in order to emphasize the spirit of penance and sacrifice which the document calls "the heart of the Jubilee":

■ By visiting the sick, the imprisoned, the elderly living alone, the handicapped and anyone else who is in need, "as if making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them."

■ By abstaining for at least one whole day from unnecessary consumption of alcohol or tobacco; fasting or practicing abstinence; donating money or time to charitable works that benefit the community, in particular abandoned children, young people in trouble, the elderly in need and foreigners in various countries seeking better living conditions.

But good deeds alone are not enough.

Those wishing to receive plenary indulgences must, at the same time, recited the requisite prayers (the Creed, the Our Father and the Hail Mary) and spend some time in pious meditation.

Similarly, indulgences can only be obtained "after worthily celebrating sacramental confession" and by receiving Holy Communion "on the same day as the prescribed works are performed."

Those who fulfill these conditions will receive "full forgiveness" of their temporal

punishment, either for themselves or for the souls of the deceased.

That means that if you were to die at that instant, and were truly repentant and complying with the conditions, you would immediately be united with God.

Similarly, if you were worthily obtaining an indulgence for a soul in purgatory, that soul immediately would be brought to full communion with God.

The Vatican instruction urges the faithful "to repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, since on each occasion they can gain the plenary indulgence, although obviously not more than once a day."

With that caveat, the Church is reminding us that indulgences are not a form of magic or superstition, but a means of molding our hearts and minds.

Indulgences are tools to help us change our mentalities: from concentrating on ourselves, which leads us to sin, to adopting the attitude of Christ, which leads us out to other people.

Just as people's lives are changed by a Cursillo retreat, a charismatic prayer experience or a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, indulgences are meant as a metanoia, a moment of repentance.

In addition to benefiting the soul we're praying for, they are a way to jump-start, or reorder, our own spiritual lives.

The point is to become habitually virtuous as opposed to habitually sinful. That's a true change of heart, a true forgiveness of sins and reorientation to God.

Is that not the most fitting way for a Christian to begin the third millennium of Christianity?

Archbishop John C. Favalora  
serves the Archdiocese of Miami.

### Pilgrimage churches

Following are the churches and shrines where indulgences may be obtained during the Jubilee Year 2000.

In Rome: Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican; Archbasilica of the Most Holy Savior at the Lateran, Basilica of St. Mary Major and Basilica of St. Paul on the Ostian Way; Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem; Basilica of St. Lawrence in Campo Verano; Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love; and the Christian catacombs.

In the Holy Land: Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem; Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem; Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

In each diocese: the local cathedral and any other church or shrine designated by the local bishop.

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*The Florida Catholic* (April 8,  
1999, p.A21).

## Letters to the R.C.I.A. Team and Father Carey

To Father Carey and the RCIA

Team:

The Saturday of Recollection was a very meaningful and spiritual day for me as a RCIA candidate. I felt as if the speakers were talking directly to me and God was sending me His words through them. The *Holy Hour* was particularly spiritual for me. I felt such peace in my heart and love around me in the true presence of the Lord. Thank you all for your help, your support and your prayers.

February 1, 1999

Dear Father Carey:

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how moved I was by the letters Father Baker read during Mass yesterday from the young men and ladies preparing for Confirmation. The thoughtfulness and preparation they had put into this important decision impressed me.

Hearing their thoughts and in preparation for the Day of Recollection and Discernment through RCIA, I have been re-examining my own thoughts about the completion of my candidacy for becoming a member of the Catholic Church. My initial reasoning for becoming involved with RCIA was based on improving my spirituality

To all of the young people preparing for Confirmation, I would like to say,

Thank you.

They will never understand how lucky they are to be part of the Catholic Church from the beginning of their young lives.

be part of the Catholic Church from the beginning of their young lives. I know I am thankful to have been willing to discern at least this portion of God's plan for me now. I hope that you will share these thoughts with Father Baker and the children. They truly have made a difference. I am so proud to know that someday my children will be blessed with a similar preparation for life.

Sincerely,

Peg Marshall  
RCIA Candidate

## First Reconciliation

By Wanda Klima

On Saturday, February 27, 1999, Second Grade students from Christ the King School, CCD and Morning Star School celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in preparation for their First Holy Communion. Father Baker, Father Sean, Father Thanh and Father Carey were present to hear confession from the children. Parents were encouraged to participate as well.

The children worked very hard to memorize the "Prayer of Sorrow" and to learn a song about the Ten Commandments. They were a little nervous but the children all stood to recite the prayer and sing the song for Father Baker and their parents. Singing seemed to help calm the butterflies in their little stomachs!

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a reception with cookies, punch and fellowship in the Shirley David Hall. The children are expected to go to reconciliation again before they receive their First Holy Communion which is at Noon today (May 2).

Father Baker shared a few of the letters that the children wrote to God about First Reconciliation and we have included some here:

Dear God,

I already learned my prayer of sorrow. I can't wait until Saturday! Saturday is when I'm making my first reconciliation. I already know what's going to happen. The Reconciliation room is really small. I can't wait until I go. I'm really excited. I'm going to have to examine my conscience because I can hardly remember much sins I did. I'm choosing to go face to face with the priest. I'm not going behind the screen.

Dear God,

Hi God how are you doing? I am having Reconciliation next Saturday. Aren't you happy for me? How is Mary? I hope you will write back to me.

Dear God,

I'm sorry for all my sins. My question is: I wonder what your face looks like. I'm going to say the Prayer of Sorrow every night. I can't wait until Saturday.

Dear God,

I've been praying to you every night. I am going to have my first Reconciliation. I might be a little nervous. Can you help me get through it? I love you a lot. I will never be bad again.

Dear God,

I can't wait until reconciliation. Do you know what the reconciliation room looks like? I don't. I will have to put a lot of courage for some of my sins. I hope you will forgive me for all my sins. I might be a little nervous but after we're done my soul will be clean.

Dear God,

I can't wait. I hope I don't sin right after. I hope I will like it. I love you God. Thank you for giving me the courage. Thank you for giving me this chance and for loving me.

Dear God,

I wonder what my first Reconciliation is going to be like. I'm excited about First Holy Communion because it's coming soon. I know the Prayer of Sorrow by heart. I'm sorry for being mean to my cousin. Please forgive me.

Dear Jesus,

When I go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation please bring the Holy Spirit to help me confess my sins. I even know my Act of Contrition. We practice in class. Isn't that great! First I examine my conscience. Then I go into the Reconciliation room and confess my sins.

Dear God,

I am receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday. I will go into the Church and examine my conscience. When it is my turn I will confess my sins. Father will ask me to say my prayer of sorrow. After that I will drink punch and go home.

Dear Jesus,

We are going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday. I want to see you in heaven. I can't wait to go to Reconciliation! I love you!

and strengthening my relationship with Jesus. As I have progressed through the class, however, I realize that I was able to do these things in my former church.

I have since realized that while I thought those were sufficient reasons, God had other plans for me! The question that has flooded my prayers is "why the Catholic Church?" Listening to the letters from the young people, God has delivered my answer. The Catholic Church has so much more to offer than just a place to worship. It is rooted in a rich historical base that can provide my loved ones and me with a foundation for an enriched life. It is based in teaching, not only of Bible verses, and the life of scripture that serve as daily reminders of the sacrifice Jesus made out of His love for me. This spiritual growth is the most important aspect the Catholic Church can offer me.

I would like to thank you for guiding me through this period of growth so graciously. To all of the young people preparing for Confirmation, I would like to say, Thank you. They will never understand how lucky they are to

Dear RCIA Team,

I was very touched by your presentations yesterday at our day of discernment. I know it is difficult to stand up in front of a group of people and tell us of your journey toward Catholicism. It made us realize that the journey is not always an easy one, but it is a journey well worth the time and effort. I also believe that the people we befriend on our journey, friends made in Christ, are bonds that will last an eternity. All of you are very special, each in his or her own way, and together form an awesome team. A team filled with compassion, understanding, patients, and love for others.

I think that I speak for all the catechumens and sponsors when I say, thank you for your courage and strength to share with us the things that are not easily shared. It shows us that when you walk with Christ you are never alone and that His strength can be our strength if we will only let Him into our hearts.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have done for us.

Tom Holton  
RCIA Class of 1998

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

COMMUNITY HOSPICE  
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# Christ the King Couple Honored



**L to R facing: Pat Thomas, Father Bob Baker, Lee Callahan and Neil Porter**



**L to R: Howard Sell, Bishop John Snyder and Jean Sell**



**L to R: Msgr. James Mennis, Capt. U.S.N., Eileen Porter and Str. Therese Horan**

by Eileen Porter

A feeling of love and warmth filled the room at the Catholic Charities Good Samaritan Awards dinner on February 23rd. The Most Reverend Bishop John J. Snyder awarded plaques to eight "very special volunteers". Among those honored were "two of our own", Howard and Jean Sell. The event was held at the Cathedral Parish Social Hall in St Augustine. The hall was filled with members of the clergy and lay people who came to honor Howard and Jean and the other recipients of this prestigious award.

After an interlude of piano music by Mr. Claude Veziau, Mrs. Rebecca Stringer, Executive Director of Catholic Charities,

introduced Father Terrence Morgan, pastor of the Cathedral-Basilica Parish who asked the Lord's blessing. Dinner was served by the Catholic Youth Group from Flagler College. Reverend Carl M. Peters, Music Minister of the Ancient City Baptist Church, presented a serenade. Ms. Fran Farrell, President of the Board of Directors, introduced Bishop Snyder, who presented the awards. In addition to Jean and Howard, awards were presented to Ann Breidenstein, Julia Bradford Land, Martha and Olen Levell, Lillian C. Parker, and Nancy Sola Richmond.

The honorees were from various churches and denominations throughout the St. Augustine area. The one thing they had in common was their love and devotion to people who need help.

Their volunteer work included hundreds of hours spent in service to their churches, hospitals and the community at large.

Jean and Howard have been members of Christ the King Parish since 1966 and have been active in many areas of the church, as well as in community service. Among their many contributions, they are both Eucharistic Ministers and ushers and Howard serves as head usher for the parish.

Howard has spent countless hours working for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He is also very active in the Knights of Columbus, where he serves as an honor guard and works at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen.

Jean has a special devotion to the residents of Harbor House, including entertaining many of

them in her home with barbecues and pool parties. Jean also works as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, driving patients to doctor appointments and to their chemotherapy sessions. Jean is a past president of the K-Cees and is still involved in their activities. She volunteers at Christ the King School where she reads to kindergartners and helps with craft projects. Jean frequently opens her home to visiting nuns from other parts of the country and from Ireland. When we need something done, someone will say "call Jean" and she responds.

We are all fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate couple in our parish and we are privileged to call them our friends.

## Finding Your Roots

by Frank Becht

Have you ever wondered about your roots? Everyone has roots that are calling to be searched. Searching for your roots is the study of family ancestry and history, commonly known as Genealogy. Genealogy is one of the most widely known and practiced hobbies in the United States and perhaps in the world, for there comes a time in everyone's life that our ancestry becomes of interest to him or her.

In December 1996, upon the death of my mother, I felt the need to find out more about my ancestors; I'd always thought myself to be mainly German. That, coupled with having received a letter from Rebecca Steenhoff-Schoonbeek of Belgium, whose mother was a German Becht, seeking to tie German and

American Bechts together, caused me to research my roots. What I found surprised me; my research revealed to me that I am mostly French.

No, genealogy is not only an old folks' hobby. Many people, young and old, have reason to wonder about and search for their roots. For some, medical history is a very compelling reason, still others want to establish a "sense of heritage", while others just "want to know." Your reason may be something else.

It's easy to begin; simply start with yourself. Develop what is called a 'Pedigree Chart' which will help you to establish your roots and those of your parents, your grandparents and beyond. You need to seek names, dates, places and relationships in order to complete the Pedigree Chart. In order to develop the Pedigree Chart properly you may have to prepare a

Family Group Sheet, which is a method of recording basic family information. Each marriage will initiate a new Family Group Sheet.

Many sources of information are available. Family Bibles provide birth, marriage, and death records. Court records and documents are a good source of property and probate tax and naturalization. Church records also are sources for baptism, christening, confirmation, marriage, and death data. There are federal records, such as passenger lists, military records and census information available.

You do not have to travel far or spend great sums of money to access much of the information available. Your nearest library is an excellent place to start after you have searched personal home records. There are numerous genealogical societies who specialize in promoting and

assisting individuals in searching for their roots. One of the largest sources of genealogical information in the world is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church, which maintains Family History Centers in most large towns and cities.

You do not have to be a member of the Mormon Church, nor is there a charge for the use of the facilities. There is a nominal charge for rental of film, microfiche and other supplies which can be obtained on any subject or record in most parts of the world.

Instant gratification may not happen. You must be persistent. Many family details are elusive and hard to find. Be assured, however, that great satisfaction comes in finding that great-grandparent or whomever else you've sought.

Good luck in your endeavor.



# Christ the King Celebrates Rite of Election

Story and photos by Bill Dougherty

And Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulder and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light."* (Matt. 11:28-30)

Every year adults are welcomed into the Catholic community through Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings the Catechumen or candidate to Jesus Christ who is our Lord and Savior.

On Sunday, February 28, three Catechumens and 22 candidates signed a special book for Bishop John Snyder, affirming their Rite of Election into the Catholic faith.

RCIA is the process by which adults, those who have completed their teen years, become Catholic Christians and/or receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). In

simpler terms, it is the way people become Catholics, full members of the Roman Catholic Church. At Christ the King, the process starts in September and concludes at Easter time. Meetings are weekly and intended to be interesting and interactive. The process starts slowly with an inquiry or introductory phase to let folks get a sense of where the Lord is leading them. The process is for persons who have not been baptized, and for non-Catholic Christians and for Catholics who may not have received First Eucharist or Confirmation.

In the spirit-filled RCIA journey, there comes knowledge and wisdom for the Catechumens, Candidates, and their sponsors. It is the building of a bridge that adults cross and leads to the light of Jesus Christ. Questions are answered, prayer is discovered, and hope is found for the future.

To learn more about RCIA, to enroll in the program, or to sponsor a RCIA Catechumen or Candidate, call Lyle Stewart (721-2849) or Father Carey (724-0080).



Scott Frye, an RCIA Candidate, signs in the Rite of Election book during the Mass at Christ the King. Looking on is Mr. Frye's Sponsor, Richard Whelan



The Christ the King Children's Choir raise their voices to the glory of God during the Mass when RCIA Candidates observed their Rite of Election



The RCIA Core Team calls forth the Candidates and Sponsors for the Rite of Election



Father Brian Carey reads the Holy Gospel at the Mass where RCIA candidates participated in the Rite of Election

## Rite of Election

### Catechumens

Amy Fallon  
Dacia Knowles  
April Matthews

### Candidates

Michelle Anderson  
Cendry Blanco  
James Carlson  
Paul Case  
George Diaz  
Norma Frye  
Scott Frye  
Michael Kingry  
Paul Loyd  
Margaret Marshall  
Mary McCall  
Lesley Newman  
Ray Oxenreider  
Debbie Padgett  
Tina Plummer  
Tammy Downing  
Rebecca Schroder  
Karen Scott  
William Underwood  
Darren Waldeck  
Mary Weldon  
Betty Woehrmeyer

### Sponsors

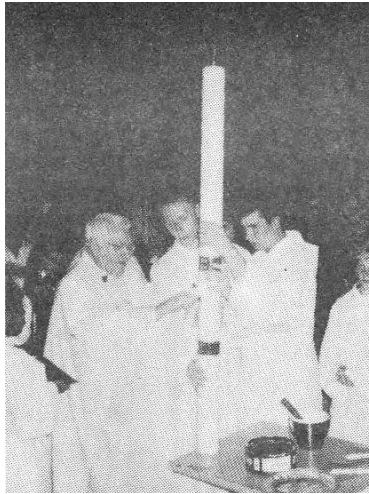
Brian Fallon  
Elizabeth Doyle-Ledbetter  
Theresa Matthews

### Sponsors

Lee Ann Waters  
Florence Whelan  
Tom Holton  
Jennifer Janik  
Bernie Kunka  
Karen Smith  
Richard Whelan  
David Stewart  
Nguyen Nga Thi  
Chantal Harrington  
Vicki Stewart  
Linda Heying  
Helen Mead  
Steve & Terri Ryder  
Joyce Kunka  
Bill Downing  
Mary Rouse  
Genny Kalis  
Gayle Underwood  
Donna Joseph  
Denice Maciocci  
Marie Stewart



Father Carey blesses the fire and ....



inserts a nail into the Easter candle.



Seminarian Brandon Ghiotto leads the procession into a darkened church



With great joy the choirs lift their voices up to the Lord



Candles provide the only light during the first part of the Easter Vigil Mass



Father Baker, with the aid of Master of Ceremonies Juan Carlos Ortiz sprinkles holy water to bless parishioners



The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Eucharist



Father Carey gives the homily during Mass

RCIA candidates received into the church

# Easter Vigil honors our Lord Jesus Christ

On April 3, hundreds of parishioners gathered to celebrate the Easter Vigil and welcome new members in the Catholic faith.

The Mass started just outside the church, with the blessing of the fire and the Easter candle, as we began to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Following the initial blessings, a procession led by Seminarian Brandon Ghioto entered into a darkened church with only the Easter candle lighting the way.

After the Gospel readings, candles were lit by each of the parishioners and Christ the King Church was illuminated with the "Light of Christ."

Father Brian Carey, who led the Mass, told us during the homily of the many reasons why it's good to be a Christian and a Catholic. It was Father Carey who had led the Rite of Initiation for Christian Adults (RCIA) earlier this year and tonight was the night when those who had worked so hard joined Christ the King and our Catholic family.

Six were baptized and more than twenty were received into full communion with the Catholic Church and were confirmed this night. (See the RCIA story on page 19.)

It was a night of songs, celebration and the love of Christ.

Following the Mass, there was great food and rejoicing in the Parish Hall as the newest members of our Christ the King family were congratulated on their tremendous accomplishment.



Father Carey baptizes April Matthews during the Easter Vigil Mass



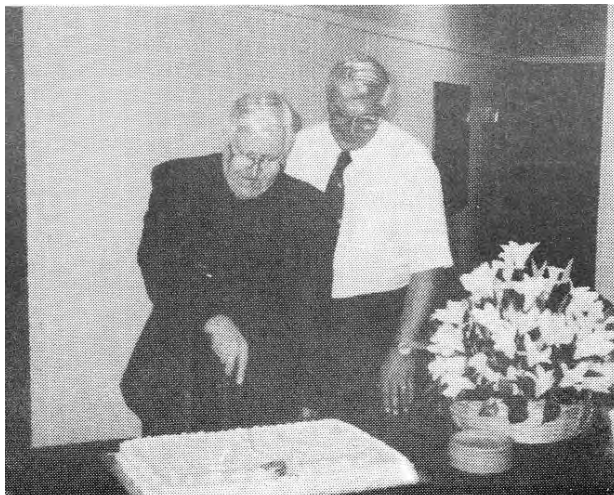
Holding candles, six Candidates and their sponsors pray during the Baptismal ceremony



Father Carey anoints RCIA Candidate Betty Woehrmeyer during the Easter Vigil Mass



RCIA Candidates and Sponsors with Father Baker and Father Carey gather in front of the altar after the Easter Vigil Mass



(left) Father Carey cuts the cake honoring the RCIA candidates as Lyle Steward, the Core Team Leader, looks on.

(right) There was a scrumptious spread of delights that were enjoyed by all in the Parish Hall following the Easter Vigil Mass.



Story and photos by  
Bill Dougherty





by Ann Seravo

# The New Life

Our goal in this new life is to witness to the fact that the Good News is indeed *Good News*. To let the people know that a new life is available through a fuller reception and indwelling of the Holy Spirit; to help them see that this new life centers in a beautiful new relationship with the Lord.

Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come so they may have life and have it more abundantly." This is one of the most popular scripture readings, and it tells us a lot. Our walk with Jesus gives us an abundance of grace. It makes us see things - problems - more clearly; it helps us to know who our source is, and it makes our walk with Jesus more joyful. God loves us so much He sent His only Son to die for us so we may have this abundant life He talks about in John 10:10.

The Father wants all men and women to have this new life. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. This full life begins when we are baptized and take on the life of Christ. The moment you receive Christ in Baptism, many things begin to happen ...

*Christ came into your life* ... Rev 3:20  
*Your sins are forgiven* ... Col 1:14  
*You became a child of God* ... Jn 1:12  
*You began a new adventure* 2Cor 5:17  
 (You're a new person)

You experience God's love and presence in a new way. How? As God speaks to you, teaches you, and guides you, you experience a new love. Can you think of anything more exciting and wonderful that could happen to you than receiving Christ? Thank God for drawing us to Him!

You've received these blessings from God, now what?

Your spiritual *growth* results in 'trusting Jesus'...

**G**o to God in daily prayer.

Rm 12:12

**R**ead God's word daily;

begin with the Gospel of John.

**O**bey God; moment by moment.

Jn 14:21

**W**itness for Christ by your life and your words.

Matt 4:19-20 Jn 15:8

**T**rust God for every detail of your life.

1Pt 5:7

**H**oly Spirit: allow Him to control and empower your life daily, and witness.

Gal 5:16-17 Acts 1:8

So... In God's love; "*God so loved the world He gave His only Son*" (Jn 3:16) and ... in God's plan; "*The abundant life*" (Jn 10:10). He wants to give us an abundance. God is so great; so loving, so good, that our minds cannot comprehend all the good things He has in store for us. It's hard for some people to believe that there is so much for us - just for the asking and by obeying His commands. Deuteronomy 28 tells us about the blessings and the curses; all we need to do is follow His commands and the blessings are ours.

Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Man is sinful and separate from God, so he cannot know and experience God's love and plan. Romans 3:23 tells us, "*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" Man was created to have fellowship with God, but because of his own stubborn, self-will, man chose to go his own independent way. The result: the fellowship with God was broken. Does this sound familiar to some of us? Man separates himself from God. The only answer to this dilemma is Jesus Christ, God's provision for man's sin. Only through Him can we experience God's love and plan for our lives.

And a full life He gives with the precious Holy Spirit. Yes, this life begins with the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Baptism. Baptism brings us into a relationship with the Holy Spirit. What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit has given us a new life? We enter a new relationship with the Holy Spirit through Baptism, Confirmation and the other Sacraments including daily reception of the Holy Eucharist, which gives us a daily openness with the Spirit.

1. You experience God's love and presence in a new way ~ His speaking to you, teaching you, guiding you.

2. You can pray in a new way. The gift of tongues is a gift of prayer, a means of spiritual growth; it is the Spirit praising God with you.

3. You receive the fruits of the Spirit which develop within you. The fruits are: love, peace, joy, gentleness, endurance, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. (Gal 5:22)

4. Gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety (or reverence), and fear of the Lord. You receive one, or more of these gifts.

We can learn all these new ways by reading the Word of God - The Bible. It is important to read

the Word because it educates us, trains us, corrects us, and builds our faith and love in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given to us to fight sin. When we do something we shouldn't, the Holy Spirit warns us. Once we receive the Holy Spirit, our whole life changes. The Holy Spirit is now active in us.

The Word makes us aware of our inheritance. It is the Word that unveils our true relationship to the Father. This is the reason it is so important to let the Word dwell within us. We receive all this precious knowledge when we read and let the Lord direct and guide us.

The Bible will feed your faith and starve your doubts. We must put the Word into action. Hebrew 4:12 tells us, "*God's word is living*

*and effective, sharper than a two-edged sword. It penetrates and divides soul and spirit, joint and marrow, it judges the reflections and thoughts of the heart.*" This is how much God's Word is effective. In Proverbs 4, it tells us that the Word is "*life to those that find them and health to our flesh.*" We should be the healthiest people alive. Living by the Word of God and having life in abundance makes us the healthiest of people. When we fail to follow this, something is wrong.

So today I tell you, live by the Word and Works of God... and live. Enjoy the new life and enjoy it abundantly.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

## Jacksonville Maronites Meet Bishop Doueihy

You Can be My Valentine Only If You Are A Proud Maronite

Submitted by Subdeacon Elias Shami

Article taken from *The Maronite Voice*, used with their permission

This year, just as the Maronite Mission of Jacksonville, FL was getting ready to celebrate the feast of its Patron, St Maron, it was notified of the surprise pastoral visit of His Excellency Bishop Stephen Doueihy to Florida. This is the first visit to the Jacksonville community in thirty years.

This community of about fifty active Maronite families was established less than four years ago. In 18 months, they have managed to buy a piece of land, and with the guidance of their Pastor, Fr. George Zina, they have committed to building a church/hall before the turn of the Millennium. The final plans should be ready by the end of May, and construction is scheduled to begin in early July. The Bishop arrived at the airport on the eve of Valentine's Day, February 13, 1999 and was greeted by the community's youngest Maronites who were waiting anxiously with red roses for him. Though the Bishop's luggage did not arrive with him, His Excellency kept his sense of humor.

Bishop Doueihy had only sixty-eight hours allocated to the Jacksonville visit. The challenge was to mix social and religious, business and entertainment activities without exhausting His Excellency.

That evening, a reception and banquet was given by the Maronite and Lebanese community in the Bishop's honor. The Parish Youth, wearing traditional Lebanese dress, presented him with symbolic gifts. His biggest smile came at the end of the presentation when the youngest girl in the group presented him with a bouquet of roses and asked him to be her Valentine, but only if he was as proud a Maronite as she.

The next day one of the families gave a formal lunch to

which the parish council and women's guild members and their spouses were invited.

Less than three hours later, it was time for the solemn Liturgy at one of the Latin churches in town. His Excellency was assisted by Fr. George Zina, Administrator, and by Subdeacon Elias Shami. Ash Monday services were celebrated that Sunday, making this Lent very special for the Jacksonville community.

In keeping with the Lebanese traditions of slaying a lamb when a Bishop visits one of his communities, one of the parish families organized a dinner at the social hall of the church. More than one hundred parishioners and friends joined the Bishop for dinner.

Monday morning, accompanied by Fr. Zina and the subdeacon, Bishop Doueihy paid a visit to Bishop Snyder of the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine. At the invitation of one of the parishioners, a business lunch followed. The Bishop had a chance to meet a group of Maronite businessmen to discuss different issues related to the Jacksonville community and the plans to build the church.

Afterwards, the Bishop met with the women's guild, Fr. Zina and Subdeacon Shami to share ideas and plans. Next, he met with the Parish Council to discuss previous accomplishments and plans for the future. One clear conclusion surfaced at the end of the meeting: the Eparchy's commitment to support and guide the Jacksonville community in its mission of building a church and establishing a Maronite parish, and the unconditional loyalty and fidelity of this community to the Maronite Church and its representatives.

Later that evening most of the community gathered around its Shepherd and its pastor in a Lebanese restaurant for a Lenten dinner.

# Jubilee 2000 Forum at Flagler College



Arch at Flagler College frames Father Timothy M. Lindenfelser, associate pastor, at Cathedral History Forum held Feb. 26-27 in St. Augustine.



Left to right, Ola Pla, Palm Beach Diocese archivist, Father Terry Morgan, Cathedral-Basilica pastor, and Jane Quinn, Orlando Diocese archivist.



Above, Father Robert Baker, Ola Pla and Father Terrence Morgan at Parisienne Restaurant, 60 Hypolita, St. Augustine, Florida. There during History Forum at Flagler College.

Right, Father Ed Booth



Left to right, Father Terrence Morgan, Jane Quinn and Father Robert Baker at evening meal at Parisienne Restaurant, 60 Hypolita, St. Augustine.



Dr. Charles Gallagher in Flagler Room, Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida. Charles spoke on Community Pacesetter Archbishop J. P. Hurley

by Patti Sloan

A two-day forum was held at Flagler College on February 26 - 27, entitled, "Church Leaders: Community Pacesetter." The forum was part of the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine's celebration of the Jubilee Year 2000. It was funded, in part, by The Florida Humanities Council, highlighting the church's impact on Florida's growth from 1565 to 1967. The speakers shared viewpoints that attested to the widespread influence of the Church's leadership. The forum was under the direction of Fr. Timothy Lindenfelser, associate pastor of the Cathedral.

The topics ranged from the Cathedral's religious roots in

Florida to the bishops who have led the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine. Four topics were covered over the weekend. The Spanish Missions of Florida, 1565 - 1763, were addressed by Dr. John Hann, historian for the Mission San Luis archaeological site, Tallahassee. The next three topics were of three outstanding Bishops: Augustin Verot (1870 - 1876), the first bishop of St. Augustine; John Moore, Florida's second bishop; and Joseph P. Hurley, archbishop and builder from 1941 - 1967.

Dr. Michael V. Gannon is a professor of history at the University of Florida, where he teaches the history of Florida. Gannon has received many prizes and honors for his work on Florida

History. The government of Spain knighted him with the Cross of the Order of Isabel La Catolica. His talk "Augustin Verot; Five Foot Giant," was interesting, since Gannon is the author of Bishop Verot's biography.

"John Moore: The Good Pastor and Capable Administrator" was Florida's second bishop. His role was evaluated by the Rev. Michael J. McNally, PhD., professor of history at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. Bishop John Moore had much work to do after the major groundbreaking efforts of Bishop Verot.

Dr. Charles Gallagher, archivist for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Jacksonville, presented his discussion, "Building Upon Good

Ground: Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley." He provided insight into the years 1940 - 1967 which saw explosive growth in Florida. Bishop Hurley presided over most of Florida when he was bishop and was the last one to cover the entire state. During his tenure, he saw the division of Florida into two dioceses.

Father Baker, former pastor of the Cathedral and present pastor of Christ the King, attended this historic event at Flagler College

Information for this article was taken from a telephone interview with Mr. Lucas and a St. Augustine Record article written by Natalie and Tommy Lucas, used with their permission.



# Vocations: Everyone's Call

by James Scott

In St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles (18:1-5) St. Paul leaves Athens and is headed for Corinth when he meets two co-workers, Aquila and Priscilla. These co-workers shared in St. Paul's profession of tentmaking. Some scholars suggest that St. Paul used his workplace, in addition to the synagogue, to practice his ministry of preaching about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Clearly, St. Paul used every aspect of his life to respond to the call of God and to the calling to partnership. The alignment of our total selves to the call of God is vocations.

In the book *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian*, James W. Fowler describes vocations as "the total response a person makes with his or her total self to the address of God and to the calling to partnership." Let us briefly explore a number of components of Fowler's concept of Christian vocations: human calling, the response, covenantal relationship/partnership, God's will and destiny.

Vocation is closely related to discipleship. Both *vocation* and *discipleship* are processes that involve God's call (election), a response on the part of the hearer that entails detachment from the world, and then the act of doing God's will in covenantal relationship with God. The call to vocations and to discipleship is a call to share in Jesus' destiny as described in John 12:26. The call to discipleship and to vocations is a call to the imitation of Christ (John 13:15).

In Mark 1:16-20 Jesus takes the initiative in going out to recruit disciples. The disciples, who were practicing their professions, were chosen by Jesus in the same way that ancient Israel had been chosen by God to enter into a special people-forming, vocation-establishing call to a covenant relationship. This special relationship between God and people is a call to unity in mission and existence.

We are called to join with God in loving and serving God and in loving and serving other people. There must be unity of our human will and the will of God. St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (12:12-25) calls us to unity with Christ and unity with each other regardless of our differences or any differences we have with Christ. In Ephesians 4:1-6 a series of "one-formulas" is introduced to describe the components of the Christian calling: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God.

We are free to choose our response to the call of God. We are free to choose in an ultimate way *who* we wish to be, persons either open or closed to the mystery of life. Deciding who we wish to become is inseparable from choosing our relationship with God. In affirmatively answering the call of God, we are allowing ourselves to be 'defined' not only by our desires or our self-chosen actions, but also by the Mystery of God who desires to be the atmosphere, horizon, and final goal of all our life experiences.

Fowler explains that in responding to the call we are simultaneously choosing who we are to become and defining our relationship with God. "The shaping of vocation as total response of the self to the address of God involves the orchestration of our leisure, our relationships, our work, our private life, and of the resources we steward, so as to put it all at the disposal of God's purposes in the service of God and the neighbor." A vocational response involves every aspect of our lives being aligned and put at the disposal of God, to be of service to God and neighbor in way that is dictated by our partnership with God. In Luke 5:1-11 Jesus enlists Peter as a helper in his kingdom activity and calls Peter, James, and John to follow his kingdom lifestyle. Their response is total as they abandon all for Jesus.

Being in partnership with God means being in a covenantal relationship with God through Christ. In a relationship which is centered on faith, actions are performed out of love rather than obligation. The need to express love for God will automatically generate good works. A faith relationship to Jesus Christ is distinguished from a merely historical or a merely 'human' relationship to Jesus. We show our love for God through acts which are not primarily aimed at giving us self-gratification but are aimed at serving God and serving neighbor. From the standpoint of vocation, fulfillment, self-actualization, and excellence of being are by-products of covenant faithfulness and action in the service of God and the neighbor. The secret of a true covenantal relationship with God is coming to a mature stage in our faith development where we fully accept

God's grace through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

Doing the will of God involves discipleship (Luke 9:57-60). He calls for a renunciation of earthly goods when these become an obstacle to entry into the Kingdom. Throughout the Sacred Scriptures God wills nothing for God's self, nothing for God's own advantage, for God's greater glory. God only wills for people's advantage, for our true exceptional transcendence and dignity. This then is God's will: *people's well-being*. This is what God wants of us when God calls us to vocations. God wants that we should, with our total selves, respond in a way that elevates us, expediting us to enter the Kingdom of God. God's will is a helpful, healing, liberating, saving will. God wills life, joy, freedom, peace, salvation, the final, great happiness of man: both of the individual and of humankind as a whole.

Fowler concludes his discussion of vocations with the contrasting idea of destiny. Fowler's concept of vocation exactly describes the response of St. Paul in Acts of the Apostles. All aspects of St. Paul's life, from career to ministry, are brought to answering the call of God. Every act he performed, every thought and prayer, was intended to answer the address and strengthen a covenantal relationship. Christian discipleship and vocations demand a total commitment on the part of its members, it "draws on sources that favor the idea of destiny as seen largely through the lenses of nineteenth-century romanticism-inspired idea of self-actualization with the ancient notion of destiny." This definition speaks of "a sense of unique, special potential and of unique responsibility and burden."

Such a narrow definition of destiny makes "the fundamental motives and strategies of vocation different from those of the strategies of the realization of one's destiny. Destiny becomes self-fulfillment and the work of self-actualization constitute the prime reason for living and the goal of all striving. The intent of destiny becomes self-serving, separating us from community and intimacy, and from commitments to causes whose worth transcends our own." The narrowness of the beneficiary of destiny is what contrasts Fowler's definition of destiny with vocations: the beneficiary of vocations is the community and the individual; the beneficiary of destiny is the individual only. We are called in vocations to imitate the destiny of Christ; we are called to God in community.

Fowler's concept of vocation exactly describes the response of St. Paul in Acts of the Apostles. All aspects of St. Paul's life, from career to ministry, are brought to answering the call of God. Every act he performed, every thought and prayer, was intended to answer the address and strengthen a covenantal relationship. Christian discipleship and vocations demand a total commitment on the part of its members.

## Memories of a C.C.D. Teacher

by Lucille Guzzone

Any teacher can tell you that her job is far from being an easy one. A regular teacher has a few perks, however. She usually has her own classroom which she organizes and decorates according to her subject matter and personality. She prepares material according to the number of pupils she has, she usually memorizes students' names by at least the first month, and in the morning she greets well groomed and well rested children who are ready to take on the day's lessons. But these advantages are practically nonexistent for the sometimes frazzled C.C.D. instructor.

She meets with her little angels only once a week at seven in the evening, and in the middle of the school week. Occasionally, they come to class with red ears from their mom's pulling and tugging them. Once in the room they must constantly be reminded not to put their hands in the desks of the daytime students. Directions are repeated over and over again for those late comers who rush in from soccer practice, band rehearsal, a science fair, or a late football game.

Not only are these kids exhausted from a full day of 'real' school and the extra curricular activities that go with it, but sometimes they are wearing the playground on their clothes. And

speaking of apparel, does the teacher dare ask the boy who is wearing the metal chain around his neck to remove it for fear that he may choke himself to death?

Then again, he may not even realize that she is addressing him because it is now after Christmas holidays, and she just cannot recall his name. And when the activity calls for group work, Heaven forbid that the teacher assign anyone from James Weldon Johnson Academic Magnet School with anyone from Arlington Middle School!

I am one of these 'night school' teachers, and although I am occasionally challenged by these minor obstacles, I approach them with a sense of humor. Most of the times I rush through as much material as I can in the allotted hour and only hope that the class retains the important points of their religious instruction.

This past February I was very proud of my students as they received the sacrament of Confirmation. With just one rehearsal with the Catholic school children, they looked beautiful, carried themselves well and spoke to the Bishop with confidence.

Some of my pupils still cannot remember that the initials, C.C.D. mean Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. That is O.K. with me, however, because in my class it stands for young 'Catholics Celebrating Dedication.'

# Blessings Come in Using One's Gifts

## "How the Lord has worked in my life"

by Natalina Rodriguez

*Natalina Rodriguez wrote for "Cathedral Times", Cathedral Parish, St. Augustine when Fr. Baker was pastor there.*

Creative writing has been both an emotional and a recreational outlet for me for years that stretch back to times even before my life as a teenager, when this realization actually came to me. Apparently I had progressed from the frail and timid child, whom an older brother diligently walked to and from school, to a stronger, more adaptable adolescent who, by high school days, had discovered a wonderfully unexpected ability to stir feelings in others through the jotting down of thoughts, experiences and observations about life around me.

My discovery came with a ninth grade English class assignment, which was to write about a personal encounter. Everyone steadfastly endured the reading of each other's composition with polite yet definitely strained patience. I dreaded my turn but did courageously answer the call.

I, today, have no remembrance of what I had written back then, but I do recall that I read on and on, not daring to look up until just before my last paragraph, when the bell rang to end class. I stopped, since I fully expected my friends to jump up, as was our custom, and shuffle off to the next study period. As I glanced up, I realized that no one had stirred. They were waiting for the ending of my story! Pleased with this new-found power, I read my conclusion, enjoyed their smiles of approval, and sent them happily on their way.

From that point on, still not fully understanding the source of this explicable gift, yet fleetingly thanking God for my successes, I went on to provide literary contributions to high school and college publications. I never kept copies. I felt I could always create more.

It was not until many, many years later, when retirement and widowhood reaped intense changes in my life, that I earnestly searched for this ability as a sort of calling. I found myself coping with grief and difficult adjustments through what, by that time, was a latent creative writing outlet. I began to sense the gentle touch of a Helping Hand that was leading me to answer every opportunity for literary contributions that I could find around me.

A very close friend, a very thoughtful friend, organized an informal writer's workshop for critiquing one another's work. Their approval and encouragement stirred my energies, and I found

myself contributing to a local arts oriented publication. The stellar opportunity was bestowed upon me when still another friend, on the mere basis of my passing comment of "enjoying writing," offered my name to our pastor, who was in the process of reviving the parish newspaper and in need of volunteers as feature story writers.

I spent more than 10 years covering varied parish activities, interviewing clergy and nuns, as well as laity, while managing to insert many of my own personal creations. Meantime, our local newspaper printed a few of my contributions to their annual Christmas story contests. I never won first prize there, but I was content with the feeling that I was publicly helping "to put Christ back into Christmas."

Since my writing experience has been based solely on my own development (or was it?), I felt in need of tremendous help in forming the best, the true picture of events for the benefit and enjoyment of the readers. Prayers before, during and after each composition, accompanied by the strains of taped Gregorian chants in the background, surely are responsible for the fine comments reaching out to me from all sides. It was a somewhat frightening realization as well as a mind boggling responsibility to continue listening, observing and putting down on paper all the stories so that others might learn of happenings and experience involvement. As each assignment did develop, and I felt the sweet sensation of accomplishment, invariably, as acceptance followed, there was the resultant guilt-filled reflection, "oh ye of little faith..."

During those years of prolific writing, I grew not merely in ability but in knowledge through the tremendous wealth of contacts both lay and religious. As I have pointed out in the past, I feel privileged to have had these relationships. Furthermore, in some instances, as I would proofread an article I wrote, I actually could not recall ever having written some of the thoughts as they appeared there on my paper. A gasp of thanksgiving usually followed.

Now that the years have passed and words are slower in coming to mind, I find myself reflecting on the wonders of my/His writing accomplishments. Although I am no longer consistently contributing to any one publication, blessings continue to flow. To tell the complete truth, it might be noted that each of the publications, except for our city newspaper, for which I have written, no longer is in print. That, however, for me personally is inconsequential, since God, through the readership, provided me with the means to satisfy a yearning to tell my stories and even

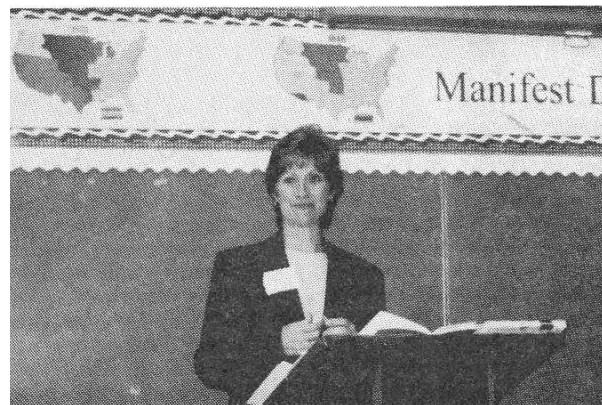
receive the reward of knowing success. It still amazes me that He always allowed the praises to fall squarely upon me, when I knew deep in my heart that it was an innate aptitude called "The Grace of God".

My most recent gift has come within my own family. My granddaughter, age 7, enjoys writing and telling stories. Her 3-4 sentence compositions do surprisingly present, develop and

climax her perceptions. She decided to collect her works and apply them toward the earning of a Scout badge. On being told of one further requirement, that is, the conferring with someone who is already a writer, she immediately and triumphantly proclaimed badge approval, as she exclaimed, "I'll talk to Grandma!"

Many are the blessings He bears...

## Liturgical Conference Jubilee 2000



by Judy E. Koziolk

I wasn't quite sure what I expected when I attended the Liturgical Conference that was hosted by Christ the King Catholic Church. I received my registration form via Bernie Sans who stated emphatically to my question as to whether or not I should attend with 'the Bishop encourages everyone to attend.' I guessed that 'everyone' included me so I filled out my registration, chose Stewardship and Parish Staff as my workshops, and gave my form and money to Bernie.

The entire weekend amazed me! The workshop began on Friday evening, January 29 and ended on Saturday afternoon. They even assigned a signer, Kathleen Bodolay from the School of the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine to help the hearing impaired.

On Saturday morning I found out that my first workshop (Parish Staff) had been canceled due to lack of interest. Momentarily I was at a loss as to what I wanted to do next. There was a list of 17-different workshops to choose from; two of which were canceled either due to lack of interest or the presenter couldn't come, and one of the workshops was for Priests. I decided to relax and pray and listen to the music in the church until luncheon.

After a nice lunch I went to the workshop on Stewardship. Nancy

Kearney led the workshop. Who would have thought that a lecture on Stewardship would have everyone in tears! I don't know quite what I expected but it surely wasn't that!

Nancy's lecture was about sharing your gifts with others. She shared with us some of her experiences as she grew in love and faith in the Lord. Her words stirred the heart. She spoke of giving gratefully and how this affected her relationship with God. By the time she finished, she had us all crying!

Becoming involved in your Church is stewardship. Loving your neighbor is stewardship. Donating your treasure to the Church is stewardship. What impressed me the most was the fact that she spoke of "love". That is the power behind stewardship; not money. If we are cheerful givers...we are giving from the heart, and love accomplishes so much more. I believe that is what God wants from us. He wants us to love so much that we are willing to give so that others can experience God's saving Grace.

The Church has given us a wonderful gift this coming year. Pope John Paul invites us all to prepare for the Jubilee Year 2000. Bishop Snyder has made available to us conferences, concerts, and workshops to help us accomplish this goal. I hope everyone takes advantage of this opportunity during the year. God is calling us! Are we listening?

## Valentine Party and Fashion Show



**Sarah Duncan and Lori Hodges model fashions from  
Peturnia Patch**

by Emma Duncan

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women presented their 8<sup>th</sup> annual Valentine Luncheon & Fashion Show on February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Everyone enjoyed the boxed lunches catered by Jason's Deli. Parish members modeled attractive clothing

presented by Petunia Patch. Beautifully wrapped door prizes were awarded, and everyone had an enjoyable day playing cards and visiting with friends. This is only one of our many activities planned each year. If you are interested in joining the Council, contact Helen (724-0982) or Pat (399-3198) to learn more about our many activities.

## Knights of Columbus...

### Vows of Renewal

by Eileen Porter

It is always a special event when the Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Chapter 4727, Msgr. Mortimer Danaher, celebrates First Friday Mass for the Knights and their Ladies. However, it was especially meaningful on February 5<sup>th</sup> when during Mass, Msgr. Danaher asked the married couples present to hold hands and repeat their marriage vows.

There were about 35 couples who renewed their vows on this

occasion. Some had been married just a few years, others for 30, 40, or 50 years or more. All shared the common purpose of renewing their commitment to each other and to their God.

Since families are a cornerstone of the Knights of Columbus, this was a fitting demonstration of their devotion.

An informal evening with refreshments and fellowship followed the Mass.



### Church Bells Ringing God is Calling His Children

Come my children come, Come and worship Me  
Come my children come, Come and praise Me  
For I have given you my all.

My table is spread before you  
Come and dine with Me, Come my children come  
Cast aside all bitterness, wrath and anger,  
clamor and evil speaking.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving  
Be filled with divine Love.

I love you with an everlasting love.

Come my children come, Come and worship Me  
Come my children come, Come and praise Me  
Come my children, come.

by Ann Seravo

## MOMS Ministry



**Donna Simons, new regional MOMS Coordinator for the Diocese of  
St. Augustine, introduces Carol Ann Black as new MOMS  
Coordinator for Christ the King Catholic Church**

by Trina Steffan

MOMS had a special cause for "Celebration" on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen new Ministry of Mothers Sharing "Celebrates" were congratulated at a dinner in their honor. They celebrated their completion of the spring session. Also attending were guest speakers Jeanette Ghioto, director of Catholic Charities and Coordinator of Parents for Life. Father Sean, Fr. Than, Fr. Gerry, Sister Therese, and Carlos Ortiz. Fr. Sean was overheard complimenting the Christ the King women, "they always provide such a wholesome and delicious assortment of food when they get together. I am glad they remembered me."

Guest speaker, Jeanette Ghioto, shared her experiences of parenting. She delighted MOMS with personal tales of her most joyful moments and the challenging ones that can sometimes cloud our joys. She encouraged us to pray to God for guidance in even the smallest of things and with our children. Good habits are remembered when established early in life, especially when they are founded on God's point of view. Jeanette was a great inspiration to everyone. We thank her for sharing herself and her children's lives with us.

Again we congratulate these women who gave themselves the gift of time to benefit from **MOM: A Personal Journey**. I asked several of these ladies to comment on what they felt about the "Journey."

Karol Saffer said, "MOMS was a wonderful journey through self-awareness, self-acceptance, and spirituality. Mary Mollenhour expressed that, "MOMS was a wonderful, challenging, experience. MOMS has helped me to grow spiritually and emotionally. It has left me with a great sense of peace and GREAT NEW FRIENDS." Maria Guida said, "It has made me a better mom. I'm more in touch with my inner feelings and have become much more patient."

The morning participants were:

Donnell Baer	Gisselle Bejarano
Maria Guida	Ann Franklin
Mary Mollenhour	Cassy Morency
MercedesSmith	Karol Saffer

The evening participants were:

Marie Boyd	Lucy Essick
Debbie Garbade	Rhonda Girdina
Prudentiana Hogan	Cathy McClellan
Susan Pollett	Susan Saad
Megan Stone	Jo Thomas
Sharon Williams	

## M.O.M.S. - An Open Door

by Mercedes Smith

When one door closes, another one opens. That's what I feel MOMS ministry has provided for me - an open door. When I decided to stay at home full-time and take care of my children, and devote myself to my family; I felt alone. Then I read in the bulletin that a new MOMS group was forming and my husband encouraged me to go so that at least, for two hours, I

could carry on some adult conversations.

MOMS has changed my whole outlook about my spirituality, my attitude about myself, and the importance of being a full-time homemaker. I was able to laugh, cry and express my feelings with other women who share my beliefs and values. God has a purpose for us all, and MOMS has made me realize my purpose: nurturing my family. I realize I am not alone and I am loved.

## Evening M.O.M.S.

by Trina Steffan

Evening MOMS began the winter session on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and held their Celebration on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The facilitators for this session were Linda Dixon, Judi Jeffas, and Mitzi Vergenz. How fast two hours go by! The ladies who participated were all so interesting.

MOMS is a wonderful opportunity to share your thoughts, both written and verbal, spirituality and fellowship. Thank you ladies for participating in MOMS. Our participants included Rhonda Giardina, Marie Boyd, Cathy McClellan, Prudentiana Hogan, Debbie Garbade, Jo Thomas, Sharon Williams, Susan Saad, Megan Stone, and Susan Pollett. It was great being a group!

## STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP ROMAN HOLIDAY



**Father Bob Baker, Sissy Keegan, Pat Thomas, Gloria Nebrich, Grace Berkey, and Jane Middleton**

by Eileen Porter

Red checked tablecloths and aprons, lighted candles dripping onto wine bottles, enlarged photographs of scenes in Rome and Assisi, Italian flags on the wall and the aroma of Italian food served as the theme for our "Roman Holiday."

The occasion was the Bishop's Stewardship Workshop held on January 19, 1999, in the Shirley David Hall.

The workshop is an annual event hosted by various churches throughout the St. Augustine diocese. This year Christ the King was the host parish. Since our present pastor, Fr. Robert Baker, our retired pastor, Msgr. Mortimer Danaher and stewardship chairman, Pat Thomas ~ along with representatives from other parishes in our diocese ~ had recently

returned from an international stewardship convention in Rome, the Italian theme seemed appropriate. Guests enjoyed wine and cheese prior to a delicious Italian dinner served by some "Real Italians," young men from the St. Vincent de Paul farm in St. Augustine.

This workshop served as the debut for the Bishop's Stewardship film. The Most Reverend Bishop John J. Snyder, and the Diocesan Stewardship Director, Mr. Francis Scholtz, spoke to the assemblage of pastors and members of diocesan parish stewardship committees. Materials for the Bishop's Appeal were also distributed at the workshop. Pat Thomas, Christ the King's stewardship director, spoke briefly. The evening concluded with the guests singing the stewardship song accompanied by Mr. Scholz at the piano.

## Diocesan Stewardship Day

by Eileen Porter

The Diocesan Stewardship Day was held at the Baymeadows Holiday Inn on March 9. There were 25 members of Christ the King Parish attending, with about 200 other people from throughout the St. Augustine Diocese and a number of people from Georgia. Those present from Christ the King included members of the clergy, members of our Stewardship Committee, as well as representatives from our school.

The program opened with welcoming remarks and prayer by the Most Reverend Bishop John J. Snyder. The first speaker was the Most Reverend Bishop Robert Morneau, of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. He spoke on the subject: "Gifts of Stewardship and the Jubilee Year." Bishop Morneau is a gifted speaker and discussed how stewardship touches every area of our lives ... it is a whole way of life ... the way of Jesus.

A second talk was from the Reverend Fr. Paul Dudziak, pastor of The Church of the Good Shepherd

from Owings, Md. His subject was: "Hospitality, Spirituality and Stewardship - the Foundation of Vital Parish Life." Fr. Paul spoke of the importance of the various ministries in the parish. He particularly stressed the importance of Small Groups. At the conclusion of Fr. Paul's speech, the two speakers responded to questions from the participants. At the conclusion of the question and answer period, lunch was served.

Following lunch the attendees had the choice of five workshops to attend. These workshops were on various subjects relating to stewardship. Among the workshop leaders was our own Pat Thomas, whose subject was, "Formation of Stewardship Committees." Fr. Ron Camarado, an associate pastor at St. Catherine's Parish, led an interesting workshop on ways to convey the stewardship message to children. Others workshop leaders were John Milani, Nancy Kearney and Dannete Good. Following the conclusion of the workshops, the meeting was adjourned.

## L'Arche Harbor House Yard Sale



**Barbara Chastang (Harbor House Core Member), shows Father Brian Carey new dalmatians**



**Core Member Kathy Vallencourt and Auxiliary President Dolores Bianco sort items for sale**

by Dolores Bianco

Christ the King's outreach comes in many forms and this was quite evident recently at L'Arche Harbor House's annual yard sale. Not only did parishioners help make the event a success by responding generously to a request made by Harbor House in the parish bulletin for donated items, but several parishioners got personally involved by volunteering their time and talent. Among those helping were Fr. Carey with his donation of items and his presence of good cheer; Pat Setser of CKCCW Circle #5 who helped set up, sort and sell; school Principal Janet Morton, who recently joined the Harbor House Auxiliary; and Dolores Bianco, member of the Harbor House Board of Directors and President of the Harbor House Auxiliary.

Sponsored by the Auxiliary, over \$1,000 was raised through this hands-on work while everyone had a good time, too. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit the life time commitment made to the disabled men and women of Harbor House. "While home life is at the heart of all L'Arche communities," Director Dottie Klein said, "It is important for us to be a part of parish life and of the larger community of Jacksonville." She explained that the core members (the disabled members) and the live-in assistants need relationships with this larger family. The core members, in order

to grow and become all that God calls them to be, need to feel the acceptance and support of those around them. Volunteers such as these good friends help us live up to the ideals of the International Charter of L'Arche which states: "L'Arche is deeply concerned by the distress of people who suffer injustice and rejection because they are handicapped. This concern should compel the communities of L'Arche to do all they can to defend the rights of people with a mental handicap, to support the creation of places of welcome for them, and to call on our society to come more just and respectful toward them."

Dottie adds, "We are most grateful to Christ the King for sharing your concern and supporting the men and women of Harbor House with your acceptance and welcome, your gifts of love and friendship. This was evident too during Lent when our core members and assistants were welcomed and treated to the delicious fish fry dinners. Thank you for your living the Gospel so fully: "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14: 13-14

Volunteers who want to become a friend and/or join the Auxiliary are always welcome; please call Dottie at 744-4435 or Dolores at 743-4999.



## Make Me a Spoon, Lord

submitted by Marge Heater

Did you ever compare your Catholic Christian service to silverware?

All silverware is made to serve, but the different pieces serve in different ways.

Forks stab, "This is mine," they say. Bits of meat, carrots, pickles, salad and cheese. "This, this and this are mine." says the fork. "Everything for me, me, me." And soon every last morsel on the plate has been pinioned by the spear of the selfish fork. Knives cut. "Too

big," says the knife. Slice. Cut. Chop. Dice. Everything must change its shape to satisfy the whim of the knife. Nothing is right as it is. Everything needs paring down, carving, or separating.

Spoons serve. Cereal, soup, peas – all the impossible foods can be handled comfortably. "Here, let me help you. We can manage together."

All the utensils may be necessary at times, but who wants to always be cutting and stabbing? Make me a spoon, Lord!

## SINGLE AND SINGLE AGAIN



by Leroy Garvin

The Single and Single Again Ministry is off to a great start for 1999. We have some great things planned for our Tuesday night meetings, including speakers, game nights, and line dance lessons.

We will continue to have dine outs, bowling nights, movie nights, a pool party and picnics during the upcoming weeks and weekends. Our game nights are a great success. We break into small groups to play board games or card games. We have been averaging 25 to 30 members and have played Scrabble, dominoes, and many different card games.

Another Tuesday night favorite is the line dance lessons. Many come to learn the new steps and some come to cheer on those who attempt to line dance for the first time. But all come to meet and socialize with friends, new and old.

Our most recent dance was a Sock Hop. The music of the 50s and 60s was played by our favorite DJ Grover Howard. The majority of single women attending were

dressed in poodle skirts and the men in jeans and t-shirts.

Our Saturday night dances have been great and a lot of fun for the 200 plus singles in the Jacksonville area who attend. The Singles Ministry was able to donate \$400 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society during the month of March; this amount was matched by the Feinstein Corporation, thus enabling us to help the less fortunate through the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Our next dances are:

\* Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Fleet Reserve on Collins Road from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

\* Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hendricks Avenue

\* Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> in the Kingdome at Christ the King Church

We would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make the Single and Single Again Ministry a success. With the help of God, and the continued support of Christ the King Church and our members, we will continue to reach out to those who are single or single again.

## Knights of Columbus...

## Fourth Degree Exemplification



Pat Bianco



Regis O'Connell followed by Clarence Casterlin

by Dolores Bianco

Ten Christ the King parishioners became fourth degree members of the Knights of Columbus in a ceremony November 28 at the Radisson Inn in Jacksonville. Holy Trinity Assembly 2368 received Pat Bianco. Those received into Ponce de Leon Assembly 0152 include: Clarence Casterlin, George Coseo, John Faustini, John Fuata, Regis O'Connell, Martin Polsenski, Lance Simons, Lyle Stewart and Michael Yarborough.

When men join the Knights of Columbus they are accepted as first degree members. They then advance with the help of their brother Knights to the second and third degrees. With each degree comes a larger involvement in the organization and in their commitment to the Lord.

Fourth degree is the highest order Knights may achieve and those men who have this honor conferred on them are deserving of our congratulations.

## Widow/Widowers Support Group

by Isabelle Fusco

What happens now? "I feel so alone, what can I do to get through this experience?" You are not alone. Jesus said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." You have some wonderful church family members who are willing to meet with you. Most of these people you may already know. Some of them are eager to meet people who like them, are in the healing process after losing a loved one.

You are welcome. Try us out... we need you. We learn that life goes on and so must we... Why not help us 'bind each others wounds.'

Take a chance... begin the adventure of healing by being a part of our group. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday a 10 a.m. in the rectory. God promises blessings to those who have love for one another.

If you have any questions, please call Isabelle Fusco at 724-5186.



# St. Francis Soup Kitchen

## Camaraderie and Hard Work

by Jim Claxton

On the Fourth of July 1979, Mary Korson of Jacksonville, Florida initiated the opening of a soup kitchen for the destitute and homeless. Situated at the corner of Church and Newnan Sts. in midtown Jacksonville is "St. Francis Soup Kitchen" which has, since its opening, provided food for some 900-1000 hungry people each Saturday. It is also open on national holidays other than Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mary, now 86 years old, still works several days each week supervising the preparation of food for Saturday. A supreme, financially uncompensated volunteer for 20 years, Mary should definitely be considered a "heroine" of our times.

Mary Korson directs the Soup Kitchen, which is staffed entirely by volunteers from parishes throughout the city. While not a ministry of Christ the King, St. Francis Soup Kitchen receives financial support from Christ the King parish. The kitchen is located in the basement at 134 Church St. in the Providence Center at Immaculate Conception Church, in downtown Jacksonville.

Volunteers come from Christ the King Parish as well as from Protestant churches. Among the Christ the King's volunteers are Betty Becht, Flo Thibault, Jim and Bet Knight, Margaret Ward, Mary Ann Danese, Elba Lliedra, Louise Steadman, Trudy Cameron and myself. Msgr. Danaher leads the clients in asking the Lord's blessing—The Lord's Prayer—before they eat.

When I first asked Betty Becht if help was needed at the Soup Kitchen, she stated, "Jim, they always need help." She said it was a miracle the way the volunteers come to prepare the food. When a lot of volunteers show up, I have heard Mary Korson say, "The Lord has been good to us."

Before the doors open, a prayer circle is formed and we pray for all those who have requested prayers

and also many petitions. We also pray for world peace and for world hunger relief.

Among the many clients who come to the kitchen there is a man named Roger who is mentally deficient. He pushes a grocery cart with articles he has picked up. One Friday in December I said to Mary Hoff, the lady who is in charge of the clothes, "Mary, Roger is up there barefoot. Can you help him?" Mary gave him a pair of shoes plus a jacket.

One Friday last winter it was 29 degrees. There was a woman about 40 who had been in a shelter the night before. Mary Hoff gave her a pair of shoes.

I have heard many times from the pulpit, "At the Last Judgement the Lord will ask a person, 'Why didn't you feed me when I was hungry and clothe me when I was naked?'" The volunteers at St. Francis do just the opposite. They are there to feed and clothe all in need.

The food is prepared on Friday morning. Mary Korson and several others prepare the soup. A group of about six women prepares the bologna sandwiches. They are affectionately referred to as "The Bologna Queens." There is a spirit of camaraderie at the Soup Kitchen. My wife said, "It's a social outlet for those women." I answered, "It's a social outlet for me, too." Then the bologna sandwiches (and sometimes peanut butter sandwiches) are bagged in plastic bags. That's my job! Then they are stacked into cardboard boxes to be distributed Saturday morning.

Also, about four volunteers make "Kool-Aid" which is poured into styrofoam cups to be served the next morning.

The "early bird" cakes are bagged and placed into a cardboard box to be distributed. These are for clients who come early.

Most of the volunteers start around 9:00 a.m. At about 11:30 Brother Michael comes with the produce. He gets up at 4:00 a.m. and goes to the curb market and gets produce that has been donated



Mary Korson, a "heroine" of our time



Soup Kitchen volunteers L to R: Joe Brown, Mary Hoff, Mary Korson, Kenny Vincent, Jim Claxton, Flo Thibault (sitting), John O'Connell and Carrie Kincaide

by various vendors. He comes from St. Paul's Parish at Jacksonville Beach. About six men unload the van. There are sacks of potatoes, tomatoes, corn to be shucked, bananas and other produce. The van is unloaded with much camaraderie coming from the men. I help.

The produce is brought downstairs. Several women prepare salads. About six to eight volunteers, mostly women, cut whatever vegetables need cutting up. Again, there is much hard work and camaraderie among the volunteers.

Most of the volunteers are in their 60s, 70s and 80s. If anyone thinks that older people can't work, they should come to St. Francis. They work like beavers.

After all the vegetables have been cut up, the salad made and the soup cooked; the next step is the clean up. There is a big sign in the back of the room that says "Blest

are they who clean up." Everyone helps in this endeavor.

The table upon which vegetables were cut is washed by several women with Clorox so it's sterilized. Others clean up the kitchen where the soup is cooked. All of this work is done with no cracking of the whip that is characteristic of many places. Mary Korson is a wonderful supervisor.

At about 12:30 - 1:00, when the kitchen is cleaned up, it's time to go.

I have worked twice on Saturdays. There's as much or more work in serving the food as in preparing it. There is much less socializing on Saturdays when the food is being served and the clients are there than on Fridays when the food is prepared. Also, there is a different group of volunteers, it is a younger crowd, made up mostly of students from high school and college.

### Roses of Love



One perfect rose for the many nights  
you stayed awake for me;  
And all the sacrifices made  
are roses two and three;

The fourth is for the countless times  
you treated my scrapes and bumps;  
Rose five and six for the care you gave  
in measles, flu, and mumps;

The seventh is for your encouragement  
and teaching me to try;

Rose eight and nine for comforting me  
when friendships went awry;

Rose ten is for the kisses and smiles,  
the warmth of your embrace;

Eleven and twelve for the motherly love  
which time cannot erase.

A dozen roses of love for you  
and a prayer this Mother's Day;  
May Jesus hold you in His Loving Heart  
and Bless you every day.

Kathleen L. Purtle

### Walk a Little Plainer Daddy



Walk a little plainer, Daddy,  
Said a little boy so frail,  
I'm following in your footsteps  
And I don't want to fail.

Sometimes your steps are very plain,  
Sometimes they are hard to see;  
So walk a little plainer, Daddy,  
for you are leading me.

I know that once you walked this way  
Many Years ago, and what you did along the way

I'd really like to know.

For sometimes when I am tempted, I don't know what to do,  
So walk a little plainer, Daddy, for I must follow you.

Someday when I'm grown up, You are like I want to be;  
Then I will have a little boy who will want to follow me.  
And I would want to lead him right and help him to be true,  
So walk a little plainer, Daddy, for we must follow you.

Happy Father's Day,  
Daddy

Author Unknown  
submitted by Chuck Parliament

# Parish Nurse Ministry

by Barbara Hanuscin

Are you wondering just what this ministry does?

Since the initiation of the program within the parish approximately one year ago, the Parish Nurse Coordinators have attended orientation classes at St. Vincent's Hospital. We have presented the program to the Pastor for his approval and have presented the program to the Parish Council which voted on implementing the Parish Nurse Ministry here at Christ the King. A formal agreement was signed with St. Vincent's Medical Center.

The Parish Nurse Ministry (PNM) has conducted surveys of areas of interest by interviewing

various other groups within the parish and by survey forms. A Health Council, which is comprised of physicians, nurses and parishioners representative of various organizations and age groups within the parish, has met twice to provide direction.

Medical science is attempting to prove something that Christians have accepted by faith for quite sometime - the wonderful truth that prayer is recognized as the ultimate answer.

Referrals to various community services, physician referrals, as well as counseling and pastoral

referrals have been made. Some nursing home, hospital and in-home visitations to shut-ins have been made. PNM is currently in the process of conducting reference checks for assembling a Visitation Team for shut-in parishioners.

PNM was represented at monthly Parish Council meetings and brought forth for discussion, issues relating to safety that were raised by parishioners who have contacted our ministry.

Monthly Blood Pressure screenings have been underway, usually on the first Sunday of the month after the 8:30 and 10:00 Masses. Several potential problems were discovered from screening that was done and physician referrals were made. The Mobile Health Unit from Baptist/St. Vincent's provided flu shots last fall. Also, a number of cholesterol checks were done at that time.

Just a reminder, the Parish Nurse Ministry does not do invasive procedures, immunizations, etc. PNM schedules other providers to offer their services.

The Parish Nurse Coordinators have attended continuing education programs offered by St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Ministry and met with other PNM coordinators from various parishes within the diocese as well as PNM coordinators from other denominations.

The PNM program was introduced at St. Vincent de Paul Society's Day of Reflection held at Assumption Parish last February. St. Vincent de Paul Confreres of the Diocese were in attendance. Parish Nurse Coordinators were given the opportunity to speak with Bishop Snyder. The bishop has promised to speak in support of the PNM when

he meets with hospital officials at St. Vincent's Medical Center.

A Medical Equipment Bank (for durable medical goods) has been established and can be accessed by placing a call to the St. Vincent de Paul phone line listed on the front of the church bulletin.

The PNM has provided input assistance with the start-up of the Widow/Widower Support Group which is a new ministry within the parish. PNM continues a working partnership with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul within Christ the King Parish. PNM assisted the Single and Single Again Ministry in scheduling speakers.

Now, what would we like to accomplish in the near future? We would like to get the Visitation Team functioning, schedule more speakers on health and wellness topics, and hopefully get to the point where we would be able to hold a Health Fair for the parish.

What can you do to assist in the success of the ministry? **"Pray for its Success."** With the encouragement and positive responses we've received, as well as the prayers we know are being offered, the PNM will continue. Your prayers are also requested to ensure that St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Ministry, which supports our ministry, will continue in this age of budget cuts and downsizing of programs. As you may have noticed, there has been a lot in the news lately regarding the power of intercessory prayer in physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Medical science is attempting to prove something that Christians have accepted by faith for quite sometime - the wonderful truth that prayer is recognized as the ultimate answer.

## News from Parish Nurse Ministry

by Barbara Hanuscin

Blood pressure screening were held on Sunday April 11, 1999 after the 8:30 am and 10:00 am Masses.

On Tuesday, April 20, 1999 Dr. Michael Garay conducted a presentation titled "Introduction to Natural Medicines" hosted by the Singles and Singles Again Ministry. Dr. Garay has twenty years experience as a health care professional and has conducted a variety of health education programs. The issues he discussed included such topics as: evaluating pharmaceutical drugs and natural remedies; assessing the advantages

and disadvantages of natural medicine; preventing and maintaining health naturally. He also spoke about how to choose a competent health care practitioner and some of the legal issues and research involved with natural medicine.

On April 21, 1999 we held a meeting for those who had volunteered and filled out the reference forms for the Parish Nurse Ministry/St. Vincent de Paul's "Elderly & Shut in Visitation Team." We hope to have more information of this topic in the next issue of the *Courier*.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul News

by Russ Butzirus

The Jacksonville District's St. Vincent de Paul "Day of Reflection" took place February 20<sup>th</sup> at Assumption Church. Representatives attended from conferences at Assumption, Cathedral- Basilica (St. Augustine), St. Catherine (Orange Park), St. Edward (Starke), St. John (Interlachen), St. Paul (Beaches), St. Paul (Riverside) and St. Patrick. Twenty-one members from Christ the King joined Fr. Robert Baker and the other representatives.

The day started at 8:30 a.m. with a welcome and opening prayer by Msgr. Eugene Kohls, Pastor at Assumption, followed by remarks by Msgr. Mortimer Danaher, Spiritual Director of S.V.D.P. for the St. Augustine Diocese.

Our new Jacksonville District Council President, Mr. Bart O'Leary from St. Catherine, also welcomed the group and introduced the guest speaker, Father Bob McDermott, Pastor of St. Patrick. His address covered the principles and advances in assisting the needy in the Diocese and the need for additional conferences. The presidents of each of the Conferences represented gave a review of their activities during the past year.

All members present attended Mass, celebrated by Bishop John J. Snyder, and the day concluded with a luncheon in the Activity Center, provided by the Assumption Conference.

## SUNDAY DAY CARE For Children Ages 1-4

by Donna Simons

On February 21, 1999, the day care for the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses began. It is at Christ the King Day Care across from the music room. Entrance to the day care facilities is from the school parking lot at the student drop off area by the blue canopy.

The hour together is busy and fun. There is play time and story time. Christ the King provides snacks and juice for the children. Eighth grade students from Christ the King School, who enjoy being with children, help each Sunday along with parents who are

scheduled to help. Marsha Williams helps at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, and Donna Iglesias helps at the 10:00 a.m. Mass every Sunday. Karen Birdwell also continues to help at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

We have been very blessed and fortunate to be able to use the facilities. With all the parents' help and cooperation, this new venture at Christ the King Church will truly be successful.

If anyone is interested in signing up for the day care, please contact Marsha Williams at 221-4459 or Donna Iglesias at 725-0680.

# Beginning of the Christ the King Sports Program

by Eileen Porter

When Christ the King (C.K.) parish was formally established in 1955 there were many things to be done. The most important of these were, of course a church and a school. Our first Mass was offered in the new building in December of 1955, and the school opened in September of 1956.

Where there are young people, there must be a sports program. So Christ the King Athletic program was established. Our first coach of record was Mr. Eugene Davis. Mr Davis set up a regular schedule of play and exercise for the boys and girls during school hours and after school as well. He established teams in basketball, softball, football, volleyball and track.

In 1965 Al Rucci and his wife Emily agreed to work with the existing athletic program. Their principal reason for coming into the program was so that their son Tim could enjoy the Little League experience. Al and Emily quickly discovered that they WERE the program, and that more than eighty boys were waiting to play ball.

Al spent many hours working on the program, upgrading the field and having lights installed, and it was at this time that a concession stand was built. Al's job description as a volunteer had gone from coaching to becoming head coach and 'Commissioner' of the Athletic program." The boys' program was very successful. Al further developed the program to allow girls to participate in the activities.

Al and Emily were fortunate in having other Christ the King parents to assist them in the further development of the athletic program. Among them were assistant coach Chuck Foy and his wife Helen, Dave Seravo, Judd Ammean and Eddie Garza, to name a few.

During Al's tenure as coach-commissioner a number of championship teams were developed. One of these was in 1965 when the C.K. Pirates

Tadpoles were runner-up in the Duval County Tournament. In 1970 the Pirates won the county championship and in 1974 two C.K. teams the Hawks coached by Ralph Mosley and the Rebels coached by Jim Roberts were tadpole Co-Champions. This was a wonderful example of young boys doing their best for their teams and dedicated parents coaching them. In 1974 there were 16 teams playing at Christ the King. In 1971, 12 C.K. teams participated in the Arlington Baseball Tadpole, Midget and Junior Leagues. Al received a number of awards for his hard work and dedication. Included in these were a trophy presented by the Knights of Columbus, Arlington Council, and a plaque presented by Mayor Hans Tanzler. Al retired from the athletic program in 1972 and left the program in the very capable hands of Tom Millsaps and Jim Weite.

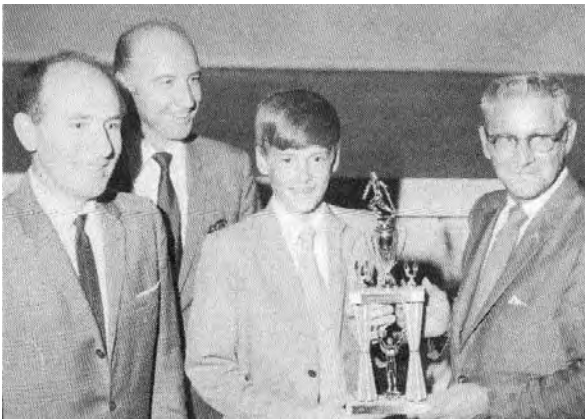
From 1972 through 1978 John Faustini and his wife Doris became very active in the Christ the King Athletic Association (C.K.A.A.), particularly with the baseball team. Two of their sons, Stephen and Chris were members of the team. John, Bob Semis and Mike Cascone coached the team and Doris served as score keeper and in many other capacities. It was at this time that the C.K.A.A. installed a pitching machine, which was of great value in training the players.

Mike Cascone and Frank Smith were also very active at this time and were instrumental in improving the baseball field by having it sodded and installing a sprinkler system, and serving as coaches. Tim McClellan worked with them as a player and as a coach. One of the trophy winning teams during this period was a baseball team, the C.K. Lancers.

A second story was added to the existing building that was used as a concession stand and as a storage area for athletic equipment as well. Butch Ferrizzi served as president of the C.K.A.A. and had a large



**1971 Awards Banquet: L to R -- Eddie Garza, coach; Bill Siegel (deceased), Sales Manager of Massey Dodge (sponsor); George Jackson, coach; Bill McClelland, Arlington Optimist Club (sponsor); Jim Doyle, coach; R.C. Pitts, Florida National Bank VP (sponsor); Al Rucci, coach and baseball commissioner**



**L to R: 1970 --Al Rucci, coach; Frank Becht, Grand Knight of Arlington Council K of C 4727; Greg Charleston, M.V.P. of Christ the King Pirates, champions; and sponsor Roy Daniels, President of Arlington Plaza Association and owner of Arlington Athletic Company**

part in expanding the facility as well as working with the players.

Christ the King has always been, and is still blessed with caring parents who work tirelessly in order to improve the quality of their children's school experience in all areas (including their spiritual

life, academics, and athletics). We give these dedicated people a deep vote of gratitude for their efforts on behalf of all our children.

*See next issue for C.K.A.A. Today*

## A Golfer's 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

This adaptation was written for the funeral of Armenta Simmons (1906-1999), secretary at Cuthbert United Methodist Church, "pastor" to pastors, and avid golfer.

By Russ Elkins

**The Lord is my golfing buddy  
I never walk the course alone.**

**He leads me out of the rough,  
And helps me conquer every  
green.**

**he's my caddy. He coaches my  
swing.**

**Yea, though I land in the sand;  
I enjoy every stroke.  
For He gave me this game.**

**Thy woods and irons are of the  
finest hue.**

**Thou preparest for me  
a beautiful view.  
My trophy case overflows.**

**Surely, thy fresh breezes are  
with  
me in the game of life,  
And now I walk on your lush  
fairways forever.**



### Christ the King School Golf Tournament

Mill Cove Golf Club  
Saturday - May 15, 1999  
Captain's Choice Format

Registration/Lunch Noon - 1:30pm  
\$65.00 Per Participant  
(includes: Green fees, Cart, Drink Tickets, Deli Lunch & Raffle Ticket)

See flyers at the rear of the church.  
Contact Lance Simons 745-4881

# DINNER THEATRE



Christin Steffan



Mr. and Mrs. Rocky DiGeorgio and cast



Jerly Asunto



Adam Kersch

by Kathy Nichols

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the third, fourth and seventh grades presented a musical play called "The History of Rock 'n Roll." Carabba's Italian Grill donated and served a wonderful Italian dinner prior to the show. Mr. and Mrs. DiGeorgio organized and hosted this energetic musical.

Mrs. DiGeorgio not only entertained the audience with her

singing talent, but she introduced two Christ the King soloists who commanded a standing ovation after performing. Jerly Asunto, a fifth grader, sang "My Life Will Go On" from the movie "Titanic" and later sang "How Do I Live Without You." Jerly has only recently started voice lessons. She has performed in front of crowds before, during family celebrations and talent shows. She has been taking piano lessons for a few years

and plans to continue studying voice.

The other soloist was Adam Kersch. Adam is in the eighth grade and presently sings in the children's choir. Adam has had no professional training in voice or music, yet did a superb job singing "If You Could Read My Mind." He plans to continue singing at Bishop Kenny next year.

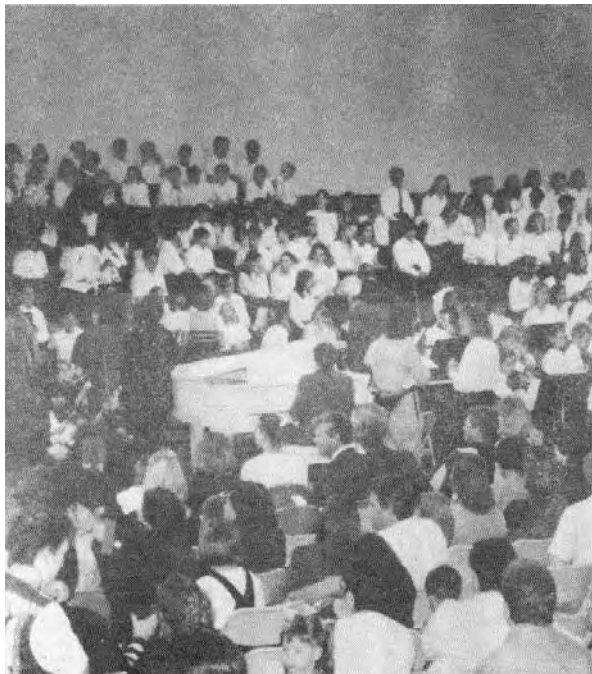
Following these opening acts came the much anticipated musical "The History of Rock 'n Roll".

The third and fourth graders performed vocals, and the seventh graders acted, danced and sang on stage.

Christin Steffan choreographed every dance, which took approximately two months to complete. The dancers then practiced daily to learn the routines.

Those who attended will probably agree that this performance exceeded all expectations. The seventh graders were truly marvelous. I'm sure it has changed their lives.

## Diocesan Music Festival



by Kathy Nichols

Christ the King hosted the Annual Diocesan Music Festival on March 9. Participating schools included Annunciation, Assumption, Christ the King, Holy Spirit, Resurrection, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, St. Patrick, St. Paul at the beach, St. Paul Riverside, St.

Pius, San Jose and Bishop Kenny. The program included presentations from choirs, bands, violins and piano. Rocky DiGeorgio, Assistant Director of Music, worked with Christ The King Choir and violinists, resulting in an enjoyable evening for all.

## You're One in a Billion

For the first time, the world's Catholic population has surpassed 1 billion. According to statistics dated December 31, 1997, there were about 1,005,000,000 registered Catholics in the world's dioceses.

The Vatican announced this fact in a presentation to Pope John Paul II on February 20 with the unveiling of its 1999 annual yearbook. According to the latest statistics, the Catholic population continues to increase while the number of priests holds about steady and the number of religious is dropping slowly.

Although the number of Catholics per priest continues to rise, the number of seminarians is increasing, up about 2.5 percent from the previous year.

The yearbook said the Church's pastoral workforce totaled nearly 3.4 million:

- More than 4,400 bishops.
- More than 404,000 priests, of which nearly 264,000 were diocesan clergy.
- More than 24,400 permanent deacons, which increased 4 percent.
- More than 58,000 male religious who were not priests.
- More than 819,000 female religious.
- More than 31,000 members of secular institutes.

- More than 26,000 lay missionaries.
- More than 2 million catechists.

Catholic church statistics for the Diocese of St. Augustine (as of December 31, 1997):

- Catholics in United States - 61,207,914
- Priests in Diocese - 110
- Deacons in Diocese - 22
- Sisters in Diocese - 119
- Diocesan Parishes - 50
- Diocesan Missions - 9
- Diocesan Schools - 25
- Students Attending Catholic Schools - 8,985
- Catholic Students Attending Public Schools - 15,556
- Students Enrolled in Religious Education Programs - 10,422

Former Bishops of St. Augustine

- Bishop J.P. Augustin Verot - 1870-1876
- Bishop John Moore - 1877-1901
- Bishop William Kenny - 1902-1913
- Bishop Michael J. Curley - 1914-1921
- Bishop Patrick Barry - 1922-1940
- Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley - 1940-1967
- Bishop Paul F. Tanner - 1968-1979



# VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

by Peter Dang

The sound of drum beating, the gong, the firecracker, the dragon dance, the incense, "Lucky Money", the wishing... are part of the Vietnamese TET celebration. TET is one of the most important events for the Vietnamese community. In trying to relive and to pass on the tradition to the younger generation, the Vietnamese Community created an atmosphere to induce the spirits of New Year in each of the Vietnamese's souls who were there at Christ the King Church.

This year, the Vietnamese Community was blessed with the presence of Bishop John Snyder. The Bishop was the master of ceremonies for the Vietnamese Mass after the ancient incense burning to commemorate the ancestor. On this special occasion, the Bishop wore a traditional Vietnamese "Ao Dai" embroidered with a Dragon.

Following are some of the traditions in the Vietnamese TET:

TET (Vietnamese New Year) or Lunar New Year is one of the most important events for the Vietnamese or for the Oriental as a whole. The first day of TET marks the end of what was in the past, good or bad, and a new beginning of hope for the coming year. The Oriental believes that the events that take place during TET, especially the first day, are very important and foretell what the good days will be for the next entire year.

In preparing for this event, a lot of planning and a lot of unfinished business have to be concluded prior to that day so that the bad things will not happen during the celebration and possibly carry over to the next year.

## Tet Celebrated at Christ the King

by Mary Ann Sullivan

The Vietnamese Lunar New Year (known as Tet) was celebrated with gala costumes, dragons, music and prayer at Christ the King on February 14.

Three years ago, Fr. Thanh initiated this celebration in the parish for the many Vietnamese in the area. He wanted to embody both our Catholic faith and the Asian culture.

Tet lasts for three days and is similar to our Thanksgiving, Christmas and Independence Day celebrations all rolled into one. It is a time when families get together and small gifts are exchanged with the hope of bringing good luck and prosperity.

Over 250 Vietnamese-Americans and others gathered for a Mass celebrated by Bishop John Snyder. For

\* **Firecracker:** Orientals believe that noise would drive the evils away. On the dawn of the New Year, many people would fire the firecracker to create as much noise as they could to expel the evil and the "unlucky" from their home. In addition, the firecracker has to be red so that when it is shattered it would scatter a blanket of red color on their front yard.

\* **Dragon Dance:** Depending on the region, it is sometime called Unicorn or Lion Dance. It is believed that the devils are afraid of this animal. During the New Year celebration, a team of Dragon Dancers, normally performed by martial arts masters, tours around a predetermined territory to solicit any home or business owner wanting to "exorcize" the devils and bring in good fortune. The dragon dances in a rhythmic motion with the beat of the drum. At the end of the dance, it swallows a red envelope with money hanging on the second balcony or on top of a 2030 foot bamboo pole for the reward.

\* **"Cay Mai" ----- Plum tree:** Vietnamese decorate their home with "Cay Mai", for (1) the word "Mai" means "Lucky", and (2) it blooms with a lot of yellow flowers on the 1st day of the year if one is "lucky".

\* **A belief** is also observed that on the first three days of the New Year, no sweeping of the floor is allowed. It is said that the

this occasion Bishop Snyder wore a yellow and red/orange cassock with a dragon on the front. The bright colors echo the colors of flowers that bloom in Vietnam during this season.

After Mass, the attendees flowed into Sheppard Square and the 'Dragon Dance' began. Drums and firecrackers, along with colorful costumes, are said to drive away evil spirits.

After the 'Dragon Dance,' a traditional Vietnamese dinner was enjoyed in the Parish Hall. Entertainment included Vietnamese dances performed by the Vietnamese children. The Vietnamese choir also sang for the guests. The wonderful afternoon, enjoyed by all, gave us a better understanding of Vietnamese customs and helped us to appreciate the universality of the Church. We thank the Vietnamese community and Fr. Thanh for this experience.



symbolic meaning of sweeping is to sweep away the good fortune and scare away the good spirits.

For instance we pay all our old debts or we work out a good arrangement so that the loan owner will not demand them during TET. We mend the fence, repair windows, fix the roof or the doors, paint the house, trim the bushes and trees, and remove unsightly scenes.

No hard work is to be performed during the celebration. All those who die are to be buried before TET; no funeral is to be arranged during the celebration.

The central focus on TET is to put everything in good order, get rid of bad or evil things, and surround oneself with a lot of happiness, fortune, wealth, health, and fullness.

Based on that theme, all of the activities happening during TET are to gather as much "good fortune" as one can. Each region has its own custom or "tradition" to bring in or to align the opportunity so that one can guarantee a "good year", and surround themselves with a lot of symbols or things that have good fortune in meaning. For instance:

\* **Red Color:** Orientals believe that the monsters or evils are afraid of red; therefore it is used to decorate the door front, signs, and cover things to drive away bad things and bring in good fortune.

\* **Watermelon** is a sign of fullness and fortune. It is big, round and red inside, so in selecting the melon, it has to be round (unblemished), full, sweet and red.

\* **"Li Xi"** Lucky Money Envelope. On the first day of the New Year, the young or the subordinate would pay their respects to the elder or their boss and to wish them a happy New Year and a very prosperous year. In return, they would receive a small red envelope with some money stuffed inside which signified "thank you". along with the envelope, they would also receive advice or a good wish.

\* **Another belief** is that the first visitor is very important. That person could bring in bad or good fortune to the household. The visitor would bring in the spirit as he/she enters the home. So, it is often prearranged to assure that the visitor has some of the following characteristics that the owner is seeking: (1) compatible zodiac sign, (2) good character, (3) wealth, (4) health, and (5) power.

These traditions or customs are handed down for centuries; some are modified or varied so that they fit into the local culture.

Other Important News:

1. This year, the Holy Spirit has brought three candidates into the Vietnamese Church on Easter Vigil along with other candidates at Christ the King.
2. In trying to integrate the American culture into the Vietnamese Community, on Easter Sunday, the Vietnamese Community had an Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages.
3. On May 30, 12 of the Vietnamese children will receive First Communion and a reception will follow.

Planning ahead for the summer:

1. A summer camp retreat for the Vietnamese Youth will be held at the Laguna Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach on June 25-27, 1999. The central focus is "Unity" and "Plunge".
2. On July 23-25, the Vietnamese catechists will attend workshops and conferences in Baton Rouge/Louisiana that were organized by the Vietnamese Catechist Center on the subject of "Preparing for the Jubilee Year 2000".

# Ministries



## 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 the one you want, call Al Martin, 744-4302.

## 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.

## 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.

## LITURGICAL

### 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.

### Altar Society

Individuals who care for the vessels, vestments and linens used in the Liturgies. Call Debbie Scobie at 723-3977.

### Church Decorating

Decorating the church and gathering area, during different seasons of the church. Contact Terri Vogelsang, 744-6310 for information on how you can help.

### 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.

### 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 Tados, coordinator.

### Gift Bearers

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

### Lector Ministry

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

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Sacristans

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

## 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.

## EDUCATION

### 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.

### 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, on Wednesdays, 7-8 pm at 724-2954.

### 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.

### Center for Family Life

For counseling information, call 308-7474.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Pre Cana/Engaged Encounter

For information on upcoming workshops and weekends, call 308-7474.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Sunday Childcare

**For 8:30 & 10:00 Masses**  
Christ the King Childcare & Religious Formation for your 1-4 year old child in the Child Care Center. Free of charge. Call Marsha Williams, 221-4459 or Donna Iglesias, 725-0680 to help or for more information.

## 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.

## ACTIVE ASSOCIATIONS

### 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.

### 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

### Boy Scouts

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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## CKCCCW

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 P.M. We welcome new members. Call Pat, 399-3198.

## Crown Ministry

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

## Cub Scouts

Pack 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys in 1st-5th grade. Dens meet weekly in the Scout Hut. Call Dave Waters 721-6567 or Donna Baker, 641-0698.

## Cursillo

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

## 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 at 745-3751.

## Habitax - 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Widow/Widowers Support

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

## 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.

## M.O.M.S. Ministry

*Ministry of Mothers Sharing*, is designed to encourage prayer, discussions, and friendships between women of all ages. Call Carroll Ann Black, 221-2642

## 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 Morris 220-7671 for information.

## 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 Humbard, 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.

## 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.

## 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 Dottie Klein at 744-4435.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 9-1 p.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**  
Twice a year Christ the King Church along with the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance holds a blood drive. Call Karlene Simmons, 642-8319.

# A Brownie's Outing



**Brownies proudly display their tie-dyed tee-shirts**

by Kathy Griffin

On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 cars carrying 18 Brownies, 3 troop leaders, 8 mothers, and 1 father set out for a day's outing at Camp Chowenwaw. Everyone arrived safely. The activities began at Burrell Lodge. The Brownies received the initial rules and the agenda for the day.

The Brownies paired up with a 'buddy' to stay with throughout the day. Then they made a healthy

snack to eat. The next activity involved making tie-dyed tee-shirts. The beautifully designed pink and purple shirts hung from the trees to dry. The Brownies then played a game of 'the hyena and the sheep'.

Next, it was time for a nature walk. Not only did the Brownies go on a long hike through the woods, they did an ecology search. They were to find four different leaves, sticks, or rocks. However, they brought back lots of big sticks and rocks and bags full of leaves.



**Brownies at Camp Chowenwaw**

They stopped to visit a tree house. In addition, the Brownies learned trail signs, and they learned courtesy rules when entering other people's camp.

After the nature walk, lunch was a welcome treat for the tired campers. Later, the Brownies checked to see if their tee-shirts were dry. Soon it was time to make kawashies. The Brownies carefully chose their colored paper and glued them to the half-gallon jugs. They did a wonderful job! While they waited for the kawashies to dry, the

girls discussed the items they found on the nature walk. As the day was coming to a close, they stood in the Girl Scout Circle and discussed what they each enjoyed most about their day.

The entire day was busy and filled with fun. The Brownies worked on three Try-it patches: art to wear, outdoor fun, and games. The day camp helped to build their excitement and prepare them for their overnight camp in April. They can hardly wait!

## Christ the King Child Care



by Theresa Little

Well, we've had a busy year thus far and spring isn't even in full swing yet. In September, we took a trip to the Coliseum with our two, three, and four-year-olds to see "Elmo's Coloring Book". It was a great time for all, but the weather did not cooperate for our outdoor picnic so we returned to the school and had it indoors.

In December we had our first annual Christmas program. Among those in attendance were some of the parents, students and faculty from Christ the King School. Our little angels did a great job. The big surprise of the morning was the arrival of Santa Claus. It was a great day and our performers really slept well that afternoon.

February's activity was a trip to Peterbrooke Chocolate Factory. We watched them make chocolate-covered popcorn and even got to taste the samples, yum, yum.

In March we had our second annual Easter egg hunt. What a beautiful day it was. We even had a special visit from the Easter Bunny! We had a party all day long in preparation for Jesus' resurrection.

Our Easter Prayer:

*God our Father, You gave Jesus new life...Alleluia  
God our Father, You let Jesus give me new life...Alleluia  
Thank you, God, for the gift of new life... Alleluia.  
Amen*

In April we went on a trip to the zoo. And now we begin preparation for summer activities. While plans are not yet certain, this much is: we will have a blessed time.

## Reflections on Being an Altar Server



by Staff Writer

Altar servers were asked to write why they became altar servers and to relate interesting things that happened while they were serving.

The overwhelming response was that they wanted to serve God. One altar server wrote, "I became an altar server because I would love to be a part of the Mass. Another reason is my Great Uncle Bob is a priest, and one day I hope I will serve on his altar."

Another altar server stated, "I became an altar server because it seemed to me I was spiritually and physically closer to God. It also gave me an opportunity to be with my brother and sister."

In response to interesting things that occurred while serving, one altar server wrote: "... I had the book for the third time and I was serving by myself with a seminarian. . he told me to get the book and I dropped it, and all these papers came out. I was so embarrassed."

It is so refreshing to know that these children overcame their anxieties to accomplish this end, despite tripping, dropping books, and forgetting; whether serving with their friends, brothers or sisters, or serving alone.

Most of our servers viewed this as a stepping stone to a better life, and we are so proud of them.



## Pack 5: Family Camping "Teamwork"

by Belinda Waters

Our annual family camping trip in January was a great success. It was the biggest turnout of scouts and their family members in the history of Pack 5. All participants enjoyed themselves.

The theme "teamwork" was evident as the Pack learned to work together, and developed some useful skills.

Lance Simons planned some great activities for the scouts and their families. They participated in the nuclear core relay, ski relay, stretcher carry and compass game. The highlight of the day was the tug of war in which both scouts and their families participated. Great weather, great food and great company topped off the whole weekend. Come join the fun of scouting!

## Catholic Scouting Religious Emblems



**Ryan Rillstone, nine year old Bear Cub Scout, awarded Religious Medal by Bishop Snyder.**

by Donna Baker

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts at all age levels are invited to participate in the religious emblem program. Under the guidance of the scouts' parents and trained emblems counselors, the scouts work in age-appropriate programs designed to deepen their Catholic faith and strengthen their relationship with God.

We are blessed in our diocese because each spring Bishop John Snyder presents the awards to Scouts who successfully complete the program. On March 7, 1999 Christ The King Parish was represented in St. Augustine at the Cathedral by Scouts of Brownie

Troop 310 and Cub Scout Pack 5 who were awarded their Catholic Religious Emblems. Those who received their Family of God medal were Kaylee Burke, Samantha Daniels, Mallory Frye, Taylor Hull, Ashley Madden, Stacie Putala, Mary Register, Carissa Searcy, Hannah Smith, Gabriella Solano, Amy Wallace, Brianna Waters, Kayla Weaver. Those who received their Parvuli Dei medal were Timothy Gagnon and Ryan Rillstone.

To find out information on how you can earn a Catholic Religious Emblem, please call Belinda Waters 721-6567, Nancy D'Antoni 745-3751, or Donna Baker 641-0698.

## Cub Pack 5: Stronger Than Ever!

by Dave Waters

We recently celebrated another Boy Scout birthday with our annual Blue and Gold banquet. This one was the largest I have seen for the Pack.

I am very pleased with our accomplishments over the past year, Pack 5's 41<sup>st</sup> year at Christ the King. You will hear about some of the many activities we have been involved in over the past year in other articles.

What I want to emphasize is our gratitude to Christ the King Parish for their continued support. Without organizations such as Christ the King, most scouting groups could not exist. Pack 5 is very fortunate to be associated with Christ the King, and I look forward to another 41 years!

The Pack will always look for ways to give back to the Church. Recently we began our own beautification effort at the Scout Hut. You may have noticed there are permanent retaining walls to keep excess water from damaging

the building. We are working to improve the holding pond. Mike Klima donated and installed permanent benches in front of the Scout Hut and around the "fire pit". Mike also began the new physical fitness training program by building a chin-up for the Cubs. Some of you may have noticed a dumpster that was recently located near the storage shed by the Scout Hut. The Boy Scouts and the Cub Scouts removed the old roof from the storage shed and installed a new one. We have begun remodeling the interior of the Scout Hut itself, as well.

I know that there are those among you who, in the past, were involved in the scouting effort here at Christ the King. Come by or call see us. Let us know how you think we are doing in our efforts to implement programs that help our children build good, strong characters. Also, come by or call Dave Waters, at 721-6567 for a time we could meet and show you the improvement in the facilities and share our hopes for the future.

## — Pinewood 500 —

By Lance Simons

On March 6, 1999, Cub Scout Pack 5 held its Annual Pinewood Derby. Over 35 Scouts participated this year, and a wide variety of cars were displayed.

Approximately 200 races were conducted in the Parish Hall. All present had a good time and look forward to next year's design.

The winners of our Annual Pinewood Derby for 1999 are:

### Tiger Cubs

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Hester
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aaron Morency
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Patrick Considine

### Wolves

- 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Jordon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jimmy Mollenhour
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Andy Klima

### Bears

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Nelesen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Waters
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Phillip Morency

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Webelos

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phillip Seidenstricker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Michael Hernandez
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nicolas Reddy

**We would like to encourage parents to submit  
their child's story and picture  
for any event, holiday, or special occasion for the next issue of  
Christ the King Courier.  
The deadline for articles of this type is June 30, 1999.**



## Reflections on the Spring '99 Retreat

by Nancy Powers  
Life Teen Coordinator

Our second LIFE TEEN Retreat is behind us and, like so many of you, I wanted to take a moment and share my thoughts and reflections.

I'm continuously impressed by the caliber and quality of individuals who have embraced LIFE TEEN. So many people had a hand in this retreat: The six musicians who blessed us with the most awesome and professional live music all weekend long; the 11 "Parents" who slept, cooked, cleaned, and serenaded us; who gave constant love and support all weekend; the 11 Core Members who each facilitated their own small group of teens during the weekend; who developed positive relationships with our teens and provided shoulders to cry on, advice when asked and, above all, unconditional love. The Retreat

Director, Alicia Villotti, did an outstanding job developing and coordinating this retreat. She is a professional and Mollie and I were honored to provide support.

As you can see by the number of people mentioned above, it takes each and every one of us to make this program happen. We all have been given a gift and every one of us adds importance to this program. And I haven't even mentioned Sandy Keel and all the "Parents" who helped at registration, all who donated items to us, all who were waiting to welcome our teens home.

We have an incredible LIFE TEEN program by any standard and I salute and thank each and every one of you.

I thought I'd share the most touching parts of the retreat for me. Saturday Father Ray anointed, individually, each teen with holy water and prayed over them. It was a powerful service and while he



Suzanne Willis, Jaime Willis, Linda Jancke, Robert Riker, Angela Hartley and Kristina Kharman

walked down each row the musicians played and sang; a soft meditative tune. After he had finished with all the teens and Core, the music stopped and the musicians lined up to be anointed.

At first you could barely hear it, it was coming from the middle of the teens who were still standing in rows quietly waiting. As we strained to hear, the sound became louder (but still soft as a whisper) as each teen joined in to serenade the musicians with the same song they had sung to us. It was the most beautiful moment for me because it was truly a gift of love. Tears welled up in the eyes of the musicians...and the Core...and the teens. And as Father Ray turned to have Alicia anoint him and pray over him, the sound of these "angels" continued in the softest, most meditative way.

Sometimes... actually very often, our Core Team gets as much out of a retreat as the teens. During the Saturday night Mass, I was looking around the room and noticed one of our Core Members, Robert, looking quite red or flushed. I was worried he might be sick so when he left Mass after communion, I followed him out to see if he was O.K. As I approached, I noticed he was crying, very

visibly upset. I put my arm around him and asked him what was wrong and he said "I get it! I really get it!" I could tell by his face now that they were tears of joy and what he finally got was that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Robert received a gift, the grace to believe and his heart was filled with so much joy it overflowed. This was an incredibly beautiful moment for Robert, and I was blessed to have been a part of it.

I know there are hundreds of stories as each person reflects on his/her own personal experience during the retreat, but I wanted to share some moments that testify to the fact that the Holy Spirit is alive in our LIFE TEEN program.

The whole retreat was great! We saw growth in those who returned for a second retreat and we met new teens that hopefully will continue to come to LIFE Nights. Since LIFE TEEN began I can tell you that these teens are being affected positively. I am continuously amazed by their spirit, their depth, and their love. They do reach out to Jesus - God please continue to give us the grace to reach out to them for YOU!

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Be blessed.

## LIFE TEEN: A Parent's Letter to Parents for Life Teen

Dear Jeanette,

Just wanted to thank you, your husband and the members of Parents for Life for all you have done and all that you did this past weekend. We have seen such a change in Jami since she has joined Life Teen.

When Life Teen initially started, she wanted nothing to do with it. Like most of the kids, she was kind of "pushed" to go to the first retreat. I prayed all that weekend that she would not only have fun, but that she would find some reason to want to continue to go each week thereafter.

I was very nervous when she got off that bus, because I knew that whatever kind of feedback she had to give would directly affect how her 13-year-old twin sisters would view Life Teen. Jami is also the type of kid that either loves something or immediately hates it, so...

When she got off that bus back in September, I felt that she had finally made a start towards that spiritual journey that I had been praying for all weekend. Not only did she love it, she told the twins how much THEY would love it. She couldn't wait until the next retreat; that being this past weekend.

Again, I prayed that she would continue to find herself spiritually....and again, my prayers were answered. Jami is not very demonstrative when it comes to singing in front of people, etc. But there she was at the altar, singing, doing hand motions and actually participating with the group in front of the church. Coach Whitson was sitting beside me, and she kept laughing at me because tears were running down my face for most of the Mass.

Jami had a wonderful time, can't wait to go again and looks forward to each Sunday. Since September, I haven't had to nag her about what Mass we are going to attend.

Without you, Nancy, Helene, Donna and all the others, this would not be possible. Please share this with them, as I don't know how to write them.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. My prayers are with you all.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Henry, Jami's Mom

*Jeanette Ghiotto is the Parents for Life Coordinator.*



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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

# LIFE TEEN MARDI GRAS



by Jeanette Ghioto

Following the Life Teen Mass at Assumption on February 14<sup>th</sup>, the teens celebrated Mardi Gras and St. Valentine's Day.

The hall was incredibly decorated, thanks to the creativity and ingenuity of Terry Miller. It looked just like New Orleans! The parents wore Mardi Gras masks and hats as they served the Cajun meal. Kriss Herndon created a festive mood with the jambalaya and king cakes. Many parents worked tirelessly to provide a wonderful atmosphere for the teens.

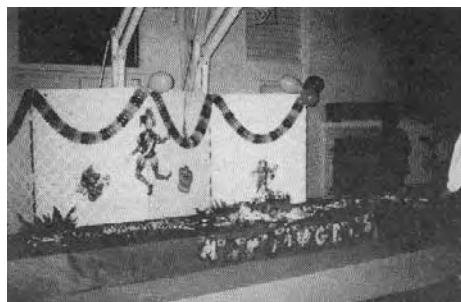
Hundreds of teens were there. Incoming freshman were invited to this Life Night social; to get a taste of Life Teen.

The evening's entertainment started to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In" as several floats wound through the hall.

Parents for Life sponsored a Mardi Gras at Assumption on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which marked the beginning of the Lenten Season.

The event was huge success with many teens enjoying a fun filled night that included great music, Cajun food, colorful decorations and even a parade of floats.

A fun time was had by all, especially by our Parents for Life group who seems to have just as much fun... behind the scenes ...as the teens who came to the event.



Beads and coins were tossed to the jazzed crowd. The floats (actually little red wagons created and decorated by parents) were dedicated to saints. They were awesome ... St. Francis, St. Theresa, St. Patrick and St. Valentine. The kids went wild!

Great music was provided by Brett Devoe. The dance floor was packed, with everyone having fun. When 10:00 came around and it was time to go, the kids were still begging for more. BUT ... all good things must come to an end. Will this become a yearly event ... only time will tell.

## Reflections from the BOLD Retreat

by Alicia Villotti  
*Life Teen Core Member*

The Bold Retreat. You had to be there! I've participated in many Catholic teen retreats, both as a 'retreater' and a facilitator. Why was this one so different?



### Attention Teens

**Teen Handbell Choir is in search of new ringers.**

*No experience necessary!*

**If you can count and have good hand/eye coordination, we can teach you the rest!**

**All Students  
Junior High thru College  
are Welcome!**

**For more Information  
Call Susan Grossholz  
384-4008 or 745-4672**

The theme was tough to imagine. Parents for Life had a hard time with decorating ideas. The music didn't use the word "Bold". We couldn't touch it, see it, or hear it. But God was everywhere and we could surely feel it. The teens and Core Members were put together in small groups for activities and discussion. We were getting used to each other and our new surroundings. The Spirit was growing.

By the second day a peace came over the camp. The sky was clear and blue and reflected in the clear lake water. The sun felt warm and it couldn't have been more perfect. When we all came together that afternoon to sing and praise the Lord, it was truly from our hearts and souls.

It was hard to leave the closeness and tranquility we had achieved. I know I was on a retreat 'high' and didn't want to come down. I am blessed to say that when I now see the wooden cross in the Gathering Area of the Church, which we all signed as a symbol of our commitment to being Bold for our faith, it takes me back to the memories and feelings we shared over the weekend.

It was a place where love was all around and we all took a little piece of it with us. We'll share that love in a new found Boldness and thank Jesus for a treasured gift.

## Catholic Youth Rally

by Nancy Powers  
*Life Teen Coordinator*

LIFE TEEN youth and Core Team loaded a bus and headed to Tampa in March for the Florida State Wide Catholic Youth Rally. Held at the Ice Palace, and a little nippy I must say, the youth rally was incredible. Thousands of teens from all over the state and from every Diocese participated. The focal point was a Mass celebrated by Bishop Lynch of the Tampa/ St. Petersburg Diocese.

He gave an awesome homily. At the beginning of his homily he said - "I guess the one thing standing between you and Montu is me. Tough!" The teens went wild as all were excited about spending a fun-filled evening at Busch Gardens.

Bishop Lynch spoke directly to the teens about issues in their lives. LIFE TEEN Musicians from the Tampa/St. Petersburg area provided music for the Mass. Our teens recognized every song! The Mass was also multi-ethnic with readings

in Spanish and Haitian. It was a very beautiful celebration.

After the Rally, all the teens were invited to enjoy unlimited rides at Busch Gardens. Roller Coasters, water rides, and fellowship made the evening spectacular.

It was a great trip!

Those LIFE TEEN's attending

the Rally were:  
Nicole Baker Kelly Bello  
Kenny Council Emi Gonzalez Chavez  
Tom Crisp Scott Douglas  
Katie Dover Jessica Edmonds  
Haley Hancock Angela Hartley  
Kristin Hayden Jami Henry  
Katie Herndon Kara Holtz  
Kristina Kharman Ben Lazo  
Matt Lotzia Sean Lowery  
John McDonald Catie McGuigan  
Ryan McQuade Chris Miller  
Wally Miska Charles Ramos  
Justin Stamper Rachel Troedson  
Matt Westhoff Melissa Westhoff  
Michele Westhoff Jamie Willis  
Suzanne Willis David Villotti

### LIFE TEEN Wish List

**Would you like to make a difference?**

**LIFE TEEN has a need for the following items:**

**A computer/printer for the new LIFE TEEN Coordinator  
Sound monitors for the LIFE TEEN Music Program**

**Set of small walkie-talkies**

**Sponsorship toward out-of-town trips**

**Sponsorship of Core/Musicians to attend -**

**LIFE TEEN Training Programs**

**Wireless clip-on microphones for skits and talks**

**T-shirts for retreats and trips**

**Donations for the LIFE TEEN Office**

**If you can assist in obtaining any of these items please contact  
Nancy Powers, LIFE TEEN Coordinator (398-1961)**

# Teen's View of BOLD Retreat

by Patrick Sullivan

I did not want to go! I knew I'd be gone from my friends for a whole weekend. It was going to be like forty-eight hours of ... church this... God that. It wouldn't be fun. I did not want to go on the retreat at all. My parents told me, "Go ... just once." I knew I would have a lousy time. It would be boring. I was going to prove everyone wrong.

But I didn't have a lousy time. It was not boring; not even close. I made new friends and became more aware of my God. It was a good learning and spiritual experience. Let me tell you about it.

On February 19th at 5:30 everyone met at Christ the King. We registered and were assigned cabins. We loaded our bags onto a truck. The Life Teen Core group

arranged to have pizza and soft drinks there for us. All the pizza you could eat; that sounded pretty good.

At about 6 o'clock we loaded onto two buses and were on our way. Our destination was just east of Tallahassee, at Cherry Lake. We sang songs and some of us tried to sleep on the trip.

We arrived at Cherry Lake about 9:30 or 10:00. I could see cabins and the main hall and that was about it. Everyone was happy to be off the bus. We were taken into the main hall where the Life Teen Music Group was jamming away. I liked that. There was a birthday cake for Katie, one of the Life Teen girls. We had some snacks, and then assigned a Core Member for each cabin.

After storing our gear in the cabin, we returned to the hall. There was a talk about the theme of the retreat - "It's Time To Be Bold."

## Reflections from Parents for Life LIFE TEEN BOLD RETREAT

by Jeanette Ghioto

It was an incredible working of the Holy Spirit. Those of you who were at Life Teen Mass on February 21<sup>st</sup>, did you catch it? Did you see the difference? THEY GET IT! THEY REALLY TRULY GET IT.

The teens who stood on the altar gazing upon the wafer of bread as it became the Body of Christ in the hands of the Priest - THEY KNEW IT! From the parents' perspective, we had no idea exactly when this transformation occurred. We could just see that it did.

Was it when we were being entertained by the energetic youngsters on their Trust Walk in the middle of the night? Or during the marshmallow roast that took place in the wee hours? Was it when kids weren't doing exactly what they should be - but were trying?

The peaks and valleys of the weekend were incredible. The faithfulness of our Lord was INCREDIBLE! He helped us through the sleepless times and the hard times. He carried us when we were bone tired. He rewarded us parents when the different groups composed songs of appreciation to us - each with style and grace and creativity. These were your kids. When the band stopped playing and singing - and your kids sang back to them - acappella - in appreciation for them, they were awesome...

WOW! Now, the hard part. KEEPING it alive. Phillip and I have had numerous discussions with our daughter. She really did not want to do Life Teen. She loved the Flame retreat. She enjoys the Mass and some of the Life Nights.

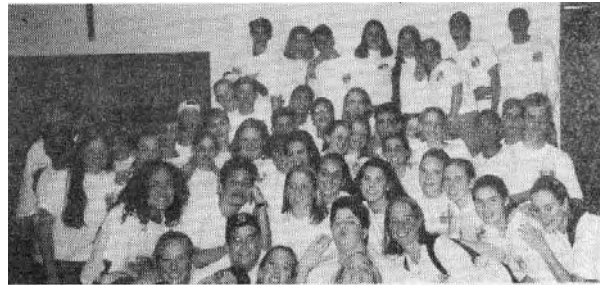
She did not want to go on the BOLD retreat.

I want to share with you what Phillip told her. Phillip is the best husband in the whole world, as the parents on the weekend know, because I say it all the time. He is also a very wise father. He told her that it is easy to love something when it is fun and entertaining and feels good. The building of one's character; that deep thread of wherewithal that keeps us on track when we really don't want to but know we should comes from doing something good when it is not at its peak. Consistently staying on course when the 'feel good' wears off, that is the reserve that we will use during our deepest trials - Loving someone when they are not being lovable - Studying something when it is boring - Holding on when the storms of life beat us down. The depth of our character can then hold us firm. We know and can depend on our inner strength and God's faithfulness because we've practiced, because we've done it before AND WE'RE REWARDED.

Rachel is so happy that she did the BOLD retreat. Will she keep it alive? Only God knows and that is good enough for me.

I want you to know that I love your teens! There were good, bad and ugly times. There were incredible opportunities of grace and faithfulness by our Lord which made the bad and ugly look like what they really were - building blocks to the good.

Will this continue? Only God knows and He is wiser than all of us. Thank you for sharing your teens with me and with the Parents for Life group. We were genuinely blessed.



We learned some new songs. Father Ray, from Assumption, celebrated Mass. Afterwards, we had a bonfire and Reconciliation was available. There was free time and then bed.

Saturday morning we got up and ready for breakfast. Once outside I saw the lake. It was huge. It looked like a big sheet of glass. There were homes on the lake, it was a beautiful sight. Our small groups formed and we headed for the main hall and breakfast. Lots of food! The 'Parent for Life' manned the kitchen.

After some free time, the morning session started. Core Members spoke about what their faith has meant to them, personally, what being a Catholic and on what God has meant to them.

We had a short break for lunch and then continued our session. We then broke up into discussion groups and answered questions, and reflected on our beliefs. Back together in a large group, we shared our answers.

In our free time we could choose different mini-sessions to attend. Some in prayer; others in discussions, some games, some music. I went to the music with Tony Steve. Boy, it was cool!

We gathered again in the main hall and had another discussion before dinner. Dinner was great, with meatballs the size of a tennis ball. One thing for sure; they sure knew how to feed us.

After dinner, Fr. Ray and Carlos (the seminarian) had a 'Question and Answer' session regarding faith. We then celebrated Mass. Afterward, we stood in rows with our small groups. Father Ray gave us a blessing and anointed us with holy water. We sang ... I felt something different ... something, I've never ever felt before. It felt like ... I could take on the world! Was it the presence of God? Was He surrounding us? It was something that is very hard to

explain; it was just a great feeling! Singing continued, blessings were given to the Music Group. They had been singing for us; now it was our turn to sing for them. Tears were flowing, tears of joy. 'Good vibes' were everywhere.

Later we went to a campfire and sang and had snacks. We made more friends and felt closer to each other. It was a cold, cold night, but there was a glow within all of us. It was a fantastic day.

Sunday morning we awoke and went to the main hall and had a "Q & A" session before breakfast. Afterwards, the teens talked about their lives and spiritual experiences.

Small discussions followed and then we gathered in a large group to reflect on the questions. Lunchtime was a time to thank the Parents for Life who had been serving us all weekend.

We had some free time and then met and presented Fr. Ray, Carlos, Angie, Nancy and the other Core members with beaded bracelets that we had made. A person from each group brought us rocks (BOLD-ers) with our names and the words "Time to be Bold" written on it. We put our names on a huge cross, showing that we were BOLD. We received our BOLD t-shirts and then loaded up on the bus for our trip home. On the trip home the Core Members handed out notes from different people on the retreat. Parents met us at Christ the King with cheers as we got off the bus. At Mass we were even more involved; it meant more to be up there on the altar. A skit was done and then we got up to do our song. We were moving all over the place. We got the Spirit! There were hugs and more tears as we said our goodbyes.

The retreat was fun. It was life changing. If you have a chance to go on a Life Teen retreat, **don't miss it.**

**BE BOLD!**

## Life is But a Rose

by Silas W. Osborne

When you get up in morning, do you see your life before you or do you see a rose? Let me tell you the difference between a rose and your life. What I talking about will let you know these two aspects.

Your life is like a rose but different. Life has meaning that tells you God is present. Look around you and what do you see? Do you see yourself or someone else? You know that life is a quibble or question mark. Comparing your life and a rose, you will the difference.

A rose is but a flower, but must have sunshine and nourishment. A

rose stands out in the garden, testifying that it has life. You see the color it has and how beautiful it is. That is a testimony to life. You know that God is present there. God gives us a life to enjoy.

Your life is similar but different from a rose. God gave us a soul to understand beauty; that is why we see beauty in a rose. We know that God is present because He enlightens our mind with beauty. God is ever present so that we are engulfed in His beauty. God gave light, and so we know that our life is before us. We are always in the presence of God.



# The Story



## A Look Into Fr. Tom McCarthy's Life

*Father Tom McCarthy has been one of our visiting priests for many years. He has helped out in our parish during the summer season so that our priests can have their much needed vacations. He has led a very interesting- and, at times, dangerous life. The **Courier** staff thought it would be interesting to take a glimpse into Father Tom's journal entries.*

On July 3, 1955, I was one of thirty-five Holy Ghost seminarians ordained for the missions. It was the biggest ordination in the history of the Irish Province of Holy Ghost Fathers. The newly ordained priests had one year of studies to finish for the Faculties Exam. After passing this exam and with the permission of our bishop, we were permitted to hear confessions.

In 1956 I was appointed to the Arch-diocese of Onitsha (in Africa) under Archbishop Heerey. My first task was to learn the Ibo language so that I could hear confessions. The language was very difficult. Only a few missionaries were able to preach in the language. For a sermon, an interpreter was needed to translate the English sermon into the Ibo language. After learning the Ibo language for confessions, I was sent to Enuguezike, a border town with North Nigeria.

In 1958, I was appointed curate to Archbishop Heerey. We were fortunate enough to have Holy Trinity grade school and, with a lot of help from the school faculty, produced a soccer team. Because the students were too poor to afford shoes, they played barefoot. Despite this handicap, the team won a trophy for the Archdiocese for the first time in 13 years.

In 1960, I was appointed pastor of Uga parish. It was not my most successful mission as I was robbed by the cook of 3000 Nigerian pounds (\$5,000).

The years between 1962 and 1965 I was pastor of St. John's Parish Owelli. St. John's Parish had 6,000 school children and 2,000 adults. Let me say that the Catholic Church in East Nigeria was self supporting. The schools were built by both pagans and Catholics. Teachers' salaries were paid by the government, and the pastors of the school paid the monthly salaries to the teachers. The pastors were responsible for the maintenance of the schools.

In 1965, Fr. Crowley, a Vincentian priest, came to conduct a three month mission. Lapsed Catholics were visited in their homes beginning at five o'clock in the morning. The net result of the mission was 1,000 confirmations, 800 baptisms, and 90 marriages.

As the Biafran War took place from 1968 to 1970, those who did not make full use of the retreat, never got another chance to do so.

On return from leave in Ireland, in 1966, I was appointed to Sacred Heart Parish in Iwollo. I had a stormy appointment, as the

incumbent priest did not wish to leave the parish.

My first job was to insure the schools against storm damage. A New Zealand company provided the insurance coverage. We had very little information to supply to the company except for the number of schools. The insurance coverage proved to be fortunate because we had a bad storm and many of the buildings were damaged. The insurance agent inspected the buildings, and the money to repair them was provided by the insurance company.

In 1967, war had broken out and Father Mick Flynn was in the parish next to Akiyi, a very remote parish. He called to visit me on the way home to his parish. I asked him to stay at my mission and travel down to his mission on the following day. He agreed.

Early next morning, we set out for Akiyi. Mick had the teachers' salaries. We traveled down only to be told all the roads were blown up. Mick knew another way, and we reached the mission and paid the teachers.

Later, Ibo soldiers on push bikes and in cars came to the mission and accused the two of us of being mercenaries. These soldiers were working for the Federal Army. It was a very serious charge and conviction could involve the death penalty.

I still remember the numbers painted on the soldiers rifles; #659341 and #734692. (We got a GOOD look at those rifles). When we were brought back to my mission, Mick and I demanded to see the two soldiers with those numbers on their guns. The matter was finished there and then by the commanding officer.

After that, it was unsafe for me to remain at the mission. So I went down country and, after many worrying moments, made my way back to Ireland.

Bishop Whelan of Owerri met me and said he was without priests, so I volunteered to help him in his Diocese of Owerri.

In 1968, I flew to Malta with a Holy Rosary nun, Sister Woods, from Amsterdam, Holland. There we had a stopover and a beer. The plane was propeller driven. On board were supplies of fish and maize. We sat on the fish boxes with no safety belts.

We continued our 16 hour journey to the Island of San Tome, a Portuguese possession. The following night, in darkness, we set out for Biafra.

The runway was a highway about the size of one section of the Arlington Expressway. The road was lit up on either side for about one minute for the cargo plane to take its bearings for touch down. As you see, we landed safely.

My parish was now Ezenihite. The parish work included looking after the children. Many were starving and the food supplies, salt and maize (corn), were for the



**The 1958 Holy Trinity Grade School winning soccer team**

parishioners. My menu was maize boiled three times a day, a few sausages and a beer on Christmas Day.

Bishop McGettrick had built a village in his Diocese of Abakaliki, a colony where lepers could receive treatment and those who improved were able to work and earn money.

The happiest day in my life was when the catechist and myself visited the leper colony on Christmas Day. A supply of food was given to them. It would last a few weeks. The lepers were extremely grateful.

Conditions at the Mission House were very primitive, with many rodents in the building.

In the last days of the war, rumor had it that the Federal Army was making its way through the bush, not on the main highway. A patrol of the Ibo Army set out in the truck, searching the area, and said there was no Federal Army in sight.

A short time later, the people left the parish, the Biafran Army left the parish, and the vigilantes left. There was no security now. The catechist, his family and myself were the last to leave Ezenihite. I brought the Blessed Sacrament, and we headed for Bishop Whelan's headquarters.

We arrived there safely in a Volkswagen Beetle. We were told to get out of the country that night. There was one priest who, for security reasons, had to leave Biafra on the last plane that night.

Father Joe Carter and myself were told to find him and get him out of the country.

Father Joe and myself checked out the car. I was in shorts, vest and T-shirt and had my Irish passport with me. We traveled through the night and drove into a front line patrol of the Nigerian Army. We were stopped, searched and then made to march in single file in front of the soldiers who kept torches trained on us all the while. The car was taken over by the commanding officer. The soldiers gave us a beer and then we were driven away to Port Harcourt many miles away. At dawn we saw the Federal Army, thousands of them on the way for the final onslaught.

In Port Harcourt, we were first kept in a private house. I was interrogated by the Secret Police and had to write out my life history three times.

Next all the mission priests were brought to one compound. An Army truck arrived filled with about 20 priests. The truck took us to a court house, and we were all brought in and accused of entering the country illegally and accepting work without a permit. We were sentenced to 6 months in jail on each count.

In the Port Harcourt Prison there were in excess of 5,000 prisoners. We were brought to a locked shed. The only furniture was tiered steel beds, just plain steel beds - no blankets or pillows.

The Lebanese people in the region sent in food to us. The toilets in the prison consisted of an elevated sheet of concrete with two or three very narrow holes on the top. From outside the jail, there was a gap in the wall where a chamber pot was put in and in due time, when filled, was taken away by other prisoners to the main privy.

We had a visit from one of the politicians who was very angry with us because of our presence in the country at the end of the war. Before concluding his tirade, he said we were all being expelled from Nigeria.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> the first of the priests, 101 in number, were expelled by plane flying out of Lagos Airport.

I received an appointment in Ireland and was able to look after my aging mother.

In January 1987, Monsignor Mortimer Danaher, Father Seamus O'Flynn, and Father Joe Whitehead accompanied the body of Father Jack Sheppard to Ireland for burial. Father Sheppard was a member of our Holy Ghost community and had been an associate pastor at Christ the King for several years following his retirement from the African missions.

Monsignor Danaher invited me to Christ the King parish in the summer. I accepted Monsignor's offer and have been coming to Christ the King each summer since then.