



Volume 4, Issue 1

Christ the King COURIER

Christ the King Catholic Church

May, 2001

Ground Breaking Ceremony

Bishop John Snyder High School



SEE STORY PAGE 8

From the Editor

Editor's Note

Here we are celebrating our Third Anniversary of the *Courier*. Thanks to all who have helped to make this paper what it is today. The written word remains one of the most powerful tools we have as humans. Without it, a lot of what we know and experience would be lost.

Through the written word we share with others what is happening to us in our lives . . . whether it be about our recent vacation, a death of a loved one, our graduation from our latest learning center, or our witnessing (participating in) one of the Sacraments we are blessed to have as Catholics. Sharing our experiences, ideas, and beliefs draws us closer to each other.

Everyone is invited to submit their experiences. Remember, what seems everyday or mundane to you may be new and inspiring to others. Who knows what may come of your efforts to share with others. Communicating is one step in being a friend and bringing a friend to Christ.

In this issue we are pleased to include letters from Christ the King

Students to their parents and also some of their poetry. We will continue to include letters or other literary work in future issues. So if you submitted your work and don't see it in this issue please look to the next issue. Please feel free to submit poetry or short stories or essays for any future issue.

The staff of this paper is proud to be your "*Courier*" (getting the news to others). We hope you enjoy reading the wonderful events during the past few months. We want to thank those of you who have been privileged to travel and who have shared your experiences with us. And we want to thank everyone who took the time from their busy lives to put together the many news items we have contained in this issue.

Many of you know that for some months now I have been recovering from an injury to my shoulder. I personally want to take this time to thank everyone who has prayed for me and my family over this past quarter. Your prayers and concern are appreciated. The Rectory & *Courier* staff, as well as my family and friends are being very supportive while I continue to recover. Thank you.

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.

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A Conversation with Father McDermott



by Mickey Kenny

During a recent conversation with this reporter, Father Bob discussed parish life and activities at Christ The King.

When Father Bob and I began our conversation the first question I asked him was about the trees. We lost two trees here at Christ the King: lightning hit one and a disease killed the other. Fortunately, neither fell and did any damage. If you are curious about the orange fences surrounding several other trees, they were put up to protect the trees they encircle.

New Construction

There were only two trees removed to make room for the new building soon to open as part of the L'Arche Harbor House complex. I'm sure that everyone has watched the progress being made on this building on the left of the driveway as you enter. This is going to be a wonderful addition to Harbor House and is a gift of Captain Leonard Blanchart and his wife, Eleanor.

The Blancharts had observed the clients of this facility through the years and were impressed with the happiness everyone exhibited. They wanted to contribute to this happiness and in some way feel a part of it, and this gift should surely accomplish each of these goals. The new building will be a welcome addition to the complex, providing a gathering area large enough to accommodate all the residents and office space for the administration.

In the past, the administrative offices have been housed in the old rectory of Resurrection across the street from Resurrection Elementary. This location has necessitated several trips each day for the administrators who have had to travel between the facilities here and their offices at Resurrection. In addition, because of the offices vacated, the Rainbow Program is able to expand. Information about these exciting events and what they will mean for the people involved who are both our neighbors and members of our parish is found elsewhere in the *Courier*. The opening is scheduled for June 1.

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation took place here at Christ the King on February 24th. Special attention is given this sacrament now, and we, of course, have this in the proper chronological order which is prior to First Communion. This sacrament is given special significance by being separated from First Communion both in time and teaching. Being taught separately will help the children understand and appreciate the gift of this particular sacrament in a new and significant way. They will be able to receive this sacrament for a lifetime, understanding its special value. Teachers in both Christ the King School and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes for those not attending parochial school are to be especially thanked for giving an important and positive emphasis to this sacrament.

Lenten Observances

One of the special gifts of the Roman Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are, of course, particularly aware of this sacrament during the season of Lent in which we prepare for Easter.

While the Opportunity of a Lifetime has encircled this particular Lenten season with its own requirements of time and attention we have been, as a Diocese, encouraged to see how giving is an integral part of our Christian living. We as a parish have been able to see how the Holy Spirit blesses us, our school, and our ministries as a result of our being a tithing parish. God will not and cannot be outdone in generosity. This *giving* is a real part of Lent. Our obligation to take care of ourselves, our families, and our communities is one we have as Christians. Jesus said so.

Our community extends outside of our neighborhood and parish, and the Bishop has encouraged us to expand our ideas of Lenten devotion. We have been encouraged to take up the life of a people in service to others in a special way. In addition to depriving ourselves of some much loved thing or habit we probably

Continued on page 3

Letters

Dear Father Thanh:

I am a member of St. Patrick's Church and a good friend of Father Bob McDermott. After a Cursillio, the people gather together once a week and pray as a group. They try to recall anytime during the previous week they felt especially close to God.

A year or so ago I began to write down and record these "close moments." Enclosed is my most recent one in which you and the Vietnamese community played a part. I thought you might like me to share it with you.

God Bless You,
Ray Walker

On Sunday, January 21, 2001, I attended a Mass at Christ the King Church celebrating the Vietnamese New Year (they follow the lunar calendar rather than the solar calendar used by Western countries). Christ the King has a large Vietnamese population with their own Mass celebrated every Sunday by Father Thanh Tai Nguyen.

The Mass today with four celebrants, including Bishop Snyder, all dressed in brilliant yellow robes, was most interesting and colorful. Edifying too, in that, with a few minor embellishments, it followed the exact format as all the others celebrated in the Church - a poignant reminder of the catholicity of our religion. It was a capacity crowd, with many Caucasians among the Asians, that filled the church and afterwards the nearby Social Hall for a light repast.

During the Mass, I noticed two altar servers whom I had trained at St. Patrick's Church, Peter and Paul

Nguyen. The oldest, Peter, stayed in the sanctuary during the entire service and held Bishop Snyder's crozier (shepherd's staff) whenever the Bishop was not holding it. I remember Peter telling me what an honor he considered this to be. Both boys and their parents are truly wonderful people and a credit to the Church.

In the Hall, the food lines were long but with friends like Frank and Helen Redmond, June Costello and others gathered around me, it was



an enjoyable experience. About half way to the food tables, Mary Helen suddenly said, "Look," and pointed behind me. I turned and was absolutely astounded to see my Vietnamese altar boy, Peter, standing at my side holding a plate filled with food. He didn't say anything, just handed it to me, smiled and walked away. What a magnificent, kind and thoughtful gesture! My friends immediately began teasing me with, "How come you rate special treatment" and "Boy, you sure trained him well." I excused myself, walked to the back of the room and found a seat at a table.

I felt elated and deeply humbled. To think that two different ethnic groups, that only a few years ago were at war and killing each other, could come together with such love. Thanks be to God.

Continued from page 2 McDermott

should do without the whole year through, we are asked to make a special effort to life the life of the people of God in service to others as we have been called to be.

Easter has an even deeper significance for all Christians who have the peace of soul that comes from knowing they are truly trying in all ways to *live* the words *Thy will be done*.

Activities in the Parish

Christ the King is a very busy place where it is always possible to see people of the parish giving action to their ideas. The work is continuing on the renovations to the school facility — which is probably the most important item on our parish agenda. The day care facility and the school are a nearly constant source of energy and activity. Parishioners come and go all during the day performing the work of each ministry. At night this continues still in the rectory office

and meeting rooms, the Parish hall, the Shirley David Hall, the Kingdome, the music room, the St. Mary's room, the St. Vincent de Paul pantry, and -(when weather permits) the athletic field. And there is usually someone stopping to pray and reflect at our beautiful Shrine.

The Courier doesn't mention itself very often, if at all, but the staff is celebrating its third anniversary with this edition. This staff person felt both humble and grateful to hear Father McDermott say, "The Courier is really a valuable asset for the parish. Because of my interest in everything that goes on in this remarkable parish, most of the things I would like to talk about are covered in detail elsewhere in the Courier — which itself is, I think, a really excellent endeavor. It is an amazing paper compared with the publications which only a few other parishes even attempt. The staff has my congratulations and appreciation."

What's Happening



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

- Welcome
- The Gregory Andongo Family
 - The Mike Barron Family
 - The Jose Batario Family
 - The Dickson Blancas Family
 - Mr. & Mrs. David Brooks
 - The Enrique Campla Family
 - Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Campla
 - The Carlos Campos Family
 - The John Coyle, Jr. Family
 - The Jessica Davidson Family
 - Mitch Gable
 - The Rene Garcia Family
 - The Chris Gates Family
 - The Jamal Geesey Family
 - Dawn Grimes
 - The Hector Hatch Family
 - The Michael Hickey Family
 - Tracey Inman
 - Mr. & Mrs. J. Gene Jenifer
 - Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kalakauskis
 - Mark Madden
 - Patrick McClintock
 - The Michael McVeary Family
 - The Gerardo Medina Family
 - The Luis Medina Family
 - Michael Murphy
 - The Rey Palomo Family
 - The Chris Parliment Family
 - The Francis Quilon Family
 - The David Ralston Family
 - Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Robinson
 - Mr. & Mrs. Alex Samsel
 - Mary Starke
 - Marie Steinkamp
 - The Ronald Stewart Family
 - The Allan Teason Family
 - David P Trotti
 - The Patricia Weeks Family
 - The Billy Young Family

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

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Douglas James Huffman | Feb. 4 | Hang Vu | Apr. 14 |
| Natalie Ann Trepagnier | Feb. 18 | Dung Kim Huynh | Apr. 14 |
| Hieu Quoc Dinh | Feb. 18 | Xiem T. Luong | Apr. 14 |
| Arianna Nicole Palomo | Feb. 18 | Alexis Kim Neely | Apr. 15 |
| Riley Patricia McVeary | Feb. 18 | Trunq Ryan Dinh | Apr. 15 |
| Nicholas Joseph Sherer | Mar. 11 | Vu Hellen | Apr. 15 |
| Dickson Jalen Blancas | Mar. 17 | Thomas Thai Nguyen | Apr. 15 |
| Mackensie Grace Parliament | Mar. 25 | Uyen Nhu Hoang Maria Dinh | Apr. 15 |
| Gabriella Lirit Davidson | Apr. 1 | Samantha Lynn Abbott | Apr. 15 |
| Bryan Jackson Clay | Apr. 7 | Mia Krista Mercader Solis | Apr. 22 |

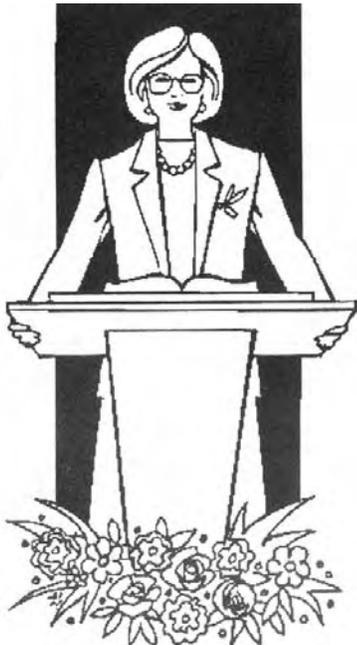
Marriages: We would like to acknowledge the following parishioners who were recently united into the Sacrament of Marriage.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Hung Huu Nguyen and Thao Thi Van on February 2, 2001 | Edward D. Shaw and Cheryl Ann Schrader on March 24, 2001 |
| Tinh Cong Nguyen and Anh Quang on February 17, 2001 | Eric S. Boggess and Patricia A. Tandingan on March 24, 2001 |
| Jeremy C. Hall and Lesley H. Mashni on March 10, 2001. | Dominic J. Carilli and June L. Gillen on April 16, 2001 |
| Christopher Ferrizzi and Christina Salinas on March 17, 2001 | David Paul Trotti and Esther Lenise Lyle on April 21, 2001 |

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

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Jose Garcia-Romeu | Jan. 29 | Dorothy L. Pacetti Campbell | Mar. 3 |
| Librada Floreza Mayo | Feb. 1 | Mireille M. Valence | Mar. 9 |
| Beatrice Elizabeth Martin | Feb. 8 | C. W. (Bill) Dubard | Mar.11 |
| Stella L. Massaroni | Feb. 6 | James L. Gerbert, Sr. | Mar. 31 |
| Bill Bryant, Sr. | Feb. 10 | Ben M. Stec | Apr. 15 |
| Edwin D. Holden, Jr. | Feb. 18 | Bessie Smith | Apr. 20 |
| Alvin H. Snelgrove | Feb. 21 | Megan Murphy | Apr. 27 |
| Blanche S. Stock | Feb. 23 | Raymond F. Hauck | Apr. 28 |
| Irene H. Milman | Mar. 2 | Edward W. Saunders | Apr. 30 |

Lectors Meet for Workshop



by Lucille Guzzone

On Saturday afternoon, February 24th, a group of lectors met in the church for an update on the proper methods of contributing to a successful ministry. About thirty-five people gathered to talk about procedure and to ask questions pertaining to their role.

Lucille Guzzone, lector chairperson, welcomed the participants and reminded them of their responsibilities to follow the assigned schedule, to prepare the readings ahead of time, and to dress in a respectful manner. Bernie Sans then discussed the important role of the lector during the liturgy and

thanked the group for volunteering for the ministry. Judy Meade followed with some suggestions concerning proper pronunciation and offered them a helpful booklet on pronouncing Biblical names the correct way. Larry McKay then spoke about invoking the Holy Spirit to aide the lector before and during his/her reading.

Many in attendance asked questions and volunteered their opinions. Even the experienced lectors felt that the workshop was informative and everyone present experienced a new enthusiasm for their contribution to the Church as a whole.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

by Kathy Nichols

On February 24, Christ the King's second graders and children from CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) embraced their first Sacrament of Reconciliation. The morning started out with a small breakfast/reception, followed by the church gathering. The children sang a song about the Ten Commandments.

Father McDermott gave a short talk and the children then received the sacrament. It's not such a "scary" sacrament anymore. The children go through many weeks of practice before receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I heard some say that they felt "cleaner".

If we all "did unto others as we would have them do unto us," this world would be a changed place. Father pointed out that hitting our brothers or sisters, lying, or making fun of someone were all sins. Children need to know this at an early age. They should also know that if they are sorry, God will forgive them as long as they resolve not to do it again.

The penance given after confession needs to be appropriate for the sin that was confessed. A penance could be to tell their friend that they're sorry or to do a good deed for their sister or brother. It could be to never lie again, to just be a good boy or girl or to say a prayer. Jesus loves the little children.

A Mother's Day Tribute: My Mom



Claretta's parents: Kate and George Host

by Claretta Lamusga

My mother was something of a "super woman." We lived on a farm in Minnesota. She had twelve children; I was the eleventh. I had six sisters and five brothers.

My dad had a heart attack when I was two weeks old and my mom took over the running of the farm. She went to the barn every morning and evening to help milk the 20 cows. She was assisted in that work— as well as in the fields— by my older brothers and sisters. She often spent 10 hours in the field, helped in the barn, and was still the chief cook, laundress (and we had no electricity), disciplinarian, gardener (we had four large gardens), landscaper (she loved a well manicured lawn and flower garden), and took charge of the canning of vegetables, berries, fruit and meat.

She was never satisfied that our goods would last through the long winters until we had 500 quarts of fruit and vegetables. She canned meat for the summer months because we had no way to keep it from spoiling in the summer. In the winter, we kept our meat in the laundry room because it always stayed below freezing in there. Come springtime we started on the canned or smoked meats.

We had three large meals a day as most farmers did. Dad, my sister, Cathy, and I got most of the meals going, set the table, and did the dishes. But mom always planned and organized the meals before going out to do the farm work. She also would get the yeast dough started before going to bed so she could put about ten loaves of bread

in the oven before starting her work day. She baked bread every other day. On Saturday she'd make sweet rolls — which we all loved!

When we were little she would be busy working at something and we would ask her to play with us. She would say, "I'll be your neighbor, and you come visit me." We would get our dolls and she would put tea cups on the table. She would talk to us as if we were the neighbors visiting while she continued to work, or she'd play a guessing game that didn't require her to stop her work.

My mom also knew how to fix machinery and how to "wheel and deal" when it was time to buy or sell farm animals or machinery. We sold cream which my brothers took to the creamery in town every morning. We would get a 'cream check' once a month, and that money was used to keep the farm going, the car in running condition, or some other large expenditure.

The 'egg money', which came more often and in smaller amounts, was Mom's. She used some of it for food we didn't grow such as sugar, syrup, peanut butter, coffee, and tea. She would scrounge a little extra 'egg money' away all year so we would have a small pile of gifts on Christmas.

Mom had only one good dress which she wore every Sunday and Holy Day for Mass. She wore that same dress for years. It was black with a lace collar.

Mom took a nap on Sunday afternoons. I'm sure she needed it and so much more! She did so much for all of us. I think God took her straight to heaven when she died at the age of 89.

TO MOTHERS AND FATHERS

Letters from Eighth Grade CCD Class

Dear Mom & Dad:

Just a note to tell you that I love you very much. You are the greatest parents and I want to thank you for teaching me the right things in life.

Dear Mom:

I love you! Thanks for inspiring me to do the right thing!

Love,
Kaleigh Strauss

Dear Dad:

I love you! Thanks for having time for me! Love ya!

Love ya,
Kaleigh Strauss

Happy Mother's Day, Mom. I love you.

Mark Verrette



Father's Day

Dear Dad:

You have no idea how much I love you! You have given me so much. You gave knowledge, strength, willingness, love, and so much more.

If I need help, I know who to turn to, not only for help in Math, but for everything. Sometimes I just need your big grizzly bear hugs to make my day better. No matter what, you're always there for me.

You also have given me strength, will-power, understanding, and most important to me, you have given me love. I love you so much. If I gave you the world, it still wouldn't be enough.

You have helped me with so many things. You are such an influence on me, you're the perfect dad. And I thank you for all you have done for me and always being there. **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!** You deserve it.

Love,
Melissa



Dear Mom:

I want to thank you for, well, everything! I want to thank you for always being there for me, for without you I'm sure growing up through the painful years of adolescence would have been a lot worse. Even though we both have had our ups and downs, the time we've spent together has been great. I know that sometimes - all right, all the time my excessive talking can drive you up the wall and out the ceiling. You've dealt with it in a positive way. Most Moms would have ended up doing something drastic, but you didn't, or at least not yet. No matter how much I seem to get on your nerves, you have to admit - ya gotta love me! If you haven't figured out what my main objective to writing this letter is, I just wanted to wish you a **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!**

Love,
Ashley

P.S. As long as you don't whip out a copy of this letter every time I do something bad, everything will be a-okay.



Dear Mom:

I bet you weren't expecting this. But I wanted to let you know how much I admire you, I love you, respect you, and want to be more like you.

I love you so much, words could NEVER express how I feel. On Mother's Day, I'm not going to act like it's a special day for you. Every day will be Mother's Day for you. I don't need a holiday to tell you how much I love you, or do something special for you.

I don't know if you knew this, but I admire you. You're so strong, brave, and beautiful. You are just so awesome to me. You're like super mom. You can do anything. And you've taught me everything I need to know, and if I need someone, you're always there for me, you are my best friend and no one could ever replace you. You are the perfect, Mother, I wouldn't change anything about you.

Love always,
Melissa

And Who Is Sitting in my Seat?

by Genevieve Generoso



Did you ever notice how we humans like to take ownership of things that we did not purchase, lease, or rent and yet still consider that they are there for our exclusive use. What am I talking about? Our favorite pew that we sit in Sunday after Sunday, as we attend Mass.

Let's face it, folks, we are creatures of habit and do not like to have our peace of mind disturbed by some thoughtless person or persons taking our self-assigned seat on Sunday morning. Well, that is exactly what happened to us several months ago. We walked to our normal pew and here were

these total strangers sitting in our "self assigned" seats.

How could this be? We've been sitting in those same seats for years; we know the people around us and they know us. We are on a first name basis with each other. We exchange greetings and inquire of family members. Finding another row to sit in that will accommodate the four of us is not always easy, and besides, I am sure we are sitting in somebody else's self-assigned seats by the looks of the people already seated around us.

It's that horrible feeling of being displaced. You can't very well go up to the people involved and tell them that this is the place that your family always sits; you'd like to, at least I would, but we are Christians - and my husband can have a very disapproving glare. I felt very uneasy.

The thoughts that crossed my mind had no place at church or anywhere else for that matter. Instead of focusing on the first part of the Mass, my mind began to speculate as to whether this family planned to sit there next Sunday. I

thought, "No, they won't, because we will get there first. I'll see to that!"

Before I know it, Father is giving us the homily that addresses the second reading from Colossians 3:(12-14) "*As the chosen of God, the holy people whom He loves, you are to be clothed in compassion, in generosity, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you and you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.*" Father is saying that as Christians we must strive to practice these virtues in all that we do. "Oh," I think, "could Father be talking to me?" I bow my head in shame for my petty selfishness and lack of love for my neighbor. My minor inconvenience paled beside the great gift I receive from having the privilege of receiving the Holy Eucharist. "O, Lord, I am not worthy," should be painted on the back of my dress this morning. Now we are exchanging the sign of peace with those around us. I was

so preoccupied with my trivial thoughts I did not notice that there was an old friend sitting right behind us whom I have not seen in a long time. How good it was to see her smiling face and I responded with equal joy.

After Mass, I nudge my husband to follow me over to where the "intruders" had been sitting. We introduce ourselves and they respond with a cordial smile and at the same time telling us they are new to the parish and have not met anyone as yet. "Well, you have now," said my husband George. "And while we're here chatting, let's all go over to the Parish Hall and have some coffee and donuts and meet some of the other parishioners." As we walked to the Hall, our new found friends were beaming. As for me, I silently thanked the Lord for allowing me to exchange my coat of self-indulgence for one of love.

Oh, and just for your information, we always park our car in the school yard in the third row, the second place to the right!

BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR...

JESUS SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE



THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

Luke 23:34

by Pauline L. Pecador

Each Easter and Christmas the parish community comes together as a unit for the healing Sacrament of Penance. It is through this sacrament that we are made pure and whole in the sight of God.

On Monday evening of Holy Week this beautiful celebration was given as a free gift from God to His people of the parish. There were 12 priests eager to be the instrument of God's gift to us. The church was almost full and one could see that it was peppered with people of all ages. All were here for the same reason. They wished to be washed clean in preparation for the great feast of Easter.

The service began with the lovely hymn "Save Us, O Lord." Singing, somehow, brings people closer together. Even those of us who can't carry a tune in a basket finally break out for the last refrain.

Afterwards, Father McDermott read the Gospel from the 8th chapter of John, verses 1-8, which is centered on Jesus, the woman caught in adultery, and the Pharisees. Father said that the Pharisees were there to trap Jesus. If Jesus said that the woman should be set free then he would be going against Mosaic Law. If, however, He opted for her to be stoned to death as the Pharisees were aching to do, then what Jesus had been teaching about love and compassion for sinners would be considered a fraud. But Jesus understood our weak human condition and so said to the elders "Those of you who have not sinned,

cast the first stone." And we all know the rest of the story about the Pharisees, one by one, walking away. Jesus did not condemn the woman but told her to go and "sin no more."

Father said that we are too quick to make judgements about other people and their actions. Many times the plank in our eye is so large that we can't see the speck in theirs. When we judge, we are doing so without having all the facts. We may think that we do, but that is not the case. We're only second guessers and poor ones at that! Father told us to keep in mind that the judgement you pass on others will be passed on you.

Father Bob reminded us of the stories of the Prodigal Son and the Lost Sheep. Jesus is always beckoning, welcoming us back into the fold. He is waiting for us. We are His treasures, His jewels. We may be a little tarnished but it is in that beautiful sacrament of Reconciliation that the crud that sticks to the stones is removed. We come out sparkling and glow with God's forgiving mercy.

Finally, it is time for our individual healing and the congregation scurries to the stations set up for us. The priests are in readiness for the penitents to confess their sins. We have examined our consciences and are ready to receive God's healing touch. Personally, when the priest absolves me of my sins there is a joy that flows into my heart and I gratefully say, "Thank you Lord, for your mercy." Isn't it great to be a Catholic?

THE FATHER'S EYES



Author Unknown

Bob Richards, the former pole-vault champion, shares a moving story about a skinny young boy who loved football with all his heart. Practice after practice, he eagerly gave everything he had. But being half the size of the other boys, he got absolutely nowhere. At all the games, his hopeful athlete sat on the bench and hardly ever played.

This teenager lived alone with his father, and the two of them had a very special relationship. Even though the son was always on the bench, his father was always in the stands cheering. He never missed a game. This young man was still the smallest of the class when he entered high school. His father continued to encourage him, but also made it very clear that he did not have to play football if he didn't want to. The young man loved football and decided to hang in there. He was determined to try his best at every practice, and perhaps he'd get to play when he became a senior. All through high school, he never missed a practice nor a game, but remained a bench warmer all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him.

When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-on". Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did. The coach admitted that he kept him on the roster because he always put his heart and soul into every practice, and at the same time, provided the other members with the spirit and hustle they badly needed.

The news that he had survived the cut thrilled him so much that he rushed to the nearest phone and called his father. His father shared his excitement and was sent season tickets for all the college games. This persistent young athlete never missed practice during his four years at college, but he never got to play in the game.

It was the end of his senior football season, and as he trotted onto the practice field shortly before the big play off game, the coach met him with a telegram. The young man read the telegram and he became deathly silent. Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss

practice today?" The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son. And don't even plan to come back to the game on Saturday."

Saturday arrived, and the game was not going well. In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful teammate back so soon. "Coach, please let me play. I've just got to play today," said the young man. The coach pretended not to hear him. There was no way he wanted his worst player in this close playoff game. But the young man persisted, and finally feeling sorry for the kid, the coach gave in. "All right," he said. "You can go in."

Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before, was doing everything right. The opposing team could not stop him. He ran, he passed, blocked, and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph. The score was soon tied. In the closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown. The fans broke loose. His teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you never heard!

Finally, after the stands had emptied and the team has showered and left the locker room, the coach noticed that the young man was sitting quietly in the corner all alone. "Kid, I can't believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?" He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Well, you know my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?" The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see my play, and I wanted to show him I could do it?"

Like the athlete's father, God is always cheering for us. He's always reminding us to go on. He's even offering us His hand for He knows what is best and is willing to give us what we need and not simply what we want. God has never missed a single game. What a joy to know that life is meaningful if lived for the Highest.

Mardi Gras



A table of 'true' partiers

by Kathy Nichols

In Christian communities around the world, the forty days preceding Easter comprise Lent – a period of alms, fasting, and penance. It begins with Ash Wednesday, the day many Catholics go to church to receive the sign of the cross marked in ash on their foreheads – its purpose being to remind us of our own mortality. For much of the country, the Tuesday before Lent is just that: a Tuesday; but in New Orleans, and other areas of the country, this Tuesday is “Mardi Gras” – “Fat Tuesday” – representing the last gasp of decadence before a period of austerity.

Christ the King had a “Fat Saturday” on February 24 as we attempted to honor the Mardi Gras tradition of masks, beads, and dancing. Tables were set up with snacks and party favors. The DJ spun some great party music. Door prizes were awarded. If you missed the celebration this year, make sure you mark your calendar for 2002 which promises to be an even greater affair.



Patty and Mike Maroney



Monica and George Crisp



Tony Balsamo and Pat Thomas



The raffle table with Chris Marlier and Patty Moroney

Lent is the Opportunity of a Lifetime

Excerpted from Forty Days Plus Three, Daily Reflections for Lent and Holy Week, John J. McIlhonn, the Liturgical Press. The reflection of the First Sunday of Lent, “From the Ends of the Earth,” and Monday of the First Week of Lent, “Contracts? Not God’s Way of Being Fair!”

submitted by Mickey Kenny

Lent calls us to re-own our dignity – our worth – as members of Christ’s Church, His body. To be redeemed is to be re-owned. Nothing is powerful enough to

keep us estranged from God except the illusion that each of us can go it alone. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council write:

Just as God did not create men to live as individuals but to come together in the formation of social unity, so he “willed to make men holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness.” (The Documents of Vatican II)

The creator wants nothing in exchange for divine love other than our hunger and thirst for repentance and the gift of mercy, that we might become what God had in mind right from the beginning – the image and likeness of God.

Our response to God’s covenantal promises is the generosity we display with the gifts God has given us. We are related to one another by the grace that relates us to God. If we are God’s people, then we are in the truest sense brothers and sisters of one another. We are bound to each other not by contract but by covenant. “God has given

abundantly to all the basic needs of life, not as a private possession, not restricted by law, not divided by boundaries, but as common to all, amply and in rich measure.” St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop. In the Questions for your Reflection section it is asked, “What is the difference between the Church as organization and the Church as organism?”

In reading these excerpts, is it possible to see that our gifts of time, talent, and treasure are gifts to ourselves as part of our community and to God because He is our community.

Bishop John Snyder High



by Karen Mathis

On the sunny, windy and warm afternoon of April 29, Bishop John J. Snyder turned a shovel of dirt toward construction of a Westside Catholic high school, signaling the first fruits of the Opportunity of a Lifetime campaign chaired by Bob Shircliff and John McLaughlin.

The estimated \$13 million Bishop John J. Snyder High School along 103rd Street at Chaffee Road should open in August, 2002, to become the third Catholic high school in the 17-county Diocese of St. Augustine. It will be the first new Diocesan high school in 50 years.

Bishop Snyder High School will encompass 50 acres and is

designed to serve up to 1,000 students, especially those in West Jacksonville.

"Everything about this campaign is about children. It's all focused on the future," Bishop Snyder told volunteers in January, when the Christ the King campaign began.

Bishop Snyder noted "the hunger and desire" for Catholic high-school education. "There are so many obstacles to raising young children. We know these high school years are very, very difficult," he said.

Bishop Kenny High School is at capacity with 1,650 students, and St. Joseph Academy in St. Augustine is at peak enrollment with 355 students.

At the January meeting of volunteers for nine parishes participating in the second block of the campaign, Snyder said the campaign reflected "the goodness of our people". "We're on our way and we're taking a step in faith," he said.

Bishop Snyder High School is one of several projects to be funded by the capital campaign that involved the 51 parishes in the diocese. The goal was \$30 million, with a challenge goal of \$45 million. As of April 30, the diocese had reached \$31.5 million.

The campaign is the first of its kind and the largest in the history of the diocese, which traces its roots to a Catholic Mass celebrated by Spanish settlers in St. Augustine in

1565. Pope Pius IX created the Diocese of St. Augustine in 1870.

The Diocese currently encompasses 135,000 Catholics and 50,000 Catholic households in the 51 parishes and eight missions spread among 11,032 square miles from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Opportunity of a Lifetime campaign targets are:

- * \$22.5 million toward the Bishop Snyder High School; expansion of Florida's oldest Catholic High School, the 128-year-old Saint Joseph Academy, to 600 students; and the start of Gainesville Catholic high school to eventually serve 600 students;

School Groundbreaking



- * \$2 million for vocation and clergy education endowment;
- * \$1 million for a Christian formation endowment to provide trained catechists to teach religion in the parishes;
- * \$1 million for the Guardian of Dreams endowment to provide Catholic education to inner-city students;
- * \$500,000 for expansion of Morning Star School, which is at the Christ the King campus; and
- * \$3 million for parish growth and development.

Parish goals were determined by offertory collections, although the Christ the King Stewardship

program resulted in an adjustment for the parish. Christ the King Church was given a goal of \$1.4 million, and as of April 30, had reached \$1.75 million.

Parishes that reach their targets are rebated 10 percent of the goal, and parishes that exceed their goals can keep 75 percent of the excess.

The Diocese contracted with the Guidance in Giving consulting group to assist in the campaign. Guidance in Giving executive Matt Dwyer assisted Christ the King, including helping to host six private receptions at homes throughout the parish and a parish fish fry.

Between January 30th and March 5th, six families opened their homes for parishioners invited

to hear about the campaign personally. Along with Dwyer, Father Robert McDermott, Stewardship Director Pat Thomas, Christ the King School Principal Janet Morton and the Capital Campaign Committee presented details about the campaign.

Parishioner Tony Trotti chaired the Christ the King Gifts Committee. His committee included Chuck Parliment, Karen Mathis and Jere Rillstone.

"Tony's Team" attended the six receptions, held at the homes of Janet Morton; Chuck and Pat Parliment; John and Diane Koch; Jim and Kathy Weedon; Mack and Karen Mathis; and Brian and Chantal Harrington.

More than 350 families, identified as consistent and significant contributors to the church, were invited to the receptions.

Of the 50 to 60 parish families invited to each reception, about 25 to 45 attended the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. weeknight gatherings. Father McDermott, Trotti and Dwyer presented the campaign details and answered questions, and hosts provided appetizers, desserts and beverages.

Following the receptions, the parish hosted a free fish fry for all parishioners to hear about the campaign and Commitment Weekend capped the campaign in March.

SHARE YOUR GIFTS



Stewardship Day - Holiday Inn, April 3, 2001: (left to right) Bill Damato, Helen Damato (hidden), Olin Middleton, Jane Middleton, Pat Thomas, Eileen Porter, Neil Porter (hidden), Grace Berkey



Stewardship Day, April 3, 2001: (left to right standing) Doris Faustini, Father Thanh, Grace Berkey, Gloria Nebrich, Neil Porter, (left to right seated) Hane Middleton, Pat Thomas, Eileen Porter

by Eileen Porter

Diocesan Stewardship Day was held at the Baymeadows Holiday Inn on April 3rd. As always it was a rewarding and interesting day, and members of stewardship committees from throughout the Diocese of Saint Augustine came away with new ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

Bishop John J. Snyder welcomed the group with a prayer, and those attending responded with a canticle from Ephesians. Sister Enda, pastoral assistant from St. Anastasia Parish in Crescent Beach, served as moderator and introduced the first speaker of the day, Lutheran Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington D.C., Synod. Bishop Theodore F. Schneider. Bishop Schneider's topic was "Seven Biblical Principles of Stewardship."

Bishop Schneider's speech touched on the joys of stewardship, rather than the burden. Christian giving comes from the heart and has more to do with trusting God than meeting budgets. Bishop Schneider pointed out that Saint Paul was our first campaign director of Stewardship, as he traveled in the Mediterranean world as a missionary, and collected offerings from the churches. Bishop Schneider's remarks engendered a number of questions from those in the audience, which he graciously answered.

The next speaker was Dr. Jean Morris Trumbauer, who was introduced by Linda Hall, St. Catherine's new Stewardship Director from Orange Park. Dr.

Trumbauer's presentation was in two parts, and her subject was "The Importance and Benefit of Discerning Our Gifts and Talents." In the first session Dr. Trumbauer spoke of "Shared Ministry," with members of the faith communities sharing their various talents with other members of our community. She shared with us various ways that all of us can discern our special talents, so that we will be able to share them. Following a question and answer period with Dr. Trumbauer, our lunch was served.

At the afternoon session, Dr. Trumbauer elaborated on the theme of inviting members of our faith communities to discover their own individual gifts and sharing them. She suggested a number of ways this could be accomplished. Again, there were many questions which Dr. Trumbauer was happy to answer.

Bishop Snyder expressed the gratitude of all the Diocesan Stewardship community to our Diocesan Director Mr. Francis (Dutch) Scholz, who is retiring after seventeen years in this position. Bishop Snyder also expressed the appreciation of all of us to Dutch's lovely wife, Barbara, who has been so involved with the program. They will be sorely missed. They are, however, remaining in the area and will continue to be an important part of our stewardship work.

Bishop Snyder introduced our new Stewardship director, Mr. Jose

De Jesus, who will assume his duties in May. Mr. De Jesus has a long history with the stewardship program and will be a great asset to our diocese.

Happy Mother's Day to . . .



submitted by Mickey Kenny

This is for all the mothers who froze their buns off on metal bleachers at football games on Friday nights instead of watching from cars, so that when their kids asked, "Did you see me?" they could say, "Of course, I wouldn't have missed it for the world,"... and mean it.

This is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping up barf laced with Oscar Mayer wieners and cherry Kool Aid saying, "It's OK honey, Mommy's here."

This is for all the mothers of Kosovo who fled in the night and can't find their children.

This is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they'll never see. And the mothers who took those babies and gave them homes.

For all the mothers of the victims of the school shootings, and the mothers of the murderers. For the mothers of the survivors, and the mothers who sat in front of their TVs in horror, hugging their child who just came home from school, safe and sound.

For all the mothers who run car pools and make cookies and sew Halloween costumes. And all the mothers who DON'T.

What makes a good Mother anyway? Is it patience? Compassion? Broad hips? Is it the ability to nurse a baby or to cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt all at the same time? Is it heart? Is it the ache you feel when you watch your son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time? Is it the jolt that takes you from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 a.m. to put your hand on the back of a sleeping baby? Is it the need to flee from wherever you are and hug your child when you hear news of a school shooting, a fire, a car accident, or a baby dying?

So this is for all the mothers who sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the mothers who wanted to but just couldn't.

This is for reading "Goodnight, Moon" twice a night for a year. And then reading it again. "Just one more time."

This is for all the mothers who mess up, who yell at their kids in the grocery store and stomp their feet like a tired two-year old who wants ice cream before dinner.

This is for all the mothers who taught their daughters to tie their shoelaces before they started school. And for all the mothers who opted for Velcro instead.

This is for all the mothers who bite their lips—sometimes until they bleed—when their 14-year-old children dye their hair green.

Mothers who lock themselves in the bathroom when babies keep crying and won't stop.

This is for all the mothers who show up at work with spit-up in their hair and milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purses.

This is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to sink a jump shot.

This is for all mothers whose heads turn automatically when a little voice calls "Mom?" in a crowd, even though they know their own kids are at home.....or are as tall as they are. Yet, still they turn!

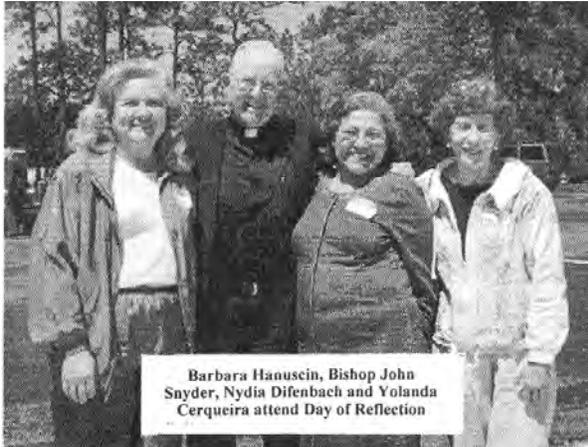
This is for mothers who put pinwheels and teddy bears on their children's graves.

This is for mothers whose children have gone astray, and can't find the words to reach them.

This is for all the mothers who sent their sons to school with stomach aches, assuring them they'd be just FINE once they got there, only to get calls from the school nurse an hour later asking them to please pick them up... right away.

This is for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. It's for mature mothers learning to let go, working mothers and stay-at-home moms, single mothers and married mothers, mothers with money, mothers without. This is for all of you. Hang in there.... Happy Mother's Day!!

St. Vincent de Paul's Day of Reflection



Barbara Hanuscin, Bishop John Snyder, Nydia Difenbach and Yolanda Cerqueira attend Day of Reflection

by Yolanda Cerqueira

The annual St. Vincent de Paul Day of Reflection was held this year in Interlachen, Fla. It was one of those perfect Spring days. The countryside was dressed in varying shades of green with splashes of colorful flowers laced in between.

The theme of this year's program – Together We Can Do What Separately We Cannot – was brought home vigorously by the main speaker of the day, Mr. William J. Tierney, the Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul have been working together for a number of years. This has been a good fit, but it is the contention of Mr. Tierney that we must further reach out and utilize the many other agencies within this area so that we complement and add to what already is being done. How do we do this?

Mr. Tierney began by stating that we must first keep in mind that we are a spiritual organization and our success depends on the interior life of its members. Prayer and reflection must come before action. We must actively seek greater spiritual growth within the Society. All members need to be nourished with God's love and that can only be accomplished when each individual member looks within himself and asks for the help to grow in grace. From this individual work should spring the desire and the energy to bring the good news to our neighbor.

An important part of our plan is not only to assist those in need but also to provide avenues whereby the client can see that he, too, is capable of helping himself. Mr. Tierney beautifully illustrated this point by the following story.

A man was walking in the forest and as he got deeper into it, he spied a fox sprawled on an old, weathered log. As he drew closer he was able to observe that the fox

was missing two legs. Just then he heard a noise and, looking up, a tiger came into view. The tiger was eating some prey and he stopped near the fox. When he finished eating, the tiger brought the remains of his food to the fox. The man was so intrigued at what he saw that he returned again and again. And each day the tiger continued to come by and leave food for the fox. After watching how the tiger provided for the fox everyday the man decided he would leave his work and retire in the woods. If the tiger brought food for the fox each day, surely God would provide food for him. So he waited and waited and nothing happened. The moral, of course, is that our mission is to be the tiger – not the fox.

We need to be truly concerned about the spiritual growth of our members. The good works we do flow from this spirituality. Mr. Tierney suggests that at our meetings we set aside time for study and reflection on the meaning of our faith. He spoke of agape love which is revealed to us in Jesus. Agape love is purely other-directed. It is a love that asks nothing in return. It is self-giving. Since Jesus is the model of this love, we are to be imitators of Jesus. In agape love we are the image and likeness of God.

We do not do this in a vacuum as all of us together make up the Church. Mr. Tierney defined Church as a community of people called by God to receive the gift of God's love. Our response is that giving of self back to God by our discipleship, which is exemplified in our faith, hope, and charity. This call and response is what we call grace.

How does the Church live out this gift? It is fulfilled in three ways. The first is through praise, worship, and thanksgiving, which is our Liturgy. The second is in our reaching out to other members, educating others about the faith,

evangelizing and witnessing to our families, friends, and neighbors as we live our ordinary lives. We should preach the gospel at all times says St. Francis and only when necessary use words! And the last manner in which we use the gift of God's love is being an advocate for those who have no voice.

As Vincentians, our focus should be on service. We need to provide direct relief for those in need. We must be strong advocates for justice. Mr. Tierney believes that it is in this area that we do not go far enough. There must be more beyond the direct service. As Vincentians we should be thinking about what caused the problems in the first place and put more emphasis on seeing that social wrongs are corrected.

This cannot be done overnight, but we must be willing to start. We cannot do this alone and Vincentians must reach out and join with other organizations in solving these social problems.

Mr. Tierney concluded his remarks with some thought provoking ideas. He strongly believes that all of this work should be done on the local level, that is, within the parishes themselves. We must experience the true meaning of Church in our parish. The Church must do everything. It must be the servant to the poor. Catholic Charities can and should fade away at some point in the distant future, but the St. Vincent de Paul Society must remain as a sign of the Servant Church. Right now Catholic Charities and the Vincentians must strengthen their

ties so that we can do more for others. Our goal is to strive for that agape love in which we reflect what Jesus has done for us.

Following this thought provoking address the members of the Society were privileged to attend Mass at which Bishop Snyder was the celebrant. He urged us to be humble and to keep in mind that we are here to be of service to others. He reminded us that we have a special mission and each of us is a part in making up the Church. There was a sense of peace that filled our hearts as we left the Church for lunch.

One could say we were wined and dined at the Parish Hall where a delicious lunch was prepared by the Ladies Guild. The Hall was beautifully decorated with table linens and Vincentian plate mats. Everything was done with such loving care that the only thing that could top it was the meal itself – and it did! We all ate with great relish and delight.

Following the lunch, the Conferences in attendance gave highlights of their accomplishments for the year. Needless to say the President of our Conference at Christ the King, Ernie Waller, acquitted himself admirably by detailing our accomplishments. Mr. Waller was quick to acknowledge that without the support of our generous parishioners much of what we do to assist the needy would be done. All of us here at Christ the King make up the Church and for this we are grateful.

CCD Staff Attends Catechist Formation Day

by Lucille Guzzone

Christ the King Church was well represented on February 12, at Bishop Kenny High School; as five CCD teachers and its director attended a conference sponsored annually by the Diocese of Saint Augustine Office of Christian Formation. They, along with educators from around the diocese, were welcomed at an informal breakfast in the cafeteria where they had an opportunity to browse through various text books and teaching aids presented by publishers in the religious education field.

They later proceeded to Assumption Church for opening prayer and a message presented by keynote speaker, Father Richard Fragomeni from Chicago, who managed to get the day off to an

exciting and very positive start. Plenty of humor and personal anecdotes were mixed with serious topics, such as true spirituality, gifts from God, praise, and liturgy.

Teachers had an opportunity to chose from a number of workshops which were geared to enhance their teaching methods, from faith development in the Church to incorporating music and art in the classroom. The workshops gave each one an opportunity to receive a better understanding of what the Church teaches and to compare notes with brother catechists.

At the close of the conference, retired Bishop Snyder was presented a 12" by 12" piece of fabric, identifying the church from which it came, from a representative from each parish to be made into a commemorative quilt.

And We Know He Is Alive

by Harriet Ellen Hughes

"And the sky was bright, with a holy light - twas the birthday of a King." "It was now around midday, and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun." What a contrast from the birth of a tiny baby boy - a King - to the death of a young man - still a King but wearing not a crown of gold and jewels but rather a crown of thorns. Instead of receiving gifts, He had given the greatest gift of all.

Christmas is a very happy time of year and finds tired but happy shoppers bustling about loaded down with gifts. Bells are ringing and songs blare forth from loudspeakers prominently located so that no one misses a beat. Christmas is a time for giving while Easter is a time for forgiving. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Lent begins a very solemn period in our church year as it is intended to serve as a reflection on the tremendous sacrifice offered on Calvary by a man born a King.

We cannot help but be cognizant also of the sacrifice of Mary, a woman whose heart was pierced with not one sword, but possibly many swords. She undoubtedly felt every agonizing pain of her son as He traveled along the dusty streets of Jerusalem being tormented and bruised by the crowds, and as He hung for three hours on a cross. "At the cross her station keeping, stood the mournful mother weeping. Close to Jesus to the last."

**Christmas
is a time
for giving
while Easter
is a time for
forgiving.**

The choir, under the able leadership of Dr. Bernie Sans, is charged with utilizing music to set the scene to permit fellow parishioners to more fully participate in the season. There are no "Alleluias" sung during Lent. Rather hymns are chosen which are quite somber and away from the norm, but whose feelings appropriately run deep. They are designed to elicit emotions from the congregation such that the season will become more meaningful to them. In so doing, the joy they experience at Easter will be heightened.

At the start of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday, the Mass progresses to the Gloria at which time the choir joyously sings out "Give Glory to God in the Highest," bells ring and a feeling of elation exists. Then quiet takes over. The hymns become subdued and pensive.

At the end of the Mass, the strains of Tantum Ergo and Pange Lingua fill the church as a priest removes the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle and transports it to a temporary "resting place." The doors of the tabernacle are opened wide to reveal its emptiness. The altar decorations and cloths are quietly removed leaving but a bare table. The light signifying the eternal presence of Christ in the tabernacle is extinguished creating a sensation of loss and loneliness.

As the congregation returns on Good Friday, they hear the words of Christ pitifully questioning through the choir "My People, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Tell Me. I gave you a royal scepter, you crown Me with thorns. I raised you up in majesty, you raise Me on a cross."

A covered cross is carried down the center aisle of the church by a priest who admonishes us to "Behold the Wood of the Cross upon which hung the Savior of the World" as he begins the process of slowly uncovering it.

The choir questions further, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?" The choir inquires further, "Who is Jesus? Friend of Sinners." The church becomes silent and mournful.

On Easter Saturday evening, services begin at dusk with the lighting of the new fire and the blessing of new water. Our hearts remain heavy at this point and the spirit of the moment remains solemn. The church is in total darkness. Members of the congregation walk in procession into the church carrying candles which have been lit with the new fire symbolizing the fresh beginning which is about to take place.

As the candles flicker, chanted prayers are sung to memorialize the fact that Christ has died and we strive to remember the promise that He would rise again on the third day. As the Mass progresses to the Gloria, bells once again ring loud and long, the organ sounds jubilantly, the church lights brighten and the choir again sings our "Give Glory to God in the Highest," joyfully proclaiming to the world that the battle is triumphantly over - the victory has been won. The dark sounds of the season have been replaced with



bright, uplifting hymns filled with Alleluias and great rejoicing because "Jesus Christ Has Risen Today!"

The Easter story may have its beginning in a borrowed cave in Bethlehem but it has no ending, for Christ is with us forever as He promised. As you may recall, after Christ's resurrection from the dead His apostles encountered Him on different occasions and many did not recognize Him until they joined Him one evening for dinner. As the story goes, "At the meal He took the bread and then He blessed it, broke it, offered it." It was in the breaking of the bread that the disciples eventually recognized Him and knew that Jesus was alive.

We at Christ the King are very fortunate in that we recognize the deep faith of our church and its members as evidenced by attendance at daily Mass, the magnificent support of the stewardship program and the gratifying participation in numerous church ministries. The choir reminds us "We took bread as He had done and then we blessed it, broke it, offered it. In the breaking of the bread we saw Him!"

Suddenly our eyes were opened. There within our midst was Jesus. And we knew He was alive. In the breaking of the bread, He is here with us again. **And we know He is alive!**"

L'Arche Harbor House Update

by Mickey Kenny

Have you been watching the creation of a building on the left as you enter our driveway here at Christ the King? Did you know that the building is an addition to L'Arche Harbor House? It is the gift of Captain Leonard and Eleanor Blanchart and very much appreciated by the clients living in the residences.

The new building will have a gathering area large enough for all the residents of L'Arche Harbor House when they meet for celebration. It also will have four offices to house the administrative staff.

The administrative offices are currently at the old rectory at

Resurrection. This requires members of the staff to make several trips back and forth each day. It will be such a welcome efficiency for those traveling worker-bees!

When the new offices are completed, three offices once used as administrative offices will be used by the Rainbow Program. This will benefit many of the clients of L'Arche Harbor House.

Although construction often provides its own time table, the building is scheduled to be ready for use by June 1. You will hear more of this *Grand Opening* in the Bulletin and the next issue of the Courier.

CCD Spiritual Program prepares all for Easter



Ms. Joan Sharp's 2nd grade class stands and sings from their bleacher seats

Story & Photos by
Bill Dougherty

Hundreds of parents and CCD students gathered in the Kingdome, Wednesday, April 18, as the 5th through 8th graders put on a Spiritual Program.

Lucille Guzzone, CCD Director, said the purpose of the Spiritual Program was to prepare students and parents for Easter and to remind all that Christ died for us.

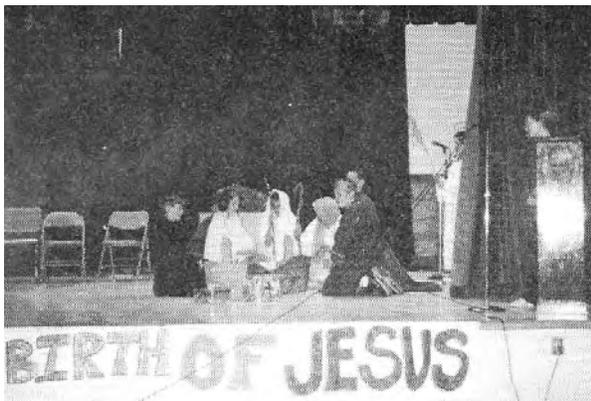
The students put on a variety of skits that covered the life of Jesus, from his birth to his crucifixion. The hard work of the student performers was evident in their colorful costumes and the splendiferous

stage props. Even Ms. Joan Sharp's second grade CCD class — which had their first communion this month — stood and sang for the large crowd.

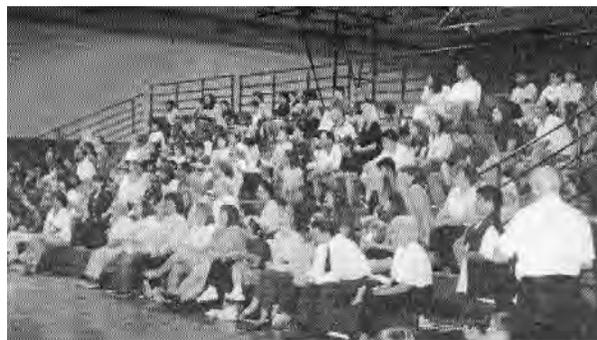
At the end of the performance, students and parents joined in for one final song.

Tim Dougherty, an 8th grade CCD student, continued the entertainment after the show, playing a variety of popular songs on his electric guitar.

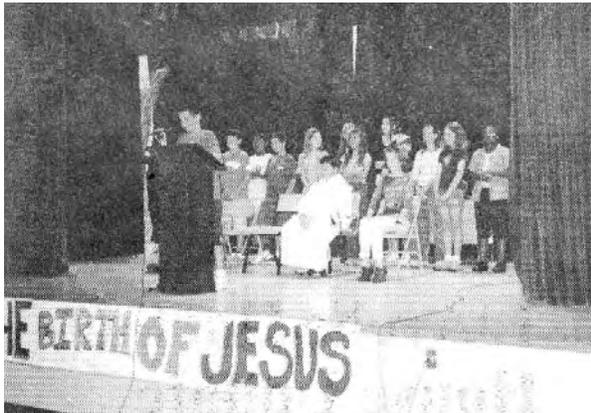
There were many proud parents who came off the bleachers to congratulate their children following the show. It was a night in which all celebrated the love, passion, and devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Ms. Sandy Hill's 2nd graders put on their skit about the birth of Jesus



A large crowd filled the bleachers in the Kingdome to hear CCD students tell the story of Jesus Christ



Mr. Al Martin's 6th grade class tells the story of the life of Jesus



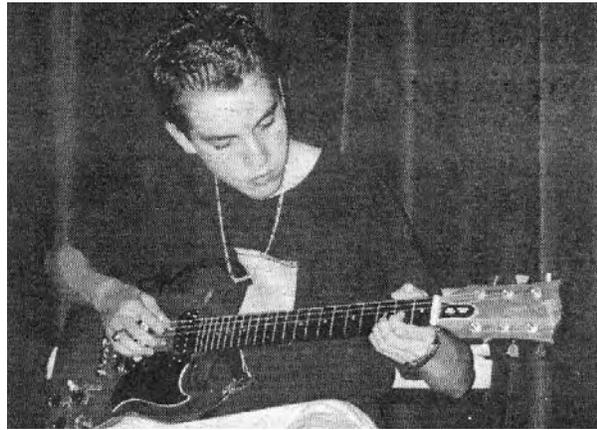
Lucille Guzzone opens the CCD Spiritual Program



Willie Blanchard reads from a scroll as he and his classmates tell the story of the life of Jesus

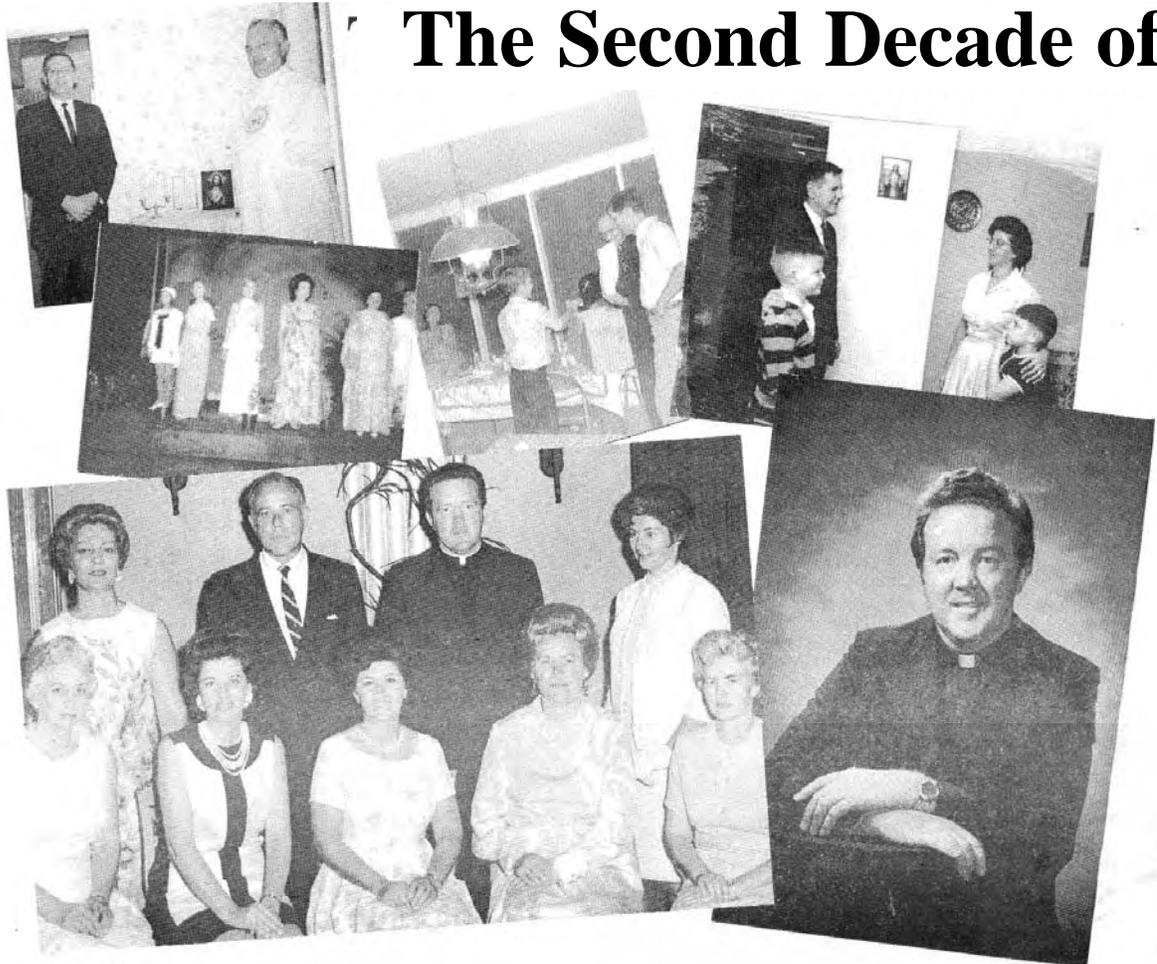


Ms. Jean O'Conner's 7th graders tell the story of the Crucifixion



Tim Dougherty, an 8th grader, performs a song on his electric guitar

The Second Decade of



by Frank and Phyllis Bauman

We now enter into the second decade of Christ the King, which consisted of two school buildings and a provincial church (now the cafeteria).

Nineteen hundred and sixty-five was the year we had dedication for Christ the King families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Many families took advantage each month of the opportunity to arrange for the enrollment while Father Elbert Evans was with us.

The Parish Council was formed in 1966 to represent members of the parish. Under pastoral direction, the Parish Council was the governing body of Christ the King.

MGM may claim to have the Cincinnati Kid, but Christ the King Parish now boasts of not one but two "Cincinnati Kids". Gregory Fay and Terry Morgan are studying for the diocesan priesthood.

In those years, our school was educating 807 students at the cost of \$130 each.

Do you remember Father William Bauman (no relation) who came to us from Gainesville when Father John Flood left us for St. Johns Church? He was with us for just a short time, eight months to be exact, and was the spiritual director of the Junior Praesidium whose president was Miss Louise Steadman. The Legionaries said of Father Bauman "who, by the way,

is probably the only Catholic priest who could put up with us continually week after week without losing his religion."

Other priests that served us well in our parish were:

Father Flood
 Father Russo
 Father Orr
 Father David Page
 Father James Lara
 Father Charles Thein
 Father Forthofer
 Father Michael Devine
 Father Walter Buecke
 Father Patrick Foley
 Father Bodie (now Pastor of St. Pius)

I don't know if that's the whole list, or when they came to us, or when they left us. I hope I did not leave anyone out.

In sports, 1967 brought Christ the King's Midget Baseball team in the Southern Midget League a record of 15 wins, 21 losses and 1 tie. Charlie Foy coached the team to a fourth place finish.

Father Larkin presented trophies to Christ the King Little League at a banquet held at the home of Frank and Phyllis Bauman.

In July of 1967 a school board was organized by Father Larkin. This was done to establish and enforce policy for the school. The

board was composed of the principal and lay people in the parish.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was taken over by the women in 1967. Phyllis Bauman was chairwoman and Helen Foy, Marty Mitchell and Marion Mann were on the committee. There were 353 children in the program.

Christ the King was the first parish in Florida to have a lay theologian, Mr. Pat Farmer. He was director of adult education and became a member of Christ the King staff.

In October 1967 we started a Pre-Cana course which was held at Bishop Kenny High School. It was held for a six week period and would continue twice a year as a permanent program.

The Christian Family Movement was brought into our parish in September 1967. It was geared toward the involvement of husband and wife in becoming better Christians through study, dialogue and action. Although the movement was well known throughout the country, our group at Christ the King was the first to start this movement in the state of Florida.

September 21, 1967, Father Larkin was elevated to Monsignor in the Holy Roman Catholic Church. A reception was given on this occasion and Monsignor Larkin still preferred to be called father (which we did). We were filled with much joy for this humble man.

During November of 1967 our parish became the first in Jacksonville to hold a Mass in a home with six couples and twenty-four children. One of the participants stated, "This is the most meaningful Mass I ever attended." It was reminiscent of what Mass may have been like in the early Christian years. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Bridge hosted the event.

Our joy soon changed to sadness when he lowered the boom on us a few Sundays later, telling us that he accepted the assignment as pastor at St. Cecelia Church in Clearwater. After the great shock wore off a little, and we wiped the tears from our eyes, we began to realize how selfish our feelings really were. He had such great potential and he really needed to go on.

Monsignor Larkin had shown us the way and had given us the tools to carry on. Now we could prove to him how great a leader he was by continuing the work he started. We knew we musn't let him down for he had always shown great respect for us. We needed to give the new pastor our wholehearted support and truly make Monsignor Larkin proud of the people at Christ the King.

This open letter appeared in our newsletter which was first printed in December 1966 (nothing like our present *Courier*), "now that he is leaving, I know it would make him

Christ the King



so very happy to know that we are going to try our best to give the new pastor our full support and cooperation. We know that there will never be another Thomas Larkin for us. He built something great from nothing. We will all want to keep Christ the King one of the greatest churches in Florida, and we all will continue to grow in strength and wisdom. We know that we shall see him from time to time. After all, Clearwater is not that far away. We wish you much happiness and health, dear Monsignor Larkin."

I know this was the feeling of all the parishioners.

Father Larkin served us for 13 years. At a testimonial Dinner/Dance given in honor of Monsignor Larkin on January 27, 1968, Bruce Manning wrote and delivered this speech for all the parishioners of Christ the King.

The thousands of members of Father Larkin's family in Christ the King Parish are most grateful to our good and generous God who has in His Divine Providence seen fit to permit us to enjoy this association for more than a decade.

Through this good priest, this good shepherd, we of his immediate spiritual family know we have been brought closer to God. We feel closer kinship to our Creator. We see more clearly His love for us. Our love for Him has been nurtured

and strengthened by Father Larkin's love for us.

We have seen this love spread out from our parish to far off places.

We have seen our brothers depart for other parishes, carrying torches of dedication to Mother Church which they have ignited at the altars of Christ the King Church.

We have seen priests and religious go forth from amongst us and serve parishes elsewhere with a love of God made stronger and more useful because of their service here as companions and helpers of our dedicated pastor. We have it from their own lips, that rarely, if ever, have they seen the spirit, the cooperation, the unity behind the banner of Christ Our King which they discovered with delight to be so manifest here. They have studied and profited by association with his parish and have carried the lessons far and wide.

And now we see our beloved pastor, himself, going forth from us, summoned to make his pastoral devotion and dramatic leadership available to others thirsting for a closer understanding of the meaningfulness of God to the Children of God.

We cannot be selfish. We can no longer monopolize this great talent. We must share with our brothers. This we do with thankfulness to God, gratitude to ecclesiastical superiors who have permitted us

the privilege of these years with him, and with a devout belief that as members ourselves of the Mystical Body we too, will prosper through the efforts of Father Larkin no matter where he may be laboring for Christ our King.

Welcome New Pastor

But time goes on and we welcomed our new pastor Monsignor John J. Lenihan, who came to us on August 26, 1968 from St. Patrick's Church.

We came to know Monsignor Lenihan well because Phyllis was President of the Guild at the time, and he depended on the guild very much.

I can remember when he would come to our home to discuss some matters with Phyllis. He would make himself at home and put his feet up on our coffee table. Phyllis would tell him to get them off the table.... Now!!

I believe Monsignor Lenihan was sent to our parish to get us out of debt. He depended on the women who still ran bazaars, Queen for a Day and any other function that would raise money. I can remember one bazaar when it poured rain, but the women stayed at their booths and the raffle was a trip to Hawaii. (I think that they still came out in the black.)

I can remember the formal dances the ladies would give. Ladies were dressed in their finery, gentlemen in tuxedos or business

suits, live music. They were such gala affairs, but after several years expenses got too heavy and so the dances came to an end.

Monsignor Lenihan was a busy man. Not only was he our pastor, but he had many other jobs as well. For instance Spiritual Director, Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses, establishing a new mission in the northeast section of Jacksonville, Consultant of the Diocese of St. Augustine, and was involved in Catholic Charities. He still maintained the operations of Christ the King and was always involved in the happenings of the church.

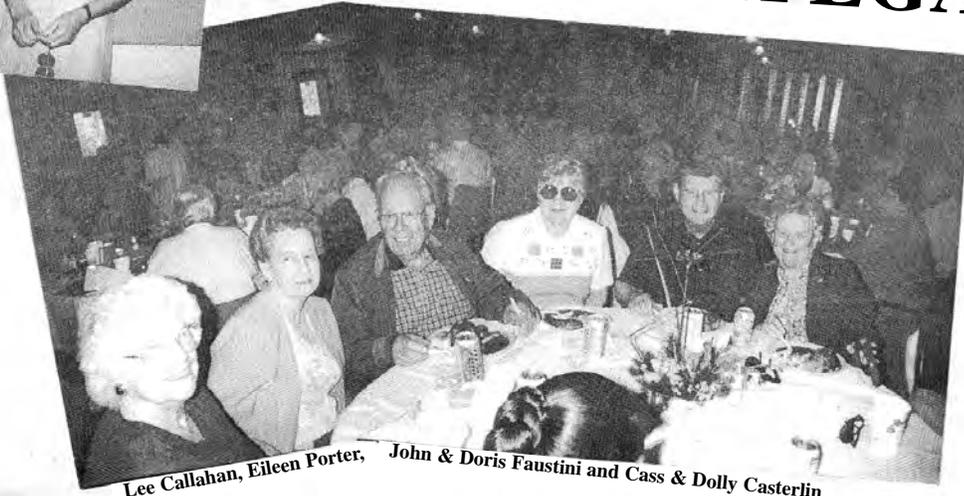
Father Sheppard

But the priest I remember most was Father Sheppard. There were three couples that would have him over for dinner on numerous occasions. They were Midge and Mike Holzworth, and Marie and George Catarious, and us. Father Sheppard truly must have kissed the Blarney Stone many times, for he had the gift of telling funny stories and singing Irish songs. They were such delightful evenings, but because he was a heavy smoker, cancer hit him hard. The area by what is now the cafeteria with tables and benches was named Sheppard Square in his memory.

At the end of 1974, Christ the King had two school buildings and a provincial church.



AN IRISH BLESSING, SISTER ENDA EGAN



Lee Callahan, Eileen Porter, John & Doris Faustini and Cass & Dolly Casterlin

by Eileen Porter

Sister Enda Egan was born January 1, 1940, in Castleton County, West Ireland. One of six children, four boys and two girls, Enda was the oldest girl, although she had three older brothers. Her father, a policeman, was stationed away from home during her childhood. Her mother was a teacher in the local school.

Since the Egan family lived in the country, the only opportunity to go to high school was to attend a boarding school. So she and her sister went to Mercy Convent, Navan, County Meath to continue their education. This was a natural choice since her mother and three aunts had been educated there.

Her first thoughts of joining a convent were when she was in the fifth grade, and throughout her teaching career she preferred to teach that grade.

During her last two years at Mercy Convent, she talked to a priest about her wish to become a nun and he encouraged her to follow her dream. During her last year in high school, she told her father at Easter about her decision. (Her mother had died the previous year.)

Her father also encouraged her to follow her dream, however, many years later she discovered her father's dream was a different one for his oldest daughter. He had hoped that she would marry and raise a family and live near him. The following September she entered the convent and became a Sister of Mercy.

On August 23, 1961, shortly after taking her vows, Sister Enda, Sister Therese and another nun came to San Jose Parish in Jacksonville. All three nuns still wore their black and white habits and one week after they arrived, they began teaching. This was somewhat of a challenge—things were a little different than in their native Ireland. Sister Enda was assigned to teach first grade and she tells the story of one student who went home and told his mother that he would have to change schools because his teacher didn't speak English. It didn't take long, however, for the students and their parents to find out how really blessed they were (her gifts of love, caring and goodness were shown to all.)

Sister Enda wanted to finish her education and so she enrolled in evening classes at Jacksonville University and in 1967 received a BA Degree. She was then appointed principal at San Jose Catholic School, where she became a teaching principal, as she enjoyed the close contact with the students. During this time she continued her classes at Jacksonville University and was awarded her Masters Degree in 1974. During the summer months Sister Enda was able to attend Barry College in Miami and Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

In 1979, Sister Enda and Sister Therese came to Christ the King where Sister Enda taught fifth grade and became an important part of Christ the King. In addition to teaching, she was active in the

Music Ministry and Religious Education.

In 1991, Father Seamus O'Flynn was transferred to Saint Anastasia in Crescent Beach. This was a small parish with great potential but much work needed to be done. Sister Enda volunteered to help Father O'Flynn on weekends and continued with her teaching at CTK. As Saint Anastasia parish grew, there was more to be done than could be accomplished on weekends, so Sister Enda decided to leave her first love, teaching, and become a full time Pastoral Associate at Saint Anastasia. To quote Father O'Flynn, "little did she know that she would hold so many positions." She is a receptionist, secretary, bookkeeper, Director of Religious Education, marriage coordinator, cantor and Eucharistic Minister. Saint Anastasia Parish, under Father O'Flynn and Sister Enda, has grown from 100 to 1,200 families. They have built a beautiful new sanctuary, as well as a rectory and social building.

On April 1, 2001, in celebration of Sister Enda's fortieth anniversary as a Sister of Mercy, and as a tribute to her services to the families of Saint Anastasia, a church picnic was held and the church membership and hundreds of Christ the King friends were invited to the celebration.

It was a beautiful day and Sister Enda happily welcomed each guest. After a scrumptious lunch served alfresco, and with Father O'Flynn as master of ceremonies, the formal program began. Honored guests were on a tented stage, and all were welcomed by the president of the

Parish Council. Special tribute was paid to Sister Enda for her years of faithful service, by a dear friend Theresa Hadjopolos, followed by Sister Enda's brother, Father Finn Egan, and the pastor, Father O'Flynn.

As a wonderful climax to the celebration, Mr. Ernie Kopp, a member of the Fortieth Anniversary Committee, presented Sister Enda with a new car to replace a ten year old one. Of course, Sister Enda was thrilled with the gift of a new car and particularly because it served as an expression of gratitude and love these people feel for her years of dedicated service.

Father O'Flynn closed the day's activities with a prayer and a blessing for all. It is the prayer of all those who know and love Sister Enda that she will be able to have many years to continue the work she loves—serving others.

The following is a prayer written by Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy and a favorite of Sister Enda:

"My God, I am yours for time and eternity. Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of your loving providence with the most lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity. Grant me, most merciful Redeemer, that whatever You ordain or permit may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart all the painful anxiety; suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You, my God and my all, in Your everlasting kingdom. Amen."

Seven Last Words

by Ron Lynch

If you were in the church on Good Friday at 12:30 p.m., you heard Father Neil Carr speak of Christ's seven last words. He has spoken of them at Easter in our parish before, at the Saint Augustine Cathedral, and other sites around the country. They weren't just seven words; they were the last statements from Christ's mouth while on the cross before he died. Father Carr repeated each statement and then offered his interpretation of their meanings and what they could mean in our lives.

The first "word" was "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." While Christ hung dying on the cross, He gazed out at the back of the temple and asked His eternal Father to forgive those who had nailed Him to the cross to die. He showed by this example that one may desire to forgive others even while suffering at their hands. Father Carr stated that forgiveness is the only answer to resentment.

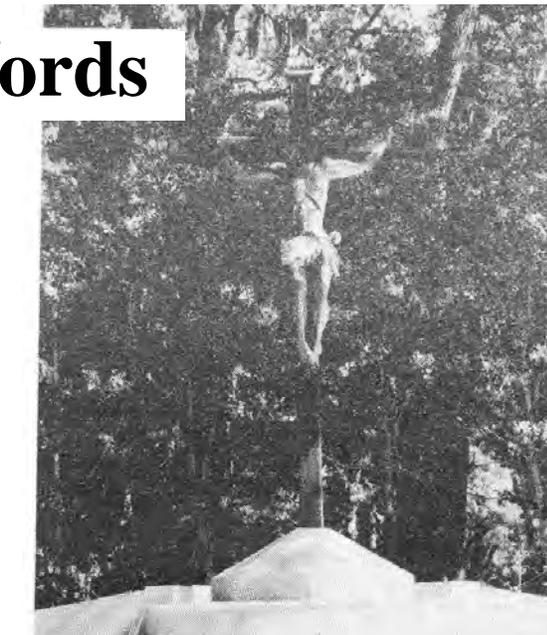
The second "word" was "Today you will be with Me in paradise." He said this to the thief hanging on the cross to his right. It's easy to imagine the joy of someone who would hear these words of salvation. This thief was saved because of his eleventh hour confession from the cross. He received the promise from Christ to be with Him in paradise because he repented. Jesus was looking out at the Cenacle, the place of the Last

Supper and considering what it meant to Him. Father Carr said we should realize the Mass is a form of this Last Supper and it should be said for what it is. The Holy Eucharist is the food of people on a journey.

As His mother, Mary, and Saint John stood at the foot of the cross, Christ spoke the third "word." It was "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother." Here, Jesus gives the care of His mother over to Saint John. This can be seen as an attitude of acceptance. Consider how the power of attitude affects our lives. Our attitude determines how we think, how we feel, and how we act.

"My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?" was the fourth "word" spoken by Jesus on the cross. He demonstrated His feeling of estrangement from God the Father. We can relate to this reaction by reflecting on our own feelings of being estranged from God. As we try to understand why one should or shouldn't suffer this estrangement, we should be aware that there are many who feel this estrangement often. Even the greatest saints experienced periods of great "dryness" in their prayer lives where they felt they could not be in touch with God. We should always remember that we could never be perfect. Even though our contact with God seems to be broken, it isn't.

The fifth "word" our Lord spoke from the cross was "I thirst." Father Carr felt this illustrated a sense of Christ's unfulfilled



mission because He hadn't been able to attract the whole world to His teachings. Father Carr also talked about our natural thirst for God. "There's never been a race or nation that didn't have some sort of yearning for a higher power that was ruling the universe." We submerge our natural thirst for God in pursuit of attachments; things we acquire that we believe give us our identity.

As Christ hung on the cross, He could see the Garden of Gethsemane where He had His final moment alone with God. His last agony in the garden was not shared by the apostles who couldn't even stay awake with Him and slept nearby while He sweated blood. He spoke the sixth "word"; "It is finished" with great sorrow.

"Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit" was the seventh and final "word" Christ spoke on the barren hill. He had always put His faith in His Father's hands. This is something we should try to emulate. A great trust is demonstrated in this last "word." There is a profound difference in belief in God and trust in God. We should not just believe in God, but also sincerely trust in Him.

Father Carr likens this to a high wire act he saw as a child. As the wirewalker pushed a wheelbarrow across the high wire, young master

Carr believed that the walker would succeed. Had he trusted the wirewalker, he would have gotten into the wheelbarrow and been pushed across by the wire walking daredevil. Father Carr believes that we should get into God's wheelbarrow and let Him push us across into eternity. If one worries about the past too much, the wheelbarrow might become unbalanced. He said many of us suffer from "terminal nostalgia" and bring the past along. The past is a "bucket of ashes" and should be discarded lest it tip God's wheelbarrow and affects our journey.

On the other hand, if we abuse our imagination and worry about the future, about all the things that are liable to happen down the road, it could tip the wheelbarrow the other way. "Stay centered in the wheelbarrow, quiet, just trusting in God. God isn't back there, He's not up there, He's in the here and now." One must live in the present and try to do what is believed God would want done.

Another anecdote Father Carr told to illustrate trust in God concerned Pope John XXIII. It is said he was up late one night in his apartment in the Vatican worrying something going on in the Church. Around 2:00 a.m. he stopped pacing and said, "God, it's Your Church. I'm going to bed."

Do you trust in God this much?

New Diocesan Stewardship Director Named

At the Diocesan Stewardship Day conference on April 3, Bishop John J. Snyder introduced the new diocesan Stewardship Director, Jose de Jesus. The current director, Francis N. "Dutch" Scholtz, who brought sacrificial giving to the diocese 16 years ago, will retire May 31.

Jose will begin his new position on June 2. Jose is the executive director of the diocesan campaign, "The Opportunity of a Lifetime," and is a member of the Guidance in Giving firm that conducted the feasibility study and the capital campaign for the diocese.

Jose and his wife, Rosemary, have two sons, ten and five years old. They are originally from Brooklyn, New York. Rosemary is a nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center. They are happy to be here and have joined San Jose Parish where Jose participates in the music ministry as guitarist and singer.

Jose has had experience assisting parishes and dioceses to promote and help implement

stewardship. He conducts workshops in English and Spanish. He also has a remarkable understanding and facility for computer use in stewardship and campaign work. In addition Jose has worked as coordinator of arts and music curriculum in New York and has been involved in youth ministry training youth leaders.

But probably one of the most significant reasons that the search committee unanimously recommended Jose to Bishop Snyder for the stewardship position was his deep spirituality, knowledge, love of scripture and commitment to stewardship. He was chosen by a committee of seventeen pastors and lay leaders from across the diocese.

Please give him your support and be sure to call on him for assistance in promoting stewardship or conducting a capital campaign in your parish. No doubt Jose will take the diocese to a new level of stewardship involvement and commitment, and we are fortunate to have him with us.

Shelley B. Everett
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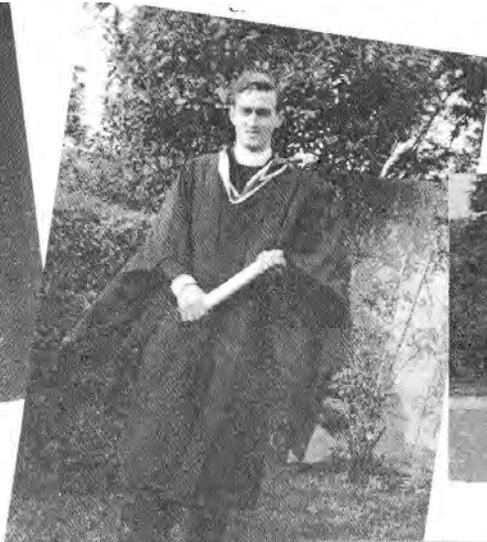
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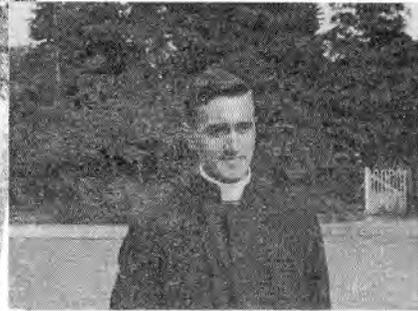


Brian Carey

Graduated from University in
1953



“Keep Your



Rockwell College in 1954



Father Brian in 1972, Bura Mission, Kenya



Brother Brendan and Brian at Brian's First Holy Communion

By Ron Lynch

Father Brian Carey says these are words to live by. His example has certainly illustrated his belief in them. Just ask those who have benefitted from his Bible study groups.

Brian Carey was born in Dublin, Ireland in June of 1931 as one of seven children. His mother was what we now call a homemaker or “stay at home mom.” Dad traveled around Ireland selling radios, at first, and eventually televisions and home appliances.

Young Brian Carey was a regular kid who was small, light and enjoyed soccer, Gaelic football, hurling, tennis and cricket. He and his friends went to the beach during summer vacations and rowed boats on the River Liffey. For some reason, though, he never picked up an interest in fishing. He was told to stay away from the water by his parents and, like most young boys, ignored this command. The war years came and his father, with gasoline supplies nonexistent, had to find work near home and became an excellent chef. This talented man turned simple ingredients into wonderful meals. He preferred to work alone, however, and didn't enjoy anyone's company while he prepared food.

Role models abounded for young Brian. While his father is an obvious choice, he also enjoyed good examples by his mother's devout parents, various teachers, kindly church ushers and priests. He was connected with the Church

quite a bit, attended school in a neighboring parish and served Mass from age ten through high school. His realization of his vocation occurred while he was serving Mass for Father Dennis (Cowboy) Courtney. The nickname “cowboy” came from the rakish angle with which he wore his hat. This priest was very focused and “into it” when he said Mass. Brian told Mom and Dad of his decision soon after serving that particular Mass. They, of course, knew that their young son would soon abandon this desire for priesthood in favor of something else. One of the ushers from church invited Brian to go to the Holy Ghost seminary on a Sunday afternoon to visit his seminarian son. He accepted the invitation and while there, met Father Bob Hudson. Young master Carey didn't know it at the time, but Father Hudson was the Director of Vocations for the seminary. Father Hudson, as well as other priests and brothers visited Brian's high school on Fridays to speak during religion classes and his position became obvious. Upon his graduation from high school he was disappointed when his Dad asked him what he wanted to do with his life. Brian Carey had told him years ago. He wanted to be a priest.

His mother's parents lived next door and he spent a lot of time with them. They were daily communicants at a time when this was not so common and had a great faith influence on his life. There were always missionary magazines around their home and they were

filled with stories of missions around the world. Brian read many of them and was interested in the idea of missionary work. He interviewed with the Holy Ghost Fathers and was accepted to their seminary.

There was no psychological testing for entrance as there is now. One of the directors at the seminary said there were three things he looked for in a candidate for the priesthood: Does he say his prayers?; can he be lived with?; and does he do a day's work? He spent nine years at the seminary before his ordination. Father Carey spent a year after ordination continuing his studies and helping out in various parishes. He was then given a brief interview where he noted his preference for assignment in East Africa. Most everyone else wanted West African postings in Nigeria because it was a thriving mission territory at that time. In fact the biggest diocesan seminary in the world is in Nigeria and it is now the third largest Province of Holy Ghost Fathers. He was sent in 1960 to the Diocese of Mombasa and Zanzibar. This diocese covered half of Kenya and the island of Zanzibar and was the first in East Africa.

One of the most challenging men Father Carey met in Kenya was ex-chief Yohana Mwanyolo. He was an exemplary Christian and very strict with himself where the faith was concerned. He made a great impression on Father Carey.

Another memorable man in Kenya was a catechist who spent time in jail for refusing to contribute money for the purchase

of an animal meant for a pagan sacrifice. This was certainly a great example of faith and determination. A young, eighth grade educated, highly intelligent catechist also impressed Father Carey with his deep faith and commitment to the Church. The catechists lived in the villages and were responsible for the primary evangelization of the people. The priests were supervisors of the catechists and maintained the parishes.

After fifteen years in Kenya and many bouts of malaria, Father Carey was sent back to Ireland in 1975 for medical care. He had been infected so many times he now had chronic malaria. His destination was a tropical hospital in Ireland where he spent a month receiving eradication treatment. He was told he couldn't go back anywhere there was a chance he could come down with malaria again so he could not return to Africa. This was quite a blow to him because he felt that his life's work should be there and he began to grieve for the loss of this work.

A parish in Dublin City got Father Carey then. He spent four years there with three Catholic schools in the parish: a girls' elementary, a boys' elementary, and a girls' high school. One of the greatest changes he had to get used to was the tremendous waste he saw every day. It angered and saddened him to see half-used notebooks and half-used pencils thrown away. He had recently left a place where the students used twigs to write in the dirt on the ground in order to learn to write.

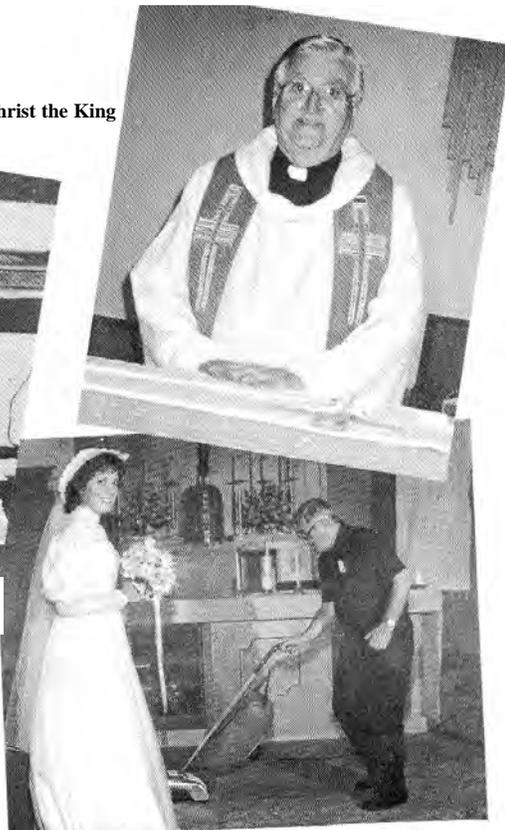
Eyes on Jesus”

Father Brian Carey at Christ the King



Father Brian celebrating a home Mass

Ordination Day, July 13, 1958



“She doesn’t vacuum”

Father does last minute clean-up at St. Helena in Ellendale, ND in 1985

The floor in a school auditorium was refinished so it could be used for dance class. In his heart, Father Carey knew the cost of refinishing the floor would have built three or four churches back in Africa. It took him a while to adjust to the idea of his being in a different world from the one he had left. Grief at his loss only made him more volatile. As he realized that his grieving affected his ability to objectively look at the situation he was in, he began to recover his equilibrium.

When Father Carey left the parish in Dublin, he was assigned to a rural parish in central Ireland where the associate pastor was ill and needed to go to hospital. It was an assignment he really enjoyed. Unfortunately, after six months, the pastor died and the bishop sent back the recovered associate pastor to take over the parish.

The bishop then asked Father Carey’s superiors if Father Carey could remain in his diocese and received a positive reply. Father Carey was told on a Saturday morning that he was remaining in the diocese. The following Saturday he received a phone call telling him he was going to Jamestown, North Dakota, U.S.A. wherever that was!

Going to America? Father Carey’s first experience with America was the difficulty in entering the country. He could have quickly gotten a visitor’s visa but then would have had to leave after six months. A “green card” was what he needed in order to stay and work here. It took four months for him to secure it.

He had to get fingerprints taken by the local detective in rural Ireland. The detective told him that he had been waiting for years to

fingerprint a priest! Then fingerprints had to be gotten from Kenya. This took weeks. The United States then had to conduct its own investigation for months before Father Carey was finally allowed to come over and work here.

In North Dakota, Father Carey had a relatively uneventful time. Some of the weather was noteworthy with temperatures (including wind chill) as low as minus ninety-three degrees. He had an orientation class upon arrival that explained how bare skin feels cold only down to minus twenty-five degrees. According to the law, all motor vehicles had to be winterized by October 15th of each year. During part of the winter the average daily temperature was minus thirty-five degrees. A saving grace of this assignment was the change of seasons. He greatly enjoyed the change of seasons during the nine years he was there.

His next assignment was in Jacksonville, Florida where he spent two years at Saint Matthew’s Parish on the Westside. Christ the King Parish was his final stop in Jacksonville. He has been with us for about ten years and has been a part of our physical and spiritual growth as a parish.

Father Carey has seen enlargements of the school, the addition of the *Gathering Area* to the church, and improvements to our social halls, the Shirley David and Parish Hall as well as additions to the Kingdome. There have been several changes of pastors. There has been a remarkable growth in the number of our ministries, the stewardship of time, talent and treasure. In fact Christ the King became a ‘Total Stewardship Parish’ in his time with us. He saw

the publication of the first issue of the Christ the King Courier bear fruit. He’s been an important part of the spiritual awakening of our parish through affiliations with RCIA, CCD, and his weekly group study and discussion of the Bible.

Secularism is the most serious challenge today’s Catholics have to face in Father Carey’s opinion. He believes that secularism makes it difficult for people to be themselves when it comes to their expression of faith. Overt expressions of faith seems to be frowned upon in our society and this silences many people.

Materialism is another major challenge all Catholics must deal with on a day to day basis. We sometimes forget the simple things we should be grateful for. Father Carey really appreciates being able to take a long shower every morning. He remembers many times in Africa where one’s daily personal hygiene had to be accomplished with one gallon of water. Pressure put on average people to have “things” such as cars, boats, houses, all the gadgets is intimidating and distorts our goals. Many of us strive to acquire the material things that have become our goals. These material things are neither good nor bad, but the focus we put on them in our lives can blind us to our true goal of achieving salvation.

In Father Carey’s younger days, the Catechism was learned by rote. Things seemed to be pretty well set by its teachings. However, a religious professor of Father Carey’s acquaintance once said, “the Catechism is a set of answers to questions nobody asks.” “It’s a pity,” Father Carey says, “that things aren’t so clearly put for our children and adults.” There seems

to be, he feels, a more freewheeling and liberal kind of attitude about our faith today.

Parents have a more difficult time today with their children than during his childhood. They must compete with many more outside influences such as television, computer and video games, and a more secular outlook on life. The family does not seem to be as large an influence on today’s children as it was in years past.

If Father Carey had one wish for himself, it would be that his eternal salvation is assured. His wish for America is for more men to be drawn to the priesthood. He is distressed that so few men see this vocation as being for them.

Father Carey used to enjoy golfing until diabetes caused him to stop playing the sport. He also used to be quite a photographer. Video cameras don’t interest him since he has never become what he calls a “techie”. He used to draw when he was younger and this may be something he takes up again when he retires.

Father Carey will retire in June and return to Ireland to live in a Holy Ghost community. With prospects for only one room as his future home, he is concerned how to dispose of all the “stuff” he has accumulated over the years.

He expressed doubts about the importance and the relevance of this interview with him. We at the Courier knew it was only proper to both celebrate his retirement and express regret at our loss of him through this article. He has been a special man and priest to the parishioners of Christ the King and, we believe, to everyone who has been blessed to know him. While we heed his advice to “keep your eyes on Jesus,” we will miss him.

Christ the King ...An Excellent Parish

Paul Wilkes is director of the Parish/Congregation Study and a creative writing professor at University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He is the author of the soon-to-be-published book, *Excellent Catholic Parishes: the Guide to Best Places and Practices*.

by Lillian Villas Abelardo

Christ the King has the honor of being listed as one of the top Catholic parishes in the United States in a soon-to-be-released book, *Excellent Catholic Parishes: the Guide to Best Places and Practices*, by Paul Wilkes.

The book emanated from the results of a groundbreaking, two-year nationwide study based at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Wilkes and his team of researchers combed the country looking for churches that "nurtured the spirit, welcomed and yet challenged, both preached and - more importantly - lived the Good News." Size, location, denominational affiliation or lack of one were not important, but a certain "habit of being" was. Christ the King met these criteria.

"The churches we found are simply wonderful places to be. They not only take care of their members and welcome the newcomer, but also reach out generously into the world. I was absolutely amazed with the abundance of goodness and greatness that was found," Wilkes said.

Wilkes and his team compiled a list of criteria in consultation with many sources: pastoral and church institutes, scholars who study church life, cultural and ethnic groups, as well as religion writers and reporters.

The study found excellence in parishes rich and poor, urban and rural, of various ethnic groups and all shapes and sizes. These parishes possess common traits that provide good homes for the spirit, welcome, preach, and more significantly, live the Gospel.

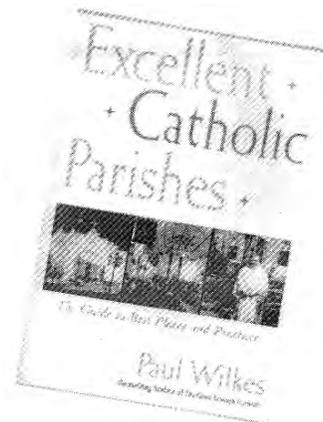
Paul Wilkes believes three vital ingredients are inherent in successful congregations. First, trust and dependence on God, who at the last Supper admonished us not to worry for He is with us. Second, faith in each other and the realization of the need for everyone to get involved, for we are the Church. Last, but most important, imagination; a parish that is open not only to new members, but also has the willingness and flexibility to make way for new ideas.

There are other points of excellence noted, and those involved in them believe they can be replicated. These include innovative worship, catering to the needs of different cultures pulling it

together into one faith community, large laity involvement in church ministries and outreach, provision of educational programs, strong music ministry geared to enhance more active Mass participation at Mass through songs, handbells, violins, and other musical instruments, creativity and flexibility in programs that project the image or reflection of living the Gospel as a whole.

We, the Christ the King parishioners, are proud and aware that our parish has been exemplary in the success of our stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Tithing enables our parish to provide tuition-free education at the elementary level extending to the secondary level at Bishop Kenny High School, and for special needs students at Morning Star School.

A close look at our ministries and programs reveals that we have something to offer for parishioners of all ages and needs. Masses are offered in English, Vietnamese, Maronite; and at LIFE TEEN in an exciting, lighthearted, contemporary ambiance to suit the needs of our brothers and sisters in the parish. For spiritual development and maintenance daily Eucharistic Adoration, religion classes such as RCIA, Bible Study, CCD, Faith Sharing small groups, and Landings are there for the asking. Out reach is not limited to the Legion of Mary's parish registration, door-to-door visitations, taking the Holy Eucharist to the sick and homebound. We reach out by providing emergency assistance through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, feeding the hungry at the I.M. Sulzbacher Homeless Center, and alleviating medical needs



through the "We Care" clinic conducted by volunteer physicians, nurses and other ancillary help.

Parish life offers other programs like the M.O.M.S. Ministry, Widows and Widowers, the Prayer Network, Christ the King Council of Catholic Women, that are God centered, compassionate, community enhancing and enjoyable.

Paul Wilkes, a Methodist who became a Catholic convert and best-selling author of the "Good Enough Catholic", hopes that the books will serve as a survival guide for those working in parishes and those looking for a parish home.

The parishioners at Christ the King find the parish as the center of their spiritual lives where they find strength and support from the action of others and encouragement from its pastor, priests and nun. Our pastor, Father Robert McDermott, is a strong leader who has been receptive to new ideas and

programs, and stands behind his parishioners. Through our clergymen, parish staff, various ministries, weekly Church Bulletin and quarterly newspaper, *Christ the King Courier*, outreach and communication to the parishioners have been effective. Our liturgical schedules, constant and periodic activities and special events provide nourishment not only for the soul, but likewise for the mind and body.

Is it any wonder that Christ the King has been rated a . . . **Parish Par Excellence!!**

Editor's Note: In the United States of America there are 19,627 Catholic parishes and 2,965 missions. Christ the King Catholic Church was chosen as one of 300 named excellent out of 22,592. This is something of which to be proud ~ it isn't just its leaders it is the Church, the people of God, that makes it so.

Portugal, Spain & France A Pilgrim's Journal



by Imogene T. Praxedes

I feel so blessed to have gone on a wonderful pilgrimage with a great group of pilgrims. I am still in awe of what transpired during this exciting trip. Father Thanh provided great spiritual guidance. For ten spirit-filled days our pilgrimage took us to three glorious countries and eleven exciting cities.

I met a new group of friends from Jacksonville, Chicago and California. These friends became my family. From March 3 to March 13, 2001, seventeen pilgrims with seventeen reasons embarked on a personal journey of faith and prayer. We shared our lives and our dreams and hopefully, one day will meet again.

March 4

Lisbon, Portugal did not welcome us with very good weather. It was rainy and a bit chilly. Rui, our tour guide, informed us that it had been raining since September and there had been floods. Being a Mediterranean country, Portugal is usually hot and dry during this time of year.

Being a Sunday, Father Thanh was quite concerned about having Mass. Since we arrived so late in the day it was impossible to have Mass at the chapel. Fortunately, our hotel was willing to let us use their conference room.

We were still strangers when we entered that room but Father Thanh wisely created an

atmosphere of openness and acceptance. He asked each one of us what we were expecting from this trip. Expectations ranged from lifelong dreams, spiritual enlightenment, personal illnesses, promises made, personal tragedy, and to be blessed by the Virgin Mother. The impact of that session was most apparent during the Sign of Peace. The hugs and handshakes were heartfelt and sincere. The wisdom of Father Thanh's query was clear - we walked out of that room as friends.

March 5

It was still raining when we checked out of the hotel. I was excited about our bus trip and I didn't care where we were going. All I knew was that I was in Europe and I was going to savor everything - the culture, the people, the geography, and the history. I fell in love with Lisbon despite the brevity of our stay. It was perhaps the richness of its history that created such an impact on me.

As we toured the city, Rui explained the vast history of this beautiful city. Lisbon's name comes from the legend that Ulysses started the city and was called *Ulysses Pona* (City of Ulysses). Throughout the years, Romans, Barbarians, Muslims, and Christians have inhabited Lisbon. You would be hard pressed not to notice these influences in the architecture and the language.

Lisbon is the capital of Portugal and it is in a valley surrounded by seven hills. There are elevators that will take you up to some of these hills. Liberty Avenue is the longest avenue in Lisbon and you will find cobblestones that date back to the Roman days. The influence of Christianity is evident in the cathedrals and basilicas that can be found throughout the city. It was in one of these cathedrals that we had the first of our eight daily Masses.

The Mass that Father held was very meaningful because he expressed his hope that each member of the group would listen to the readings and apply them throughout the trip. We should reflect on the life of Saint Anthony and be inspired by it.

The cathedral is named after Saint Anthony de Padua. Although he is associated with the Italian city, Saint Anthony was a native of Lisbon. He was born in 1195 and was named Ferdinand of Burgundy at baptism. The cathedral was built by his father and as a young boy, Ferdinand would go there and pray. During these visits to the church he would have visions of evil. Ferdinand would then leave impressions of crosses on the church walls and they are still visible to this day.

Ferdinand changed his name to Anthony after joining the Franciscan Order. He begged to be allowed to sail to Morocco in order to follow the footsteps of five martyred Franciscans. It was

perhaps through divine intervention that he found his way to Sicily. It is said that when the heretics of Rimini, Italy refused to listen to God's word, Saint Anthony was determined to preach to anyone who would listen. He proceeded to the seashore and there he stood at the edge of the water and began to preach. Miraculously, heads of countless fish broke the surface of the water and listened intently to the Franciscan priest. The story of this first miracle of Saint Anthony is immortalized on blue and white glazed tiles plastered on a wall of the cathedral.

After Mass we proceeded to the Church of the Holy Miracle located in a small farming town called Santarem. This church is famous for the Bleeding Host. The story is about a woman whose life is made miserable by her unfaithful husband. She decides to consult a sorceress regarding her husband. The sorceress agrees to help if the woman brings her a consecrated Host. After receiving the Host, the woman takes it out of her mouth, and wraps it in her veil. As she leaves the church, drops of blood fell from the veil. Upon seeing this she runs home and hides the Holy Eucharist in a wooden chest.

The husband returns later that day. In the middle of the night, the couple awakens to find mysterious rays of light penetrating through the chest. The wife confesses her sin to her husband and both of them spend the rest of the night on their knees in adoration.

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The original facade of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain

Father Thanh celebrating a Healing Mass at St. Michael's Chapel at Lourdes

Upon learning about the Bleeding Host, the parish priest took the Holy Eucharist to the Church of Saint Stephan (now known as the Church of the Holy Miracle) where it was placed in a small case of wax.

When the tabernacle was opened for adoration another miracle had taken place. The wax case had broken into pieces and the Holy Sacrament was encased in a beautiful crystal pyx. The pyx was placed in a silver monstrance and can be seen to this day.

Our group was able to view this relic up close. It is located above the altar and we had to climb a flight of stairs to see it. Only one person can view it at a time. Each person climbs up a steel ladder to adore the holy miracle. As I stood on those steps soaking in the moment it occurred to me why I was on that pilgrimage. I understood then that each stop along the way was an affirmation of my faith. *Caritas*, love of God, was my motivation.

Next stop was Fatima.

As our bus passed the Santuario de Fatima the impact of the moment was stunning. There are two huge photos of Francisco and Jacinta placed on the facade of the basilica. The square was understandably empty since it had been raining continuously.

When we arrived at the hotel we had a few hours to spare before meeting for dinner. Father Thanh decided to visit the Santuario in the rain while my mother and I decided to follow our womanly instincts and shop! It didn't take us long to master the conversion of dollars to Escudos. Amazing!

After dinner a few of us went to pray the rosary at the Chapel of the Apparitions. There were very few people but it was a solemn event.

March 6

It was still raining when we awoke that Tuesday morning. It occurred to me that perhaps God was testing us and that this was our penance.

During breakfast Father Thanh mentioned that he prayed for better weather. I think we were all praying for that knowing we would be

having Mass at the Chapel of the Apparitions at 3:30 p.m.

The story of Fatima began in 1916, one year before the first apparition of Our Lady. On a hillside called Loca de Cabeco the Angel of Peace appeared to three little shepherds. Their names were Lucia, and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta. Three times the angel appeared telling them to always pray. Then on May 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared to the children for the first time. From the months of May to October 1917, Our Lady appeared six times. She emphasized that she wanted everyone to pray and she wanted a chapel to be built in her honor. On the day of her last apparition the miracle of the sun occurred. According to witnesses the sun danced in the sky and they were able to look at it without harming their eyes.

Rui took us on a tour of the important places to see in Fatima. We first went to the parish church dedicated to Saint Anthony. This is where the three children were baptized. Across the street is a cemetery where the bodies of Jacinta and Francisco were once buried. Their bodies are now permanently entombed in the Basilica of Fatima.

Our next stop was to Aljustrel where we visited the homes of the three children. It is located half a mile from the parish church. The home of Jacinta and Francisco is small and very simple. We were fortunate to have met their uncle who was in charge of the place.

Lucia's home is further down the road and it, too, is simple and small. There is a well in back of Lucia's home where the second apparition of the angel occurred.

Due to the rain we were not able to see the Way of the Cross. This was constructed along the path the children took to get from Aljustrel to Cova da Iria. This Way of the Cross was constructed with gifts from the Hungarian people.

We then went to Valinhos where a chapel was erected in memory of the fourth apparition, which occurred on August 19, 1917. Further up the path we visited Loca de Cabeco the site where the Angel of Peace appeared twice to the children.

The weather didn't hamper us from spending our money. Rui took

us to a wholesaler of religious artifacts. He gave us about 1 to 1 1/2 hours to go crazy. It was so hard deciding what to buy and how much to buy. There were so many things to choose from that it became a chore. After I finally decided on something, Mom and I had to hurry and get a quick lunch. Since Father Thanh was going to say Mass at 3:30 Rui wanted to get back to the hotel so we would have time to freshen up and put away the things we bought.

It seemed Father Thanh had a direct line to our Blessed Mother because his prayer for better weather was answered. That afternoon as we walked to the Santuario the sun was beginning to come out and that meant the photographer could take our group picture with the Basilica in the background. I think it turned out well.

The chapel was built on the spot where the children saw the apparition of the Blessed Mother. A statue of Our Lady is encased in glass and sits on a marble pillar that has been placed on the exact spot where Our Lady appeared. It is easy to understand why Father Thanh's Mass was inspiring and uplifting. He had the Blessed Mother watching over him.

I had been so engrossed during the Mass that I had not realized that more pilgrims had piled into the chapel. It was only when I was reading the Prayer of the Faithful that I was surprised to see more faces.

After Mass, as I was leaving the chapel three people asked about Father Thanh. They wanted to meet him and tell him what a wonderful Mass it was. I was so proud of him!

We then proceeded to the colonnade for the Stations of the Cross. Father encouraged everyone to participate in reading the stations. We dispersed afterwards.

Mom and I went to light our candles and to place our petitions at the chapel. Then we filled up our containers with Fatima water. We visited the rectory to have Mass said for my father and father-in-law. Then we ended our day with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

After dinner I decided to go back and end my visit to Fatima by praying the rosary at the Chapel of Apparitions.

March 7

We left early to reach our next destination - Avila, Spain

We made a brief stop in Salamanca, Spain. It is located about 97 kilometers from Avila. We stopped to take pictures of the Plaza Mayor. The plaza was quite empty because it was raining so we did not see many students from the University of Salamanca. We did see the city hall and the medallions on the facade of the buildings.

As we left the city we saw a beautiful cathedral whose doors were examples of the plateresque style. Although they seemed to be made of gold they were really stones that have a very high concentration of iron.

Our next stop was at Alba de Tormes. This is where Saint Teresa of Avila is buried. It is the Church of the Convent of Saint Teresa of Avila.

This is where we had our third Mass. It is a beautiful church and it was here that I felt so inspired. The relics of Saint Teresa are found on either side of the altar. The left side is where the relic of her left arm is. The right side holds the relic of the heart. The heart is interesting because it is said to have a deep fissure. According to Saint Teresa an angel visited her in a vision and thrust a sword in her heart.

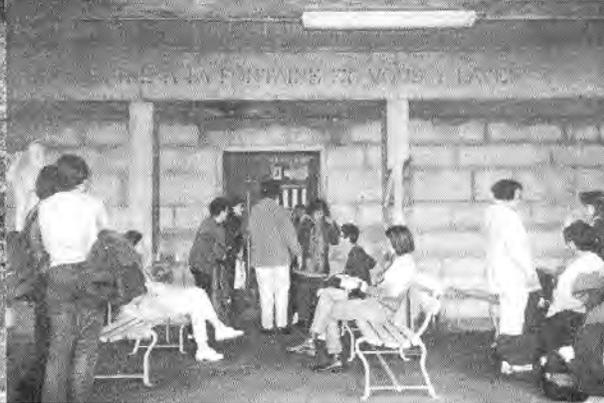
Her body is buried above the altar and it is said that the stains on the marble altar are from the blood of Saint Teresa.

In his homily, Father Thanh mentions a phrase attributed to Saint Teresa. The phrase is, "*Solo Dios basta!*" Roughly translated it means, "God alone is enough!" Sometimes we forget *caritas* (love for God) and instead resort to *cupiditas* (love for material things). According to Father Thanh that is what is so admirable about Saint Teresa. In spite of being from a wealthy family Saint Teresa chose to forego material wealth and pursue spiritual exactitude.

We arrived at Alveoli in the afternoon. It was a sight to behold. This walled city reminded me of the Muscidae in Israel. Perhaps they do not look alike but their



Grotto of Massabielle, Lourdes, France



The Baths, Lourdes

functions were probably the same, which was to keep enemies out, and the citizens safe. I felt as if I was transported to another place and time. Awesome!

March 8

Rui took us on a walking tour of Alveoli. It was obvious that most of the houses looked like fortresses. Rui explained that people back then had a fear of being invaded so they decided to build their homes like mini-fortresses.

We arrived at the Church of Saint Teresa of Alveoli. Alveoli is her birthplace. The church is built on the site of her childhood home. It still has the garden where she used to play with her brother, Rodrigo.

We had our fourth daily Mass at this site. A few steps away from the church's door is a museum dedicated to Saint Teresa.

After Mass we boarded the bus to travel to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial. This magnificent building is located 50 kilometers northwest of Madrid. This monastery is in the village of El Escorial in the Guadarrama Mountains.

It is easy to understand why this three-part fortress/monument is sometimes called the Eighth Wonder of the World. Not only is it huge but it is so impressive.

After King Phillip II defeated the French in 1557, he wanted to build a palace that would have a monastery, a pantheon, a hunting pavilion, a school, and a cathedral. The Spanish victory against France coincided with the feast day of Saint Lawrence (San Lorenzo) on August 10. Thus the name Monasterio de San Lorenzo Del Escorial.

Saint Lawrence is one of the most venerated martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is said that his death brought about numerous conversions of Romans to the Catholic faith. The Roman emperor, Valerian, was so infuriated by Saint Lawrence that he wanted the martyr to suffer a torturous death. So, Valerian ordered that Saint Lawrence be roasted to death on a grille. According to witnesses, Lawrence had so much love for God that he

barely felt the flames. Saint Lawrence's martyrdom so impressed King Phillip II that he chose the grille to be the symbol of the monastery.

We were told that if you look at the structure from a plane you would see that the whole creation is shaped like a grille. There are even structures that form the handle of the grille.

Our tour consisted of the basilica, the bedrooms of the king and his daughters located on the left and right side of the altar, and the *Panteon de los Reyes* (Burial vault of the Kings). We were told that in order to visit every nook and cranny of this breathtaking place, it would take about a week to do so. What we saw was just an appetizer, so to speak.

After lunch we proceeded to the *Valle de Los Caidos* (Valley of the Fallen). This is a memorial to all those who defended Spain, during the Spanish Civil War. There is a gigantic cross that can be seen from afar. There are sculptures spread throughout this mountain range depicting the Stations of the Cross.

This main basilica was carved into a mountain. Once you enter the basilica it is not very impressive because the pews and the altar are so far from the main doors. But when you start the long walk, it becomes interesting because there are chapels on both sides of the walkway. Each chapel is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There is a chapel of the Lady of Mt. Carmel and the chapel of the Lady of Loretto, to name a few. Then there are the enormous tapestries that depict the Apocalypse.

The Spanish dictator, General Francisco Franco commissioned this memorial during the 1940's. It took about 18 to 20 years to finish and prisoners of the Spanish Civil War did most of the work. The crypt hold the remains of those who fought in that war along with the body of General Franco.

March 9

We left Alveoli to proceed to Zaragoza.

Madrid was not part of our itinerary so when Rui asked if we wanted to see Madrid we thought he was kidding. Of course we

wanted to see Madrid! Are you crazy?

Rui took us to see the Palacio Real (Royal Palace). King Carlos and his family do not live here. They use the palace only for special events. We were then dropped off at the plaza to take pictures of the palace and to shop for about 30 minutes.

We were then taken on a tour of the city. Madrid is a beautiful metropolis with so much class and elegance. I would say it is like looking at a well-dressed, beautiful and intellectual woman decked in priceless jewelry. What little I saw of Madrid just whetted my appetite. I am hoping to go back and enjoy its rich history.

We then proceeded to Zaragoza, which is located in the Aragon province of Spain. Zaragoza was part of our pilgrimage because it is where the Marian shrine, Our Lady of the Pillar, is located. The story of this shrine is very interesting. It is said that after the death and resurrection of Jesus, His mother, Mary, went to visit a disciple of Jesus of Zaragoza. His name was Saint James. Mary had traveled from the Holy Land to Zaragoza by boat via the Ebro River.

It is said that Mary brought with her a pillar made of jasper and was accompanied by 1,000 angels. This pillar was to be placed in a church that Mary had asked Saint James to build. This is considered the first Marian shrine.

Jasper did not exist in Europe then and could be found only in the Holy Land. Another interesting note about the pillar is that it emits an intense smell of roses. Our group can attest to that. We had the opportunity to kiss the pillar and the smell was quite strong. There is no scientific explanation for this phenomenon.

The shrine is considered both a basilica and a cathedral. It is huge and when you enter you are struck at how busy it is. There were groups like us admiring the place and then there were those praying oblivious to the chaos surrounding them.

Rui was able to get permission for Father Thanh to say Mass in the St. Anthony de Padue chapel. Father was so excited about this chapel because it was built to abide

by the rules of the Tridentine Masses before Vatican II. The vestment that Father wore was different from the vestments he now wears. But the most significant difference was Father was facing the altar and not us during the Mass.

March 10

We departed for Lourdes, France.

We traveled through the Basque county enjoying the beautiful mountain landscape. Our excursion took us to Tolosa, the heart of Basque country, onto Azpeitia where Saint Ignatius was born.

Born into a wealthy and powerful family, Saint Ignatius enjoyed its trappings. He was addicted to gambling and enjoyed the company of women. At the age of 30, Ignatius became an officer in the Spanish army. He had tried to lead his army in defending the fortress of Pamplona against the French. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful.

He had been injured during the fighting which resulted in a broken leg. The French were so impressed by his courage that they did not imprison him. Instead, he was taken home to the family castle of Loyola. During his recuperation Ignatius became so bored that he began reading two books. One was a book about the Saints and one was about the life of Christ. This was the beginning of his conversion.

The chapel we were privileged to have Mass in was the site of Saint Ignatius's conversion. It is located inside the castle of Loyola. Father Thanh reminded each one of us to follow Saint Ignatius and be a "soldier of Christ!" We must not only serve and revere but we must also follow Christ's example.

We continued our journey after lunch. Rui informed us that we would have to travel around the Pyrenees Mountains to reach Lourdes because of the rain. Otherwise, we could have taken the shortcut through the mountains.

Lourdes is a little town located at the foot of the Pyrenees. As we entered the town we could see the Fortified Castle that overlook it. Although the castle was open to the public we did not have time to visit it.

Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23 — Portugal, Spain & France: —

I wasn't sure what to expect from Lourdes. But I was pleased to see that it still had the feel of a small town in spite of the numerous stores and hotels. I was excited to go to the Grotto to place the petitions and to light some candles.

As our group was having dinner there was another group of pilgrims enjoying their meal. One of their spiritual leaders came up to our spiritual leader and they had a brief conversation. He told us that they were from Long Island, New York. Their group was so big that they had to have two spiritual leaders and two buses. He said, it was their last night in Lourdes and they were going to have a candlelight procession and our group was welcome to join them.

So after dinner we rushed to buy candles and hurried over to the grounds of the sanctuary. It was hard to appreciate the beauty of the place at night but it felt good to have been part of the procession.

March 11

It seems Our Mother remembered Father Thanh's prayer for good weather. We were blessed that day for the sun was out and it was a beautiful day for a walking tour of Lourdes. Rui entrusted us to Carlo, who was our guide for the day.

The story of Lourdes began on February 11, 1858. Bernadette had been gathering firewood with her sisters when she was left alone on the other side of the river Gave. Bernadette heard a loud sound and as she turned to look she saw what was to be the first of eighteen apparitions of the Blessed Mother.

Our tour started out at the Rosary Square. This is where the candlelight processions are held and there is a beautiful statue of Our Lady named The Crowned Statue. We then passed by Accueil Jean-Paul, Accueil Notre-Dame, and the Church of Saint Bernadette.

The Accueil Jean-Paul holds the administration offices and the Reconciliation Chapel. The Accueil Notre-Dame is opposite the Grotto located across the river Gave. It provides accommodations to pilgrims who are ill and disabled. The Church of Saint Bernadette is built on the exact spot where Bernadette stood during the last apparition.

We then proceeded to the other side of the river. We came to where the Baths are. This is a special place for it is said that many miraculous healings have occurred here. We then passed by the special steel casings where many pilgrims have lit candles so their petitions may be heard. Finally, we arrived at the Grotto of Massabielle.

The simplicity of this place was quite humbling. The sacredness was so evident by the way people behaved. It was so quiet and solemn in spite of it being open and spacious. There was so much reverence in the actions of those who were present.

We were not able to stay at the Grotto very long because we were scheduled to have Mass at Saint Michael's Chapel.

Father Thanh held a healing Mass. Father told us to allow all

forms of healing to occur whether they be physical, emotional, spiritual, or mental. Each one of us was anointed on our foreheads and the palms of our hands. Father also encouraged each of us to forgive and to let go of anything that was keeping us from being healed completely. It was a very powerful and uplifting Mass.

After Mass we went to the Crypt. This is also a chapel where daily adoration is held during the winter months. Then we visited the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The altar of this basilica is built directly on top of the Grotto. It is a magnificent structure with stained glass windows and banners made by pilgrims from all over the world. Throughout the day one can hear the pealing of bells from the Basilica playing, "Ave Maria of Lourdes."

It was almost lunchtime when we finished our tour. We were told to meet at the Rosary Square at 3:30p.m.. This would give everyone the chance to go to the baths, which opened at 2:30p.m.

Mom and I decided to go back to the grotto to accomplish a few things. We bought candles and then proceeded to the Grotto. We paused to stand by Mary's statue and we exited still touching the rock. We then moved on to the steel casings to light our candles and to ask that our petitions be heard. We then went on to the taps to fill our bottles with spring water. There is a sign above the taps that says, "Wash your face, and drink this water and pray to God to purify your heart." It serves as a reminder of Bernadette's insistence that one must have faith and one must pray in order for the water to have any effect. After we filled up our containers we decided to have lunch.

After lunch, Mom and I rushed back to the sanctuary so Mom could join our friends at the baths. I was so glad that she wanted to do this.

As I waited for the group to finish I went back to the Grotto. I sat for a few moments just soaking in the experience. I watched pilgrims of different nationalities go to the Grotto and lovingly touch and kiss the rock of Massabielle. There were people in wheelchairs praying with such passion there were tears streaming down their faces. I then thought of how wonderful it would be if every person had that kind of passion and faith all the time. I then prayed my rosary and meditated for a while.

My friends were just coming out when I got back to the baths. They were telling me how cold the water was. They said it felt like being immersed in a bucket of ice. They seemed to have enjoyed the experience.

Carlos then met us at our meeting place. He took us to the underground Basilica, which he called the Super Bowl. This is where the pilgrims have the candlelight procession and Mass when it rains. It is big enough to hold thousands and thousands of people.

That afternoon we went on a tour of Bernadette's birthplace and

the Cachot, prison cell, that Bernadette's family lived in from 1857 to 1858. We then walked the streets of Lourdes to visit the parish church. This parish church, which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart, replaced the old parish church that was demolished in 1905. The new church houses the Baptismal font that was used at Bernadette's baptism. We then headed back to the hotel.

It had been a long and spirit-filled day.

March 12

Our pilgrimage was about to come to an end.

We woke up very early so we could have our last Mass before our journey to Barcelona, Spain. At 7:00 a.m. we gathered at Saint Michael's Chapel again. Unlike the blissful quality of the previous day's Mass, this one seemed to take on a melancholy feeling. Perhaps we were a bit tired from the previous day's activities or perhaps it was because it was our last day together. I would like to think it was the latter.

We left Lourdes at about 8:15 a.m. Our next destination was Montserrat, Spain.

Our ride took about six hours. Along the way we stopped to admire the walled city of Carcassonne from afar. Although we were many miles away that did not diminish the picturesque impact of this ancient medieval fortress.

We arrived in Barcelona around 3:00 p.m. Rui first took us to see the Sagrada Familia Church. Apparently this church is considered a symbolic monument for Barcelona. It is really a unique building. The facade of the old building is quite intricate and I would say it looked like a giant tree that had designs and statues carved into it. It is also dark in color.

The new part of the church is quite modern. The walls are smoother and more defined. They have lightened the color of the restored walls.

Although both styles are interesting I still prefer the old facade. I thought it had more character. It has cost the city of Barcelona a lot of money to restore this structure and it seems it will cost a lot more to finish the project and take many more years to realize Antonio Gaudi's architectural vision.

Rui then took us on a tour of Barcelona. Barcelona is the most prosperous commercial center of Spain. It is also closely associated with the architectural vision of Antonio Gaudi. His use of the Art Nouveau style could be seen in many of the buildings of downtown Barcelona.

We also visited the site of the 1992 Summer Olympics. Many of the Olympic locations were built atop a mountain overlooking the city of Barcelona.

We then left Barcelona and headed towards the spiritual community of Montserrat. It is located 30 kilometers northwest of Barcelona.

At first we thought Rui was joking when he pointed to a

mountain and said, "We are going up that mountain." As we got to the foot of the mountain we realized he was serious. Some of us were a bit queasy about the trip up the mountain, but I loved it. The view was incredible. Father said this was probably as close as we can possibly get to heaven.

When we got to the top Rui took us to the Basilica where the statue of the Black Virgin is located. Unfortunately, we had arrived too late to go up and embrace the Virgin and Child. From our hotel room I could see the lights from the towns below. I felt sad that we could not enjoy the ambiance of this magnificent sanctuary. This place was perfect for a retreat.

Father Thanh called a meeting after dinner. Since it was our last night together he thought it would be the best way to end our pilgrimage with everybody sharing his or her thoughts and feelings. It was such a great session. Even Rui joined us.

Father Thanh had the best sharing of all. He made us laugh and he made us reflect. He had nicknames for everyone but the most memorable ones were Candlewoman for Felicidad, Deacon for Paul, Backseat Driver for Manny and Mamicita for Conchita. He shared his thoughts about each one of us and how he wished the best for all of us. As much as we wanted to reminisce and talk about the time we had together we knew we had a 3:30 a.m. wake-up call. So, we said our goodnights and went to our rooms.

March 13

We left Montserrat around five a.m. I was feeling sad that the pilgrimage had come to an end. There would be no more Masses in different cities and no more saying of the rosary in five languages (Vietnamese, English, Tagalog, Portuguese, and Spanish.) No more history lessons from Rui and no more packing and unpacking at hotels. No more Escudos, Pesetas, and Francs. No more shopping and no more wake-up calls.

At our first Mass in Lisbon I spoke of wanting to find spiritual enlightenment on this trip. Then at Santarem while meditating in front of the Holy Miracle, I realized that caritas is what motivated me. Then during our sharing at Montserrat I confessed that although I did find spiritual enlightenment, I believed I still had a long way to go. The lives of Saint Teresa, Saint Lawrence, Saint Anthony, and Saint Ignatius will be the compasses that will point me in the right direction.

As we neared Barcelona airport, Rui refused to tell us goodbye. He said he preferred, "See you next time." So, hopefully we will have the opportunity to see him again.

As we said our good-byes to the group from California, we promised to keep in touch and hopefully, see each other again.

Thus, at 7:45 a.m. twelve pilgrims headed home to Jacksonville, eager to share their stories and perhaps, inspire others to pursue their own spiritual paths.

INSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

by Katie Knowsit

It's the first Monday of the month and that means your Parish Council holds their monthly meeting in the Rectory. The Council is made up of all the ministries at Christ the King. There are over 60 different ministries and each one of them has the privilege to send a representative to the Council meeting. They may speak about the happenings of their particular ministry or perhaps voice a concern. Who will be there? You never know. You can be sure though that there are always some goodies on the tables, thanks to Pat Thomas. Sometimes all the seats at the table are filled and late comers find themselves scrambling for the chairs against the wall. Lately, maybe because it's Spring, there is no problem at being seated at the table.

What goes on at a Parish Council meeting? The first thing, after we all sign in, is to be greeted by the current President, Mike Mackin. We generally have a reading from Scripture and then Father McDermott has a question from the Scripture that relates to our everyday life, and we are required to give a response. No one is exempted and I, for one, am always glad when Father starts on the other side of the table, as it gives one a chance to think of an answer. We usually have quite a few laughs by the time we complete this first portion of the meeting.

Now it's time for business and the prepared agenda is followed

precisely. We always start with the Old Business, a look back at the accomplishments of the previous month. This usually includes news about the church, the school, parish activities relating to us all, and the Courier.

Father McDermott is the first one to speak about any events pertinent to his sphere. He is quite pleased with the progress that is being made on the school renovation of the library and the new computer labs. Speaking on the Opportunity of a Lifetime, Father remarked that he was especially gratified by the generosity of the parishioners. We not only reached our goal but surpassed it, which means that Christ the King Parish will be a beneficiary of this very successful campaign.

Was the St. Patrick's Day Parish Dinner a success? We get an emphatic "Yes" from Pat Thomas who is our Director of Stewardship. She is quick to compliment the Knights of Columbus who did the cooking for this popular affair and to Sissy Keegan and her team for all the decorations. And while we are on the subject of parish dinners, there are plans in the works for the annual Volunteer Dinner to be held in June.

Janet Morton, the principal, is always a cheerleader for the parish school. She keeps us up to date on the activities going on in the various grades. She was ever so pleased with the response from Catholic Schools Week. Everyone pitched in to make it a great success. Mrs. Morton is always



(From left to right) Members of the Parish Council: Council President Mike Mackin, Monica Crisp, Theresa Little and Carol Black.

looking for ways for the children to become aware of the needs of others and also to lead the students to perform at their academic best.

Judy Koziolk, the parish secretary and also the editor of the *Courier*, keeps us all on our toes by reminding the ministries to have their articles in by a specified date, so that their ministry will get the proper coverage in the *Courier*. If your ministry is falling in attendance or needs an influx of new ideas, this would be the perfect opportunity to write an article to interest others about your ministry. Everybody reads the *Courier*!

After completing the Old Business, it is time for the New Business and the reports from the ministries in attendance. Last month we had representatives from MOMS, Lectors, CCD, Music, Hispanic, Life Teen, Single and Single Again, Widows and Widowers, Legion of Mary, Day

Care, Parish Nurse Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, and Stewardship. Here is where your ministry gets a chance to shine and to let others know what you are all about. If you are involved in a ministry and have not attended one of these meetings, you are missing out on a chance to exchange ideas and to fellowship with the various other ministries. Now is the time to do so. Our president's term of office is about to expire and the nominating committee is searching very diligently to find exactly the right person to fill these shoes. We need the input of all the ministries; so please plan to attend the next meeting. Katie Knowsit will take roll and look expectantly to see that your ministry representative is present. And by the way, one does not have to be a member of a ministry to attend the meeting. Everyone is welcome, so you all come, you hear!

TITHING

Our Bible Study Class studied the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians. At one of the sessions, Father Carey asked those who wanted, to write our stories on "tithing." Here are some responses that we received.

Until I joined the Catholic Church, I did not tithe. I made a very generous salary, but I never had enough to go around. Then I joined the Church and began to tithe. Now it seems we have everything we need and then some! The Lord has surely shown us the way.
~Author anonymous

Tithing was always an important issue when I was a child.

My mother was the Catholic parent who made sure that we children had a few coins every Sunday to put in the collection basket. Times were not easy then, but giving to the church was not something that was discussed, it was part of going to Mass.

As a child I didn't think about the meaning of tithing, but after all these years of seeing my mother make endless sacrifices, I know it's the right thing to do.

My husband and I have been tithing faithfully since before he became Catholic last year, and we have been blessed in so many ways.

We are part of several ministries including the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) as team members. To me, tithing completes being a part of the community of Christ the King.
~Author anonymous



ASHAMED



Since the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer are not allowed in most public schools anymore because the word "God" is mentioned, a kid in Arizona wrote a NEW school prayer.

*Now I sit me down in school, Where praying is against the golden rule
For this great nation under God, Finds mention of Him very odd.*

*If Scripture now the class recites, It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow, Becomes a Federal matter now.*

*Our hair can be purple, orange or green, That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise, Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.*

*For praying in a public hall, Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate, God's name is prohibited by the state.*

*We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks, And pierce our noses, tongues, and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible, To quote the Good Book makes me liable.*

*We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen, And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's inappropriate to teach right from wrong, We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.*

*We can get our condoms and birth controls, Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed, No word of God must reach this crowd.*

*When chaos reigns the school's a mess. So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!
Amen*

Widows/Widowers



by Isabella Fusco

Our third year of making friends and growing in faith tells us we are not alone. The Lord is always there to comfort us and give us the grace to grow in holiness. We can't go it alone; remember, you have your Church family to give you friendship and love to survive in this lonely time. We have seen friendship grow, where in the past there was no hope for us, we thought. Our Church family keeps us in touch and if anyone has a need you can depend on us. I would like to take this time to remind you we are here to help you, cheer you

and whatever it takes. You have friends in this Ministry.

We meet every second Tuesday. We try to pick a nice restaurant each time, and are open to suggestions. We hope to take a trip in the near future whether it be to the shopping mall in St. Augustine or any other suggestions you may have for short trips by bus.

I am looking for someone who may be interested in planning various activities for the group. Please call me, 724-5186 for more information.

We always enjoy every meeting. Bring a friend. We would like to see the widowers also.

Mothers Sharing

By Carol-Ann Black

Ministry Of Mothers Sharing completed its spring sessions in March. The Celebration Dinner was held on the nineteenth of the month, and our turnout was spectacular. Donna Iglesias and her committee had organized an Italian Buffet and had invited Ruby Peters of San Jose Parish to be our speaker. It was a great combination. The Olive Garden graciously donated the accompaniments to compliment our covered dish dinner. Ruby's chosen topic was about the women who were followers of Jesus, specifically Mary Magdalen. This topic is a new research effort on Ruby's part, and will be an interesting one for us to follow as she progresses in her study.

Over the weekend of March 30th and 31st, MOMS from the Saint Augustine Diocese participated in a retreat titled Sacredness of Self. While not organized by MOMS of Christ the King parish, several of the committee were indeed from our parish. Donna Simons, as regional coordinator, was the chairman and Donna Iglesias was on the committee. Other committee members were from St. Pauls at the Beach—Barbara Markowski and Gigi Carroll, and Theresa Di Fato, from St. Anastasia who is involved in the publication of the magazine *Together in Christ*.

Father John Tetlow was one of the speakers and, need I say, was excellent and inspirational. We had a second speaker, Sandra Coyle, PhD, a professor at Jacksonville University. She spoke on sacred journaling, a topic dear to the hearts of all those who have done the MOMS journey. Dr. Coyle is a member of the Ministry of Mothers Sharing at Resurrection Parish in Arlington. This retreat weekend was open to all mothers of the diocese, and received sponsorship and assistance from the recently formed Diocesan Women's Council.

The dates for the MOMS sessions in the autumn have been set for September 25th through November 13th. Opportunities for registration will be scheduled for the Sundays prior, and as usual you can call Carol-Ann (221-2642) or Donna Iglesias (725-0680).

We are forming a committee to make arrangements for improvements to the Cry Room. We have a small stash of money for this project that was earned from the raffles we did at the Mardi Gras and at our recent celebration dinner. We should be able to get this project completed fairly quickly. Any suggestions or donations—please contact Donna Iglesias.

Great joy in the Saad, House, and Frenette households. All welcomed new babies recently and Ministry of Mothers Sharing offers congratulations.

Christ the King Clinic Welcomes New Director

by Linda McCreary

Janis Polsenski is turning over the reigns as director of Christ the King Clinic after eight years of dedicated service. Janice has headed the clinic since its inception in May of 1993 and has done an outstanding job. She will be missed by both staff and patients at the clinic.

We welcome Willie Blaquiére as our new director. Willie moved from Missouri to Jacksonville with her husband in 1964. They became members of Christ the King Church when the church was in

what is now the Shirley David Hall. Over the years they had five children. Willie is now grandmother to 12 grandchildren and loves it.

Willie has been a valuable volunteer at Christ the King Clinic for the past six years, serving in the capacity of interviewer. Her work background is with the State of Florida where her most recent position was in the Department of Revenue for the Customer Service Team, Child Support Enforcement.

We look forward to continuing our service to the needy in the surrounding area.

CLINIC NEEDS PHYSICIANS



by Linda McCreary

Christ the King Clinic is in desperate need of volunteer physicians. Our clinic served 421 patients in the year 2000, an average of 35 patients per month. In order to service this number of patients in a timely manner, the clinic needs a minimum of three adult physicians and two pediatricians on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Normal clinic hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers Marian and Ed Reason are the first to arrive at 7:30 a.m. to open the doors and begin receiving patients. When they arrive, people are already lined up at the door waiting for medical attention. (The clinic is a walk in clinic and operates on a first come, first served basis.)

As patients sign in, Marian, along with her assistant Janie Bing, pulls the files and prepares the necessary paperwork. The patients then sit to wait to see the physicians. On days when the clinic has an adequate number of physicians, the patients are seen in a timely manner, and the volunteer staff is usually finished by 1:30-2:00 p.m.

On days when the clinic doesn't have enough physicians, the patients and volunteer staff have a much longer wait. For the

past few months, we have only had one to two adult physicians, and one pediatrician. This has resulted in hours of wait time for the patients. They have no choice but to wait, as they have no insurance nor enough income to go to private physicians.

Monsignor Danaher was in the clinic recently when Janis Polsenski and I were discussing the problems we have been facing. The prospects of keeping the clinic open seemed dim. Without physicians we would have to close our doors.

Monsignor said the clinic must stay open at all costs. He would pray to the Holy Spirit for help. Within an hour of his prayer, Willie Blaquiére (see article "Christ the King Clinic Welcomes New Director, this page) walked into Janis's office at the clinic and agreed to become the new director.

We have faith that there are physicians out there who want to volunteer. We would appreciate your prayers for the clinic's continued success, and if you know of a physician who might be interested in volunteering, please have the physician call Pauline Lindstrom at We Care, Monday through Friday. Her telephone number is 745-3095. Pauline will meet with the physician at his/her convenience and discuss what duties this position entails.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing: Celebration Dinner



by Kathy Nichols

I was invited to the MOMS Celebration Dinner on March 19. So was every other past-MOMS-“graduate.” We witnessed the present MOMS group take part in the same ritual. Outside it was pouring rain and had been for several days. I was rushing around after my shower, trying to get my kids’ supper made, making sure I checked their homework, and letting my husband in on what still needed to be done to get the children settled and in bed for the night.

In that last hour I was losing interest in going. Mostly because of the rain and imagining myself maneuvering from the car to the dinner hall carrying an umbrella, a potluck dish, along with my 10-pound purse ... and still look ravishing. I was also hesitant because I wasn’t sure how many people I would know. Weeks ago I had called a couple of other “oldies-but-goodies” and we all agreed to attend. I was hoping the weather hadn’t changed their minds.

Well, I was wrong. I was wrong about a lot of the notions that were going through my head. First, the downpour quieted to a sprinkle while I walked through the parking lot. And, to my surprise, I did know quite a few people, and we had a great time catching up on our news. Some of my friends were prayer partners of the MOMS that had just completed the spring program.

Overall I felt quite comfortable there, even if I was among some strangers at certain times. Watching these “new” women brought back some old memories of my past MOMS groups. I remember the joy of sharing different experiences, the friendships that developed, and the spiritual evolution of all. And I knew that these new women were no different from the women of past groups. We all had bonded in a Christ-like way.

The Shirley David Hall was transformed into a candle-lit, five-star dining room. The food was marvelous. Ruby Peters, the guest speaker, enlightened us with the topic of “Women Who Followed Christ.” Donna Simons spoke of upcoming MOMS events. Watching the facilitators “induct” the new MOMS and distinguishing their individual gifts from God, along with the recognition of their prayer partners, completed this blessed event.

As I walked back to my car I felt different. The rain had stopped. The air was clear. My attitude had done a complete turnaround. I was glad I hadn’t let my doubts and the weather stop me from attending. I believe I was spiritually moved and blessed.



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.

LITURGY

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.

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 Robert J. McDermott as recommended by the priests and staff members of the parish. Elizabeth Tadros, coordinator, 725-6745.

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.

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.

Sacristans

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

HOSPITALITY

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.

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.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Altar Society

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

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 Terry Riggs 744-7357.

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.

Seasonal 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.

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.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

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 Ann Culberhouse, 641-4183, or Claretta Lamusa 743-9998.

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 Polesnski at 384-4392.

Prayer Network

One of our newest and most rewarding ministries - praying for others in need - spiritual, health related and other. Please call Donnell Baer at 743-6174.

ORGANIZATIONS

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women (CKCCW)

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

Christ the King Courier

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

Widow/Widowers Support

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 Humbar, 396-6073.

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.

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 Pat, 722-8525.

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.

ST. VINCENT DePAUL PROGRAMS

St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Assistance

We need volunteers to work in the St. Vincent de Paul office in the rectory, providing referrals and assisting people who need immediate help. Hours are from 10 a.m. till noon Monday through Friday. Call Ernie Waller at 743-3395.

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 Ernie Waller 634-8544, x1, and leave a message.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADULTS

Bible Study

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

Faith Sharing Small Groups

Small groups of people meeting in private homes to discuss the Sunday readings and sharing how these readings relate to our daily lives. Contact Alick Hardie, 721-9188.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YOUTH

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 Director Lucille Guzzone, 724-9617, or chaplain Subdeacon Eli Shami, 714-6404.

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.

TEEN PROGRAM

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. Call Nancy Powers at 398-1961 for more information, on meeting times.

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.

Teen Stewardship

Teens share their Time, Talent and Treasure with their parish. Call Gus & Jackie Carlson at 465-6957.

Teen Stewardship Volunteers

Meet twice a year to coordinate service hours and pledges of teens. Call Jackie & Gus Carlson 465-6957.

CHILD CARE

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 SCHOOL

Christ the King Catholic School

Grades Pre-K thru 8th grade. The principal is Janet Morton. The school has many needs for volunteers on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. The school seeks assistance in the office, cafeteria, library, and clinic. Volunteers are needed as board members and business partners, room mothers, and speakers. Help with the yearly golf tournament is also needed. Call 724-2954.

SCOUTING PROGRAMS

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 981-0363.

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 Donna, 641-0698.

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.

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.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

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.

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.

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.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Blood Drive

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

Christ the King Clinic

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

Parish Nurse Ministry

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

OFFICE/RECTORY

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.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

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. Also, if you would like to contribute toward the cost associated with registering a child for a C.K.A.A. sport, call Tom Wildes, 221-1118.

Clown Ministry

Is there a *child* somewhere inside you? Interested in sharing your religion with others while having fun? The Clown Ministry is planning fun nights for the whole family. Call Janyce Jendryn, 346-5501.

Cursillo

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

K' Ceas

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 Inge Morgan, 725-1838 for information.

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 Pat Bianco, 743-4999.

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.

Marriage Encounter

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

Pre Cana/Engaged Encounter

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

Sharin O' The Green



Dennis and Linda Stoddard



Dolores Bianco, Marge Stiles, Inge Morgan and Jean Sell



Grace & Ward Berkey



Neil & Eileen Porter



Tony Balsamo & Pat Thomas

Bill & Helen Damato



by Eileen Porter

Knights with their colorful 4th degree sashes and their ladies in glittery gowns set the stage for a gala evening for the seventh annual "Sharin O' the Green" banquet. The event, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Charities, was held in the ballroom of the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel on March 3rd.

The evening began with a social hour allowing guests to greet one another and renew old friendships. The invocation was delivered by the Knights of Columbus State Chaplain, Reverend Father Edward Booth, and a delicious dinner was served.

Past Grand Knight Bob Esperancilla was master of

ceremonies and introduced guests at the head table. The principal address was delivered by Florida State Deputy Dennis Stoddard, who addressed the reasons for this fund raiser, which is to assist women in crisis situations. They provide assistance to the volunteers who manage the Crisis Pregnancy Center and Abused Women and Children's Shelters throughout our state.

Following Sir Knight Stoddard's address, the dancing began, with music provided by Vic Paci and Lynn and their three piece band. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all and was for a meaningful and worthwhile cause.

Can You Find 16 Books of the Bible in this Paragraph?



I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers.

To others it was a real job. We wanted it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really 16 books of the Bible in this story. One preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes, but it took him 3 weeks to find the 16th one.

See page 43 for answers - don't peek.

Five Wishes

by Claretta Lamusga

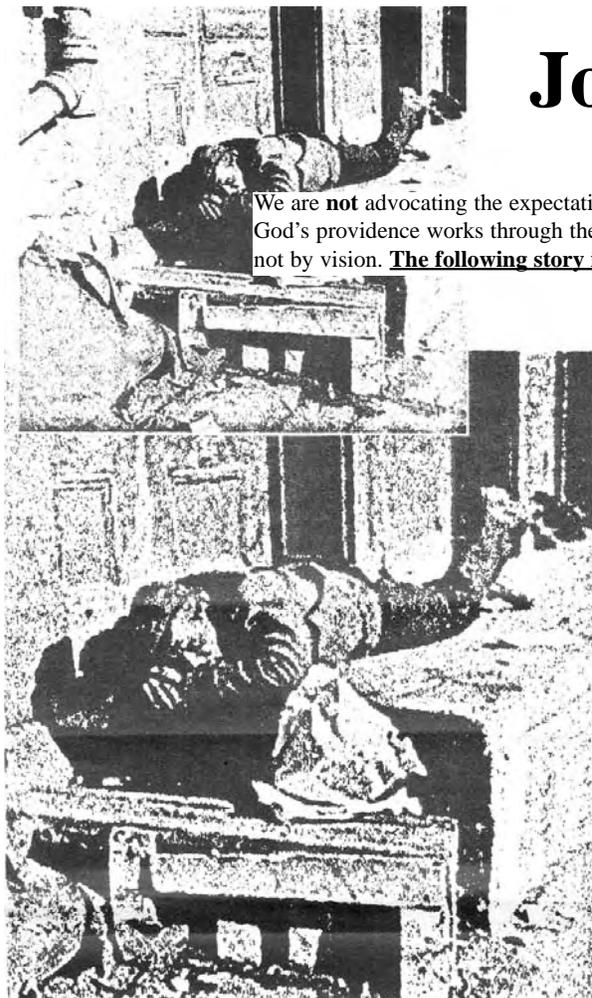
On March 29, 2001, Lois Anne Isabel (a former Christ the King parishioner) was the guest speaker at our Council of Catholic Women's meeting. She is a registered nurse and has been with Hospice of Northeast Florida for the past several years.

The topic for the evening was "Five Wishes," a very comprehensive guide to making

your last healthcare decisions *exactly* what you want them to be. All attendees received booklets with step by step "fill in the blank" questions. This type of living will does not require a notarized signature to be legal. Anyone wishing to receive one of these booklets can do so by calling 1-888-594-7473.

At the end of the evening a delicious dessert was served by Circle 1, Saint Robert's Circle.

Joseph's Journeys



We are **not** advocating the expectation of visions or extraordinary interventions of God in our lives. God's providence works through the ordinary-ness of our lives. We are called to live by faith and not by vision. **The following story is strictly for your enjoyment.**

you another day on this earth. Thy will be done. Amen.

Herbert continued to shiver and shut his eyes, hoping sleep would come and rescue him from the cold. Instead, a bright light filled up the darkness and pushed through his eyelids. He opened his eyes and the high beams of the headlights blinded him. Using a hand, he shielded his eyes and saw the dark shape of a man, the light like an aura around him. The car turned and it took a few moments to adjust to the darkness. Herbert rubbed at his eyes and jumped when a warm hand touched his freezing hand.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you," the man said.

He wore blue jeans and a green down jacket. The light from the street lamp was enough to make out his beard; long, dark brown, and soft looking. It melded nicely with the shoulder-length hair and olive skin. Herbert appreciated the kind smile, but it was his eyes that grabbed him. They, like his beard, were soft ... and admiring. How could he admire a bum, Herbert wondered? A calmness washed over him.

"Here," the man said.

Coffee. Hot and lots of sugar, just the way he liked it. Then a wool blanket. The man curled it around his back and between the coffee and wool, Herbert was warm and cozy.

The man began to walk away.

"Sir."

"Yes," the man replied, stopping to face Herbert again.

"Who are you?"

"I'm Joseph, son of David. And you?"

"Herbert, son of Henry," he said. He stared at Joseph for a moment, then added, "Are you the answer to my prayer?"

"You will see the morning, Herbert, son of Henry. And many more. God has his plan and it includes you. Peace be with you."

"And also with you," Herbert replied.

He took a large gulp of hot coffee, savored the taste with closed eyes, and when he looked up, he was alone. The coffee was in his hand, the blanket neatly wrapped around his shoulders, all evidence that what happened was real, and when Herbert looked into the crisp, star-filled sky he said, "Amen."

Matthew Payton hurried as best he could through the Union Street traffic after a long day at the office.

He worked in the oldest profession ... a tax collector; and oh, how people loathed him, and he them. Weaving his way around a slow driver, Matthew loosened his tie and unbuttoned his dress shirt collar. As much as people hated his profession, he hated this part of town. It wasn't only the traffic he faced from the bus station to the expressway that bugged him, it was the homeless people who walked the streets looking for a handout. Every time he got caught at a red light there was one of them ... waiting ... watching ... ready to pounce. All he drove was a Corolla. Did they think because he wore a tie he had extra money to hand out? With one boy in college and a girl in high school, there was little money to go around, let alone extra to give away.

The light turned red, the one next to the dreaded bar. Matthew came to a stop and realized his window was down. Too late.

"Spare change?" asked the man with a wool blanket around him. He wore layers of torn and tattered clothes, a mixture of jeans and cotton shirts. The blanket looked new and Matthew wondered where the man stole it. He tried not to look but the homeless man's eyes were like fire-burning beacons. The light turned green and Matthew lamely shrugged at the poor man and hit the gas, relieved that he didn't have to rummage for change, or worse, pull out his wallet. *Too dangerous*, he thought.

Besides, he was in a hurry to get to Home Depot. A noisy toilet had kept him up half the night. It was always something. The wife, the house, the kids, or church; one, if not all, was picking his wallet. Was there no end, he wondered?

Matthew could tell that Spring was around the corner as he pulled into the parking lot. The home improvement store was abuzz with activity, people hauling soil, sod, plants, fences, wood, and paint. *How do they find the time?* That was a good question. Life at home was much like life at work: put out this fire or mend that fence, work this emergency or come to someone's rescue. *When is someone going to rescue me?*

He nearly jumped when a hand touched his shoulder. Turning, Matthew faced Joseph and stepped back, unsure of this man with the long hair, beard and orange apron. Joseph stuck out his hand and in it was the toilet part Matthew needed.

"How did you know?" Matthew asked.

"You needed a rescue ... right?" His eyes stretched wide as

by Bill Dougherty

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following is the first in a series of fictional stories of Saint Joseph, husband of our Most Blessed Virgin Mary, and stepfather to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Saint Joseph has returned to walk the earth, to aid those in need, to spread the Good News, and proclaim that God is with us ... always.*

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matt.6:19-21)

Herbert Johnson curled himself into a fetal ball, begging the cold northeast wind to stop blowing, shivering with all he had under the few cardboard boxes he scrounged out of the back of a dumpster. It was March in Florida ... who ordered this weather, he thought. Tucked back inside a store doorway he couldn't escape the wind chill that dropped the night air well below freezing.

He was so tired, especially after walking mile after endless mile, begging for food, a drink, a few spare coins from drivers on Union Street, and rarely getting a glance by those who shunned his black skin and disheveled appearance.

His fingers were numb and he blew into them. Someone stole his gloves two days ago and wasn't it all too coincidental that the temperature dropped. The homeless shelter was full, so there was no choice but to find other shelter and make do. This was his life - the way he lived it the last ten years - on the streets and making do. Even so, as his fifty years of life hung heavy on him, he still kept to his routine; one which included nightly prayer. The words didn't leave his lips, he said them in his head; God would hear them.

Oh heavenly Father, I pray to thee this night, this cold, cold night, that you might come to my aid and see me through until the light. You are my Lord and will always be my Lord, no matter my plight. I beseech thee in your son's name, Jesus, the Christ, and beg your forgiveness for my sins. I thank you for this day, for these boxes you gave to keep the wind mostly away, and for the sandwich you helped me find with these boxes in that dumpster. Keep me safe Lord through the night that I may pray to

A Cure for a Cynical Heart

Matthew gave his rescuer a closer inspection.

"You help where you can," Joseph added.

A wave of guilt flooded Matthew. His face flushed and he began to sway; a habit he picked up when he knew he was in trouble. The odd thing was that he didn't know what he was in trouble for.

"I have to go," he said. "Thank you." Matthew waved the part at Joseph.

"God is with you," Joseph said.

Matthew stopped after only taking three steps. He turned, but Joseph was gone.

On the way home down Monument Road he saw the same homeless man in the wool blanket. How was that possible? He was just downtown only twenty minutes ago. What was he doing here?

A car horn honked behind Matthew and he turned his head to look back. When he faced front the homeless man was right in front of him, crossing the street where he shouldn't have been and Matthew couldn't stop the car in time.

The car shook as the homeless man and the Corolla met with a thud and the wool blanket flew into the air. It took only a second to shift the car into park and rush out the driver's door. There was blood coming from a gash on the man's forehead and some from his ears and nose.

"Oh, God. What have I done."

Matthew paced in the waiting area at Memorial Hospital's emergency room. He followed the ambulance and the man was still unconscious when they left the accident scene. As he walked back and forth he could feel the eyes of the other people in the waiting area. He needed some air but couldn't take the chance on missing the doctor.

"That's right, I hit him," he said, unable to control his emotions any longer. The others waiting looked down at their feet or out a nearby window. Nosey people, Matthew thought.

He paced for nearly thirty minutes when a resident, barely old enough to be practicing medicine, through Matthew, came out of a treatment area.

"Family?" the resident asked.

While young, he had a pleasant face and warm demeanor. He could use a smaller white lab coat, Matthew considered as he eyed the lengthy jacket.

"No, not family. I'm the guy who hit him."

"Oh."

"Will he be okay?"

"The cut on his head will heal fine. He has a pretty serious concussion. We'll keep him

overnight for observation. He's gonna have a whale of a headache."

"Could I see him?"

"Oh, I don't know. You're not family."

"Please, just to apologize."

"Okay, but just a couple minutes. He needs to rest."

"Thanks."

Matthew hustled through the treatment room door and the man was lying in bed, a white hospital gown that looked a lot newer and cleaner than the clothes he'd been wearing covered him. There was a large white bandage around his head and his eyes seemed glassed over, a haze from the concussion he gave him, Matthew realized. He approached the injured man with caution.

"Who are you?" the man asked.

"Matthew. I hit you with my car. I'm very sorry."

"Wait," the man said and his hand rushed to his head as a shot of pain jolted him. He regained his composure and said, "I saw you today."

"Downtown," Matthew answered. "You asked me for money and I just drove away."

"Don't fret yourself about that. Happens all the time. It's sort of like sales, sometimes you make it, sometimes you don't."

"What do you know about sales?"

"Probably as much as you know about collecting taxes."

Matthew froze. He looked behind him and then all around the bright room. All the white, from the sheets to the walls to the lights, was hurting his eyes. For a second he was sure there was a blinking sign somewhere identifying him as a **TAX COLLECTOR**. He was speechless. When he looked back, there was an extended hand. Matthew took it and shook the man's hand.

"Herbert, son of Henry. Peace be with you Matthew."

Matthew ripped his hand away. "How do you know my name? What I do?"

"The two go together," Herbert said.

"Look, I just came in to apologize." He began to reach for his wallet. "If I can help you in any way..."

"Please don't," Herbert said.

"But..."

"I couldn't take your treasure, especially when you feel obligated. It's not the same."

"Not the same as what?" Matthew asked.

"God is with you, Matthew, son of Thomas."

"That's my father."

"You come from a faithful family, don't you?"

"How do you know all this? How could you know we went to church? I've never met you."

"You wanted to be rescued?"

"Wait, the store ... how?" "You just go home and sleep on it. Cause

sleep is what I'm gonna do. I'm very tired."

Matthew turned as the door opened behind him, as if on cue, and there was the young doctor.

"Time to let my patient rest."

It felt like his face would burst if it stretched any more. This wasn't possible. Did everyone know everything about him? What was going on? The doctor's gentle hand grabbed his arm and guided him out to the waiting area.

"He'll probably be released tomorrow, before noon, if you want to visit him again. He'll be in a regular room."

Again Matthew was speechless. He seriously doubted he would visit Herbert. He walked out, got into the Corolla and drove home.

The news was on, but Matthew wasn't interested. He couldn't even tell his wife Theresa what happened to him, even though she asked why he was late getting home. He mentioned about picking up the part for the toilet, but instead of going to fix the bathroom appliance, he drifted to his favorite recliner and the television.

Nadine, his daughter, her dark hair dangling straight to the middle of her back, beamed at her dad as she approached. He didn't reciprocate.

"Are you okay, Dad?"

"Yeah," Matthew said, but the sound of his voice said otherwise.

"I need ten bucks," she followed.

Here it comes, time to suck the wallet dry again, he thought.

"What now, movies? The mall?"

"No, we're collecting for the LaVilla Homeless Shelter."

"Excuse me." It came out louder than he wanted.

"Dad, I'm not always thinking about me. This is a good cause."

"So where's your money then?"

Nadine frowned. "I'm just trying to help."

"Then go volunteer."

"Whatever," she replied, turned and left in a huff.

Guilt began to bubble up from his gut and the acid was foul in his mouth. He stood, walked to the kitchen and drank a large glass of water. It did little to improve his disposition.

Matthew said nothing at dinner and didn't even kiss his wife goodnight before going to bed. Sleep wouldn't come and he heard Herbert in his head, "God is with you."

Well if God was with him, how come he hit Herbert? How come Herbert wanted money before but wouldn't take it later. *Obligated*. But he was just trying to help. If all these people would just leave him alone and quit sticking their hand in his wallet, then things would be fine.

He tossed and turned and finally drifted to sleep. But with sleep came the dream. In it he followed a man who had the same olive skin as the man in the store. This was a long ago place, somewhere in the Middle East. The man was at a small wooden table and there was a line of people waiting. They handed him money and made a mark on a piece of paper. A tax collector, Matthew realized. None of the people were happy. One man came up, he was old, had trouble walking, and seemed agitated.

"Who do you think you are? I work my whole life just so you can pick my wallet? Where is the justice in that?"

"Why do you store up treasures here on earth?" the man said and laughed at the older gentlemen. "Don't you know where your heart is?"

Matthew woke suddenly and sat up. What a weird dream. And it stuck with him. He couldn't sleep. He drank more water, rinsed his face in the bathroom, laid back down, and tossed and turned some more. Nothing seemed to help. A brief thought of prayer entered his mind, but he brushed it aside. He couldn't remember the last time he prayed, and besides, what did he have to pray for? No one was sick or dying? He wasn't destitute. His family was in good health, they had a roof over their heads and food on the table. What else was there?

Still no sleep. He thought about work, about things he needed to do around the house, about anything; but nothing bored him enough to bring on sleep. The red numbers cut through the darkness shouting at him that if he didn't sleep soon, the coming work day would be torture.

The sun came up and he had coffee. Theresa left with Nadine, both concerned at his poor appearance, but he assured them that a good night's rest tonight would make everything new again. As soon as they were out the door, he paced along the kitchen floor and drank more coffee. His mind was a jumble of thoughts and to his surprise, he found himself holding the phone. He dialed work and said he would not be collecting any taxes today. He should feel guilty about playing hooky, but there were more important matters to attend to.

The drive to Home Depot was short, but he had to do it. The sliding door swished as they opened and Matthew hurried inside. He started walking the aisles. He wished for a rescue and waited for the hand to touch him. It didn't happen. Before long he was in the garden center. He was alone.

"What do you want from me? I don't understand. What?" Nothing. Was anyone listening, he wondered? "You said God was with me. Herbert said it, too. So where is he?"

"Here," Joseph said.

Continued on Page 33

NAS Jacksonville to host Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast May 19

Thousands of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will have a "Blast" on Saturday, May 19, during the 21st annual Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast.

The 2001 event includes a two-night campout for area Scouts, as well as a base "open house" for the local Jacksonville community.

Activities begin with a parade at 9 a.m. The parade includes the NAS Jacksonville Color Guard, NAS Jacksonville Fire Department, as well as local and civic organizations and scouts from various North Florida counties. The parade route runs from the Cub Scout camping area across Yorktown Avenue to Patrol Squadron Thirty's aircraft hangar flight line where opening ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m.

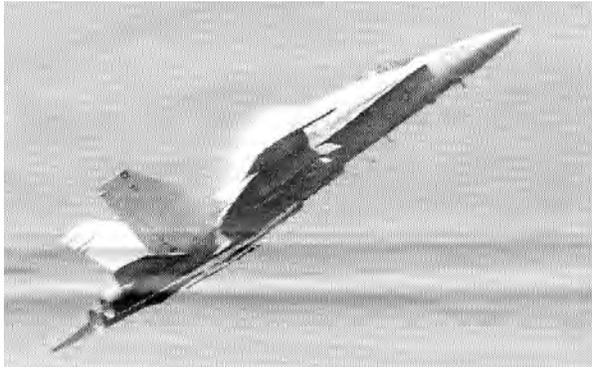
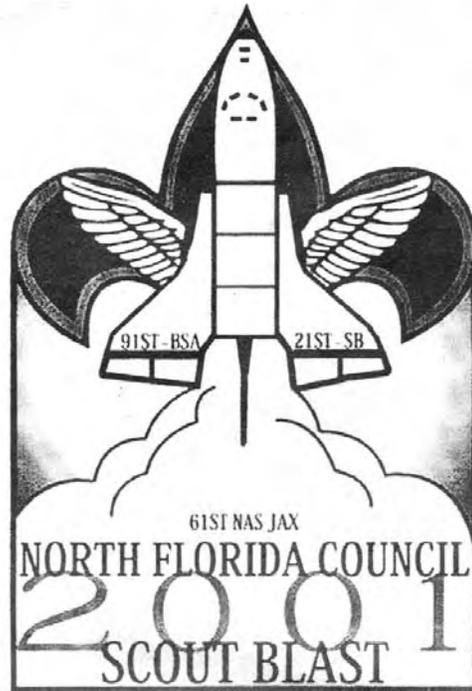
Exciting events include:

- Aerial demonstrations by a F/18-Hornet, SH-60F Seahawk, S-3 Viking, and P-3C Orion

- Remote controlled car racing
- A civilian aircraft performing a "banner snatch"
- Bucket truck rides
- Navy Band Southeast featuring the Navy Rock Band "Pride"
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Swat team demonstration
- Rock Climbing
- Skateboard and roller blade demonstration
- Pinewood Derby
- Nearly 200 booths with Scouting exhibits and more inside and outside of the hangar.

Visit our web site at www.nasjax.navy.mil and click on "Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast."

Gates open to the public at 9 a.m. on May 19, and the event runs until 4 p.m. NO COOLERS PLEASE. Bring your lawn chairs, cameras, and excitement and have a blast ... at SCOUT BLAST.



(clockwise from top) A NASA space shuttle salutes this year's Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast; Navy Band Southeast's rock band - PRIDE - will perform "live"; a Scout test the rock climbing wall; T-Rex from Sally Corporation, a favorite Scouts and visitors alike, will make another appearance; Scouts will test their skill during the Pinewood Derby; and nearly 200 booths -- like this one with snakes and bugs -- will fill the inside of Hangar 30; and an F/A-18 Hornet will do an aerial demonstration.

Story & photos courtesy of
NAS Jacksonville Public Affair Office



Card Party and Style Show

by Claretta Lamusga

On February 17th the Christ the King Council of Catholic Women (CKCCW) held a card party and style show. The clothing modeled was either "home-made" or an extremely good bargain.

Boxed lunches were served. Card games and board games were played.

CKCCW President, Pat Setser, and her Board wish to thank all who helped to make the day a huge success.



From left to right - Daisy McDonald models a three piece suit dress with a colorful scarf finishing the ensemble. Claretta models a two piece pant suit in black and beige. Stacy Setser modeled a floor length ivory dress with jacket. Mary Coyle, in back, wore a lovely dress and hat to match. Jean Sell had on a blue and green print skirt and blouse. Pat Humbard wore a lovely rose colored formal with matching jacket. Milka Landers made and wore a gorgeous pink lace over silk floor length dress with long sleeves. Pat Setser modeled a lovely ivory colored, sophisticated dress and jacket.



The hall was beautifully decorated by Nikla Landers in a Valentine motif, using red, white and pink in the color scheme. The door prizes were so pleasing to the eye, we hated to open them to see what we had won. Our gift wrapper extraordinaire was Daisy McDonald.

Trash Turns to Treasure



K Cees at Jean Sell's garage



Father Thanh enjoys his birthday

by Eileen Porter

They did it again!!! The K Cees held their annual garage sale on April 7 and it was an outstanding success. They cleared over \$600. The ladies want to thank all the members of the parish and other friends who contributed items for sale.

Jean and Howard Sell, with their usual generosity, offered the use of their garage and home for this event. Also, a big thanks to all

those men and women who helped set things up on Friday and were there bright and early Saturday morning to help with the sale and the clean-up afterwards.

It wasn't all work, the ladies had a good time in the process. Since the sale happened to be on Father Thanh's birthday, he came by after the sale and had lunch and a little birthday surprise.

All proceeds of the sale go to K Cees charities; the event makes winners of all of us.

Continued from Page 31 — Joseph's Journeys

Matthew turned and Joseph was pointing at his heart.

"And here," Joseph added and touched Matthew's chest where his heart would be.

"What do you want?" Matthew asked.

"Not what I want, but what you want?"

"I don't understand?"

"Yes, you do."

"I want people to stop picking my wallet."

"Like a tax collector."

Matthew bit his lip. "Okay, like a tax collector."

"Is this really about money?"

"I work very hard."

"God knows that."

"Do you know God?"

"Yes."

"Well?"

"Yes."

"It takes a lot to provide for my family."

"You've done well ... on earth. But your home in heaven is empty. And soon, your home on earth will be empty."

"What? No!"

Matthew started to run off, stopped, and turned back; Joseph was gone.

The police were very apologetic, but it didn't help. Thieves stole the television, the DVD player, stereo, his wife's jewelry, just about everything of value. What took years to build was gone in mere minutes. In his haste to find the mysterious man at Home Depot, he had left the door unlocked. The thieves walked right in.

That night, which was more like spring weather, Matthew sat with Theresa and Nadine in old lawn chairs on their asphalt driveway. Thankfully, David was off at college and had most of his belongings with him. Matthew wasn't sure what he would do. So many strange things happened in the last two days. And how could so much 'bad' happen to him if God was with him?

A tug at his arm by Theresa brought him out of his self pity. When he looked up, Herbert was coming up the driveway, the wool blanket and his white head bandage still wrapped around him. He was smiling, and with good reason. Behind him was nearly the entire

neighborhood, almost fifty people, and they brought a picnic feast, along with a television, a used DVD player, a stereo and Mrs. Bently, God bless her, gave Theresa some of her jewelry.

"I don't understand," Matthew said.

"Oh, I think you do," Herbert said.

Matthew looked around. "I didn't want to understand."

"Now you've got it."

"I avoided my responsibility. The truth is I should be giving to you, not you to me. I should be helping the less fortunate, the people who really need help. I was so busy building up my treasures on earth that I forgot about building up my treasure in heaven."

"Looks like you found a cure for that cynical heart," Herbert said.

Matthew laughed and couldn't help himself, he hugged the homeless man.

"You're quite the salesman."

"I was in my day. It's a long story."

"You'll have to tell me. And, you'll have to be my guest ... in my home."

"That's not..."

"Yes, it is. And not because I'm obligated. You need my help as much as I need yours. That's something else I'm learning. By helping others, you help yourself."

Matthew felt a hand on his shoulder, turned, and recognized Joseph, without the orange apron. Something in his eyes released Matthew's anxieties and brought him comfort. He was more than a man, he realized.

"Peace be with you, Matthew."

"And also with you."

"I'm Joseph, son of David."

"I'm Matthew, son of Thomas. Can I ask you a question?"

"Yes."

"Can I still build treasures in heaven even if I'm a tax collector?"

"There was another Matthew who learned what you are learning ... that with God ... all things are possible."

Matthew turned to Herbert and shook his hand. When the two looked back, Joseph was gone. Theresa embraced her husband, Nadine and Herbert joined them, and the new family gazed into the night sky, thousands of bright blessings beaming down upon them. Amen.

CCD STUDENTS

SALUTE THEIR PARENTS

by Lucille Guzzone

While the upper grades were working on a spiritual program dedicated to their mothers and fathers, some of the younger children decided to write letters to their parents telling them how much they loved them. Carmen Gartland's first graders were particularly enthusiastic by letting their Moms know how beautiful they were in their eyes. Chrystal, Elliot, Nick, Taft, Casey, Kaitlin, Max, Kyle, and Louis conveyed that message quite clearly while Cole thought his Mom was very nice to him, Tina considered her mother a miracle, and Jamie wrote about a butterfly. Here is Jamie's letter.

Small Faith Sharing Groups

Lenten Report-back

by Alick Hardie

First let us correct the impression that Small Faith Sharing Group is a mini Bible Study. Yes, we did study the coming Scripture readings during our Lenten Program, but there are a large number of programs to choose from on various subjects of Christian interests and the next session which will be in August will be on one of these. But Small Faith Sharing Group is a lot more, it is a Faith community within the community of Christ the King. The groups that have been together for some time now have established long standing friendships and meet both socially and to share spiritually. The newer groups are moving in this direction as well and we hope to get a lot more parishioners involved in Small Faith Sharing Groups.

Rainbow Workshop

by Mickey Kenny

The Rainbow Workshop is a facility housed at 5739 Jack Road in the old rectory of Resurrection Church across from the elementary school. Several residents of L'Arche Harbor House work in this program for the benefit of clients in residence and others in the community.

As a result of the generosity of Captain and Mrs. Blanchart, who donated the building for L'Arche Harbor House on the grounds adjacent to Christ the King Church, the vacated space used previously by the administrators of L'Arche Harbor House will be used to expand the Rainbow Workshop. This will allow more benefits in activities and perhaps in the number of clients.

Susie Ludwig, a parishioner of Christ the King, is the Activities Coordinator at the Workshop. The

Dear Mom, I love you. I think that you look like a beautiful butterfly. You are a great Mom.
Love, Jamie

Three of Betty Wheeler's third graders decided to write notes of love as well. Here are Tori's, Seth's and Danny's letters. Danny wrote to both Parents.

Dear Mom,
I love you very much. You're the very best mom in the whole world to me. I wouldn't trade you for one million dollars. I'm glad to have you because some kids don't have moms.

I like it when we go shopping and when we do things together. You are pretty and you're kind and I'm glad to be your daughter.
With all my love, Tori

Dear Mom,
I know I don't show it but I really love you. I really appreciate the things you do for me like feeding me, sharing with me, and buying new clothes. I'm sorry for all the times I've been bad. I wouldn't trade you for 99,299 plus 1 dollars.
Love your son, Seth

Dear Mom,
I don't really ever get to talk to you but I really want to thank you for bringing me to CCD every week and giving me my bowling genes. Also, if it wasn't for you I wouldn't be the Nintendo freak I am now. I don't say this kind of stuff very often but now I guess is just one of those times when I really want to thank you.
Z ya later, Danny

Dear Dad,
You always seem so stressed. I thought you might like to loosen up a bit. So I was thinking maybe I could help you unwind by thanking you for my scooter. Another thing I want to thank you for is my bike. Before I had my scooter, it was my only form of fast transportation. I really like the both of them and I wanted to thank you for them.
See you soon, Danny

The students in Ms. Herda's fourth grade class combined their letters to both parents. Anika, Juan, Timmy, Gino, Brandi, John, hoseph and Huston expressed much gratitude and love for their Mom and Dad. Here are the notes of Kayla, Deena, Josh, Dianne, And

Emma, whose letters are quite unique.

Dear Mom and Dad,
The things I do might upset you. After Jesus Christ has forgiven me, please.... can you forgive me? With all my might I love you both for being my parents. I love you.
Love, Kayla

Dear Mom and Dad,
I love you and this is why...
L is for love and care you give me.

O is for opportunities that you give me. V is for value of you to me. E is for everything you've done for me.

Those are all the things you mean to me Mom and Dad.
Love, Deena M Younger

Dear Mom,
I love you. You probably already know that because I've been telling you that ever since I started to talk. I love you since you're nice, easy-going, and fun loving.
Love, Josh

Dear Mom and Dad,
I love you. I love you because you respect me and you help me with my hard homework. And you also give me an allowance.
Love, Dianne

Dear Mom and Dad,
You've been with me since I was born. You've taken care of me. You all have bought stuff for me, given me an allowance since I've been four. Both of you have fed me. Both of you have given me clothes. So if I left anything out, mention it to me when I get home. Thank you.
THANK YOU.
Love, Emma

Just for Kids!

The hardest thing you have to learn is to love yourself!

You are a handmade masterpiece of God.

God make you just the way He wanted you to be.

You are just as tall or just as short as God wanted.

You are just as skinny or as fat as God wanted.

You are just the color God wanted you to be.

If you have yellow skin, or red skin or black skin or white skin or tan skin - that is just the way God wanted you to be.

Your eyes are the color God wanted.

Your ears and your nose and the color of your hair is just what God wanted it to be.

God loves you. God wants you to come back to heaven.

God has a reserved seat for you in heaven.

But God will not make you go to heaven.

God gave you free will. You can do whatever you want.

God wants you to be good.

God tells you how to be good.

God tells you to love yourself and to love every other person that He has made.

A nice way to start your day as soon as you wake up is to go to the mirror and look at your beautiful self and say, "Thank you God for making me, me!"

Queens & Kings



More of us Irish celebrants: Betty Harkey, Ruth Fitzgerald and Lucy Hollum.



We celebrated our Christmas Dinner at Selva Marina. That's Bernie Kunka in back, leading us in singing Christmas Carols.

Last Fall we crowned into royalty three members who reached their 90th birthday. They are Ceil Kulas, John Fitzgerald and Mae Crittenden. They are all active members.

by Betty Harkey

The Queens & Kings are the parish senior adult group, 55 and over. We meet the second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Shirley David room. New members are always welcome. Meetings consist of a short meeting followed by a variety of entertainment, followed by refreshments. On special holidays, we have a covered dish dinner. Many of us have been here since the start of Christ the King parish in 1954 and have taken an active part in church activities throughout the years. The pictures tell the story of some of the activities taking place at our meetings.



The winner of the Spring Fashion Show: Audrey Alexander (Cheryl Tieg - Watch Out!)



Easter celebration. We had a fabulous covered dish dinner.



These were our "Models" at our Spring Fashion Show (Off the Wall). Ann Rudicill, Ruth Gunther, Sue Starr, Pat Humbard, Bill Campbell, Audrey Alexander, Ann Seravo and Marge Campbell. Seated in front: Irene Laffee and Joan McLaughlin.

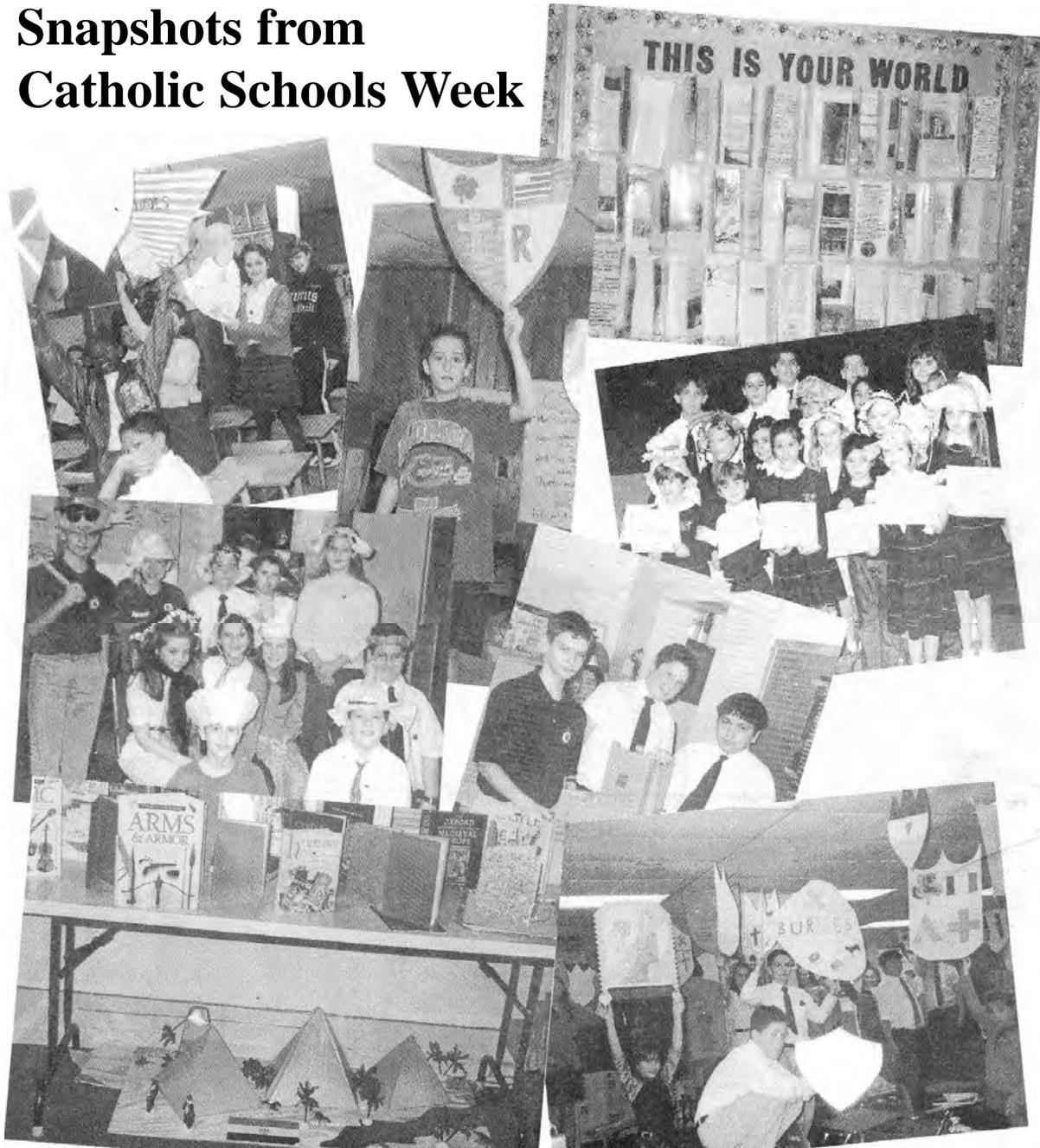


We joined other members of the parish in celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the parish hall. Some of our members as shown, left to right: Marge Yarborough, Jane Taphorn, Sue Starr, Wanda Martin, Bill Campbell, Joan and Peter McLaughlin, Audrey Alexander, Ann Seravo, Genevieve Grochmal, Lucy Hollum, and standing near front are Ann Rudicill and Peggy Cullen.

Al Martin gave a talk on the care and growing of orchids, cacti and aloe plants at our Easter meeting. Two of the larger orchids were given as prizes.



Snapshots from Catholic Schools Week



What you don't see

Around 6:00 a.m. a couple of men come into the Parish Hall kitchen. Potatoes are emptied into the large sinks for washing and some large urns of coffee are prepared for brewing. Other men begin to show up. They wash potatoes and put them into large pots. The pots are filled with water and put on the stove for boiling. Stainless steel warmer pans are readied for the meat. Cabbage is washed and put into large pots for cooking. An assembly line for handing out bread and other things is readied. Other men assist with the setting up of tables and decorations.

* * *

They gather on Friday night just before the Saturday of Easter.

A grandfather and his teen-age grandson are already heating two large cooking pots of water and gently lowering thirty dozen eggs into the water. It'll take about 3/4 of an hour before the eggs are hard-boiled for coloring. That'll be a task for others.

Those who are going to color the eggs are arriving alone or with families. They begin to organize the bowls of vinegar and water, and drop the coloring tablets into the mixture. The children are getting restless and anxiously await the boiling eggs. Why do we mix vinegar and water? What colors should we choose? When are we going to color the eggs? All these questions are vocalized by the children and on the parents' minds.

Finally, the eggs are cooked, put in containers, and passed along the assembly line to be dipped into the various colors. Small, young fingers lower the eggs into the mixture and, after a few minutes, lift them onto cartons. Colored noses and fingers emerge from the process that takes about an hour. The eggs are boxed and ready for pick up the next morning.

Everyone helped with the cleaning up and leaves the Parish Hall kitchen. This phase of the project is finished.

* * *

Both of these activities have to do with the "K of C and What You Don't See" behind-the-scenes preparation of many events for

which the Knights of Columbus and their families are responsible. Two such events are the corned beef and cabbage, St. Patrick's Day celebration dinner and the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Many of our Knights of Columbus members cannot attend our second and fourth Tuesday night meetings. However, the participation of members and their families in the events themselves is the reason that our charitable programs are so very successful. If you'd like to know what's happening in our parish, you can ask a Knight of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus

RCIA

by Frank Becht

The Process

The RCIA process is currently about one year in length. The meetings are weekly on Tuesday nights for a ten month period beginning in August of each year.

The goal is to bring new members and "fallen away" Catholics into the Church community.

The process to allow new members to celebrate the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation is three fold in nature. First, it is a period of formation or Catechesis, a time in which the Catechumen concentrates on the specifics of Catholicism. This is followed by the actual celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil on Saturday night at Christ the King. Lastly, there is the time of Mystogeya, which means mystery, when the Catholic community through it's RCIA team members and sponsors, introduce these new members into the life of the Church by introducing them to parts they can play as disciples.

The Team

The RCIA team is composed of church members with specific abilities to plan and implement a very complex program of orientation and education of our Catholic faith. It's a grueling job requiring attendance of monthly meetings for planning and development of projects, etc. In addition there are the required

weekly meetings of the Catechumens and Candidates.

Father Robert McDermott - Pastor

♥**Terry Kasza** - Responsible for organizing candidate small groups for reflection and discussion during class and after the homily on Sundays. Supplies those groups with team member/facilitators.

♥**David & Victoria Stewart** - David stores, organizes and distributes all of the printed materials used in each class. That includes thousands of pages of lessons, study/discussion questions, bibles, notebooks, forms, and videos. Victoria monitors candidate and sponsor attendance at all classes, liturgies and events.

♥**Mary Rouse** - Contacts team members, candidates and sponsors concerning class attendance, Mass attendance and any special needs.

♥**Tom Holton** - Facilitates small groups and helps the Director to plan and organize the many liturgies.

♥**Louie & Darlene O'Neal** - Special event coordinators. These events include the Day of Discernment, Christmas party, Easter Vigil reception and Team Member Dinner.

♥**Tony Zeaiter** - Recruits and organizes sponsors for the candidates.

♥**James & Jacquelyn Scott** - James is the team Director. Jacquelyn supports James.

Our RCIA Director:

James Scott



James and Jacquelyn Scott

by Frank Becht

James Scott became our RCIA Director this past year, when Father Carey announced his plans to retire. Scott was born and raised in Jacksonville, attending Raines High School along with his wife, Jacquelyn. He attended Tennessee State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in architectural engineering. Currently he is employed as a Project Manager for the Duval County School Board. Jacquelyn has been a Montessori teacher for several years.

The Scotts, married nineteen years, are blessed with two children - David, a seventh grader and Jocelyn, a fifth grader. Both are in Christ the King School.

James and Jacquelyn have been members of Christ the King for nine years, and have an interesting story about how they became Catholic. Originally, they were members of the CME Methodist Church; but had quit going to church for some time.

When their son David needed to be placed in day care, a friend recommended Christ the King. Upon inquiry, there on the wall of Isabel Fusco's office was a bulletin about RCIA in Christ the King.

James had made up his mind that if he ever went to church again that he'd be Catholic or Muslim. There were no Muslims around, so he and Jacquelyn joined RCIA nine years ago, and have since become very involved in Christ the King.

Monsignor Danaher was impressed with James' interest and energy, so he was first invited to join the Legion of Mary, where he is still involved. As a result of urging by Howard Sell, he joined the Knights of Columbus, where he is known as the official Coffee Maker. He became a Eucharistic Minister after urging by Subdeacon Eli Shami. He is also a Member of Nocturnal Adoration (Band #3).

Marriage Encounter followed and he is an original member of Father Carey's Bible Study group. Of all the church ministries in which he is involved, he feels the biggest impact on his life spiritually has been Cursillo.

His goal with RCIA is basically to continue the efforts of Father Carey to mesh the past experiences of the Catechumens with what is being offered in RCIA, to guide them in their conversion.

What an example of Catholicity we have in James Scott! How lucky we are to have such an energetic disciple in our midst.

Cadette Troop 98

by Denise Stiles Yount

Cadette Troop 98 has kept busy this year. We ended last year by participating in the Angel trees at Christ the King. We enjoyed shopping for and donating gifts for children in need.

In February the troop took a trip to Orlando to enjoy a day at Disney's Sports Complex. Girl Scouts of all levels from the entire state got together to learn about and participate in all kinds of sports. They received instruction and played mini-games in football, softball, tennis, and other assorted field games. Unfortunately, rain cut into our games so we decided a trip to the Rain Forest Café was in

order. We were seated in the ape room and seemed to fit in just fine!

The next day we spent a fun filled day at the Magic Kingdom.

Spring found us back in the fund-raising mode. Cookies, cookies, cookies, did anyone say Girl Scout cookies? The troop sold cookies door to door, at Mass, Lowe's, Publix, any and everywhere we could. The travel fund grew due to the effort.

Currently the girls are working hard collecting recipes for a cookbook tentatively titled "Cooking with Cadettes." This huge undertaking is looking at a late fall 2001 release date. Any former or current Girl Scouts or leaders are encouraged to give us a recipe for inclusion.

As always - Happy Scouting!

R.C.I.A. 2000 - 2001

Catechumens

Xenozia Barron
Anita Hickox
Tracy Inman
Patricia Pamas
James Vinocur
Robert Willis
Billy Young

Sponsors

Lourdes Deguzman
Mary Weldon
Michael Murphy
Loretta Partain
Bryan Miller
Rebecca Willis
Bob Mayotte

Candidates

Shay Dillinger
Susan Fowler
Mitch Gable
Dawn Grimes
Monica Laborde
Carl Leshar
Esther Lyle
Patrick McClintock
Heather Puangco
Millie Ramos
Bryan Smith
Jennifer Stewart
Karen Tarleton
David Trotti
David Wallace
Paula Welsh
Mamie Wilson

Sponsors

Robin Allison
Robert Fowler
Lisa Herda
Darlene O'Neal
Karen Anderson
Doug Mollenhour
Jan Clements
Danny Easter
Marco Puangco
Norman Landers
Pat Leahy
Victoria Stewart
Evelyn Guilfoyle
Sam Clements
Nikki Wallace
James Blumhoefer
Bootsie Rhoden
Josh Porter

CKAA T-BALL

by Dan Scanlan

The ball clangs against the bat, and it flies straight and true down the right-field line as the diminutive player hustles toward first base, the crowd cheering his or her feet on as the ball is caught, fielded and thrown to first.

It is the springtime rite of baseball, played on a smaller size at St. Mary's Field. And on this 21st day in April, it's home to a competition that has gone to the dogs, or could be for the birds.

The dogs are Christ the King Athletic Association T-ball coach Mike Klima's Rockhounds, wearing the blue jerseys and hats. The birds are the Cardinals under the guidance of Coach Bill Joost, wearing the red jerseys, of course.

The little field has the feel of an old-fashioned baseball game. Tall trees sway in the breeze as they surround three sides of the venerable little ball field nestled in the hollow off Arlington Road, the diamond picture-perfect before the small bleachers and cheering parents as coffee and doughnuts, plus Slim Jims and sodas are sold to bolster the enthusiasm of the players and adults.

The teams are evenly matched, Klima's 10 players against Joost's 12. They are a mix of five- and six-year-olds, girls and boys, some in their second or third year of the game, others new to the idea of connecting bat to ball and running. But despite the disparity of skills and sizes, the unformed players all say they love the game, their coaches and their teams.

"I like to hit the ball," said Rockhound Brandon Parker, 6. "I don't care if I get strikes."

"My Mom wanted to sign me up," said Cardinal Danielle Bennett, 5. "I like winning because I like to get trophies."

Many of the children say winning isn't everything.

"All the team is there," said Cardinal Becky Ladin, 5.

"It's exercise and I like doing the hitting and throwing," added Devon Josey, 6.

"I like to play and we can have fun," said James Scanlan, 6. "It doesn't matter who wins. It doesn't matter if you get a trophy. All that matter is that you have fun."

And the coaches say they love guiding these budding Mantles and Sosas in the game of the sandy diamond.

Joost is coaching T-ball because his daughter, Stephanie, wanted to play.

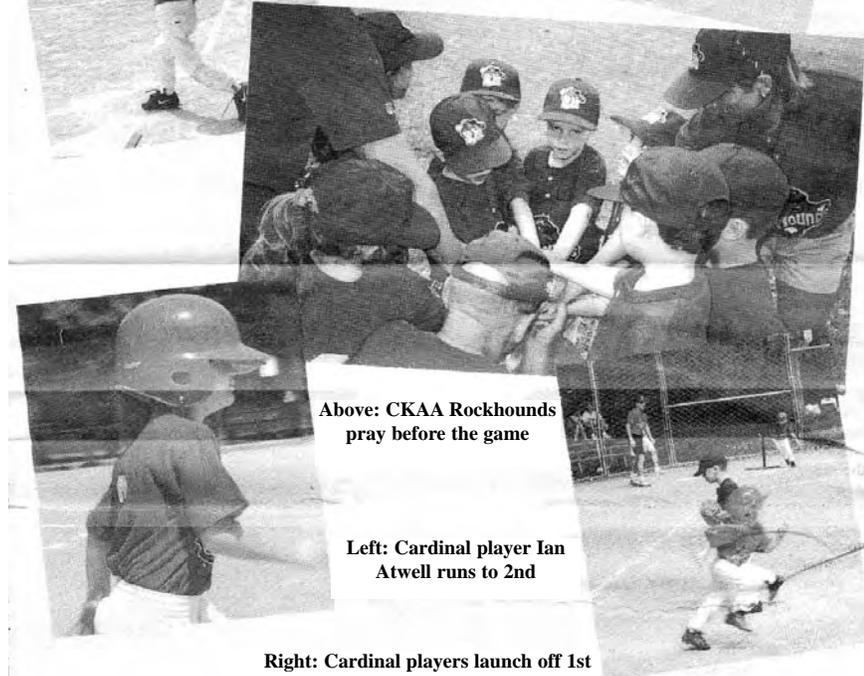
"I've been coaching my two older sons, and she has been working on me for many moons," said Joost. "It develops certain disciplines, like they have to play by rules and keep trying even when the score is down and they strike out. . . For parents, it is the first



Left: Cardinal's Pierce Goodbread at bat



Right: Cardinal player Stephanie Joost runs to 1st



Above: CKAA Rockhounds pray before the game



Left: Cardinal player Ian Atwell runs to 2nd

Right: Cardinal players launch off 1st

formal sport these kids are playing. So it is important for them to get their kids started playing."

Klima, whose son Kevin is on the team, said he just enjoys working with the children, with practice every Wednesday night and games on Saturdays. He also sees the teams helping parents, by getting them involved in their children.

"I hope that they learn the fundamentals of the game, win or lose, and they have fun," said Klima. "First, it's important to become part of a team. Instead of being on the streets and getting in trouble, if you start here and get them in a team oriented situation, they work together and not on their own. . . . Just spending time with the kids is the most important."

The two teams are only a few weeks from ending their seasons this morning. For the Cardinals, it is also the second game of a double-header, facing rested Rockhounds. On the other hand, Joost's team is already warmed up, while Klima has to get his team focused and ready to play. So as the Cardinals finish game one, Klima and his coaches hit the grass south of the field to toss the ball, coaches and kids ducking some errant flights at first.

"I caught it. I caught it," exclaimed James as Mark Wnuk fires a ball.

"You have to throw it hard, and throw it in the right place," says Klima.

Then it's time to hit the field, as the American flag flies at the left field fence line.

For Joost, it's a prayer for all. "I say, 'Heavenly Father, may what we do on this ballfield please you,'" he said.

For the Rockhounds, it's time to listen to their coach.

"Have fun, okay? Scream and holler and cheer on your teammates," Klima said. "Are we ready to play? Then put your hands in here."

All members join hands and say The Lord's Prayer. Then it's time for a bit of the Rockhounds trademark song, *Who Let the Dogs Out* - *whoo, whoo, whoo, whoo, whoo!*

Let the game begin. Maddie Shaw, her ponytail sticking out from her batter's helmet, is the first Rockhound to bat. She hits a line drive down the center, but as she gets to first base, the Cardinals tag her out. But Devon smacks a high fly and ultimately makes it all the way home.

A few minutes later, the bases are loaded with Rockhounds, then a home run by Emily Shaw and the score is 4-0.

"Hey batter, batter, batter," chatter the Rockhounds as the first Cardinal comes to bat, but no one's distracted and more hits fly down the line, Stephanie Joost's among them. Soon, she's rounding second and third, then headed home to yells of "Let's go!" from her father and high-fives from everyone.

Ryan Pecott struts up to the base with his bat, and there goes another line drive caught by a Rockhound. But he also makes it to home in the next play. Soon the score is 4-3, the Rockhounds still in the lead.

"We are only down by one now. We only need two more," said the Cardinals' outfield coach.

Of course, every game loses its luster when you are six years old. As the game nears its end, Rockhound Brandon Parker turns around and asks, "Is it over yet?"

It was soon. The Rockhounds beat the Cardinals by a score of 7-6 in a game that saw both teams field batters who ran bases fleet of foot and kept the action up.

The season ended in mid-May, but an All-Star team may be fielded for the summer.

Speak Up for the Unborn

by Jeanette Ghioto

Choose Life...A simple statement with an important message. But it has taken four years to finally make it a reality.

For many years now Florida has made "vanity" license plates available in support of many special interest groups including universities, sports teams and environmental and social causes.

Now, for a donation of \$22 you'll be able to use this same method to speak up for the unborn, thanks to Marion County Commissioner Randy Harris. In 1996, Commissioner Harris had an idea to create a license plate to raise funds, and awareness, in support of women in crisis pregnancies who would commit to having their babies and placing them for adoption rather than opting for abortion. He began a grass roots campaign to raise \$30,000 for the application fee which is required to initiate the program. The Florida statutes required 10,000 signatures of people who commit to buying the tag if it becomes available. A non-profit corporation, Choose Life, Inc., was formed to raise the funds and secure the necessary signatures.

On February 4, 1997 the effort was launched and by March 1, 1997 the \$30,000 application fee was delivered along with 14,500 signatures to the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles. A completely volunteer effort, this was a remarkable accomplishment and is testimony to what people can achieve when they believe what they are doing is right.

Choose Life, Inc. is headed by Randy Harris, Jim Steel and Russ and Jill Amerling, ably assisted by a small army of faithful helpers from Pensacola to Key West who brought the needs of women in crisis pregnancy situations to the attention of the Florida Legislature.



Sharon Copeland, Executive Director of Emergency Pregnancy Services, Alberta Hipps and Brenda Farr

Disappointingly, the legislation did not make it through the Senate Transportation Committee the first year application was made; however, the application was resubmitted for the 1998 Legislative Session and this time it did. The House and the Senate both passed the bill with an overwhelming majority, then it was sent to Governor Chiles for his approval. Despite thousands of Floridians having expressed their support of the bill and urging the Governor to sign it, he chose instead to veto it.

The Choose Life team was extremely disappointed . . . but the veto made the news, nationwide! Soon, wire services and the Internet were running stories all over the country and the Choose Life office was contacted by groups and individuals in many other states, all asking how to get a Choose Life plate in their state.

With renewed enthusiasm, Choose Life, Inc. asked Senator Jim Sebesta and Representative Beverly Kilmer to resubmit the bill. Representative Kilmer did a

wonderful job shepherding the bill through and again, it passed with a wide margin in the House on a bipartisan vote.

However, unlike the previous year in the Senate, where it passed by a wide margin, this year the vote was extremely close and Senator Sebesta had to work hard to get it passed. They were successful and on June 10, 1999, our new Governor, Jeb Bush signed it into law. Florida now has the first official license plate in the world that supports adoption as an alternative choice to abortion.

In November 1999, the National Organization of Women filed a lawsuit against the State of Florida to try to prevent them from distributing the Choose Life license plate. The suit languished in Palm Beach County for eight months, but was finally ordered sent to Tallahassee and the tags were finally released to the public on August 11, 2000. The suit is still ongoing and there should be a ruling soon on N.O.W.'s attempt to get an injunction against the State of Florida to stop them from selling

the tags. Because of the national publicity caused by Governor Chiles' veto and the lawsuit, Choose Life, Inc. has now been contacted by individuals or groups from 35 states and Canada, inquiring how to start a Choose Life license plate effort of their own. The Choose Life license plate bill is now before the legislatures of twelve other states.

Russ Amerling said, "The Choose Life license plate has been reported as the most popular tag released in recent years, according to a newspaper article in the St Pete Times." In the first seven months of sales, it has sold over 17,000 and raised over \$340,000.00 and has already outsold the yearly sales of 32 of the other fifty tags available.

Every tag sold raises \$20 to help organizations, such as, maternity homes and crisis pregnancy centers who are helping women committed to making an adoption plan for their child.

For more information see the Choose Life web site at www.choose-life.org, or call Russ Amerling toll free 877-454-1203.

"Here I am, Lord!"

by Ron Lynch

Once Richard Brady said this to God, his path was laid out before him. He has started on the journey to become a diocesan priest for the Saint Augustine Diocese.

He had always enjoyed working with people and felt it was God's will for him to work with them. The manner in which this was to be done was a question. He had originally thought the medical field was his avenue for doing God's work, but then realized that he had a deeper need than that. Even working with hospice patients, aids patients, and people with addictions didn't answer his need to serve God.

Richard set himself apart for a year in a full time ministry so he could pray and talk to people within the Church about what he

thought was going on with him. With only four months gone of that year, he knew a full time ministry was his goal.

Father Tetlow's name had popped up a lot during this period of introspection, but Richard had never met him. He was, however, someone with whom Richard felt he must speak. During their initial conversation Father Tetlow encouraged Richard to give thought to the seminary. His advice inspired Richard and he began the process toward ordination.

The first step was a detailed autobiography. Then came a paper he had to write describing why he believed he was called to the ministry. After these documents were submitted came more conversations with Father Tetlow. He then completed applications for affiliation with the diocese and talked with our pastor, Father

McDermott, and the pastor he had while growing up, Monsignor Danaher. A seminary review board interviewed him and he was accepted into the life formation program of the seminary. From the first time Richard had spoken with Father Tetlow to his appearance before the board, seven months had passed. He realized that once he had made the commitment in his heart God started opening doors one by one. All he had to do was step through them.

After he was accepted to the life formation program, certificates of birth, baptism, communion, and confirmation had to be provided. College transcripts, letters of recommendation from colleagues, family members, and diocesan clergy were also necessary. He underwent full physical, dental, and eye exams along with a two hour psychological evaluation. All he

had gone through was worth it and he was encouraged even more by the seminarians he spoke with who were far along in their own pursuit of ordination. At 39, Richard needed those words of support from some of the seminarians who were already well into middle age and had decided, as had Richard, to dramatically redirect their lives.

On May 7th, he is going to New Orleans to visit the seminary of Notre Dame. While there he will be interviewed by the rector, undergo a period of discernment, and speak with other seminarians and members of the staff. In August of this year, he will return to the Notre Dame seminary to begin an estimated five years of study there and at Loyola University. Upon his ordination, he will work in a parish in the Diocese of Saint Augustine. With a devoted attitude like his, that parish will be truly blessed.

Diocesan Musical Concert at UNF Arena



by Mickey Kenny

On March 8, at 7 p.m. in the University of North Florida (UNF) Arena, the students who participate in the music program at Christ the King School gathered with their counterparts from all over the Diocese to give an evening of music which was joyful, loving, and proud. What a wonderful opportunity to hear the progress these children make as they sing and play their way from grade to grade through our Catholic school system. Those drummers from Bishop Kenny told each of us, as well as anyone could, that there is a wonderful future our children give back to us and their parents, in thanks for our participation as they prepare for that future. Two drummers shared a particular set of drums. One couldn't help wonder if perhaps they needed another set of those "triple drums" and we should donate them because they were marvelous. Maybe that will be a part of the Opportunity of a Lifetime!

The evening was a coming together of all the schools to present one concert of all ages. The orchestra for schools up to the high school level played remarkably well after only three rehearsals together. And, of course, Mr. DiGeorgio's Suzuki violins were magnificent. It always seems remarkable that these kids hardly as big as their violins can make

such beautiful music. And anyone can see they're having fun.

Adam Kersch, who graduated from Christ the King School last year, sang a duet with Kathryn Duncan.

The music sung by the entire ensemble is from a work by Kathy Sherman, CSJ, called "Faces of The Children". The selections included, to name just a few, "Faces of the Children," "God of the Gathering" and "I Am the Way."

Sister Elise Kennedy, principal of St. Pius School did an outstanding job organizing the evening's program.

The arena was filled on the audience side, and it was pure serendipity for me, personally. I had no idea of the kind of evening it was to be. Those people who were unable to attend missed an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful program that would have made them both proud and grateful.

Grateful to God for bestowing such beautiful gifts (children and their talents). Grateful for the children who provided and shared their talents with us. Grateful to the teachers who taught them and the parents who listened and encouraged and provided them with the means so they could pursue their talents and 'make a joyful noise unto the Lord.' What inspiration! The students themselves should know they are **even more beautiful** when they are part of this large group.

Flat Stanley Goes to St. Augustine



By Wanda Klima

The Field Trip

The 4th Graders went on a field trip to St. Augustine in February. First stop was the Historic Villages. Students participated in hands-on activities in either the Spanish or Indian program while learning the history of these two cultures. Next stop was the Mission of Nombre de Dios where students went on a guided tour of the mission grounds while learning more about the history of the Catholic faith as it relates to St. Augustine. They had lunch on the mission grounds before going back to school.

Flat Stanley

The 4th Graders are involved in a project introduced to them by Mrs. Lotze, the Writing Resource Teacher. Flat Stanley comes from a book by Jeff Brown where a boy

named Stanley is squashed flat by a falling bulletin board, which allows Flat Stanley to travel in an envelope to visit friends and family. A Flat Stanley is made out of paper and laminated.

Students in Mrs. Haley's class each made Flat Stanleys of themselves and sent it to a friend or relative who lives out-of-town. Mrs. McKnight's class jointly made several Flat Stanleys and sent them to other schools in California, Virginia, and Canada. Also, Mrs. McKnight's class received Flat Stanleys from a school in California.

Students treat Flat Stanley as a guest and keep a journal of his travels and activities. Flat Stanley and the journal are then returned to the original sender. Flat Stanleys received by Mrs. McKnight's class were taken to St. Augustine on the field trip. Later, the Flat Stanleys, the journal, and photographs will be sent back to the school in California.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



by Kathy Nichols

Be proud to be a Catholic! Christ the King School had an opportunity to do just that during Catholic Schools Week, January 28 through February 2. Each day the kids and teachers were involved in a different activity to show their spirit. Everyone was given a CSW button to be worn all week. On Wednesday, each person wore a homemade crazy hat. The classes then voted on the craziest headpiece in the room. The funniest day was when the teachers dressed up as students and vice versa.

The penny-war continued throughout the week, with a prize going to the class with the most pennies. All donations were allocated to needy organizations. This was part of our students' stewardship program. Jif and Smuckers crowded the halls as donations of peanut butter and jelly were brought in for the Catholic Charities Food Drive.

Grades kindergarten through eighth were asked to either draw a picture with a one sentence attachment, write a poem and illustrate it, or write a two-paragraph essay on "How God is in Your Life." Winners were chosen for this also. The final assembly on Friday awarded the students and classes with the appropriate prizes. The week was concluded with the cheerleaders heading a pep rally for the upcoming volleyball game.



From a Parent's Point of View

DARE TO CHANGE



Parents for LIFE enjoy a Spring shower

by Stephanie Henry

What did you do the weekend of March 23rd? I spent mine with 60 kids, 10 musicians, 15 plus young adults and a group of parents of which I am proud to be a part, known as Parents for Life. Did I have a great time? What a question! Let me take you on a journey that I hope will inspire you to come and find out what we are all about.

Our job, as Parents for Life, begins several weeks before the LIFE TEEN retreat. There is much planning that goes into making these retreats a success and much of the preparation is done before the kids ever get to Camp Cherry Lake, the site of the last five retreats. Jeanette Ghioto, our fearless leader and mother hen, is in constant touch with Nancy Powers, Coordinator for LIFE TEEN, and it is from Nancy that we get the theme for the retreat. After that, it's pretty much up to us as to how we make that theme happen.

The name of this retreat was DARE TO CHANGE. Now I'm sure you're asking yourselves, how does one portray such a theme? I,

myself, was silently asking that very same question. Having actually been at the last four retreats, I totally underestimated the power of creative minds, that being Angela Christian and Terry Miller. They took the camp dining hall, and created a "season" for each meal. Now imagine in your mind, this plain dining hall—16 tables, 8 on each side. Pretty plain, right? Guess again. On Saturday morning, when the kids came for breakfast, they were treated to a Summerfest. Swimmies, goggles and masks were the order of the day (or meal I should say). DARE TO CHANGE—did you forget? Our breakfast menu consisted of pizza and Coke! Talk about change—I have to say, the kids were *quite* surprised. Lunch was even more fun (I truly don't know who had a better time on this retreat, the kids or the Parents for Life). This was to be Fall Season. Leaves changing, yellow and orange tablecloths.....you get the picture. And lo and behold, all the parents dressed in camouflage clothing. I loved this theme because I could wear my snake-skin platform shoes. Accordingly, Fall lunch consisted of Ray Christian's



Parents in a Winter wonderland

homemade chili, Texas toast, and pumpkin nut crunch for dessert. Great meal for those cooler temperatures!

Now it's time for dinner, and what comes after Fall, but Winter. We turned the temperature down in the hall to sub-zero so that the ambiance would be just right. We dressed in our finest winter wonderland outfits right down to our rosy red cheeks. DARE TO CHANGE—I knew you were wondering—winterland dinner consisted of french toast, sausage, quiche and fresh fruit. What a great way to end that cold winter day!

And of course, you guessed it, Spring follows Winter, so on Sunday morning, winter wonderland gave way to spring showers, complete with rain, rainbow tablecloths and umbrellas, and we parents dressed in our spring ponchos. DARE TO CHANGE—what spring shower would be complete without grilled hamburgers, chicken and fries for breakfast!

The amount of work that went into creating this weekend was incredible. Frank Japour was our food consultant and meal planner,

right down to that last sausage patty. Our cooks, Ray Christian, Albert Miller, Phil Ghioto, Glenn Blanchard, Anthony Villotti and of course, my only true love, Steve Henry, worked hard to make sure the food was good, plentiful and hot. My fellow bunkmates, Monica Figueora, Kathy Karmen, Lyn Villotti, Patricia Japour, and Debra Blanchard worked under the direction of Angela, Terry and Jeanette to transform the dining hall into those amazing seasons of the year and to keep those water coolers full for the kids. What a team, what an effort, WHAT A SUCCESS!

Now you ask, was it worth it? Was it worth it for me to give up my weekend, a weekend that I could have had all to myself because my three youngest would all be on the retreat? All I can say is that until you have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit at work, to see the changes in those kids as they DARED TO CHANGE, to witness the love and fellowship that this retreat inspired in all of us, you wouldn't believe me if I told you. But come, take a chance. I promise, you'll never be sorry that you came.

What We Have Left

An Article from the Houston Chronicle, taken from the internet

On Nov. 18, 1995, Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. If you have ever been to a Perlman concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches.

To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is an unforgettable sight. He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it

under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play. By now, the audience is used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play.

But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap – it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do.

People who were there that night thought to themselves: "We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage – to either find another violin or else find another string for this one." But he didn't. Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes

and then signaled the conductor to begin again. The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before.

Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night Itzhak Perlman refused to know that. You could see him modulating, changing, recomposing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was detuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before.

When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and

cheering, doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done.

He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said, not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone, "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it. And who knows? Perhaps that is the way of life – not just for artists but for all of us. So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, and then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left.

— Jack Riemer, Houston Chronicle

Dare to Change

LIFE TEEN Retreat

by Erika White

LIFE TEEN's 2001 Spring Retreat was appropriately titled "Dare to Change." This retreat challenged all of our previous beliefs and, personally, made me think about the aspects of my life that desperately needed change. I came on this retreat honestly giving no thought to the idea that I could be changed, believing that I was the best person I could be and that my mediocre idea of faith could not possibly be improved.

However, I left realizing how much I could better myself if I only listen to what God is calling me to do. I left with a newly examined conscience and a commitment to stay focused on the important things in life and to really make an effort to strengthen my faith.

LIFE TEEN, Parents for LIFE, and Music for LIFE did an incredible job carrying out the theme "Dare to Change" throughout the weekend. From enduring pizza and hamburgers for breakfast at 8 o'clock in the morning to a powerful commitment ceremony on the last day, LIFE TEEN came up with new, creative activities to go along with the "Dare to Change" theme.

Moral values were portrayed in skits created by the CORE group and students alike. People stood up and spoke about times that had changed their lives. Each skit, each sharing, each time we sang our beloved theme song, was truly a blessing in itself. The people who worked so hard to perform in front of all of us, or who have the courage to stand up and share a powerful moment in their life are the experiences and the sharings that make LIFE TEEN retreats so powerful.

The first instance when I really sat down and wondered if I could change was before reconciliation on Saturday. There was a long period of time when we were encouraged to examine our conscience and reflect on what we have done in the course of our lives and who we have become. This examination of conscience was very powerful to me because this was the moment that I realized what had been going on in my life and why I needed to change.

I believe that it made everyone think about their actions; how it

Answers to Bible Puzzle on page 29 are given in the order in which they appear. Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter.

Submitted by Mickey Kenny



affects themselves, their families, friends, and most of all, our God. Then, if we chose to do so, we were allowed to go and confess our sins to one of the many wonderful priests that had graciously given up their time to be with us.

A commitment ceremony followed on Sunday where individuals decided on something that they would commit to in order to better themselves and show respect for God. I chose to concentrate on improving my prayer life because I feel this is the first step in establishing a permanent relationship with God. These commitments were blessed

by Father Thanh and everyday I try to abide by my own.

Adoration on this retreat was the most powerful moment I have ever experienced. I cannot explain exactly how I felt but it was the most amazing, peaceful feeling that I have ever felt during my life. When Father Thanh walked past me carrying the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit seized my heart and left me perfectly at peace, not concerned or preoccupied with school, friends, or any other problems that I was struggling with before the retreat.

At that moment, it was just me and the Lord. I have never felt so close to God as I did during adoration. I was not the only person

affected by this powerful adoration. I think many people opened their hearts to God and accepted Him into their body. I could see the Holy Spirit reflected off the faces of every person in that room.

After each retreat, I have gained something new. Now I struggle to change, to remain true to the commitment that I made to myself and to God and not to give into temptation. This retreat opened my eyes and made me realize that I need to focus on the important things in life, that the material things we hold so close to us do not really matter at all because it is only God who will remain when all else is gone.



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ONE MAN'S PATH

by Ron Lynch

Father Neil Carr is a Jesuit priest with whom our parish is familiar. Please read on if you would like to know more about this interesting man.

Buffalo, New York of 1920 was the birthplace of Father Carr. His father and two uncles were doctors. The third uncle was a diocesan priest who was a director of charities in the diocese. These four Irish farm-raised brothers were early, strong, positive role models for young master Carr. His father was an old-fashioned doctor who made house calls in the middle of the night and impressed on his son the ideals of dedication and commitment.

The family attended the New Cathedral Catholic Church in Buffalo. In 1910, it was a magnificent church all in marble designed by a French architect. Unfortunately, it was nearly impossible to heat during the long, cold winters and the acoustics were very poor. Many things were tried in order to remedy these imperfections, but the church was finally torn down in 1955.

While in high school, master Carr enjoyed an education administered by Jesuit priests. He was impressed by the happiness and enjoyment of life they displayed. Perhaps this was a future for him.

After high school graduation, he began Georgetown University at 17. Following his first year, he began his Society of Jesus career at a Jesuit seminary on the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, New York. His first two years as a novitiate had little schooling, perhaps two to three hours a week. The novices answered to the Master of Novices and were made acquainted with spirituality in general. The rest of the time was spent in manual labor: washing dishes, cleaning floors, keeping up the grounds, peeling potatoes, and other menial chores.

Once these first two years were completed, his education began in earnest. During his four-year stay, all his classical study courses were taught in Latin. Latin was a language in which he became proficient quickly. He also learned German, Greek and Spanish.

Now four years into the fifteen-year process of becoming a full Jesuit priest, he was sent to attend Woodstock College outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Three years were spent there learning philosophy, which became his major, and English, his minor.

After these three years, it was now time to participate in the "Great Experiment". This was a program where seminarians were sent out to do something in a ministry at this point in their training so the Jesuits could see the

students in action. He was chosen to teach in a very small, selective school at 83rd Street and Park Avenue in New York City. A huge tuition meant classes of no more than fifteen students. Two "immensely enjoyable" years passed before he left.

The next stop was Fordham University for a year. Here he had special studies in counseling, administration, and education. It was also where he met his most important priestly mentor and role model, Father Lorenzo Reed. Father Reed was known throughout the country as the expert in secondary education. He took our son to be Father Carr under his wing and they worked closely together.

Now it's away to college outside of Boston, Massachusetts for four years. Here he studied theology of all sorts. After three years he was ordained and returned for a final year studying Canon law, Sacraments, the Church, and grace.

Father Carr's fifteenth and final year of Jesuit training took place in a small town, Vooreesville, New York on the Mohawk River. This year was known as the "Tertianship" and was a repeat of the first two years of manual labor. More dirty dishes, unpeeled potatoes, scuffed floors, and unruly hedges awaited his attention. Now his superior was called the "Tertian Instructor" who also lectured the returnees in the Society of Jesus constitutions, laws, and history. Society documents were also studied during this period. It was their second year of priesthood, too, so they also helped out at parishes around the state when needed.

Father Carr then spent time as the chaplain in a large Brooklyn hospital. Their shifts were twenty-four hours on and twenty-four hours off. The off time was spent in a local Jesuit house. He then taught in a Buffalo high school for a year. His next and most challenging assignment was as a thirty-three year old principal in Jersey City, New Jersey at a big college prep school of a thousand young men. He spent six years there. It was and remains a fine institution. Four more years were spent as principal of a school in Rochester, New York.

After being in charge of two high schools and two colleges in upper New York in a later assignment, he became the Provincial (director) of the Buffalo Jesuit province. There are ten Jesuit provinces around the country and the "top man" of each is known as the Provincial.

Having served his term as Provincial, he asked to go back to teaching. He was sent to Puerto Rico to a flourishing high school and stayed in high school work until he decided he was losing touch with the young people.



Father Carr had always been interested in retreat work and requested that his Provincial assign him to this type of work. His Provincial suggested that a year of parish work would be good for him. Father Carr knew Bishop Snyder of Saint Augustine Diocese and Bishop Snyder sent him to our Christ the King parish for a year. After his year here, he went to the Jesuit graduate theology school in Berkeley, California and spent six months brushing up on theology. He then went into training for retreat giving outside of Reading, Pennsylvania. Oshkosh, Wisconsin was his next assignment for five years. He gave retreats at that site and others around the country. His current posting is as a parish priest in Buffalo, New York for the last two years.

During his teaching career, his favorite subject to teach was Latin. He taught every subject the schools needed him for except math and science classes. He remains interested in giving retreats.

Some of his concerns about today include the Catholics still "wedded" to the old Church (pre Vatican II). These faithful find the changes since Vatican II very difficult to take and their numerical concentration varies according to the region of the country. In Buffalo, Catholics are very traditional and have always liked the Church the way it used to be. His parish is staffed with older priests who are comfortable with traditional Catholicism and seldom try to change their parishioners' attitudes.

Father Carr finds this extremely stressful because he has always had a vision of other things. He embraced and adapted to the changes brought by Vatican II and fights for their universal acceptance. He welcomed changes as they came, but he has realized that people are resistant to change and can't be pushed into something they strongly resist.

The erosion of family structure is a great concern for Father Carr. The breakup of the family is a tragedy for the children and parents who have made a mistake. He is unpopular with some young people who come for counseling before marriage because he will tell them that the young man is many times not in love with "Jane" but in love with an image of "Jane". After marriage, the image of "Jane" begins to break down. He likens it

to "falling in love with a dimple and marrying the whole girl."

Other concerns of his are the tenor of politics in this country, the materialism that seems to "submerge" people somehow, and the self-esteem infection that has manifested itself in the public school systems over the past thirty years. Imagine the reasoning behind allowing a child to proceed ahead in grade only to save their self-esteem when they haven't learned the necessities of the past year. Self-esteem has become "sacred" and can't be tampered with in public school education because of the "glorification of self-esteem" present in our public schools.

Social promotion promotes the loss of competition. It is evident in the physical education courses that now emphasize sports that have no winner or loser and reward mere participation instead of excellence so one's self-esteem is never damaged. In a competitive world one needs to get used to it.

Father Carr believes "to shield an adolescent from failure is a form of child abuse." He feels that young people have fewer ideals than in the past and that the racial problem in our country is the largest problem we have right now and must be solved.

This priest who loves to walk, give retreats and reads histories and biographies believes Christ the King parish has a vitality he hasn't seen in any other parish where he has served. People are tied into this parish in a very real way and that acts as a draw for him to come here.

A prediction from him is a married priesthood that will happen sometime down the line. He believes this will happen in order to alleviate the shortage of priests in our Church. There are many ex-priests who would love to come back to the ministry if they were allowed to be married. Many Uniate churches (churches united with Rome) have married clergy.

So, here is part of the faithful path that this priest has walked on his way to everlasting life. He has touched many lives with his service and thinking and ideas. Most of us have known him only as the white haired, alabaster skinned, visiting priest who lightens his homilies with witty anecdotes. He is obviously much more than that and is welcome here anytime.