



Christ the King COURIER

Volume 8, Issue 1

Christ the King Catholic Church

May, 2005

VOCATIONS GOD IS CALLING YOU!

by Frank Becht

We are taught and believe that God is calling all of us to spread our faith through our example to all whom we encounter. God has some specific needs that He encourages upon certain people. An example is His call for religious vocations. There is a great need for nuns and sisters to serve in our communities as teachers, nurses, counselors, volunteers to work amongst the poor and needy, and many other ways to serve our humanity.

"I'm not worthy," you say. God says, "I'll help you become more worthy; yes, you are a sinner. You are human and I can help you." You say, "I don't feel 'nunny'," or you procrastinate and ignore that feeling of need for satisfaction in your life. Or you say, "nobody else is doing it." "Give me time to think about it," or "I don't think my family would approve." "Ok, I'll be back" God says as you cringe and feel like running away.

How do I know God is calling me? "Simple," God says, "Do you feel unfulfilled? Do you crave a greater opportunity? Have you let life pass you by? Is marriage and family not for you?" God says, "Listen to Me; I can make you whole and give you a fulfilling life."

THE NEED

The need is enormous for sisters and nuns in all our Catholic communities across our nation, particularly in education. In 1965, there were approximately 180,000 nuns in the United States; today there are less than 70,000. Every Diocese is suffering from the loss of nuns; schools are being closed down due to shrinking Diocesan and parish resources. In 2003 over 120 schools closed down. There are over 100,000 fewer Catholic students today than three years ago.

Prior to the 60's, sisters, brothers and priests staffed most schools. Today, 95 percent of Catholic schoolteachers are laity who have various backgrounds in the Catholic faith or often are members of other faiths. We have lost our ability to provide affordable religious education to our students at all levels.



Sister Joy caring for a child in El Salvador

Many other factors also greatly impact the ability of our Catholic communities to provide quality Catholic education to its membership. In addition to the increase in tuition to maintain our schools, the demographic shift in population in many parishes creates a tremendous burden on the parish to continue providing quality education. An increase in sisters to teach in our schools is a dire need for the salvation of Catholic education.

GOD IS CALLING

Let me give you an example of how serious God is. God recently called a most unsuspecting and improbable candidate to serve Him as a nun. Her name is Sister Joy Payton, a 27 year old who had a good job and was not really interested in a new life style.

Her parents, Lee and Lindel Payton lived in Nashville, Tennessee, where she was born and attended public schools. She attended a Presbyterian College, Agnes Scott College, in Atlanta, Georgia. She was raised as a Pentecostal but the family was not active in their church. She has two sisters, one older and one younger and a baby brother. During college she met several Catholic students and became good friends. They influenced her to become Catholic; she was received into the Church in April, 2001. It was here that she began to wonder what God had in mind for her. Luckily her immediate family had no serious objections to her becoming Catholic.

She had a good job in Atlanta as a computer programmer and she liked to date, but she felt unfulfilled. It was here that she made a deal with God to give her a year to consider His deal. A short time later the desire for adventure caused her to seek a job in Switzerland with Swiss Air; she was accepted. Before the job could materialize, September 11 happened. Joy, in her frustration and anger at the world and terrorists, "caved in" to God's wishes. He had harassed her for months. She joined the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whom she had known for some time in Atlanta. She entered their convent in Miami, Florida.

Can you imagine what a scary ride God gave Joy until she acquiesced and became Sister Joy? Now she is feeling more fulfilled in her new life as a Novice located in Haverford, Pennsylvania. She continues to struggle to live God's way and leave behind her old lifestyle.

After Joy's story, do you still feel that you are unworthy and that God would not consider you? Try Him.

Listen to what God may be saying to you, and pray. "God help me to eliminate the confusion in my life."

If you would like to find out more about Sister Joy and her journey in the religious life, contact her at www.be-a-nun.org. Sister would love to hear from you and answer any of your inquiries.

An article written by Jamie Malernee of Knight-Tribune News Service first appeared in the Florida Times Union on January 14, 2005. Contact with Sister Joy Payton of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus resulted in her assistance in the above article and photographs. Sr. Joy can be reached through website www.be-a-nun.org, or by emailing her at srjoy@acjusa.org

"A vocation is a mystery of divine election"

Pope John Paul II - Gift and Mystery



"There is a pressing need to implement an extensive plan of vocational promotion, based on personal contact and involving parishes, schools, and families in the effort to foster a more attentive reflection on the essential values of life. These values reach their fulfillment in the response which each person is invited to give to God's call, particularly when the call implies the total gift of oneself and of one's energies for the sake of the Kingdom" (Novo millennio ineunte, 46)

Message of

His Holiness Pope John Paul II for the
42nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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Father Thanh's Message

"Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them to those who were reclining and also as much of the fish as they wanted" -John 6:11

The above quote is part of chapter six of the Gospel of John regarding the Eucharist. A boy gave Jesus the little food he had and with it Jesus fed the multitude. I wonder if the boy felt a sense of loss when he gave away his food to Jesus, a sense that soon must have turned to joyous awe as he witnessed what followed.

It took many years for the early Church to realize that its life was to share in the life of the Trinity. God shares his life with us. Our life reflects divine life to the extent that we share what we have with others. Some of us have much to share; others have far less. How different our world would be if we trusted God enough to share what we do have.

Pope John Paul II made a difference in our church and world as our pope for more than 26 years. He shared his life for many diverse attributes - defense of life, fierce opposition to communism, fervent devotion to Mary and love of the outdoors, but he always kept his discipleship to Jesus Christ and his care of the Church at the forefront. He left us an example by which to live, with prayer as a cornerstone. His life belonged to God. Through his life's trials - losing his mother as a child, standing up to the Nazis in his youth, having courage to follow his vocation in the face of communism, facing health

problems during his papacy and forgiving his would-be assassin. He trusted God enough to say and act and "be not afraid" wherever he went. His life did make a difference in our lives and in the world. *"Deo gratias."*

Look around you. There are many people who share their lives with others for the love of God. Deacon David MacNamara is a husband and a father. He celebrated his 25th anniversary as a deacon last April 23 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. He has dedicated himself to serving God and his community.

Over the years he has left his imprint on the Diocese of Tallahassee-Pensacola where he helped Bishop Gracida develop a Diaconate Program - the first in Florida. Then he went to St. Petersburg where he served as Diocesan Administrator to Bishop Larkin, our founding pastor.

He came back to Jacksonville to Christ the King and at Monsignor Danaher's request he became the chaplain of our school and teaches the children religion. He also runs our Baptism Class for parents who want to have their babies baptized. Happy Anniversary, Deacon Dave. May God bless you with many more.

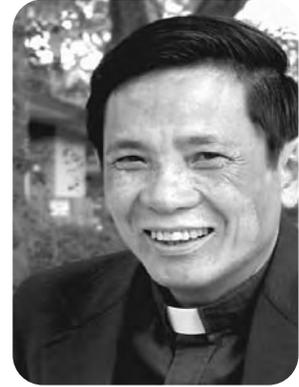
Janet Morton is a wife and a mother. She has a great love of God. She attends Mass faithfully every day. For 25 years she has served students as their principal. Her dedication to Christ the King School is outstanding. Although the

school was initially accredited before she became our principal, under her leadership it has maintained its accreditation status throughout the years. While she has been principal, she has accomplished a lot not only in our school but for Catholic schools throughout the diocese. May she find joy and peace with her family, friends and church community in retirement.

In my pastoral experience I have seen many men and women who gave selflessly to their family. Some have stayed single in order to be there for their parents or other family members, taking care of them when they were ill. Their dedication to family is commendable.

As for married couples, I pray that you continue to share selflessly and to love each other with respect and honor according to the vows you exchanged on your wedding day. As parents, you share your life to nourish your children. At your children's baptisms, you promised to "bring them up in the practice of the faith." It is a reminder that you are the first teacher of your children. Your dedication to raising your children is fulfilling your obligation as Christian parents. Your example and guidance make a difference in the lives of your children and in your community.

All of these people, the many pastors, priests and nuns who have walked through the doors of Christ the King, and lay people who dedicated themselves to their



families are just ordinary people who through God's influence have made a difference. I want you to know that your sacrifice does make a difference.

Finally, I thank God for the gift of the Eucharist where Jesus gave His life for our salvation. I ask you to continue to pray for our new pope, Benedict XVI, as he leads the Church into a new era. I pray that God, through the breaking of the bread, gives you the strength to share your life in your own vocation. May you always remember the sacrifice God made by sending His Son. May the Holy Spirit nourish and strengthen our faith so we become the Bread of Life for others, for our family, for our church community and for our world.

Christ the King Courier

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The mission of *Christ the King Courier* is to provide our Christ The King Family with information and news regarding our faith and parish ministries. The goal is to share information, happenings, and stories that abound within the ministries of our parish in the hope that people can use this information to bring you closer to God and our parish church family. Wisdom and enlightenment are two of many of God's gifts, and through *Christ the King Courier* parishioners can share in the joy, love, and fellowship of Christ the King Parish. Our desire is to serve our God, share his message of love and hope with all, and to encourage others to spread the message of the Gospel of Christ the King.

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

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

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

Pray for Vocations

"They sound like angels"
The Renowned French Boys' Choir
Les Petite Chanteurs du Comté de Flandre
under the direction of Régis Decool



performing Monday, July 25, 7:30 p.m.
at Christ the King Catholic Church
free-will offering to defray the cost

Boys will be selling programs, CD's & cassettes
featuring the choir before & after the program
Reception to follow in Blessed John XXIII Hall

Letters

February, 15, 2005
Dear Father Thanh:



Recently our ministry received a very generous donation of food, clothing and diapers from a collection that was held in your parish on Sunday, January 16, 2005. On behalf of the many farm workers' families that will be receiving the goods, **THANK YOU!**

Our ministry is blessed to have the support of parishioners like the ones at Christ the King. Daisy MacDonald is a great example of the work and dedication that our Lord Jesus asked from each and everyone of us.

As you may know, our ministry is opening an annex in Green Cove Springs and the supplies more than filled our new pantry with all the needs to outreach such a poor community.

I must tell you a touching story that happened when I, along with two volunteers, were sorting and distributing the food in CEBTRO ANA. I had commented that we needed a crucifix to place in our modest little house before opening date on Tuesday, February 1st. Just as I was finishing unloading my minivan, I noticed a white box that had fallen from a grocery bag and it was laying inside my van. I opened it and there was a beautiful brand-new crucifix that someone from your parish placed inside a bag. I don't know who gave us that gift, but it made our day and warmed our hearts. Now when you walk into our facility you see the crucifix and right below it is the prayer for immigrants, refugees and migrants.

Thank you, Father Thanh, for all your support and please thank the unknown parishioner who without knowing, gave us such a wonderful and special gift.

Julia M. Castro
Director
Diocese of Saint Augustine
Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc.
Farm Workers Ministry

February, 10, 2005
Dear Friends,

Now that the Super bowl is over in our town, the visitors are leaving, the street banners have been taken down, the venues are disassembled, the music is quieted and the streets are open for normal traffic. What has the big fame left for the city of Jacksonville? Many hearts are filled with memories of hard work and good times. Many are making an assessment of the events of the past weeks and find that a great job was done by all.

For food banks and service providers, the results have been tremendous. Here at Arlington Community Services, it has been a win-win situation. The response from loving people donating goods has been wonderful, and the Souper Bowl offerings are beginning to arrive. We wish at this time to applaud everyone who remembered the needy. The effects of your generosity will live long after the excitement of this event and will make this a more wonderful community for everyone.

Thank you for all you have done to ensure that the families facing hard times will have a helping hand in their own neighborhood. The food and funds placed at our center will be shared in the spirit of God's love.

Yours in Christian Service,
Kathy Womack, Executive Director
Arlington Community Services, Inc.

Dear Parishioners of Christ the King Catholic Church,

I would be remiss if I did not thank you for the wonderful years of support you provided me and Christ the King School while I have been Principal. You recognized that the future of our Catholic Church is through our young people. As a result, you were always present to support our school by giving of your time and your treasure. Whether I needed volunteers to knock down walls to renovate the school, serve on committees, paint classrooms or work at the carnivals, you never said no. Through your blessings I have been many times blest. I have stored my memories which will last me a lifetime and I will draw upon them fondly when I think of my twenty-five years as Principal.

I am leaving a better person than when I arrived and I have all of you to thank for who I am today.

God Bless,

Janet Morton
Principal

What's Happening



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ms. Shannon Boyette | Ms. Noelle Winiewicz |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jason Davis | Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Pangan |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ron Nichols | Tam Nguyen |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Trull | Mr. and Mrs. David Crawford |
| Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Zarco | Ms. Vivile Rodin |
| Mr. and Mrs. William Folsom | Ms. Stacy Cecil |
| Mr. and Mrs. Victor Simon | Mr. Stephen Townend |
| The James Black Family | Ms. Alene Dixon |
| Mr. and Mrs. Phillip LeClaire | Ms. Debora Maclay |
| Mrs. Anne Etheridge | Mrs. Rosemarie Sudhoff |
| Mr. and Mrs. Renato Alcantara | Mr. and Mrs. John Reep |
| Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gauvreau | Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Bradley |
| Mr. and Mrs. Alejandro Moreno | Mr. and Mrs. Brian Phillips |
| Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Coylombe | Ms. Alyandrina O'Neal |
| Mr. and Mrs. David Spade | |

Marriages:



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

- Loc Hoa Duong and Phuong Thi Tran
Chuong Due Huynh and Hien thu Bach
Ngoc Vu and Thi Hao Phung
Ngoc Vuong Tran and T. Ngoe Quyen Nguyen
Joseph Foisy Brich and Patricia Lynn Yarborough
Neil Kelleter and Suzanne Sollee

Baptisms:



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

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Sabrina L. Doering | Patricia Yarborough |
| Leif D. Olsen | Fallon Mary Hicks |
| Marcie R. Bradley | Sofia Marie Lopez |
| John P. Coffey | Vincent Thang Do |
| Jennifer Glaser | Anna Nguyen Hoang |
| Alene Dixon | Ayla Maricl Bunag |
| Kevin L. Wolfe | |

Deaths:



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

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Elizabeth E. Murphy | Judith Ann Geissman |
| Lorraine Geilen | Juana Q. Angeles |
| Aileen Smith | Ann Mitchell |
| Raymond Prat | Francis J. Redmond Jr. |
| Lourdes Dira | Rosemary Dwyer |
| Hoa Hoang | Norman Hill |
| Abreu Sotero Jr. | |

Those who met Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time



- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Nathaniel Acedo | J. R. Callanta | Rachael Gilbertson | Mathew Lynch | Bayley Perez | Esteban Vargas |
| Gabby Alequeza | Yasmeen Chan | Ryan Gilbertson | Donna Mahfouz | Rebecca Pierce | Dylan Vestal |
| Gabriel Alvarez | Cloie Chiong | Zachary Grant | Antonio McCall | Paola Ramos | Hellen Vu |
| John Ashley | Madison Clower | Ashlinne Hickox | Cody McElveen | Adam Resch | Tyra Weldon |
| George Assi | Andrew Considine | Rachel House | John McMenamy | Camille Rodriguez | Haley Wimmer |
| Stephen Azar | Jeff Dela Cruz | Alex Irizarry | Drew Mikell | Danny Sanford | David Wilke |
| Colin Boyd | Tyler Doering | Joshua Johnson | Corbin Melton | Megan Schroder | Emily Wolfe |
| Ricky Boyette | Julia Eason | Nicholas Keisling | Lauren Mokwa | Hannah Shami | Kelly Wolfe |
| Caitlin Bradley | Jennifer Essick | Chris Kelley | Mark Morales | Martha Simons | |
| John Connor | Jaselyn Flores | Cassidy Lewis | Larissa Ogin | Erica Stanfill | |
| Broekman | Maurice Flores | Andrew Locke | Janel Palomo | Michael Urbizi | |
| Ronnie Burke | Charlene Garcia | David Longenecker | Zachary Parker | Emilio Vargas | |

Statement of the Florida Bishops

April 14, 2005

Statement of the Florida Bishops Marriage Is Between One Man and One Woman

1. We, the Catholic Bishops of Florida, join together in support of a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as the legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife. We support the proposed constitutional amendment in fidelity to our Catholic faith and our commitment to the common good. The specific language of the amendment is, "Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

2. The witness of sacred scripture and the Catholic tradition teach that marriage, as instituted by God, is between one man and one woman. It is within this covenant of nuptial love that man and woman become one and the gift of children is best received and nurtured. Although Florida law already defines marriage properly, we believe that an amendment to the state constitution is necessary in order to prevent judicial invalidation of the law.

3. The teaching of the Catholic Church is not unique; it is rooted in

nature. The gift, meaning and truth of marriage come from creation and are not ours to change. Marriage and family life are fundamental to the moral well being of society. Research and history support the traditional family as the best context for promoting stability and nurturing children. As Pope John Paul II has often said, "As the family goes, so goes the nation!" (Cf. Homily, St. Louis, January 27, 1999)

4. Our support for this proposed constitutional amendment is not motivated by discrimination or animosity toward any group. The Church's teaching about the dignity of homosexual persons is clear. "They must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided." (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2358) To uphold God's intent for marriage in which sexual relations have their proper and exclusive place is not to offend the dignity of persons with same sex attraction. Christians must give witness to the whole moral truth and proclaim as immoral all sexual activity outside of true marriage, as well as any unjust actions and hateful attitudes toward homosexual persons.

5. The protection of the institution of marriage is essential to the health and well being of our

nation. This is especially important as popular culture, media and entertainment often undermine or ignore the essential role of marriage and promote equivalence between marriage and homosexual relationships.

6. We urge Catholics, and all people of good will who are registered to vote, to sign a petition in favor of allowing this amendment to be voted on in the next general election. Your support will help preserve the integrity of marriage and family life.

- Archbishop John C. Favalora - Archdiocese of Miami*
- Bishop John J. Nevins - Diocese of Venice*
- Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ - Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee*
- Bishop Robert N. Lynch - Diocese of St. Petersburg*
- Bishop Victor Galeone - Diocese of St. Augustine*
- Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, JCL - Diocese of Palm Beach*
- Bishop Thomas G. Wenski - Diocese of Orlando*
- Auxiliary Bishop Felipe J. Estévez - Archdiocese of Miami*

taken from The Florida Catholic Conference web site P.O. Box 1677 * Tallahassee, FL * 32302-1677 Phone (850) 222-3803 * Fax (850) 681-9548



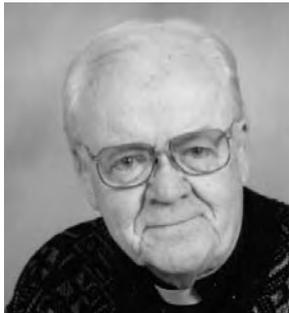
Pope Benedict XVI

"My dear friends – at this moment I can only say: pray for me, that I may learn to love the Lord more and more. Pray for me, that I may learn to love his flock more and more – in other words, you, the holy Church, each one of you and all of you together. Pray for me, that I may not flee for fear of the wolves. Let us pray for one another, that the Lord will carry us and that we will learn to carry one another."

Homily of His Holiness
Benedict XVI
St. Peter's Square
Sunday, 24 April 2005

THE MASS

(continued from last issue)



by Father Neil Carr

The last issue of *The Courier* contained a brilliant piece on the Mass as a sacrifice, and explained brilliantly that a sacrifice is composed of three elements: 1) something precious, 2) something destroyed, 3) as an act of worship. Let us now view it briefly as a meal.

As we all know, the Mass is the re-enactment of the Last Supper when Jesus took bread and wine and gave them to his apostles as His body and blood. He also commanded them to repeat this meal down through the ages "in commemoration of me."

For a while, the early Christians felt themselves still bound by the law of Moses, and so they continued to attend the temple services, but, after the services, they would gather in the home of one of them, one large enough to accommodate them - or to several homes as their number grew - for "the fellowship-meal" to reproduce that last supper ritual. Their being weaned from the temple services and the domination of the Mosaic Law over their lives was very gradual, but finally the break was made. When it came down to "Jesus or the Law," their choice

was clear. In any event, the Eucharist, still a fellowship-meal, has come down to us through the centuries, first celebrated in home-churches, now celebrated throughout the world in humble mission churches and grand cathedrals alike.

Many years back when Mass was said in Latin (still the official language of the Church), the consecrated host was referred to as the *esca viatorum*, the food of pilgrims, of people on a journey. The Mass today speaks of us as "the pilgrim Church on earth," and so we are. Our destination is heaven, our "Promised Land." The Jews, on their pilgrimage to their Promised Land, needed food from God to sustain them on their forty-year trek. In exactly the same way, we need the Eucharist as our food to sustain us as we trudge this earth on our uphill journey.

As we know, the twelve apostles composed Our Lord's "team;" the disciples were the people who tried never to miss a game. At one point in his public life, a large crowd of these disciples had been in Jesus' company for several days and away from home. Jesus realized that some of them might faint, or even die, on their return journey unless they were given food. From just five loaves and two fish he fed thousands, the shepherd feeding his flock. Surely they needed that food just as much as the Jews had in the desert, just as much as we need to receive Holy Communion, the "Bread of Life," if we are to reach our Promised Land.

In his Gospel, St. John says, "Truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you." (6:53) Unless we do this, he says, we will wither and die like a branch cut from the vine. "I am the vine; you are the branches." (15:5)

Sister Joy Payton



by Sister Joy Payton

I always knew I was called to family life. I imagined myself as one of a pair of parental bookends, keeping a veritable flock of good Catholic kids prayerful during Mass. Mom, row of 8 kids, Dad. In my imagination, my kids were all different colors, most of them if not all adopted. We weren't rich, of course, with such a large family, except in love and companionship. Hubby and I would glance over at each other with amusement at dinnertime, shaking our heads at the clamor of our children...a little frazzled, perhaps, but joyful nonetheless. Yep, even years ago, I always knew I was called to family life.

The other day I looked around the table at my family. We take up most of our home's dining room. It takes at least two tables to seat all of us, and sometimes three! At my table, there were six of us, and each of us was from a different country. Susana, from Paraguay, Pilar, from Spain, Theresa, from Vietnam, Alice, from Colombia, Irene from Argentina, and me, from the USA. Different colors, different accents, different challenges. God had indeed delivered what I knew all along was God's dream for me... a multicolor, multicultural family. But God's dream was better than I had first imagined. My family life was richer than I thought possible! Because of the five other women at the table, four of them were my Sisters. I am a novice Handmaid of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and my family is made up of 1400 women in 24 countries.

Growing up, I never thought that I would be a nun. In fact, I went to college and started my career with great success and without thinking about a religious vocation. I made good money, had a boyfriend, and most importantly, wasn't even Catholic, at least at first! I thought God only called really pious people or those who were hard-core volunteer types. I mean, sure, I did Habitat for Humanity occasionally and did try not to miss Mass, but I was no Mother Teresa! Me, a nun? Ha! But I kept getting these nudges from God: the desire to give more, to be more, to give a dramatic "yes" to God. These feelings finally led me to the inevitable

conclusion. I was nuts. Yes, I, Joy Payton, paragon of psychiatric well-being, needed a mental health break. Why would God pick somebody like me? After all, I drove too fast. I was not very quiet or obedient. I laughed at jokes I shouldn't, if you know what I mean. I even TOLD jokes I shouldn't!

How did I go from disbelief to excitement and joy in my vocation as a Sister? What led me to go from "who, me?" to "woo-hoo! Me!!!"? I talked my feelings over with someone who was experienced with the ways of God, especially with the way God calls people to their life vocation. This person, a spiritual director, helped me sort through the confusing mess of dreams, thoughts, fears, hopes, habits, and so forth. God's dream for me started becoming more clear, and the more I said "yes" to God in small things, the better able I was to discern what God was asking me to do when it came to the big things... like work, relationships, and of course my vocation.

It's been almost two years since I entered the convent, and I am happier than I have ever been. It's not always easy - I miss exercising my credit card-swiping hand at the mall, for example. But I feel like my dream for God and God's dream for me is starting to come through. When I gaze at my beloved, I don't see a husband's face, as I had imagined years ago. What I see instead is the Lord of all, come to be with me! With little ole me! And when I make my adoration, and look with awe on the humble presence of Christ in the Eucharist, I can't believe my good fortune.

In this year of the Eucharist, I challenge you to come with me before the Lord. What is God's dream for you? It's better than your dream, I guarantee. Take a risk. Step out in faith. Talk to someone who can help you figure out God's call. If you are a single Catholic woman who loves Christ present in the Eucharist, and if you think you might be called to bring healing to humanity as a Sister, drop me a line. Tell me your dream for God... and God's dream for you.

Sister Joy Payton, n.acj, can be reached at sr.joy@acjusa.org. She invites readers to visit the website of her congregation at <http://www.be-a-nun.org> and read her online journal, entitled "The Convent Files."



What Do You Want God to Say to You?

by George Olin Middleton

I sometimes watch a television show - "Inside the Actor's Studio" - on which the emcee interviews Hollywood actors and actresses. At the end of the program he asks his guests a standard list of questions. One of its questions: "If Heaven really does exist, what would you like God to say to you when you reach the Pearly Gates?"

I have thought about this often. There are so many things He might say.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant."

"Come you blessed of my Father. Possess the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

"Depart from me you cursed into everlasting fire."

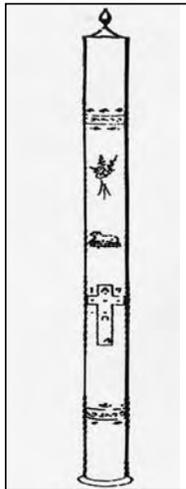
What I most want God to say to me is "Please come in. Your mother is here with me. We have been waiting for you."

Symbols

by Staff Writer

The Easter Candle is symbolism itself. *I am the light of the world.* The Easter Vigil begins after dark with the service of light. A fire is lit outside the totally darkened church and the candle is blessed by the priest with words including

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the word. Make this new fire holy, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.



The candle is prepared by the priest in the following manner. You see on the candle the various symbols which the priest traces while saying...

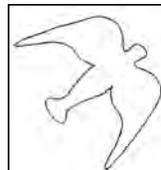
Christ yesterday and today
(as he traces the vertical arm of the cross)
the beginning and the end
(tracing the horizontal arm of the cross)
Alpha
(tracing the alpha above the cross)
and Omega
(tracing the omega beneath the cross)
all time belongs to Him
(the first numeral in the year 2005 in the upper left corner of the cross)
and all ages
(the second numeral in the upper right corner)
to Him be glory and power
(the third numeral in the lower left corner)
through every age for ever. Amen.
(the last numeral in the lower right corner)

After which five grains of incense symbolizing the five wounds of Christ are placed in the candle while the priest is saying . . .
By His holy / and glorious wounds / may Christ our Lord / guard us / and keep us. Amen.

And as the priest lights the candle from the new fire he says . . .
May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

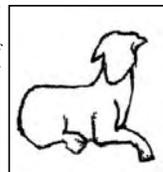
From the Easter candle the gathered people light their individual candle and process into the dark church in which the first portion of the Easter Vigil is continued with only the light from the assembled candles signifying Jesus as the light of the world.

The Easter Candle pictured in this article also has two other symbols on it.



The top symbol is that of the dove a symbol of the Holy Spirit taken from the story of Jesus' baptism, where the Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. Matthew 3:16 *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. (NIV)*

The next is that of the lamb: John 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* and again Revelation. 5:11-12 *Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*



Buona Pasqua from Sicily

submitted by Dolores Bianco

We have just witnessed two historic episodes in Vatican City, Rome: the peaceful passing of our beloved Pope John Paul II complete with the mourning process, and the conclave of cardinals climaxing with the joyful announcement, "*Habemus Papam.*" (The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now called Benedict XVI, is our new Holy Father.) During these two occurrences, St. Peter's Square and surrounding vias or streets were awash with a sea of humanity. Throngs gathered to share the sadness mixed with joy.

In another part of Italy, on the island of Sicily, a very small and very old city (Mineo) played host to the following observance of Holy Week which was another occasion of sadness followed by joy! This was experienced by a friend whose husband's military duty brought the family to the island. She writes that the little town of Mineo has seven Catholic churches, three of which are still operating. During Holy Week, however, the churches take turns hosting the whole town for the main Masses and, indeed, the entire town is there.

On Good Friday the main Mass was held in a magnificent church filled with marble and adorned with huge paintings and artwork of every kind. For this night, only candlelight was used. Following



the Liturgy and service, everyone stayed to watch a re-enactment of the Passion. There were Roman soldiers, Pilate, a giant wooden cross, mournful women, and, of course, Jesus. After Jesus was crucified, they wrapped him in cloth and placed his body (a real man acting as Jesus) in a giant glass and gold coffin. This was carried on peoples' shoulders through the town. Everyone else held tall white candles and either followed behind it, or stood lining the route to the center of the town. Behind the procession was a brass band playing funeral music. It was both solemn and beautiful. The coffin was taken to the town square where many stayed to pray well into the night, and then surprisingly enoughfireworks! (Every religious event here, happy or sad, has

fireworks associated with it.)

Easter is celebrated in an equally dramatic way. This service was held in an even bigger, more beautiful church (interesting to note that all are within walking distance of each other). An hour or so before Mass, everyone gathers with friends for coffee, hand-shakes and wishes of "*Buona Pasqua, Buona Pasqua*" (Happy Easter, Happy Easter). Mass was beautiful.

There was very little music, except for the marching band which paraded through town during the service and stopped at the huge open doors of the church to play an impromptu concert (during the Homily no less!) Incidentally, Confessions are heard during Easter service at a side altar (no booth or curtain, just a kneeler and a chair). Young couples, teens, senior citizens, every kind of person took time to go to Confession as naturally as going to Communion.

After Mass everyone waits outside the church to see the men carry a giant 600 year old statue of Jesus into the street. Representatives from the other Catholic churches in town join in the procession carrying their church flags and wearing mourning robes and hoods. They cover their

faces to hide their sorrow, for they have not yet learned of Jesus' Resurrection. The marching band joins in and the whole town follows along to the town square. Everyone waits for Mary to appear. She is carried in from a side street and is completely covered in black cloth. She is carried around the square but doesn't see Jesus (the other statue). Then, in dramatic fashion, she turns to face Him. Church bells ring, the band plays, fireworks are launched, and her black cloth is whisked away to reveal her happiness at realizing Jesus is alive. All the other hoods come off and then the two statues race toward each other at top speed and then back again three times. After the third time everyone shouts, "*Viva Jesu, viva Jesu!*"

Every town in Sicily has some form of this event. One uses puppets, with Jesus in the town square with many spectators, and St. Peter racing through the town looking for Mary to tell her Jesus has risen. Some people wait with the puppet of Mary while some follow the Peter puppet. They all end up in the town square for the meeting and, of course, fireworks! Another town has giant floats depicting the Stations of the Cross which process through the candlelit town after church services on Good Friday. My friend concludes with the assessment that it would take many, many Easters to see all the different ways of commemorating this area's Holy Week.

Is God calling you??

My Mother

by George O. Middleton

Mother had a very hard life raising five children through the depression years without any help from her husband.

When Daddy died, Mother received a modest sum from his estate. Because they had never been divorced, she received a check from his social security account every month for the rest of her life.

Mother had financial security that she had not had for many years. She wanted to do something to express her thanks to her Lord for all His blessings.

So Mother paid for Stations of the Cross plaques that were placed on trees along a wooded trail where the church now stands.

When the trees were cleared to make way for the church construction the plaques were placed in storage. They came to light when Bishop Baker was our pastor. They are now placed across the outside of the church.

It gives me great pleasure and an immense feeling of pride when I see them to know that they were the gift of a most remarkable woman - my mother.

DEACON DAVE MACNAMARA

by Frank Becht

Deacon Dave was born of Gerald and Elizabeth Mac Namara in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gerald is the immigrating ancestor who was "conceived in Ireland but born in Philadelphia." Dave attended local Catholic schools and at the age of 16 graduated from Roman Catholic High School which was the "first free Catholic school in America." At age 18, he joined the United States Marine Corps where he served 4 years active service and 4 years reserve.

In 1949 he graduated from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia where he feels he received a good foundation in his faith in receiving 4 years religious education and 3 years of philosophy. During this time he had met Mary Schott who was born and grew up in the same neighborhood. In September 1949 he and Mary were married.

Dave's early goal of being a teacher and coach for football and basketball was realized in his first job at Melrose Catholic Academy; he later transferred to Landsdale Catholic High School. In 1954, as luck would have it, he took a job at



Catholic schools; all are married and practice their faith. Dave and Mary are proud grandparents of twenty-two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mary's vocation was the care of their seven active children. She was very involved in the school and church with the many activities that seven active children create. She was also very involved in various ladies parish organizations. Need more be said?

During those early years at Christ the King, Dave and Father Larkin got to know each other well. They were "two of a kind." They had breakfast together at least once a week. He was a member of all the parish ministries including the Arlington Knights of Columbus. Dave assisted and advised Father Larkin in many projects in the fastest growing parish of the time.

Dave on the other hand was a bundle of activity of another nature.



State Farm Insurance Companies in Philadelphia where he worked for 1 year after which he was transferred to the Home office in Bloomington, Illinois. He spent only 1 year in Illinois when he was again transferred to the State Farm Regional office in Jacksonville, Florida as the Director of Training of the Southeast. In August 1960, he and Mary moved into the Seabrook Manor of Arlington where the Christ the King Church and School were under development.

Deacon Dave and Mary have a beautiful family of 7 children; Mary Lynn, Margaret, Stephen, Sharon, Leslie, Lee Ann and Claudia. All were educated in

He worked in his assigned capacity for several years at State Farm. He became anxious for greater responsibility so he took a job with a small local insurance company, Insurance Company of the South, as Vice-president of marketing. By 1968 he had become the first employee of the Consolidated Government of the City of Jacksonville; there he served for 7 years. In 1975, he became the Assistant Secretary of State of Florida; this being a 4-year term, Dave and Mary moved to Tallahassee. In 1979, it was back to Jacksonville as the Director of Public Safety.

In December 1979, Bishop Larkin who had become the Bishop of St. Petersburg, Florida called

Dave to come as the Diocesan Administrator where Deacon Dave served for 10 years until Bishop Larkin retired, whereupon Dave and Mary returned to Jacksonville. In 1991, Monsignor Danaher, Pastor of Christ the King, asked Dave to come to Christ the King where he currently serves as Christ the King School Chaplain. Deacon Dave has served as deacon to all the Pastors of Christ the King; first Father Thomas Larkin, now retired Bishop of St. Petersburg; Monsignor John Lenihan; Monsignor Mortimer Danaher; Father Robert Baker, now Bishop of Charleston, South Carolina; Father Robert Mc Dermont and our current Pastor Father Thanh Thai Nguyen.

In addition to his duties as school chaplain, Dave has been very active working with people of special spiritual needs. He has been very active in marriage counseling and teaching those who wish to become Catholic but unable to attend RCIA classes. He runs the monthly Baptism classes at Christ the King. He is currently serving as a chaplain for All Saints Catholic Home for the Aging, visiting with and counseling the sick.

He founded and for several years promoted the Annual Mary Singleton Breakfast and Educational Foundation, honoring Mary Singleton for her many contributions to the Jacksonville Community. Over the years, he has served on many committees of the Duval County School Board and continues to do so. One of his long-standing activities in Jacksonville has been hosting a cable television show covering a wide variety of topics from community to religion and politics. Currently he continues to host the First Amendment Program on cable channel 29.

During Dave's tenure as Assistant Secretary of State from 1975-1979, he had an opportunity to meet the new Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Bishop Rene Gracida had a total of 32 priests to cover his far-flung diocese and was looking for ways to better serve the people of his

diocese. Previously no deacons had been utilized in Florida; he wanted to establish a training program for the diaconate and invited Dave MacNamara to be a candidate in the first class and to help him set up the program. Dave started the program in 1976 and completed it in 1980. Upon his completion, he was invited to join the St. Augustine Diocese by Bishop John Snyder, and of course, the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese, as well as the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Dave accepted Bishop Larkin's call and was ordained in May 1980 by Bishop Thomas Larkin in Clearwater, Florida.

Surely, this was God calling Dave when Bishop Gracida asked him to join the diaconate program; he accepted God's call. It's hard to believe that his close association and friendship with Father Larkin was not God's work, which Dave answered later. Even Dave's many moves in the business world could well have been God's way of Dave seeking greater fulfillment. Dave and Mary's family life is evidence of Dave's ability to serve God and man. He recalls one other time when he was a 16 year old graduate at Roman Catholic High School in Philadelphia when he and other classmates were interviewed for entrance to the seminary; he was not accepted but this may have been God's first call.

For 25 years as Deacon, Dave has served and proven his dedication to the Church, his wife and family and to community and business.



On April 23, 2005, Bishop Thomas Larkin celebrated the 5p.m. Mass at Christ the King honoring Deacon Dave MacNamara for 25 years of faithful service to the Church as Deacon. Family and many friends in the parish attended this special occasion.

RCIA Feedback . . .

The following are comments from some of our new family members of Christ the King parish.



Vivile Rodin

As I was baptized and raised Catholic, I did not expect RCIA to have made as great an impact as it has.

The experience has been more challenging and rewarding than I'd anticipated. To really appreciate and continue my conversion in the Catholic faith meant taking the time to be open and receptive, listening and sharing ideas and experiences with others.

Everyone has traveled a unique path and has stories to tell and ideas to share of their personal journey. You won't know if something in your experience strikes a chord with someone, or if something in another's experience will touch your own heart, unless you share yourself in words or deeds with others.

So from the bottom of my heart, thank you, Father Perko, the RCIA team members, my sponsor, Roz Balsam, and my new Catholic brothers and sisters, for sharing your time, thoughts and experiences with me.

My experience in the RCIA was wonderful. I struggled, learned, and grew all at the same time. My teachers were patient and helpful and the dedication they gave will never be forgotten.

I think every Catholic should attend these classes at least once. Even my sponsor, a cradle Catholic, learned a thing or two.

Thank you for guiding me through this wonderful journey and helping me find my way home!



Jennifer Glaser



Alene Dixon

My experience as an RCIA candidate was very educational. Many myths about the Catholic faith have been cleared. The closeness and caring that was demonstrated made me feel like this is where I belonged. To learn the different saints and why Catholics pray to them is beneficial. I, too, can now call upon a saint to help me in my daily living.

I have obstacles I must move out of my way in order to be the Christian God wants me to be but, where at least now, I'm sure I not only have the saints but I have a Christian family that will remember me when they pray to help me overcome these obstacles.

I feel a step closer to Jesus than I did before. What we read and heard about the Catholic faith, I get to live it now as a Catholic. I shared my knowledge that I received from the class with my fiance' who is a cradle Catholic and he wants me to teach and read with him from the material I have, starting with the Prayer of the Rosary.

The RCIA program is one that even Baptists and Pentecostals can learn from. Thank you to all the RCIA team for all that was shared and taught to me.



To James and the RCIA leaders:

I would like to Thank You all for your participation and your leadership. I've learned so much. It's been a long journey and I feel like I found myself in the end. After a long hard divorce and all the battles I've been through this was the saving grace that I needed. I feel at home now. I've enjoyed all the stories of others and heard how they came through their hard times with the church behind them. That gives me hope for my future.



Sabrina Doering

Things make more sense as well. There were things in the past that I did out of habit and now they have meaning. Even prayers have changed for me. They go much deeper than ever before. When I pray for myself and others, sometimes it goes so deep that I start crying. Not because I'm sad, it's just a deep spiritual feeling I have inside.

Hopefully, with saints, family and prayer on my side, I can get through my future battles. I feel lighter now since my baptism, like a new sense of purity. Everything I'm facing today is not as heavy as it was before. I know that I will always have people I can turn to and I am never alone. I will always have God on my side and pray for the ones who don't.



Kevin Wolfe

What has RCIA meant to me?

Well, this could be a long story or a short story and for those of you who know me, I tend to be a little long winded.

The RCIA experience has been an experience I will always remember. I have learned so much spiritually and about the church.

I cannot say enough about you James Scott. You truly are a great person and I can honestly say that I do call you a friend. Father Richard, you, too, are very special to me; thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

The RCIA team members, Mary Rouse, John Anderson, Louie O'Neal, Darlene O'Neal, Tony Zeaiter, Roz Balsam, Berry Landers, Norma Landers and Micah Etheridge, thank you so much for your time and passion for Christ. I will always be indebted to each of you.

Finally, to my sponsor, Mitch Gable, you truly are a very special person. I would like to thank you for sharing your experiences and your knowledge with me.

Love and Marriage

by George Olin Middleton

On November 20, 2004, more than 150 married couples from all over the St. Augustine Diocese gathered at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Middleburg. They were there to celebrate 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 or more years of marriage and to renew their vows.

This is an annual event hosted by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, the Diocesan Marriage Renewal Community, and the Ministry of Mothers Sharing. From the very beginning of the event it was easy to see that it was preceded by a great deal of thought and

planning. The "engineering" was incredible. As each couple entered the register they were assigned numbers. Chairs were set up in the parish hall, each chair numbered. Couples sat in chairs corresponding to the numbers assigned to them. The procession from the parish hall to the church lined up by the assigned numbers. It was truly amazing that in the parade from parish hall to church no one was out of line, and the certificates were integrated in such a way that none of them were out of proper sequence. "Engineering" at its very best.

During the liturgy vows were renewed. After Mass Bishop Victor Galeone called each

couple by name and presented them with a certificate commemorating their specific anniversary and each "bride" was presented with a yellow rose.

After the beautiful ceremony a great reception was provided by the Diocesan Center for Family Life.

My wife and I attended the celebration five years ago on the occasion of our 50th anniversary. We came away from our 55th anniversary celebration feeling very "married" and very blessed.

Christ the King was well represented at this affair with eight couples in attendance. It was a memorable occasion to be cherished for a lifetime.

Marywood Retreat

June 11 Introduction to Christian Meditation: Sincerity in Prayer

Leader: Mr. Gene Bebeau

Time: Saturday, 10 am – 3 p.m. Cost: \$27 (Includes lunch).

June 17-24 Six – Day Guided Retreat: “Starting Afresh With Christ”

Leader: Fr. John Madigan, OMI

Time: Friday at 6 pm with dinner (registration beginning 4:30 pm) - Friday at 11:00 am. Cost: \$425(Priv) / \$375 (Dbl). Residence is required for this retreat.

July 22-24 The Transforming Power of the Eucharist

Leader: Fr. John Tetlow

Time: Friday at 7:30 pm (registration begins at 6:30 pm) – closing with Mass at 10 am on Sunday. Cost: \$167(Priv) \$137(Dbl) / \$77 (Com).

July 28 Helping Disabled Children Grow in Faith

Leader: Ms. Judy Bennett

Time: Thursday, 7 – 9 pm. Cost: \$10.

August 10 Day of Reflection: Faith Is The Answer To Every Question!

Leader: Fr. Tony Palazzolo

Time: Wednesday, 9:30 am – closing with 2:30 pm Mass. Cost: \$27 (Includes lunch).

August 16 Healing a Child’s Hurt: Helping Children to Grieve

Leader: Ms. Carol Ginzl

Time: Tuesday, 7 – 9 pm. Cost: \$10

The Work of God

by Ray Walker

In the August, 1999, issue of the *Courier* there was an article entitled, “Opus Dei.” It was about an idea begun and promulgated by Monsignor Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer who died in 1975 and was beatified in 1992. The term “Opus Dei,” which is Latin, of course, means “the work of God.”

In December, 2001, I wrote a letter to Sister Georganne Brown (who was the head of pastoral care in St. Vincent’s Hospital) suggesting that she consider using Eucharistic Ministers to distribute Holy Communion to the Catholic patients, thus helping the priests there concentrate on activities such as the Last Rites which only they can do.

Sister Georganne replied that St. Vincent’s was thinking about doing just that. As a result, before long the program became a reality. Some 30 men and women, including myself, were certified as Pastoral Care Volunteers to give the Blessed Sacrament to the patients. It has indeed been a blessing in my life.

Two volunteers work each day and, as a rule, only one day every other week is necessary for each of us, so it is hardly burdensome. Next to the ordained priesthood and the diaconate, this has to be a “work of God” of the highest order.

Many of the people we minister to are overjoyed to see us; and when we realize we are performing a valuable work our hearts are also filled with great happiness. The priests there are so courteous, too. They will go into a room and give the Blessing of the Sick but not give the person Communion, telling them that one of us will be in to do that. It really makes you feel needed.

Over my many years of volunteering I have learned that those who give most certainly do get back more than they give. It is like love, the more you give away the more you have to give. If anyone finds that his/her life has become a real drag, the solution lies in the simple act of reaching out to help someone else. In no time you will find that you have a new and pleasant transformation.

The different ways of volunteering are almost without number. For my part I prefer pastoral care work either in the Church or some other institution. But, when you serve and minister to others as the Eucharistic Ministers are doing in St. Vincent’s Hospital, it brings Josemaria’s “Opus Dei” to a whole new level.



Giving at its Best



Photo courtesy of FGBA

(L to R) Deacon Dave MacNamara, Dick Hulcher and Sal Bartolotta, regulars at Christ the King 7:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance luncheon for donors of ten or more gallons of blood.

Deacon Dave – one of the most prolific donors in the city – has given 63 gallons and Sal is in a select group who have given over 50 gallons. These two donate platelets every two weeks. Dick, who is a member of FGBA Precious Pints Club, donates special blood for newborns needing surgery which can be drawn every two months. He has donated 15 gallons.

A Man and His Tree

by Virginia Hickersbee

If you drive by the corner of Arlington and Larkin Roads it is hard to miss the beautiful blooming tree that stands so majestically in all its splendor. This lovely tree was a gift to the parish by Father Neil Carr in 1994. He gave the tree as a remembrance because at that time he was leaving the area and did not know when or if he would return.

Father is very proud of this tree and tenderly cares for it himself. He is always delighted when it comes into bloom with its lovely lavender blossoms. By the time this article is in print your imagination must be in high gear, as the *Courier* has not arrived at the point of being able to print pictures in color.

It would not surprise this writer to know that as you are driving by Larkin Road, it crosses your mind what kind of a tree this might be. And, if you are a tree and/or flower person and make it a habit to visit the garden stores around town, it has also occurred to you that this is not a local tree. You are absolutely right! That tree standing so proudly on Larkin Road is a Sapphire Dragon tree.

Father Carr saw a picture of this tree in a newspaper. He read the information given and decided that this was exactly the tree that he wished to leave as a remembrance. At the time of purchase the price was \$30.00.

The tree, of course, arrives as a baby and is only about a foot and half tall but, as Father Carr says, “Plant this tree and stand back as it grows at least eight feet a year! It doesn’t stop until it reaches its full height of about 30 feet!” What is unusual about the Sapphire Dragon, according to Father, is the size of the leaves. They are very large, almost like elephant leaves. He also said it needs constant watering particularly when first planted.

Unfortunately, when the tree was planted Father Carr had already left Christ the King and so the location was not exactly the place he had in mind. His vision was to have the tree planted in the median of the entrance to our church so that when the parishioners would enter and leave the tree would be in full view.

With deference to Father would it be fair to say that “God had other plans for that tree.”

Before closing this article the writer must alert its readers not to be alarmed if they should see a man late at night – anytime between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. in the morning – dressed entirely in black near the tree. It is just our own Father Carr watering and caring for his Sapphire Dragon thus assuring the parishioners they will again have the chance next year to see the tree in bloom!



Ministry of Mothers Sharing ~ MOMS ~

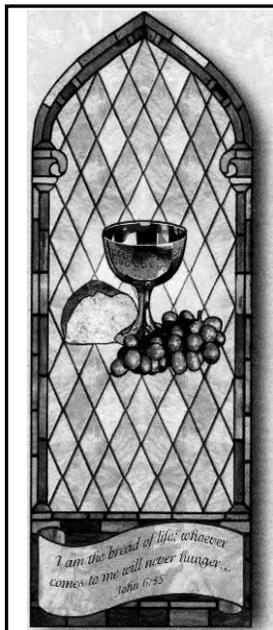
by Carol-Ann Black

The Celebration Dinner for the winter session of the MOMS program was held on March 17, in the Shirley David Hall. We welcomed eight new members this session and look forward to lots more again in the autumn. As usual the covered dish dinner provided by our membership, was not only food for the body but food for the soul. It is no mean feat for our members to attend the Celebrations on a regular basis, and share their cooking skills and creativity as well.

The highlight of the evening was the presence of Father Thanh for the entire celebration—start to finish. He came early and left late, and in between provided us with an inspiring talk about the Eucharist, and how important it is in our lives and in the lives of our families. His talk was wonderful, but his “talking” with the member moms was equally important and empowering for us all.

MOMS will offer sessions again in the autumn, and we encourage the parish mothers of all ages to participate. The aim for doing the entire program is to help you to find and nourish the spiritual side of your life and that of your family. Being Catholic is not a requirement for participation in MOMS, and we have facilitated conversion in several of our non-Catholic friends. The same is to be said if a spouse is not Catholic or even not religious. A mother becoming more spiritually whole brings joy and peace and direction to the entire family.

Those mothers who already participate in the activities of the ministry, consider becoming a facilitator. The training session will be on a Saturday at one of the local parishes. To facilitate a MOMS session is to enhance your own spirit and encourage that of the new moms. There will be announcements in the bulletin and in the Courier for all the relevant dates.



Beyond Sunday Presents

Exploring the Eucharist

August 11th - September 29th, 2005

Presenters are: Lucille Guzzone, Judy Koziolk, Bill Coppedge,
Marshall Henrique, Father Neil Carr, James Scott,
and Betty Wheeler

Moderator is Lucille Guzzone

Lenten Concert The Don Thompson Chorale!

by Carol-Ann Black

The location was Christ the King Church. The date was March 5. The event was the Concert of Lenten Reflections, performed by The Don Thompson Chorale. The program ranged from the familiar hymn, Panis Angelicus, to energetic spirituals, Elijah Rock and Sing Me to Heaven, to a musical conversation between Moses and God.

The Don Thompson Chorale was formed in 1995 by former members of the FCCJ Chorale, who had been directed by Don Thompson. Mr. Thompson was reluctant for several years to organize this group, despite the urgings of these enthusiastic alumni. But a successful Reunion Concert in 1994 provided the catalyst for the formation of a new, more broad-based choir, and Mr. Thompson assumed the directorship. He remained in this position until

retirement in 2003. Michael Dell, who served for several years as the DTC accompanist, has become the director of the Chorale. And Mr. Rodney Cleveland served as guest accompanist.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Bernie Sans. And of course it is he whom we must thank for this evening of beautiful and prayerful music.

Solos were sung by tenor Ray Garner and bass Gary Miller in the piece entitled Moses, which presented a conversation between God and Moses. Not only was it an entertaining piece, but it challenged us all to consider what it is that God is asking of each of us every single day.

Again, the evening was not only musically pleasing, but inspirational as we progressed through Lent.



above:
Chorale Singers



left:
Rodney Cleveland
Guest Accompanist

below:
Christ the King
Audience



Vacation Bible School
July 11 - 15 9 a.m - Noon

Sign up after all Masses
5/29 & 6/19
For information call Jennifer McAnally
220-9832

Opinion The DaVinci Code

by Carol-Ann Black

Did you read it? Did you enjoy Dan Brown's smash hit novel/thriller? Did it leave you feeling contentedly Catholic? Or did it leave you unsettled—even heretical? Or do you even know what the book's impact may have been on you? One last question—did you read it because it sounded like a cool thriller or did you read it to see what all the fuss was about?

I read it because this article was my assignment, and it became Required Reading. It's just not my kind of read. But I did get sucked into the mystery, and was able to finish. So why all the fuss about the relationship between the DaVinci Code and Catholic thought? Quite simply, the story presents some perspectives of Catholic beliefs that are ambiguous or erroneous or deliberately stated untruths. Let me quote Father Ron Rolheiser in *The Florida Catholic* back on September 30, when his article The Fiction of the DaVinci Code said:

Here's the storyline: "Looking at Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper, Brown proposes that the figure on Jesus' right the 'beloved disciple,' is Mary of Magdala, who married Jesus, bore him a child, and was Jesus' real choice to succeed him as leader. Moreover, what she represents (the goddess, the eternal feminine, sexuality) is the 'Holy Grail' the real quest of every heart.

But the official church, from its beginning to this very day, has suppressed this, often violently, burning to death more than five million women in the process. Indeed, according to Brown, it's almost as if the real reason for the institutional church exists at all is to suppress this truth. Fortunately, a few great men (da Vinci, Galileo, curators at the Louvre, Walt Disney, and a Harvard professor) have, through secret codes, preserved the real

truth. The Last Supper painting by da Vinci is such a code, as is Disney's Daffy Duck (a symbol of Mary Magdalen)."

As Father Rolheiser says essentially—so what's wrong with Brown's story? It's a STORY!!!

But apparently, many folks who have read this book have become really enmeshed in this story line and there have sprung up numerous groups and societies that are out to really crack the Code. (Obviously, I'm not nearly suspicious enough, and, besides, the minute I'm introduced to a character whose whole existence is wrapped up in his own physical self-abuse, Brown lost me.) Fact is that none of this is fact. Dan Brown's disclaimer in the beginning of the book does not say that this is a product of his imagination, purely and simply. He disavows fact, but does not emphasize the total imaginative fiction of the book.

To my mind the real problem in the DaVinci Code is the element of gnosticism that pervades the entire thing. Gnosticism goes back to the Second Century when certain Christian leaders developed and circulated a religious literature that claimed an understanding of reality superior to that of the traditional writers of the time. According to the gnostic thinking there is a dualism in reality that elevates the spirit and demeans the body. Their conclusions would deem that this material world came about through the machinations of a lesser spirit or god. The gnostics believed that they alone held the key to the correct understanding of Christ and his teachings. They became an elite unto themselves. Only the select few really knew and understood Christianity, and the institutional Church has spent the past 2000 years suppressing the real truths. This elitism is everywhere throughout DaVinci Code. It is to my reading the basis for the entire story.

“Letter of Love”

by (Rev.) Cornelius Carr, S.J., Associate Pastor

Rectory mail often contains queries about the Church. A recent letter asked questions which seem typically to be on the minds of non-Catholics. For your information, part of our reply to a recent letter is printed herewith. It may be of some help to you in answering questions posed by your non-Catholic friends.

Dear Patti-Lou,

Thank you for your “Letter of Love” which I received only today. The concerns you express we Catholics have heard before, and are based on misconceptions.

1) **“Your pope is ruler of the Catholic churches. How can that be when there is only one ruler over the earth? God.”** Jesus gave Peter the authority to rule over His church. Though divinely instituted, He put us humans in charge of spreading the Gospel throughout the earth. That requires organization. Organized pursuits need man in charge. Suppose General

Motors had no top man to run it? So the Church needs a “top man”. The pope is that man, and he acts as a father over his family of more than one billion Catholics.

2) **Statues.** We do not adore statues. They are not “idols”, but merely figurines of people who lived lives as God wants us to live ours. They are models and we believe that they are now with God, still interested in our needs, and so are in position to intercede for us in the heavenly court.

3) **“Do you worship God or the pope?”** We worship God alone. In no way do we worship the pope or “think of [him] as a god”.

4) **“I don’t understand the kissing of the pope’s ring”.** Do you understand the curtsy made by women when they greet Queen Elizabeth, or the bow made by the Japanese when they greet a person of rank? Kissing the pope’s ring is that kind of gesture, a sign of respect.

5) **“How can the pope bless you?”** He doesn’t. He is merely asking God to bless you, passing along that blessing by the sign of the cross, the symbol of our redemption.

6) **Mary** is neither worshiped nor adored by Catholics. She was the mother of our Savior and only as such do we honor her. Nothing more.

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You seem to think, Patti-Lou, that Catholics don’t study the Bible, that perhaps if we did, our beliefs would be different. The Catholic Church has been in existence for over two thousand years and its faith is based solidly on the Bible, Old Testament as well as New. I can only believe that you have been blindly listening to some of many critics who speak about our Church out of ignorance or envy. We have endured such attacks throughout the centuries. And we are still here.

Naturalization Ceremony



Honorable Timothy J. Corrigan



The Gjokhilajs



The Zenelis



Father Thanh's Address



Swearing In



Father Thanh & Judge Corrigan



Presenting the Flags



Final Receiving Line



Final Receiving Line 2



Marsha Williams & Father Thanh

by Bill Coppedge

On February 24th, I had the pleasure of accompanying Father Thanh to the Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Courthouse, in downtown Jacksonville. At this event, forty-seven people from twenty-eight different countries became United States Citizens.

Father Thanh was invited to speak at the invocation and to be the principal speaker. As principal speaker, Father Thanh told us a brief account regarding his eventual entry into the United

States. A detailed interview covering Father’s story is written in an article in this issue of the Courier.

Paul Perez, United States Attorney, spoke and mentioned the immigration of his family from Cuba when he was just five years old, in the 1960’s. What really caught my attention and gave meaning to this occasion is that both of these men had fled from oppressive governments to come here, through peril they had to learn our language, and are now welcoming a very diverse crowd to enjoy their newfound freedom here in this great country.

Judge Corrigan mentioned that he is of Irish heritage and he went on to say that he believes that the United States gets its greatness from the diversity of immigrants living here since its inception.

The new citizens were sworn in. We all stood, made our pledge of allegiance, and then a US flag was presented to the oldest and youngest new citizens. They received a copy of the Bill of Rights and the ceremony then came to an end.

After witnessing this great event, it made me realize that these immigrants, through determination and God’s grace, are now able to

enjoy freedom and privileges without fear of persecution. What a great day this was for these people!

What a privilege to be able to witness their great fortune!

Our freedom is a concept that many of us take for granted. Freedom to choose and practice religion without fear of persecution, freedom to choose our leaders in the political process (or not), freedom to live almost anywhere we choose, to be productive citizens, be workers, or even business owners. This freedom is something that these new citizens will always deeply appreciate.

Here's To the Fathers . . .

Poem taken from the Internet

Here's to the fathers, who always begin, on the outside of children, but looking in. Such curious men snapping cameras like mad, recording the moment, they turn into "Dad".

Here's to the fathers, who put in their time, who don't say to mothers, "that's your job, not mine". Who wipe chins and noses and never say, "won't", who do with the diapers, what some fathers don't.

Here's to the fathers who manage to stay when so many fathers are turning away. When so many run, leaving families to rot; here, then, a cheer for those who do not.

Here's to the fathers, whose 'big money' dreams die in the corner while their baby screams. And yet without anger, dread or regrets, they comfort the child, hold it close to their chests.

And as the child grows, they grow with it too, learning a depth that they never knew. And soon they're older, their hair slightly gone, chasing two children around the front lawn. Or carpooling teams to Little League games, buying them hamburgers after it rains.

They mend broken dolls and fix broken wheels, they cringe when their daughters try their first pair of heels. They reach in their pockets, but never keep count; they pay dear for parenthood, awful amounts. They postpone their plans to sail across seas; instead they sing "Barney" and bandage skinned knees.

Here's to the fathers who miss on promotions, who forego the bonus for birthday commissions. Who come home from work and a boss they don't like, pull in the drive...and run over a bike.

Here's to the fathers who get off the phone, to hear their sons practice their new saxophone. Who leave work to see their daughter's recital, here's to the heroes who work without title.

For this is a world now full of neglect, with everyday stories of lives that are wrecked. Of fatherless children who take up with guns to kill other children of fatherless sons. Divorce shattered families, childhoods derailed, mothers still waiting for checks still unmailed.

You wonder what wrongs these souls ever did to make a grown man turn away from his kids.

So here's to the fathers who won't compromise, who see a light shining in their children's eyes and feel a rare glow as if from a gem and know that once someone saw this glow in them. For all the good boys they have raised in the world, for all the examples they set for their girls; for all the loved children whose stories they'll tell,

Here's to the fathers that taught them so well.

The Stations of The Cross

by Mallory F. 7a

The Stations of the Cross are not just things we read about every Friday of Lent, but they are remembrances of the agony of Jesus. The Stations of the Cross take us along with Jesus on His march to Calvary. Every step Jesus took was more painful than the last but He did it to prove He was Christ, to make us believe, and to save our souls from evil.

Jesus was not completely alone during His march. There were still people in the crowd who cared for Him and felt His pain. His mother was one. She watched her own son prepare for His death, but she knew that Jesus was doing this for His Father and that it was the biggest sacrifice ever made. Jesus also passed women crying and weeping because they believed and knew He was the Son of God. Another caring woman named Veronica was at Jesus' side. She wiped the sweat and blood from His face. From the kindness of His heart, He left an imprint of His face so that she will keep her faith and remember His sacrifice. Jesus also came across a man who helped Him. He ended up carrying Jesus' cross because the men sending Him to Calvary didn't think He would make it there alive. Simon did not come to help Jesus, but there He was, helping to take a little bit of the pain away.

Jesus was forced to carry His cross, the same cross He would soon be nailed upon on Calvary. The weight of the cross was so unbelievable that Jesus fell three times. No matter how much it hurt, He kept His faith that His reward was near and He got up and continued what He started. The times Jesus fell remind me of the times when I fall. If Jesus can keep going, then I can too. I will finish what I started just as Jesus did.

Jesus made it to Calvary. He was now halfway through with His sufferings. He was nailed to His cross along with two other criminals, one on each side. Even when He was already nailed to the cross, people from the crowds still played a trick on Him to make Him suffer even more. If only they knew that this was really Christ. Maybe they wouldn't have gambled for His clothes. Maybe they would have treated Him better, but everything that happened was part of God's plan.

After His death, He was taken gently off the cross. His suffering was finally over; His life on earth had ended but His life with His Father had just begun. Jesus set an example for us through the Stations of the Cross. No one can undergo more pain and suffering than Jesus did. He gave us hope that there is life after death. If it wasn't for Jesus, where would we be?

THE SEDER MEAL



Faith sharing member experienced a very unusual meal -- the Seder Meal -- born of tradition that dates back to the time of Moses and the Israelites flight from Egypt. Care was taken to recreate the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples at the Last Supper. and some who attended this meal for the first time found it to be most enlightening.

by Durwood Dando

On March 21, 2005, Alick and Dell Hardie put on the annual Seder Meal for members of The Faith Sharing Small Groups. Nearly 100 members of small groups attended the affair in the Shirley David Hall. Father Thanh and Father Carr were in attendance and participated in the program.

The Seder is an important Jewish tradition celebrating the fleeing of the Jews from Egypt through the Red Sea. This meal recalls the hardship of their journey to the promised land and shows God's favors to His people.

The Seder consisted of the traditional annual Jewish Seder Meal, which is made up of unleavened bread, lamb, bitter herbs and wine. The reason for the unleavened bread is that Jewish people fleeing

Egypt did not have time to put yeast in their bread. The meal consisted of a series of traditional prayers and songs highlighting the Jewish foods.

Faith Sharing Small Groups goes back to its origin over 20 years ago with the Renew Program. Dixie and I have been members since the beginning of Renew and have made many friends and had a marvelous time learning about the Bible.

We are very grateful to Alick and Dell Hardie for taking over the coordination of Small Groups and the hard work they do.

We invite you to join us in this program! Just call Alick at 745-5971.



Father Thanh's Story



by Frank Becht, PGK

On February 22, 2005, The Arlington Knights of Columbus had a special meeting to honor the Pastor of Christ the King for his appointment as the Council's new co-Chaplain and to get to know him better. The evening was a night of details heard for the first time by many about our Pastor who has been with us for nine years.

Early Childhood

The program was a full 45 minutes of interesting details of a kid born of a strong Catholic family in Vietnam. His father served 27 years in the Vietnamese Army. His mother was a typical Vietnamese housewife and mother of 11 children who was loaded down with bringing up a large family at a time when the country was at war.

Father Thanh was the second oldest of eight boys and three girls. All are alive; two remain in Vietnam, four are in Texas, 4 in Connecticut and Father Thanh here in Jacksonville. He spent most of his elementary education in Catholic schools; in 1966, he entered St. Joseph Seminary, a small diocesan institute. His goal at this early stage of life was to be a mathematics teacher and play soccer with his students.

He found seminary life difficult, early rising, long days and "profound" silence. In 1974, he took his first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. In 1975 when the communists took over the country, seminary life was disrupted to the point that they had to work the rice farms in order to be allowed to continue as seminarians. By December 1978, this limited lifestyle was interrupted and this small group of 2 priests and 11 brothers were put under house arrest and forced to go back to their families. They were closely watched wherever they went and required to get passports whenever they went outside their village.

They were forced to do manual labor for whatever need arose.

Boat Trip to Philippines

On July 16, 1979 Father Thanh and his family of 26 people, including aunts and uncles, were able to slip out of Cam Ranh Bay in a small motor boat about 28 feet long and 6 feet wide. The next day they experienced strong winds; by the 3rd day they knew it was a tropical storm. The boat shipped water badly and they worked really hard to keep it afloat. Father Thanh's father was the navigator and kept the boat "going with the wind."

By the 4th day, the storm subsided and the sea became calm, but their troubles did not end. The boat motor cracked down; they rigged a small sail to keep the boat moving.

By the 8th day, they ran out of food and water causing them to experience thirst and hunger the next ten days. Father Thanh says, "We experienced helplessness. We experienced hopelessness. We survived with prayers and God's gift from heaven. We prayed morning and evening- rosary is part of it. Three times, it rained. Each time one cup of rain water for each."

"I dedicate
the rest of my life for
Your intention"

By the 17th day everyone was totally exhausted when someone saw a mountain in the distance. They rowed with renewed vigor; all fatigue had been lost. On the 18th day they landed on the shores of the Philippines. All 26 were alive and well.

Father Thanh prayed, "Lord, I thank you for rescuing me and my family through this ordeal. This new life of mine is your gift and blessing. I dedicate the rest of my life for your intention." August 3rd was declared an annual day of

celebration by the family. Each year, August 3rd is a special day of prayer and thanksgiving. All the disappointment of not being discovered by numerous passing ships and planes over that 18 day period was forgotten.

The next 10 months were spent in a refugee camp in the Philippines. I suspect Father Thanh and his family wondered why they ever left Vietnam for it was like living in a slum. The difference was the hope "to come to a third country- whether European countries, Canada, Australia or the United States." The family was able to come to the United States because his father had been in the Army and an aunt lived in Beaumont, Texas.

New Life in The States

In June 1980, the family flew from Manila to Beaumont, Texas where they were reunited with Father Thanh's aunt. Upon arriving in the United States, the seed of vocation came alive again and

the La Salette Vocation Director, who introduced him to a program of writing his autobiography, multiple interviews, psychological testing, and completion of application forms for the priesthood or brotherhood.

When he filled out the application form, he checked that he wished to be a "brother." Father Thanh was experiencing doubts about his role in the religious life. He liked to teach and he thought that he could do this best as a brother. When the vocation director reviewed it, he called Father Thanh in and told him that he wanted him to reconsider, making application for "priest" since he had done so well in his studies, that he should be a priest.

In 1984, he began study of Philosophy at Merrimack College. After two years of intensive study he graduated with a Cum Laude achievement that he refers to as "Amazing Grace." He immediately began his novitiate year in Washington, D.C. in 1987 and took his first vow with the La Salette



Father Thanh was interested in continuing his religious vocation. He had an acquaintance from his order in Vietnam who worked for Catholic Charities in Hartford, Connecticut. After a two day Greyhound bus ride, he arrived to begin his new life transition; he spoke little English, working at Catholic Charities in various menial jobs such as washing dishes, cleaning floors and the like for his keep. He spent many hours learning English; being a good student and a fast learner he was able to get a part time job as a bilingual teacher at a Hartford public school in the spring of 1981. In the fall of 1981, he took a full time job as a bilingual teacher in a Hartford public school and became a night student of electronics at the Hartford Technical College.

Life was busy the next few years, but he had not forgotten his vow. He visited his pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows Church where he was welcomed and introduced to

Order. He graduated from the Weston School of Theology in May 1990 and was ordained as Deacon in June 1990.

Atlanta Experience

As Deacon he was assigned to serve at St. Thomas the Apostle Church at Smyrna, Georgia where he served the Vietnamese community. One year later, he was ordained as a priest in Hartford, Connecticut. He was again assigned to St. Thomas the Apostle as Parochial Vicar, continuing to serve the Vietnamese community. In 1994, he was assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Ann in Marietta, Georgia.

Life in Jacksonville

Over the years, Northeast Florida, particularly Jacksonville, has become home to a sizeable Vietnamese community. Many did not speak English and felt isolated

Father Thanh's Story



in the various Catholic communities; they sought a Catholic community in which they could continue to celebrate their faith in their own language.

In 1991, Monsignor Mortimer Danaher, then Pastor of Christ the King, invited Father Thanh to Christ the King. In the next four years, they developed a cohesive community under the leadership of Father Paul Tram. Father Tram was forced to resign his position with the community as a result of developing cancer. He returned to Vietnam where he died in 1995.

As a result of the efforts of former Bishop John Snyder, Father Thanh Nguyen was assigned to Christ the King as Parochial Vicar

to serve the Vietnamese community.

In 1999, as a result of Father Robert Baker, our Pastor, becoming Bishop Bob of Charleston, South Carolina, Father Thanh was appointed as Administrator of Christ the King. Upon the appointment of Father Bob McDermot as Pastor, Father Thanh returned to his role as Parochial Vicar serving the Vietnamese community. On September 14, 2001, Father Thanh became the Pastor of Christ the King as result of the transfer of Father Bob McDermot.

Father Thanh has served Christ the King well and he continues to do likewise for the Vietnamese

community. We are lucky to have such a dedicated spiritual leader as our Pastor.

It might seem as though Father Thanh is all work and no play; not so! He plays tennis on a regular basis and sometimes with the Bishop. He refers to himself as the "Buffalo Boy." He plays and sings with his guitar. At many of the parish functions such as the Vietnamese New Year, Epiphany and the Ministry Dinner, he is known to sing some of his favorite cowboy songs. He has become known as "The Singing Vietnamese Cowboy." You should see his "get up."

God's Will

Father Thanh tested God's will many times but God did not give up on him. First, he was good at mathematics and technology and envisioned himself as a teacher; he liked to teach. Then, he tried to opt out of the priesthood by becoming a brother but God challenged him. Next, as a result of being assigned to small communities in Georgia, he looks upon himself as a "Simple Country Priest."

Would you consider Christ the King a "Simple Country Parish?" Even though he has submitted totally to God's will, he still aspires to being a "Simple Country Priest."

The Song of Gathering: What is it, really?



by David Haas

We come to share our story, we come to break our bread, we come to know our rising from the dead.

("Song of the Body of Christ," David Haas, GIA Publications, Inc., 1989")

It might be hard to believe, but in many parishes the cantor still begins the liturgy by saying something like: "Let us please stand and greet our celebrant as we sing...." The song of gathering, the entrance song, the opening processional hymn (or whatever else we want to call it) still experiences an identity crisis in many parish communities. Even the former *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* made it clear *what it was not* but not quite clear *what it is*.

So, what does the new *General Instruction* say about all of this? "Their purpose is to ensure that the

faithful who come together as one establish communion and dispose themselves to listen properly to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily" (46).

What happens at the beginning of any liturgical service is the same dynamic that takes place at any gathering of people — we gather and focus. While the GIRM does recognize the music as accompanying the procession of ministers, it would be difficult for even the most conservative reader to interpret that the primary role of song here is not to "greet the celebrant" but rather to gather and focus the community, to *greet the Lord and each other*. The priest is not the primary minister of the worship experience; rather, it is the baptized assembly. This coming together is the primary intent of the opening song, to "foster the unity of those who have gathered." another way to see the gathering song is to name and experience it as the opening *faith statement* of the community. With this song, we claim why we are here. With this song, we announce our relationship to Christ and to the church, the "Body of Christ". With this song, we surrender our lives, the week

that precedes our gathering, and everything else that invades our consciousness. With this song we stand in solidarity with Jesus and with all that the Gospel announces; good news for the poor, sight for the blind, and justice for those who ache for hope and meaning. With this song, we do not travel into historical nostalgia but rather embrace the season that breaks forth into our midst *now* into *our* history. With this song, we truly sing ourselves into a common identity, regardless of the many other situations and categories that so often enslave us. With this song, we provoke ourselves to make a decision for Christ and for one another.

In terms of musical forms and repertoire, the best music is the strophic hymn form or other song genre in which the community literally sings "it all." This is not a time for the choir to show off its stuff. Sing the entire hymn or song; do not end it when the priest and ministers arrive, for this practice will only enforce a false understanding that the solitary purpose for the song is to serve as "traveling music." The text should either reflect the spirit of the

celebration and season or truly articulate the intent of this powerful ritual moment.

When we gather in the name of Christ, we gather like no other time, and we gather in a mind set unique in relationship to other gatherings. The saving message of Christ and the flaws of our lives embrace each other, and as a result, we are transformed to create a new family, a new way of living, praying, dying, and rising with one another.

As it should be. Amen.

David Haas is director of The Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry and campus music minister and artist in residence at Benilde-St. Margaret's High School in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. David is the composer of many of the songs we sing at Christ the King: i.e. "I Am the Living Bread" #822, "To Be Your Bread" # 816, "We Will Rise Again" #714, "Jesus, Come to Us" # 694, "He Is the Lord" # 606, "Where There Is Love" #569, and "Blest Are They" Supplement #3, "You Are Mine" Supplement #10, "We Walk By Faith" Supplement # 20, and "We Are Called" Supplement #23.

Meditations on The Seven Last Words

by Debbie Scobie

On Good Friday Christ the King joined with six neighboring churches to do a meditation on the Seven Last Words. As a parishioner, I was looking forward to the special service as did the attending congregation evidenced by the many people in attendance.



Reverend Doctor
Bruce Havens

Father Neil Carr prepared the assembly by stating that this would be the greatest story ever told — “written, directed and acted by God.”

The First Word was heard from Reverend Bruce Havens of Arlington Congregational Church, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Reverend Havens brought those words up to the present saying that violence only devalues life but out of violence to Jesus came the hope of our redemption. Allen Havens, his son, then closed the first segment playing “Amazing Grace” on the sax.



Reverend Thanh Nguyen

The Second Word, was presented by our Father Thanh Nguyen, “Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with me in paradise.” This brings to mind the image of Jesus, the innocent one hanging on the cross and the two thieves on either side. The good thief represented sinners called to salvation. The bad thief represented the dark side with his taunting words to Jesus. “If you are truly God, save us and yourself by coming down from the cross.” This beautiful meditation was closed with Mr. Bernie Kunka singing “In the Garden”.



Reverend Doctor
David Imhoff

Reverend David Imhoff from St. Mathews Lutheran Church offered the Third Word, “Woman, behold thy son...Son behold thy Mother.” This reminded us that this very day (March 25) is the date of the Annunciation, nine months before the birth of Christ. Reverend Imhoff reflected that many people are without family ties and even in families where there are children there is no one to care for an elderly parent. Jesus enlarged the family to include everyone — even those who did not believe, so now the church is our family to lean on. The meditation was closed with a lovely hymn “Via della Rosa” sung very movingly by Will Kennedy.



Reverend Gary Blaylock

The Reverend Gary Blaylock from Resurrection Episcopal Church expounded upon the Fourth Word, “Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani” (My God, My God, why have You forsaken me). Reverend Blaylock drew us into Christ’s suffering with his 39 enumerations of our sins representing the 39 lashes Christ received. Our music director, Dr. Bernie Sans, resounded our feelings by playing “Ave Verum Corpus.”



Reverend Milt Willford

Reflections on the Fifth Word, “I thirst,” were given to us by Reverend Milt Willford of Arlington Christian Church. He took us back to a time in 1953 when he was in the Marine Corps in Virginia taking basic training which involved 20 mile marches. Reverend Willford remembered that only a canteen of water was allowed. Reflect on Jesus hanging on the cross thirsting for our sins. This meditation was closed when Nicole Hale sang, “How Beautiful” which was very touching.



Reverend
David Lee-Andrews

The Sixth Word, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit,” reiterated by Reverend David Lee-Andrews from Highlands Presbyterian Church, reminded us that Jesus, while on the cross, recalled his past life. The King’s Choir brought this meditation to a close with the moving hymn, “The Lamb.”

The Seventh Word, given by Father Neil Carr, “It is consummated,” clearly indicated that Jesus acknowledged His hour had finally come and that the Lamb of God died for us and thus proved the Love of God. The King’s Choir closed the service by singing “Who is Jesus”.



Reverend Neil Carr, S.J.

Between each reading, Lector Lucille Guzzone prepared the congregation by leading them through prayer and an introduction of each pastor or associate pastor presenting the Seven Last Words.

All who attended this beautiful service were blessed in Word, Music and Prayer.

RCIA

THE EASTER VIGIL



by Darlene O’Neal

After months of preparation, the RCIA class of 2004-2005 reached its goal — to become members of the Catholic Church. They had fulfilled their requirements of attending weekly sessions of instruction, special Masses for Scrutinies, an intense day of discernment, and a visit to meet Bishop Galeone in St. Augustine.

The final step in the RCIA process was the Easter Vigil, which is the most important liturgy of the year. St. Augustine said that on this night “the Church keeps watch for the Lord, and the Lord keeps watch over the Church.”

The elect and their sponsors, along with RCIA team members, priests, and the rest of the congregation gathered outside where a fire pit had been prepared. The Paschal candle was lit after Father Thanh blessed the fire. This is known as the Fire Rite or The Service of Light. The Paschal candle leads us out of darkness and into the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This candle will be used throughout the year at baptisms and funerals.

The crowd was a little anxious as rain began to fall, but fortunately, it held off until everyone had entered the church. Each person was given a lighted candle to carry as they processed into the darkened church.

The choir led the congregation in singing “Christ Be Our Light” as the RCIA class filed into the pews. The church remained dark except for a few necessary lights in the choir loft.

The liturgy of the Word began with a reading from Genesis, “God created the world and saw how good it was.” The reading from Exodus told how the Israelites passed through the Red Sea, free from harm while the Egyptians were thrown into the sea. Ezekiel told how the Lord will pour clean water over the people, and give them a new heart; that they will be His people and He will be their God. The last reading from Romans claimed, “We are dead to sin and living for God in Christ.” These readings revealed God’s plan for salvation throughout history. The lights came on as the people rose in singing “Hallelujah.” It was a most beautiful setting for what was to become the celebration of our faith.

After the gospel of Matthew, the candidates for Baptism were called forward. The Litany of the Saints was sung by Nicole Hale and the adult choir. It was very

moving. The Baptismal water was blessed and the catechumens, Leif Olsen and Sabrina Doering, were asked to renounce sin and make a profession of faith. They were then baptized and given a candle to keep, along with a white baptismal garment. All were invited to renew their baptismal promises, and the priests walked throughout the church, blessing and sprinkling holy water on the faithful.

The candidates, Marcie Bradley, John Coffey, Alene Dixon, Jennifer Glaser, Kevin Wolfe, Patricia Yarborough and the Catholic candidates, Jonathan Guzman, Stacey Hewey and Vivile Rodin were then called to the altar for full reception into the Church and for Confirmation. Receiving the Eucharist for the first time was, for most of the class, very emotional. For them, this was the culmination of the Easter Vigil.

Before the congregation was dismissed, each of the RCIA class was presented with a personalized Bible. This Easter Vigil celebration was one of the most beautiful, thanks to our three wonderful priests, Father Thanh, Father Neil and Father Richard.

Many thanks to Dr. Bernie Sans for his dedication to selecting and perfecting the music, and to the adult choir members for all their many hours of hard work. It showed, the music was heavenly! The members who decorated the church also did an outstanding job. The ALLELUIA covering over the anniversary quilt was very appropriate as well as beautiful.

The celebration continued in the parish hall where a reception awaited the whole congregation, with the new Catholics as the guests of honor. The focal point was a large cross covered in white in the center of the room. There were flowers and balloons everywhere and lots of food! This was billed as a covered dish reception and thanks go out to all who brought food.

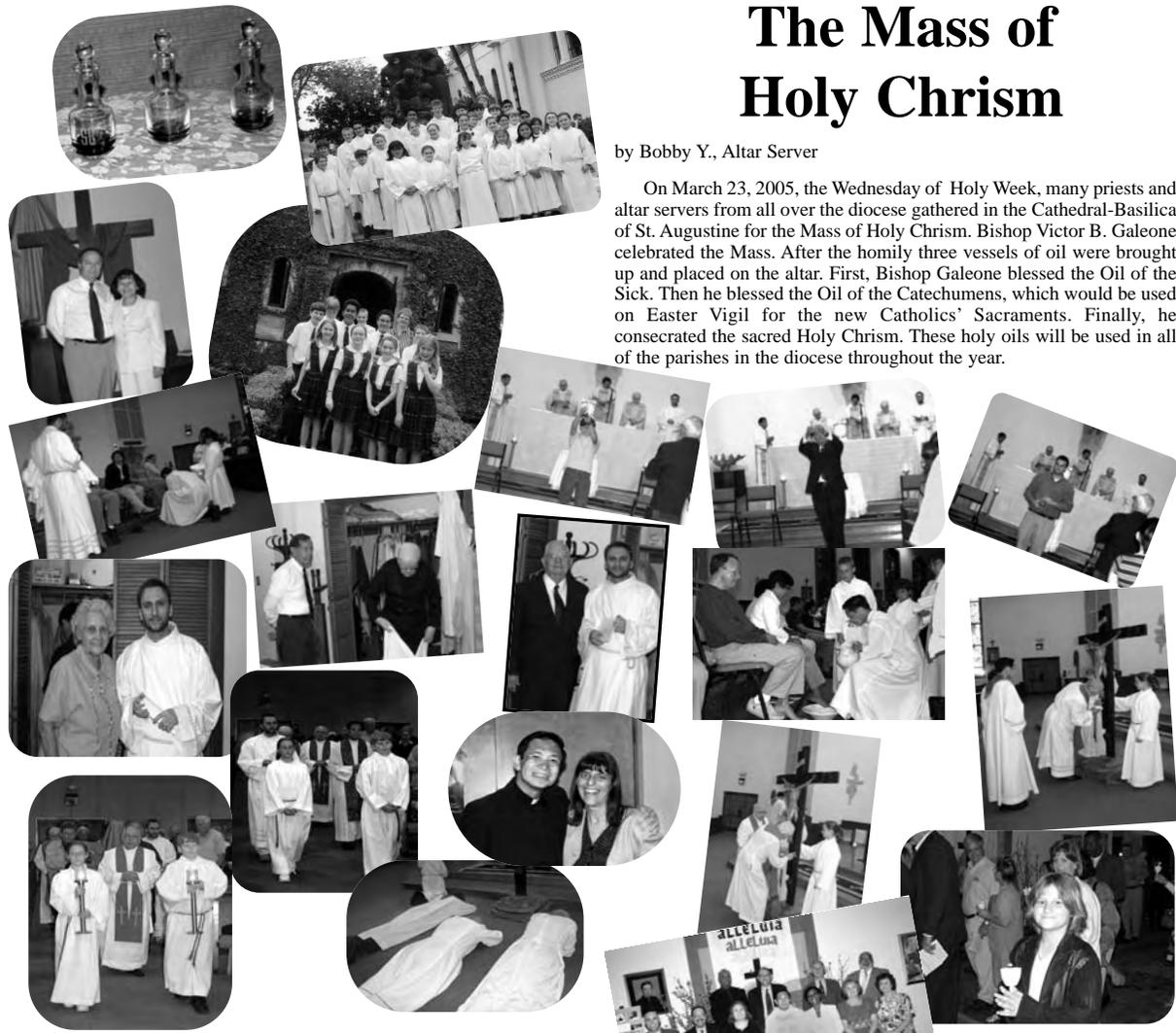
Several of the RCIA team members had met earlier that morning to clean and decorate for the celebration. It was worth all the effort just to see the faces of our new family members here at Christ the King parish.

This year’s RCIA team includes James Scott as director. Team members are John Anderson, Roz Balsam, Norma Landers, Berry Landers, Mitch Gable, Mary Rouse, Tony Zeaiter, Micah Ethridge, Louie O’Neal and Darlene O’Neal.

The Mass of Holy Chrism

by Bobby Y., Altar Server

On March 23, 2005, the Wednesday of Holy Week, many priests and altar servers from all over the diocese gathered in the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine for the Mass of Holy Chrism. Bishop Victor B. Galeone celebrated the Mass. After the homily three vessels of oil were brought up and placed on the altar. First, Bishop Galeone blessed the Oil of the Sick. Then he blessed the Oil of the Catechumens, which would be used on Easter Vigil for the new Catholics' Sacraments. Finally, he consecrated the sacred Holy Chrism. These holy oils will be used in all of the parishes in the diocese throughout the year.



The Triduum

by Kaylee B., 7a

The Triduum. I bet you are wondering what that means. Well, the Triduum is three important days before the day Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning. Even though these days are not as recognized as Easter, they are just as important. Right now I'm going to take you through the days, so you will know the importance and meaning of each day.

Every year on the Sunday before Easter families gather at the church for Palm Sunday. On this day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. People who worshiped Him in the town laid palms all around Him to show they cared. On Palm Sunday we receive palms to show our love and respect for Jesus like the people in the town.

In my opinion, Holy Thursday is one of the most important days of the church. This is the day Jesus turned bread and wine into His body and blood at the Last Supper. It was the night before His death and He spent it with His twelve disciples. He washed their feet to cleanse them

from their sins. Many people have suggested that this was a symbolic reference to Baptism. On this day Jesus also went to the garden to pray to God the Father.

The day of Jesus' death was, I'm sure, the most painful. The people were so cruel to Him, and He didn't deserve it. They placed a crown of thorns on His head, stripped Him of His clothes, and beat Him half to death. He fell many times and they didn't think He would make it to His cross, but He did. They finally made it to His cross and nailed Him to it. By doing this, He saved our souls so that we could go to Heaven.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and a few other women were at Jesus' tomb. The rock over the tomb was rolled away and the tomb was empty. They looked in and saw that Jesus had risen from the dead. He told His followers that three days after His death He would rise, and here He was doing what He said He would. Jesus dying for us was the biggest sacrifice anyone has ever done. This is why the Triduum is so important to us as Catholics.



A Gentle Nudge

from the Diocesan Planned Giving Office

Most of us can use a nudge now and then to do something we know we should do - like writing or updating a will. We find it easier to procrastinate than to accomplish the task and a good nudge can get us moving in the right direction. If this describes you, consider this little article a nudge.

The reason to obtain or update your will is because of the difficulties that arise when a person dies intestate (without a will). Also, many people who intend to include their parish, parish school or favorite ministry in their will fail to get their wish unless the bequest has been clearly stated in a valid will.

Another reason to gently prod you is because you will be glad when the

To receive your free Will Information Kit please call or write to: Nancy Geary, Planned Giving Office, 11625 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258, (904) 262-3200, ext. 166. 1 (800) 775-4659, ext. 166. And finally, one more nudge - please do it today!

chore is done. You will have peace of mind about your final affairs ... and you will be thankful for the nudge.

One way to assist you is to make things as easy as possible. The Office of Planned Giving offers a complimentary Will Information Kit designed to do just that. It contains basic information that helps you think through the various issues and prepares you for your visit with an estate-planning attorney. (If you don't have a good attorney, the Planned Giving Office can help you locate one.)

The main thing is to complete this extremely important matter while you are able to thoughtfully consider the options and make sound decisions.

Parish Vocations Coordinator



by Darlene O'Neal

Dennis Stoddard has been assigned by Father Thanh as the vocations coordinator for Christ the King parish. His role will be to promote vocations within our parish.

Dennis has been a dedicated parishioner for 34 years, serving as a Eucharistic minister, a member of the Parish Council, and treasurer of the School Advisory Board. He joined the school staff

as a physical education teacher upon retiring from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office after 27 years.

As a member of the Marine Corps Dennis served in combat duty in Vietnam. He earned a degree in Criminology and Education and taught a high school course in Criminal Justice.

Dennis has held many titles in the Knights of Columbus, including: Knight of the Year, Grand Knight, State Warden, State Advocate, State Treasurer, State Deputy and earned the "Star Council Award." He was instrumental in incorporating the Knights program for Vocations, the Handicapped and KC Charities into one tax-exempt corporation. He was called upon to become the Supreme Director and was honored at a special reception in his honor in 2002. He continues today as a member of the

Supreme Board of the Knights of Columbus.

He was most recently named a member of The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulcher.

Dennis and his wife, Linda, were married in 1969 and are the parents of two children, Dennis II and Kimberly. Dennis Stoddard is a man of many accomplishments and is an asset to Christ the King parish.



CHRIST THE KING MINISTRIES

LITURGY

Altar Servers

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 Diane Longenecker, 642-5168.

"Extraordinary"

Eucharistic Ministers

As an "Extraordinary" minister of the Eucharist during the Mass you would be asked to join the priest at the altar, partake in communion and help the priest distribute communion to the congregation. Candidates are chosen by the Pastor as recommended by the priests and staff members of the parish. Nancy Chapman, coordinator, 731-5724.

Gift Bearers

Families, Individuals or Parish Ministries who want to bring the gifts to the altar during Mass. Call Judy Zeater, 992-9591.

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.

Readers

A lector does the readings and the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass. If you would like to be a reader, call Lucille Guzzone, 724-9617.

Sacristans

We help prepare for the celebration of Mass. For more information on how you can be a Sacristan, call Nick Debs, 744-8749.

Visitation of the Sick

"Extraordinary" ministers bring the Eucharist to the homebound or hospitalized. John Porter, 721-0489.

HOSPITALITY

Coffee & Donuts

Call Al Martin at 744-4302 to help greet and serve after 7 and 9 AM

Masses. Great way to meet newcomers and parishioners.

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. Howard Sell, 642-5079.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Altar Society

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

Art & Environment Planning Committee

Decorating the church and Gathering Area, during different seasons of the Church. Contact Terri Vogelsang, 744-6310, on how you can help.

Beautification Grounds Committee

Individuals and families who want to beautify the church grounds. Meet the third Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-noon, in the church parking lot by the fountain. Come join us in beautifying His yard. Robin Allison, 641-2318.

Religious Articles Gift Shop

Volunteers staff the gift shop before and after Sunday Masses. Maureen McCook, 642-2725.

Sunday Childcare

For 9:00 a.m. Mass
Christ the King Childcare for your 1-4-year-old child in the Child Care Center. Free of charge. Care is provided by parents and those students (13+) who wish to obtain service hours. Must be willing to be fingerprinted. Call Deborah Ehrhidge, 696-9726 to help.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Daily Eucharistic 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. Call Claretta Lamusga, 743-9998.

Nocturnal Eucharistic 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 Paul Ghiotto, 727-5040.

Prayer Network

One of our most rewarding ministries - praying for others in need - spiritual, health related, and other. Call Peggy Mills, 646-9417.

GENERAL

ACT

(Arlington Churches Together)
This new ministry is out to clean-up Arlington. Call Dick & LeRoss Hulcher at 721-3286.

Advent Tree

A program that puts smiles on faces of people at Christmas. 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, and return the ornament with the gift attached to it. Volunteers are needed to help distribute the gifts to nursing homes, orphanages, etc, call Trudy Cameron, 724-0511.

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 Council of Catholic Women (CKCCW)

Our board meets monthly, September-June, to guide our eight 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. Patrice Pruitt, 645-6132

Christ the King Clinic

Staffed by doctors, registered nurses, and ancillary support people. They donate their services the fourth Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., call Willie Blaquiere, 744-6792.

Christ the King Courier

Interested in publishing a newspaper? We need desktop publishers, typists, proof-readers, reporters, photographers, etc. We meet on Wednesdays in the rectory at 7 p.m. July, 724-0080.

Elizabeth Ministry

This ministry deals with the joys, sorrows and challenges of life during the childbearing years and beyond. It includes pregnancy/pregnancy complications, birth, infant/child crisis, special needs, miscarriage, stillbirth and infant or child death. Call Wendi, 724-5579.

Fil-Am

Call Imogene Praxedes at 737-4034 to find out more about this ministry.

Finance Committee

Committee members selected by the pastor. Their work on the council should be considered a ministry with a commitment to stewardship. Contact Father Thanh Thai Nguyen.

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 new homes, call Bill Damato, 998-1417.

Legion of Mary

Men and 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. James Scott, 642-0059.

Ministry of Hope

If you have lost a loved one you know the anguish and suffering that goes with that loss. Others have been through this same trauma. The Ministry of Hope brings those who have suffered and those who are suffering together. Call Sue, 221-7143.

M.O.M.S.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing, is designed to encourage prayer, discussions, and friendships among women of all ages. Beth Ethridge, 696-9726.

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 p.m. in the Rectory. Call John Klinkenberg, 724-5579. 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, and secretary-clerical from the body of representatives.

Parish Nurse

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, 724-1776.

Queens and Kings (age 50+)

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 William Campbell, 724-3777.

STEWARDSHIP

by Eileen Porter

The word "Stewardship" evokes different images in each of us. To me it is the true expression of Christian love and fellowship. It is the sharing of what God has so generously given me with others. We are people of many talents. We may be unaware of some of them because they have not yet been tried. Time is probably the most difficult thing to give, but one of the most important. What could be more fulfilling than to help bring Christ into someone else's life? Certainly we have every opportunity to do this at Christ the King. We have dozens of important ministries from which to choose.

Time is one of God's greatest gifts. We need to spend it wisely. How much time do we waste aimlessly watching television or surfing the Internet? A good way to start living as a Christian Steward is to give some of that time back to God. An hour spent in Adoration in the Chapel or at home in quiet prayer, or an hour spent visiting the sick is a fulfilling way to give of our time.

The second element of Stewardship is that each of us has some special skills that could be used to help others. There is a need in our parish or community to match any talent one may have as a good steward shares his or her talent.

Then there is the third part of the stewardship way of life - the treasure. The point is proven. The more we share the more we have. As we give we receive and there is always enough. This is a motto of Christian Stewardship. God says "trust Me and see if I will not open the windows of heaven." Those that have risked it have affirmed that it is so....abundantly so. Not the least of the gifts is the joy that comes with making a difference.... for others as well as for ourselves.

As we grow with God's grace in a stewardship way of life the desire to freely give of ourselves and of our treasures grows in us as well. Each time we give what may be a small sacrifice for us whether it is time, talent or treasure, we take one step further to freedom, to perfection, to eternal life.

Will you open your home to a boy or two?
The Renowned French Boys' Choir
Les Petite Chanteurs du Comté de Flandre
is coming to Christ the King
Monday, July 25



Contact Bernie Sans at
724-0080 or at Bernie@ctkcatholic.com

A 27 member choir ranging in ages from 8 to young adult
This summer we are fortunate enough to be included
on their summer tour

They will be arriving in the afternoon
& will give their concert in the evening
For some of them it is their first time away from home
& they are full of excitement

Everyone says they are so polite - yet with the eagerness of bouncy boys!
Please show your hospitality by opening your home to the boys

CHRIST THE KING MINISTRIES

Rectory Office Volunteers

Adults willing to volunteer a morning/afternoon/all day Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.. Different positions available: receptionist, clerical, computer operator. Call the Rectory at 724-0080.

Respect Life

We are a ministry wishing to make a difference in people's lives 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 in November, or contact Jim Middleton, 743-3953.

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.- noon, Monday through Friday, call 724-8442.

Sponsor Couples

Married couples needed to help engaged couples discern if marriage is for them. Jim and Mary Ann Middleton, 743-3953.

Stewardship Committee

A committee appointed by the pastor, oversees the Time, Talent and Treasure (TTT) program. Call Peter House at 725-1097.

Vacation Bible School

A week long summer program (usually in July) for children ages 4-11 years to help deepen their faith and involvement in the Christian community. Fun for everyone. Call Jennifer McAnally, 220-9832.

Vincetians

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 807-7233, ext #1, and leave a message.

Widow/Widowers Support

For those who have lost loved ones. For information contact Isabelle Fusco, 724-5186 or read your bulletin for the next meeting date, place, and time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Education Committee

Committee to develop and implement an Adult Education program for the parish. Program sessions are held twice a year before Faith Sharing Small Groups begin and are meant to enhance faith sharing. Call Betty Wheeler, 724-9662.

Emmaus - Young Adults

Young adults (18-39) coming together in fellowship and to learn more about their faith. Call Jennifer Webster, 564-2378.

Faith Sharing Small Groups

Small groups of people meeting in private homes to discuss the Sunday readings, Scripture and current events that affect our Catholic faith contact Alick Hardie, 745-5971.

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Preparing people to enter the Catholic Church through an inquiry and catechetical process. Call James Scott, 642-0059.

Religious Education for Students

Opportunity for students grades 1-8 to learn/experience the Catholic faith with others in their age group. Sessions held August -May in the school on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. Sunday Mass attendance required. Certified teachers are always welcome to apply, and volunteers are needed on a regular basis. Call Lucille Guzzone, 724-9617.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scouts

Troop 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys 6-12th grade. Meet Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., in the Scout Hut, call Fred Gardner, 720-0297

Catholic Scouting Committee

Adult individuals interested in providing youth ministry through the scouting program. Meets four times a year; organizes and implements "Catholic Camporee" for all Scouts once a year; attend spring awards ceremony. Training provided, call Donna, 641-0698/John 744-6573.

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 CKAA sport, call Tim Johnson, 727-7487.

Cub Scouts

Pack 5 sponsored by Christ the King Church. Boys in grades 1 - 5. Dens meet weekly in the Scout Hut, call Dan Sanford, 696-7646

Cursillo

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

Girl Scouts

Girls of different age levels that meet weekly or bi-weekly in one of the church halls after school or in the evenings, call Becky Schroeder, 805-0204.

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 Ann and Steve Franklin, 745-0627.

K' Ceos

Organization of Catholic Women, an auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 4727. They help/support the Knights. Meetings are in the Knights of Columbus Hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Call Laura, 220-7671.

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, and interested in fellowship with people who share the same beliefs, call Al Martin, 744-4302

L' Arche Harbor House

Mutual ministry with members and assistants, building community support and awareness the needs and gifts of the disabled members of the L' Arche Harbor House family, call Patrick Mayhew, 721-5992.

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

Child Care Center

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

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.

TEEN PROGRAM

LIFE TEEN PROGRAMS, 425-4215

Director: Christina Davis

THE EDGE - Pre-Teen

This youth program is designed to minister to boys and girls 6-8 grades of all faiths from uniquely Catholic base. Call Christina, 425-4215.

LIFE TEEN

Youth ministry program with a strong focus on the Eucharist. Meet Sunday for 5:00 p.m. Mass. LIFE Night (fellowship) afterwards. Call Christina, 425-4215.

LIFE TEEN - CORE TEAM & LIFE GOES ON

Over 18, have a love for teens, and are not currently a parent of a teen? Call Christina, 425-4215, for more information on meeting times.

LIFE Support

Any adults, parents, relatives, neighbors, etc. interested in supporting the LIFE TEEN program. Membership is open to all. Activities are creative, fun, exciting, and diverse, call Stephanie Henry, 642-5754

Music for LIFE

Any adult with advanced musical skills who is willing to help put teens' faith, feeling and thoughts about God into words through song and praise. Call Phil, 398-1961.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage Renewal

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

Wedding Coordinator

Terri is the one to call to answer questions regarding decorating the church for your wedding. She also assists the priests in wedding rehearsals. Please call Terri Vogelsang, 744-6310 as soon as you set up your priest-approved date.

Share your
Time & Talent
~ Volunteer ~

The Continuing Saga of Holiday Programs of the Religious Education Classes!!!!

By Lucille Guzzone

This time it was supposed to be the Lenten program held in the Blessed Mother Kingdom. The music CD for the big show was ordered and paid for. It was the accompaniment for The Stations of the Cross which was to be the Easter program presented by the older grades. In years past because of the lack of practice time, teachers found that having one full three hour rehearsal in the Kingdom the Saturday before the program produced the best results. So permission letters were sent out to parents about the weekend rehearsal, the lunches were decided upon, the props were packed, and it looked like it was a sure thing. Oh, no! The date. That particular Saturday the church was to have the show, "Late Night Catechism." The Kingdom was off limits for the whole day! Oh dear, what to do?

This was a big blunder because the play had been advertised for weeks, and the date in common was not realized until too late. Our program was not to be canceled, however! The staff put their heads together and decided to use their best



resource which was the children themselves. These students had much to offer. So the teachers of grades 5-8 notified their classes that they themselves were to make up a 10-minute lesson in keeping with the season of Lent to present to the younger children. The students went to work and, with the help of their teachers, came up with four mini lessons. It was truly ready-set-go creativity in action.

Grade 8 shared their experiences about the Sacrament of Confirmation which they had recently received. Each child passed a candle as they spoke of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The little ones were full of questions and were truly animated as they spoke of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Grade 7 brought props to present one at a time. Inside was a special word pertaining to Easter. For example, when a little first grader read "palm" the 7th grader holding a palm spoke of the significance of Palm Sunday and its origin. Other words and the corresponding props were a stuffed lamb, a crown of thorns, the letters "INRI", and other significant symbols. The 6th grade told the story of the first colored Easter eggs.

The legend goes back to the road to Calvary and involves Simon of Cyrene. The younger children were enthralled by the myth. The 5th graders told of their experiences of actually making their own Rosary beads in their class and proudly showed the little ones their finished products. They explained the mysteries of the



Rosary while emphasizing the sorrowful ones since they depict the Crucifixion which is so much a part of the Holy Season.

At the end of the presentation all the children were treated to chocolate eggs before departing for their Easter break. Reflecting on the evening the teachers and staff agreed that the last minute Easter program turned out to be a wonderful event – educational, enlightening, spiritual, and even fun!!!

Above and Beyond

by Mavis Louise Murray

Honor Thy Father and Mother is one commandment Elmer Aponte can rest easy on as he not only honored but cared for his aging parents with unflinching love and a willing spirit.

Medical technology has made it possible for many of us to live way beyond the biblical fourscore and ten; therefore, it is safe to say that some of us will end our days either in a retirement or nursing home. That was not the case, however, for the parents of Elmer Aponte who not only had their four score and ten but lived to the ripe old ages of 97 and 99 respectively.

Elmer began caring for his parents, Cecilia and Raymond Aponte, in 1985 when the couple moved down here from New York. This privilege, and that is what Elmer calls it, befell him as both of his older siblings were still in active pursuit of supporting their families. Elmer was single.

In 1987 Elmer was gainfully employed as a design engineer devising electrical/electronic circuit systems for Cleveland Hydraulics here in Jacksonville. It was work he truly loved because it allowed him to make full use of his creative and engineering skills.

Elmer paints a very colorful picture of his parents. He said that his mother loved to grocery shop and kept a very sharp eye on both the cost and the quality of the food. Many a Saturday Elmer would find himself accompanying his mother

from Winn Dixie to Albertson's always looking for the best prices.

Cecilia Aponte loved to cook and she passed that skill on to Elmer who would soon assume those kitchen duties. His father, too, enjoyed the kitchen. He also found pleasure in accompanying Elmer while he fished as this was a way that they could spend time together.

As time went on the health of both Cecilia and Raymond began to decline and their doctor appointments began to mount. Elmer knew it was time to leave his work and devote his energies to the care of his parents. He was 57 years of age.

Because of his mother's careful training Elmer became more than an adequate cook and many a meal would bring a smile to the lips of Cecilia Aponte. Elmer says a smile came very easily to his mother about whatever he did or said, "It was always wonderful!" He expressed the thought that his mother had a way of always making him feel good about himself. He chuckled with good humor when he said, "My parents used to think I was a genius."

Even when Cecilia Aponte was in pain – and towards the end that was more the case than not – she always had a big smile on her face.



Elmer does not ever recollect that his mother ever frowned.

When his mother could no longer get out of bed he took full charge of her care save for the time when Home Health Care would come in to assist him. As Cecilia became weak-

er Elmer became more attuned to her needs. He said there came a time that from his room at night he could even detect a change in her breathing. When she was unable to eat regular food it would go into a blender and then he would lovingly feed her with a syringe. Cecilia Aponte passed away in 1997 at the age of 97.

After his mother's death Elmer and his dad had their bachelor pad. He said his dad was a great guy and they had some very good times together. Raymond Aponte loved to go for rides and he and Elmer would just take off and ride the countryside. His dad also enjoyed Elmer's hobby of flying model airplanes and they spent many pleasant afternoons together in pursuit of this hobby. His father, like his mother, always filled him with praise, lifting him up with compliments on whatever he did.

IS GOD CALLING YOU??

Eventually his dad's energy and health began to be sapped away by time and years. When his dad lost his teeth, he again pured all the food that his dad loved, especially beef stew and lentil soup.

On Christmas Eve in the year 2003 Elmer's father said he was not feeling well and retired early. The next morning he had a fever of 105 degrees. Elmer called 911 and he was taken to the hospital where he soon revived. He told Elmer with a smile that he was going home tomorrow. Raymond Aponte did go home that next day but not to Grove Park Boulevard but to the home of his Heavenly Father.

Listen to these beautiful words of Elmer Aponte as he lived out the commandment of honoring his father and mother. "I wouldn't trade the care of my parents for anything in the world. I wouldn't change a thing. These have been the most gratifying years of my life. I'm glad I was able to do it and live with that satisfaction now. God gave me the will and the strength to do it."

"They brought me into this world, took care of me, and made sacrifices for me and my brother and sister. Now it was time for payback. I wanted to do for them what they did for me. It's that simple. I have a houseful of good memories."

"My parents got their wings and went straight up. What better protection could I have?"

None, Elmer you had the best!



Teaching St. Vincent de Paul

by Mickey Kenny

How do you teach 5th graders in the year 2005 about poverty and being truly poor? When they look at TV the characters always have everything they need for the plot! Rich or poor, happy or sad, everything necessary for the plot is supplied by the script. At home some children may learn something about the subject. However, if the family is truly in need the parents usually try to accent what the family has rather than what they need. And sometimes parents talk to each other in front of their children in words which may make the children feel they are "poor" when they are only being taught to be "careful".

A confusing picture for children in our day and time. But they truly can and do understand when taught in an educational setting. Betty Wheeler visited the 5th grades dressed as a homeless woman, penniless, and in need. She described her life and answered questions concerning her life of poverty. However, she also showed the students that we all have someone to turn to: the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Christ the King or other Societies in other parishes, states, and nations.

It is always easier to give than to receive. Vincentians are particularly aware of how painful and humbling it can be to have to ask for necessities. It was a valuable lesson for the students – and they truly appreciated it. Just read what some of them had to say in their beautiful notes of thanks that they wrote to Mrs. Wheeler.


 Mrs. Wheeler, thank you for telling us how you help the homeless, and ready at the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I have never been told what you do there before. Thank you for taking your time to come and see our class.
 From
 Asha



Boy Scout Canoe Trip

by Carolina Gardner

6 a.m. Saturday, January 15, 2005
Meet @ the scout hut.

The sun hadn't peeked over the horizon yet, but seven boys ages 12-16 were wide-eyed and eager. It was cold and there was a moist nip in the air, but you couldn't tell by looking at these guys. They had an aura to them, an excitement that you couldn't help but catch. Even the five adult leaders and chaperones were bouncing around with so much energy, excitement and enthusiasm.

This was the beginning of a fun filled adventurous weekend that the boys had planned for months. If all goes well, by the end of this weekend they would have successfully mastered their 50-mile canoe patch.

We were already off to a late start. The past hurricane season had robbed them of one of their days on the river. The original plan had called for them to leave on Friday the 14th, but due to the "make up" days that plan was out. The boys were faced with a tough decision to cancel the trip and try to reschedule or go ahead minus one day. One of the great things about teenagers is their "I can do it" attitude. Shortening the trip was already starting to look good to the boys; less food to carry, a day less of clothing to pack. On the other hand, the leaders knew that fewer days meant that more work and more miles had to be accomplished each day.

7a.m.-fully loaded and on the road.

On the road it was a pretty typical road trip, car games and jokes, but you could still feel the enthusiasm radiating from everyone which was a good thing because I wasn't going on the actual canoe trip; I was still questioning being out of bed this early in the morning on my day off.

9a.m.-launch site

Much to my surprise this coveted "launch site" that had been talked about was nothing more than dirt and sand under an overpass off some lightly traveled state road. Looking around I had concerns, but the boys immediately went to work unloading the trucks and getting the canoes off the trailer. Each boy had chosen a "teammate" and the teams were hard at work, knowing and doing exactly everything necessary to begin this journey. As the Scout Master's wife, you could say it was my duty to help but as a mom all I could do was stand back and be impressed with these young men who were working as a team to achieve their goal.

50 miles in 3 days



As the last of the canoes were being launched, I could not help but stand there and say a "please watch over and guide them" prayer watching them float out of sight. The drive back home was a bit of a mental struggle. I had been to the "nothingness" of a launch site. Cell phones may or may not work. Everything they thought that they were going to need was somehow tied or crammed into a canoe. Maybe that is why I stayed to see all the canoes launched, to make sure they were going to float with all that stuff tied to them. I could not help but ask myself if some of the other moms had just been at the launch site, would they have let their child go on this trip? There must be something wrong with me, not only did I send one of my sons down the river but I sent my husband, too. It is the middle of January, the temperature is almost freezing and I just sent them off to "play" on the river for three days. I tried to take comfort in knowing there were at least three other like-minded people with me at the launch site. They had helped deliver everyone and the equipment to the launch site. Somehow I couldn't help but think of them as accomplices.

The Boy Scouts are very active and usually spend at least one weekend a month camping or doing something away from home. But this trip was constantly on my mind. My husband, Fred, did his best to keep in contact when cell phones permitted and that just made me more concerned. From the broken conversations, I knew that a canoe had flipped, some of the food was now fish food and with no time to spare they were behind schedule.

By Sunday evening I was a ball of nerves, what else had happened, was everyone really all right? Another broken up cell phone conversation informed me to leave an hour later than the original pickup time. That managed to offer an enormous amount of comfort. They were only an hour behind schedule. Things were going well, I actually managed to get some sleep

that night and not worry too much about them sleeping out in the cold.

Monday morning time seemed to crawl by so slowly and concern was building again. Finally it was time to meet with the other parents to go and gather up our group of adventure seekers. Even leaving an hour later than the original pick up time, we tried to keep an upbeat attitude when we arrived to the predetermined pick up site and there was no sign of canoes or scouts. Helpless to do anything but sit and wait, we did just that. As the sun began to set our concerns began to grow until a boater passed by and informed us that all was well and our canoe crew were still about five miles up the river. The sun was in the final stages of setting when the first canoe became visible. Steven and Phillip were determined to reach the "imaginary finish line" and stand on dry ground again.



Then one by one they started to roll in Warren and James, Fred and T.J., Chris and Matt, Ryan and Daniel S., Paul and Ben. Everyone was present and accounted for. When the first team landed exhaustion was visible, and with the last canoe being hauled ashore and the last of their gear being packed away into pick-up trucks, the realization hit the boys that they had just successfully completed 56 miles on the St. Mary's River in less than three days. The excitement and enthusiasm they had had on

Saturday morning was back. Hunger, fatigue, and the cold were still there but the satisfaction of their success outweighed any other feelings.

The ride out there was something wonderful to have been a part of, but I'm so thankful that I got to take part in the ride home because that's when the stories started to be told. At first hearing some of the "events" that had taken place on the trip I kind of rolled my eyes and thought to myself that some of these stories were a little "too good to be true" but then as the storytellers' enthusiasm grew and another would jump in and pick up and continue on with the story I just couldn't help but be amazed at everything that had happened in three short days along the St. Mary's River.

Here is just a little of what I managed to hear and somewhat comprehend as so many people were telling me their version of the same story.

Due to the severity of this past hurricane season, the St. Mary's River was an obstacle course; Fallen tree limbs and sometimes whole trees with an occasional dead animal. Not even five minutes into the trip and a dead pig had managed to get snagged on some downed tree limbs. Amazing how I find the discovery of a dead animal within the first few minutes of the trip gross and disgusting, but somehow it managed to fuel their enthusiasm. It became a game who could spot what, and since the river had swollen with the recent hurricanes it suddenly became

almost normal to see tires and other items captured and mangled in tree branches. The grand prize was the water heater that had gotten stuck up in the branches. Just from hearing the boys describe it, it must have really been a silly sight to see.

At lunch the boys realized that this trip was going to be a little more involved than they had mentally planned. No one could have known just how Nature had littered their path and so maneuvering and steering now became somewhat of a challenge if

Boy Scout Canoe Trip



the team didn't work as a team and watch for every little thing. Just like in a scary movie, a tree branch managed to reach out and struck Paul in the chest. Paul and Daniel S. were plunged into the icy river. Thankfully all the Scouts have their First Aid Merit badge and most have completed their Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge too. This was now an emergency situation.



The five remaining teams had to act immediately and cautiously. One foolish mistake and they too could be in the icy river as well. The St. Mary's River naturally travels at approximately 3mph. Now that may not seem that fast to you and I when we are in our car or standing on the riverbank. Watch your food and personal necessities go floating by at that speed and you'd think it was a lot faster. The teams had to divide and conquer the unfortunate blow that Mother Nature had delivered. Immediately everyone fell into action; two teams focused on the two people in the water, another team "righted" the canoe, and the two remaining teams were suddenly thrown into an old style video game. Speed past items floating down the river, try to snag the items without flipping over your canoe and gather as many items as possible while managing to maneuver your canoe to avoid any other "dangers" that may be lurking in the waters. Fast thinking and even quicker responses managed to save about 90% of the ejected items. Sadly enough the remaining 10 % is somewhere at the bottom of the river as fish food or a newly donated artificial reef. The new artificial reef consists mainly of canned goods that the

adults had planned on eating for dinner on the second night.

Paul and Daniel S. did their best to dry out and warm up around the fire while their canoe was re-packed and the losses were assessed. There was about an hour where the boys had a chance to sit down by the fire, warm up and soak up the memories of a job well done.

Saturday night they made camp at what the boys dubbed "Snow Beach" because it was so cold out and the white sand looked like newly fallen snow. Where can you find seven teenage boys sound asleep by 7:30p.m, on a Saturday night?

Half way down the St. Mary's River.

Sunday morning was a rough start; it was cold and especially hard to get motivated to get back on the water. No one was looking forward to having to sit his "tushie" on that cold metal canoe seat first thing in the morning. Somewhere between the morning launch and lunch time, uninvited guests started appearing in the front of the canoes. The team members in the back of the canoes were suddenly faced with an awkward situation. The person in the front of each canoe was suddenly having some kind of battle with what appeared to be an invisible being. Some were using their paddle to beat the water, others were wrestling something, while others attempted to stomp the unknown being. Apparently Spiders had dropped out of the trees and had managed to land at the front of the canoes, leaving the

team mate in the back of the canoe to wonder if his teammate was "freaking out." No one suffered any spider bites but several did tell of how they didn't realize that spiders were in their canoe with them until they looked down and noticed that the spiders had begun to spin a web between their legs attempting to connect their legs to the canoe. Thus causing a sense of urgency to remove the spiders from the canoe and left the uninformed teammate in the back to think they were losing their mind.

HALFWAY BRIDGE...the bridge that had been deemed the half-way point was now in sight and renewed enthusiasm. Twenty-five miles down and only twenty-five to go, so far things had not gone exactly as planned but by their best guessing estimation they figured they were only about an hour behind their tentative schedule.

A pressing deadline and an enthusiasm for the unknown provoked them to ignore the "Caution" tape that had been strung on some trees along the shoreline. Indulging their adventurous spirit they pressed on. The limbo was no longer a game but a necessity to maneuver. Even the most talented limbo artist wasn't successful at avoiding getting stuck. No one successfully managed to not get stuck at least once and some were talented enough to spend almost as much time trying to get unstuck as they did actually paddling down the river. Despite the even more challenging obstacle course of downed trees and a slowing current, it wasn't until they found

camp for the night they discovered an empty hunting camp. A fire pit with wood ready and waiting, and an outhouse that wasn't pretty but was a gentle reminder of the comforts that they had been missing for the past 36 hours. Once again it was an early night, with hopes of an early morning.

In the canoes again, and the feeling of "same stuff, different day" was setting in. More spider hitchhikers, more tree obstacle courses, and even more spiders. Emergency Preparedness is needed once again; this time it's a quick kayak repair a la "Redneck Style" a.k.a duct tape.

After lunch the fatigue factor was enormous. Up to this point the adults were hopeful for only a 2 to 2½ hour delay due to the recent unscheduled events and detours. Conversation with a local on the riverbank gave them confirmation of lost time and delivered an almost devastating blow to the morale. He informed them that they still had approximately eight hours of paddle time left. All the excitement and enthusiasm that had once oozed from every fiber of their being was now nothing more than a distant memory. Fingers were wet and frozen, muscles were weak, parts of their bodies hurt that they weren't even aware they had, and their poor bottoms were so numb they had no idea if they had actually frozen to the canoe seat or not. Their only option was to paddle and press on. Paddling became an involuntary action, stick the paddle into the water, stroke, do it again. Then the "Imaginary Finish Line" appeared and



themselves in a swampy puddle that it occurred to them that the "caution" tape could have been an attempt at a warning so that they may avoid a wrong turn.

Unlike traveling on the highways, there are no "exit" signs giving any kind of riverside assistance. It's just too bad that someone's generosity at putting up the "caution" tape warning them went ignored. With the "mini detour" corrected, and things appearing to begin to flow smoothly again. Another hour had managed to trickle away from their schedule.

Dinner came a little later then they had planned since they were noticeably behind schedule but a small blessing was about to happen. While looking for someplace to

suddenly the excitement and enthusiasm was rekindled.

Saturday morning I questioned and wondered, but being there Monday when they arrived, there was no doubt. YES, it was definitely worth it. As a mom I was so proud to see these young men successfully complete a task that didn't go exactly as planned especially when they could have opted to stay home and play video games all weekend instead. As the Scout Master's wife I'm honored to watch the transformation that is happening in these young lives. With each new endeavor they take on it will help shape and develop them into men, the leaders of tomorrow.

Colleen Doherty

by Frank Becht

You probably don't know her name but if you have gone to the 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, you know her voice. She is the young lady who has been cantoring and soloing for several years.

She is the daughter of Martin and Euanie Doherty who met in the Phillipines while he was in the Navy. Colleen was born in Jacksonville, Florida and has attended Christ the King School from the 3rd through 8th grade. She has one younger brother, Sean.

She was a member of the Christ the King School Choir beginning in the 3rd grade. In 2003, the children's choir was assigned to sing at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. On numerous

occasions Colleen served as cantor and often sang as a soloist.

At Christ the King, Colleen participated in the Spring musicals. In the 5th grade she played Annie in "Annie;" 6th grade, she played Cathy in "The Castaways;" 7th grade, she was narrator of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat;" 8th grade, in the Disney Review, she sang "Part of Your World" from the movie "Little Mermaid."

She graduated from Christ the King as an A-B honor student in 2004; she was awarded the "Excellence Award for Music."

Colleen now attends Stanton College Prep where she is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program for advanced classes. She is a member of the Drama Club and

the school chorus, which just completed a musical show, "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying." She was in the chorus. In addition, she runs Track- the 1600 and 3200 meters and the 3 mile Cross-Country.

Colleen doesn't yet know what the future holds for her but we look for great things from her. She said she expects to sing at Christ the King for a long time. That is good news because many people have commented about her beautiful singing. Christ the King can be proud that she is one of us. Colleen, we are happy for your successes and wish you many more. You are a tribute to your family, church and school!



Life as a Cub Scout

by Jan Dela Cruz
Age 11

Joining Cub Scouts is a great adventure. It builds character in a young boy and it's fun too! You do things from camping outdoors, to having a tour of a Navy frigate. Anyone can join from first grade to fifth grade. After that you're in for the ride of your life ... Boy Scouts! But enough about that, are you ready for a story of my life as a Cub Scout?

Hi! I'm Jan Dela Cruz of Cub Scout Pack 5 in the North Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Pack 5 is the chartered Cub Scout pack at Christ the King Parish. I'm a Webelos 2 and a senior scout in our Pack. I've been through all of the stages of a Cub Scout, and now I'm crossing over to Troop 5 of the Boy Scouts here at Christ the King. But enough about me, let's get to the adventures!

I went to this thing called a Webelos-Akela Weekend with my Den leader (he's my Dad, Hector!). It's when the Webelos meet up with the Boy Scouts and we get a head start on being a Boy Scout. It's kind of like a mini preview of your future as a scout. We had lots of fun! We learned how to build a campfire, how to cook, safety in the outdoors, how to tie knots, and much, much more. The best part was interacting with the Boy Scouts. We went with them everywhere! They taught us everything they knew. That was a great learning experience.

I also had activities with my Pack. We went camping in my school's baseball field. We had a flag retiring ceremony. I was carrying the pack flag. We retired about 15 flags, and after that we had a lot of fun doing skits and telling stories. Oh yea ... don't forget the S'mores! We all had a great time!

We also had activities as a whole district. We tried to sell Jaguar tickets to the Tennessee Titans game. If you sold a total of at least four tickets, you got to camp



on the practice field the night before the game. But, there's more! The scout who sold the most tickets got a signed football or jersey from the Jaguar player of their choice AND the top 5 sellers got to be on the field during the pregame show AND they got to meet the players! I sold seventeen. We had an awesome time! We got a free dinner and we got to watch a movie on the Jumbotron!! But here's the best part ... After that, Glen Fisher of the Jaguars announced who were the top sellers. I (nervous, fingers crossed, eyes closed, and did I mention nervous?????) listened closely. There was a winner at 21 tickets sold and there were 6 more scouts tied at seventeen. But my name wasn't called! It turns out that our pack registration was received late and my numbers weren't turned in. But after my Den Leader (dear ol' Dad!) spoke with Mr. Fisher, I got in! I was so excited!! The next day I was out there and BOY the players are HUGE!!!! Big John Henderson is about 50 times bigger than I am! The Jags lost, but I didn't care. I still had a great time!

My Cub Scout Pack even got to go on a tour of the USS Doyle! The Doyle is a frigate stationed at Mayport. The commanding officer, CDR. Joe Vobiril, gave us a personal invitation to visit his ship and crew. We saw everything from the Captain's quarters to the firearms and torpedoes! We learned that Cub

Scouts is a lot like working on the USS Doyle and in some ways very different. My favorite part was eating lunch with the sailors.

Pack 5 even helped Jacksonville get ready for the Super Bowl. All of the Scouts in the North Florida Council took part in cleaning up Jacksonville in preparation for the big game. We picked up trash around Landmark Middle School. It was hard work, but it was our chance to do a good turn for our community. The city also gave us great uniform pins for our help that day!

Recently, I took part in a very happy tradition. I moved on to the next step in scouting ... Boy Scouts! Our Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop all camped out at Fort Clinch in March. I was so excited to take part in this serious event. It is called the cross-over ceremony. It is very important that it be done correctly or it takes away from the formality and honor of the occasion. We all met early one Saturday morning at the old wooden bridge that leads to the Fort, the Cubs at one end and the Boy Scouts

at the other. Then my Den Leader called each of us who were crossing over to step forward. He then took off all the symbols of our Cub Scout uniforms .. the neckerchief, slide, and the blue epaulettes on our shoulders that represents us being Webelos 2. Then, we are called over the bridge to join the Troop. The Troop Leader then adds the new symbols of Boy Scouts to our uniforms ... the red neckerchief, slide and new red epaulettes. Then we get to know the other Boy Scouts and BAM! We're men! (ok, not quite yet.....) I remember hearing my name ... "Jan Dela Cruz!" "Oh Boy! I'm a Boy Scout!!!" I was then placed in the Flaming Arrows group where I'll be until I'm fifteen.

After only one hour of being an official Boy Scout, I remember missing the Cub Scouts. I was having a hard time making new friends with these guys, but, I've come to know a few well. There's Ryan, my Patrol Leader, Steven, my Senior Patrol Leader, and my other new friends Warren, Patrick Daniel, Daniel (there's two of them!), James, Ben, and the others.

I've had lots of fun in the Scouts and I'm not planning on stopping for a long time. I'm trying my best to become an Eagle Scout! I suggest all of you kids out there join. You won't regret it!



Janet Morton

by Polly Lotze

Everyone knows our beloved principal of twenty-five years is retiring. Janet Morton's academic foundation began with a B.A. from the University of Connecticut and continued with a Masters of Education from Miami University of Ohio. If you've been a Christ the King parishioner for some time, you will have noted the academic and physical plant progress that occurred during her years as principal of Christ the King School.

Perhaps you have seen her at many of the students' sporting events held both at CTKS and at locations far and near. When a parent drives back and forth for a session of games in any given sport, she feels every win and loss with every fiber of her being for her child. When you're Janet Morton, you multiply that times all of the children at all of the venues and by as many sports as CTKS sponsors. Of course, multiply by twenty-five years.

For every sacramental year in second and eighth grades, Janet's personal and profound sense of faith has helped foster the students



through important passages of a shared faith development. For every school Mass in all grade levels, for every new student reader to take the microphone, Janet has prayed with him or her. Of course, multiply that number of children by twenty-five years.

In the larger academic arena, Janet shares pride of leadership in inaugurating the diocesan gifted program for which she has served as head principal, representing her diocesan colleagues. Of course, multiply those students and teachers by almost twenty years.

In our own community Janet has guided Christ the King School from a self-contained learning environment to a shared class concept bringing the individual talents of many teachers to more students. Technology in the form of standardized classroom televisions and computers in the impressive CTKS computer lab was a particular goal of Janet's. Expansion of the school library to its current status as the Sr. Therese Horan Resource Center was a very special project close to her heart and proportionate to her admiration and respect for its namesake. Additional special class teachers to broaden the educational experiences of all CTKS students became a *fait accompli* along with academic and spiritual development of all her faculty and staff. Of course, multiply the forward progression by twenty-five years.

Janet Morton has provided a solid foundation in the basics of education, namely, spiritual, social, emotional, and academic. The children of CTKS have been nourished under her guidance. She has the special ability to encourage

students to stretch their minds and improve within their God-given abilities. Each year she has been doing the same consistent and important vocation of bringing the little ones of CTKS to the Lord. Of course, multiply that by twenty-five years.

When asked, Janet has noted that she's found her role as principal to be gratifying. Her passion for service to others and resolution of problems of those in need drives the engine in her soul. Speaking of her faculty, Janet avers, "We are close, know each other's habits, and cry and laugh together." With those words you know the Janet Morton whose husband, daughter, mother, cousin, and friends have loved for all her life. At Christ the King School we have been privileged to have had twenty-five of Janet's very best years.

"Sing praise to the Lord with all your hearts. Give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

EPH. 4:20

Color poem - Red

by Kelly Worthington

Red is a dragon as it takes flight,
Red is the fire it breathes with all its might.

It is an apple as it sits in a bowl,
The same in paint is his goal.

Red is the melting wax of a candle,
Red is a tea pot and its handle.

Red is a car zooming by,
To see the red fireworks in the sky.

Red is a sunset on a clear night,
Like a ruby put in a ring just right.

Parish Picnic

July 2nd, after 5 pm Mass

Food & Games for all ages:

Sack Races, Egg Toss, Bocci Ball, Water Balloon Toss
Horseshoes and Softball Challenge

Fireworks!!

Fun for All!!!

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726-5446(wk) 465-5428(cell)

Marketing Math

by Stephanie Chinault

Middle school can be a difficult time. Students carry a heavy load between schoolwork, extra curricular activities and changing hormones. Nevertheless, Christ the King's middle school has been blessed for 16 years by the sunny disposition of their teacher, Susie Cooney. Her presence has had a positive influence on generations of students.

Mrs. Cooney's motto is: "Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery, and today, with my students, a gift. That is why we call it the present." This insistence on the "now" is reflected in Mrs. Cooney's teaching. With a smile and a song, she has encouraged her students to tackle the difficult subjects of Algebra, Integrated Math and General Math. Yearly, she has organized her top mathematicians to compete against other scholars at the Duval County Math Field Day. Here, CTKS students have achieved top recognition for their performance. In addition, roughly fifty percent of seventh graders who have scored in the top five percent of ITBS

standardized testing take the SAT, a college level exam for early identification of ability by Duke University. Throughout the years many students have scored high enough to be eligible for state recognition, national recognition and for summer college course work at Duke University. Lastly, Mrs. Cooney involves her students in Math Counts, an annual engineering competition. 1999 was a particularly gratifying year for Mrs. Cooney because three of the four former CTKS competitors were working as engineers. These brief examples show the positive influence Mrs. Cooney has had on our students and their math abilities.

More than just academic excellence, Mrs. Cooney encourages her students to live Catholic ideals such as helping the less fortunate. She has done this by conducting the CTKS St. Jude Math-A-Thon. Year to date, CTKS students have raised over \$70,000. This money goes to pay the medical bills of children stricken with cancer. In small ways as well, Mrs. Cooney lives the Christian ethic. For instance, when a student loses a book, Mrs. Cooney leads a quick prayer to St. Anthony to find it. He usually does!



Our school community has been blessed with the presence of Mrs. Cooney. She has led CTKS middle school, led the CTKS math program and brightened the lives of all our students. Thank goodness she will be here for years to come.

Christ the King Child Care News



by T. Little

On March 8, 2005, the dental van came to visit and examined and cleaned the children's teeth. The children enjoyed the dentist and his wonderful assistants. The van was a sight to see with two real dentist chairs and a TV that the children were able to watch while waiting. After they got their teeth cleaned, the children were given a brand new toothbrush, and a report of how their exam went was given to mom and dad. A Big Thanks to the Duval County Health Department and the Jacksonville Children's Commission for making this possible.

Our Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 24, 2005. The Easter Bunny came for his annual visit. The children enjoyed seeing the bunny and most of all finding those eggs. Another Big Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to make it such a success.



On April 5, we were blessed with a visit from Bishop Galeone. We took him around to all the classes so the children could meet him and he would be able to see them, too. Again it was quite interesting to hear the children tell their parents that "God came to see us at school today," and it was most heartwarming to see the sparkle of joy in their eyes.

As you may have noticed our building has been repainted thanks to two wonderful angels that were sent to us. THANK YOU BOB RHODEN AND LOUIE O'NEAL!!!

As the school year winds down, we are thankful for the many blessing we have received this year. We thank you, the parishioners of Christ the King, for your prayers, so that we may continue to minister to God's most precious children.

The Big Race

by Sandra Sue Wellsboro

Clay Ludwig is one very determined young man whose persistence made it possible for him not only to participate in the River Run but also to finish with a very respectable time. The River Run, as most of you know, is an important event in Jacksonville with world-class runners coming from all over the globe. Clay Ludwig had decided that he was going to be part of this event even though he is only 12 years. Clay is a student at Christ the King and is in the 6th grade.

Clay has been dreaming about doing the 15K River Run for several years but his family felt he was not quite ready to do the entire 15K. As preparation last year he ran only 5K. For those of you who do not know what K stands for, which includes the writer, it stands for kilometers. This year Clay was determined to run the entire race.

Clay and his dad, Carl began serious training toward the end of January. They would practice during the week but on Saturday they would do their "big run." The course they followed would take them down Atlantic Boulevard as far as Episcopal High School and then back to their house. Sometimes they would run even more but all this came to an abrupt halt when Clay's dad had to have surgery.

Things have a way of working out though because his cousin, Kevin Wrubluski, who lived nearby was able to take over for Clay's dad



who is perfectly fine now. Kevin is an experienced runner having competed for Bishop Kenny and Valdosta State. Clay said that Kevin gave him a lot of pointers on how to handle himself while training.

The Saturday before the big race Kevin and Clay ran over the Hart Bridge so they would have the feel of the bridge. It was getting very exciting and Clay was in high spirits as the time drew near. Part of their strategy was to actually drive the race in Kevin's car so they would know every inch and cranny of it.

Clay said that the night before the race runners are supposed to eat a lot of carbohydrates but he had roast beef, potatoes, and veggies.

With a slight smile Clay also admitted to having some French fries later, which, "kinda, sorta" count toward fulfilling the carb requirement!

Clay's dad had picked up their packets earlier so the day of the race all they needed to do was present themselves at the starting point. After checking in each entrant is given a chip which one ties on his shoelace and this chip records the runner's time from start to finish.

The race was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Clay said the runners were stretching out, getting psyched up for the start of the race. In Clay's own words he said, "There were thousands of people there. Kevin and I were in the middle of this. In the beginning it is so compacted because everyone is running together. We had to weave in, out, and through people until we were able to find an opening which did not happen until the 4th or 5th mile."

"There were bands playing along the way and it would pump me up so I would spurt ahead. My cousin, Kevin, would say, 'Slow down, Clay, we have a long way to go.'" Both of them had their own stopwatches, so they were able to pace themselves. Clay said, "Throughout the whole race we were never much behind our own schedule and then only a matter of seconds."

Before they knew it they were approaching what is affectionately called the Green Monster or as we

lay people call it the Hart Bridge. This separates the men from the boys because when you come down off it you know the end is not long off.

Of course his family was there waiting on Atlantic Blvd near Beach Road Chicken Dinner and when they saw them a big cheer went up as Clay and Kevin whizzed by!

Knowing he had made it successfully across the Green Monster, Clay begins to think, "When is this going to end?" Kevin looked at him and spurred him on with some encouraging words. "Come on Clay, we're just about two football fields away from the finish line." With this news and seeing it with my own eyes, "I put on my after-burners and sprinted across the finish line!"

Clay did make those 9.3 miles in grand style completing the race in 81 minutes and 11 seconds or better said, 1 hour, 21 minutes, 11 seconds. Hooray for you!

After the race there were lots of festivities with everybody congratulating each other while drinking a long slow drink of water.

This very persistent young man said he is now determined to run this race every year and his goal next year is to beat his time of 81 minutes. Is there any doubt that he will do just that?

Inside the Parish Council

by Katie Knowsit

Katie might say that the Parish Council reached its zenith for the year with the appearance of Bishop Galeone as its special guest. Needless to say, the members were there *en masse* for this very special occasion. John Klinkenberg, the Council President, had the privilege of introducing the Bishop with a very warm welcome. Anticipating a large turnout for this event the Council had the foresight to move the meeting to the Parish Hall, which easily accommodated the overflow crowd. The meeting was open to everyone and for those who were not in attendance all Katie can say is that you missed a spectacular evening with a chance to query the bishop on matters that concern our parish or diocese. But not to worry—read on!



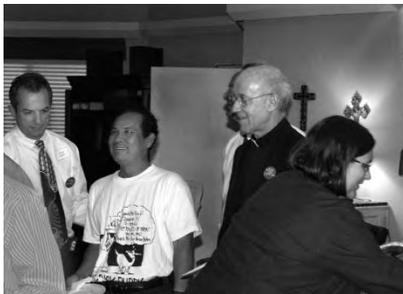
Bishop Galeone said it was his intention to visit 1/3 of the parishes each year and that it takes three years to complete one cycle. If all goes as planned, he will visit Christ the King one more time before he retires. This, of course, excludes his yearly Confirmation visit. He makes these visitations so that he will have first hand knowledge of each particular parish and the problems that they may be facing.

On the first day of his visit Bishop Galeone met with our priests and the rectory staff. That very evening – which you are now reading about – is when he met



Bishop Galeone dropped in to visit at The Atrium

with the Parish Council and any parishioner who wished to attend the meeting. The following day was set aside for Mass with the school children after which the Bishop spent the remainder of the day meeting with the children in the classrooms and talking with the school administration and staff. He even found time to visit the children in our Christ the King Childcare.



The Bishop is a very warm, personable man who told the crowd present that this was his opportunity to get to know the people of the parish and for parishioners to ask questions of the Bishop that they would not normally have an opportunity to do.

The Bishop said he gladly welcomes letters from parishioners as that is a way of knowing the minds and hearts of his flock. He also said that he responds to all signed letters. "If I have said or done anything in error, I will apologize and, if they (the writers) are mistaken on any issue, I will enlighten them. I cannot, however, change church policy."

With that being said Bishop Galeone threw the floor open for parishioners to speak their



mind on a variety of issues and that they did.

Katie will try to give you a smattering of the subjects covered and the Bishop's response to what was asked. The concerns ran the gamut from finding ways to make the JEA "neighbor to neighbor policy" more familiar to the people of Jacksonville to looking for the answers to keep our youth interested in the Catholic faith as they entered high school and beyond.

In response to JEA "neighbor to neighbor policy," which was posed by Tom Thomas, Bishop Galeone said he was unfamiliar with this program but had every intention of looking into the matter. For those who may not be aware of this program, the idea is for the JEA customer to specify a certain dollar amount to be added to their bill each month for the purpose of assisting the poor.

As to keeping the youth involved, our new youth director, Christina Davis, said she personally has visited the kids at Bishop Kenny and Terry Parker to get input on the needs of young

Catholics and new programs are in the works.

When Mike Mackin asked what might be the best way to evangelize our faith, the Bishop responded by saying, "The best way to evangelize is face-to-face contact, one-on-one and should always be done in a non-

threatening manner."

Dan Sanford from Cub Scouts put in a plug for scouting and said it should be thought of as an extension of school and church. Unfortunately, in the last few years participation has been decreasing.

He informed the audience that one could be 18 and still join the Scouts. "Where do I sign up?" quipped the bishop. On a more serious note he said it is a proven fact that those youngsters committed to their church and their activities go into adulthood carrying their faith with them.

The Bishop himself posed the question of how our poor boxes were used. Ernie Waller of the St. Vincent de Paul Society explained that all the money that is placed so generously in the Christ the King poor boxes by our parishioners goes directly to help those in need.

Ernie asked the Bishop if he could nudge other parishes to form St. Vincent de Paul Conferences as the need is ever expanding due to the changing times.

The Bishop stated he could not order any parish to form a conference but he certainly would encourage it! Lucille Guzzone of Religious Education spoke up and said we need to stop blaming the church for the poor attendance of the youth. "It's not the Church; it's the families. Many families no

longer attend Mass on a regular basis."

The Bishop concurred saying, "If Mom and Dad sleep in on Sunday morning—what would you expect of the kids?" The Bishop then gave us some interesting statistics. He said the highest per capita income was earned by Presbyterians followed by Catholics but those who gave the most to their churches were Fundamentalists many of whom are blue-collar workers.

The Bishop also said he has seen far too many Catholics come



to Mass late, get Communion, and then leave. "They drop a dollar in the collection basket. What does that say about their faith? Surely, there is no love relationship with the Lord."

Bishop Galeone said that in his pastoral letter he tried to emphasize a stewardship of love. We must look inside ourselves and ask if we spend more money beautifying ourselves and satisfying our



appetites than we put in the collection basket."

"Remember," the Bishop said, "the good that we do, we do for Jesus."

It was very evident that Bishop Galeone cares much about his flock in Jacksonville. The manner in which he received the myriad of questions, his graciousness to the audience, and his assurance that he would personally look into the concerns of the parishioners only reaffirmed this belief.

And for all you parishioners who missed this meeting, you still have time to get in on the second cycle, Katie Knowsit!



Where There's a Window, There's a Way

by Barbara Hanuscin

Have you ever found yourself somewhere and marveling at how you came to be there, but you knew you were there to accomplish a special mission? Such is the adventure of the Stained Glass Windows for Saint Anne's Church in Coulibistrie, Commonwealth of Dominica in the West Indies.

My friend, Father Elveau Augustine, pastors Saint Theresa's Church in Salisbury and Saint Anne's Church community in Coulibistrie. Both churches are in need of repair. Saint Anne's cornerstone from the original building dates back to the 1700's.

My mother had a strong devotion to Saint Anne and made many pilgrimages to the shrine in Canada. I thought it would be

a fitting memorial to her and would help St. Anne's church if I could have a special window made in her memory. My sister, Betsy, is a stained glass artisan. Her studio, Grafe Stained Glass is in Georgia. With the help of a young man from Salisbury, whom I met on the Dominican Message Thread, the plans designed by a German architect several years before, were secured. When my sister saw the plans, she felt we could do all of the windows! That really ignited excitement!

There would be eight sets of louvered shuttered windows, which would have 14 x 16 inch windows in the tops of each shutter. Above each pair would be larger crescent windows. At my sister's prodding, I contacted the folks at Creative Art Glass. They would not discount the \$1,000 worth of medallions that would be the center of the windows. Instead they donated all the medallions for free! Father was actually speechless, which has some humor as his spirit-filled homilies can last for several hours at a time! He and I carefully chose the medallions depicting scenes

from Christ's life and symbols of our faith.

We knew we were doing the windows but our next hurdle was to transport them. Many negative people would tell me it wasn't possible to do so without breakage. We wouldn't give in to the negativity. Fortunately, many people began brainstorming and lending prayerful support. Small financial contributions came in from several members of the Queens and Kings and even from a Seventh Day Adventist Church in Georgia. Message Thread friends

submitted scriptures, poetry and prayers for brochures for the occasion. Pat Setser, of Christ the King, offered her graphics expertise. She and her husband, Jim,

printed and folded all 600 brochures, absorbing the expense. A job transition provided back vacation pay that was enough to cover the airfares for my sister, my niece and myself. A pre-employment condition of a new job allowed me the travel time.

My sister spied six molded cases at a garage sale and measured them. Sure enough the windows would fit perfectly! We would take minimal other items and a case of windows as our carry on baggage. When it came time to change to a smaller plane in Puerto Rico, the officer was going to take the carry-on baggage and stow it in cargo! I gripped the handle tighter and said a prayer. The officer circled around us and kept looking at our cases. To our relief we boarded the plane with our precious windows in hand!

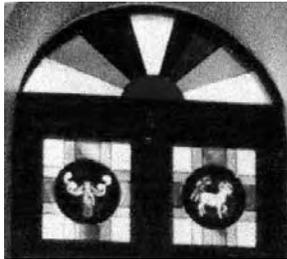
We arrived at the airport to a wonderful "homecoming". Olivia Douglas, the director of CALLS, met us with lovely tropical flowers. You may recall seeing photos of the CALLS students, in past issues of *The Courier*. Father Elveau was

there along with his friend Tillitson, who would be at our disposal for transportation several of the days. My friend, Mamah Alexis, would be our hostess for the stay and greeted us with open arms as she always has.

The first night we experienced torrential rains washing through and devastating parts of Coulibistrie. The people's acceptance of the hardship made it easy for me when my daughter phoned to tell me a tree had fallen on my house. I was able to just give it to God and not worry over it. I knew He would take care of it as He always does.

The next day our faith was rewarded, as the only breakage was a small chip in a spare piece of glass! We set up our workshop in the courtyard adjacent to Saint Anne's, beneath the shade of a huge mango tree complete with a mango hanging precariously above our worktable! Thankfully the mango held tight to its branch! We laid out the glass for the crescents at the foot of the altar. There was a sense of significance and ceremony seeing the glass offering. Villagers came to observe and to offer refreshments. One young man doing the cement work on the choir loft showed a special interest. We would teach Andy how to do the

on a trip down the Indian River with Olivia. We ventured out on our own and climbed a mountain and also went snorkeling. Word had traveled about the three white women who were working on the windows. I renewed friendships and met with those I had met only



through the Message Thread. Some lived on the island and others came to visit from other countries while I was there.

Just a few days before our time would be up, Earl completed the changes to the shutters. We enlisted the strength of several of the youth and literally played musical windows fitting the shutters, each with small variances, into the proper frames. To my amazement there was a window that had not been figured in the designs of the architect. It was to the left of the altar and Father wanted something very special for it.

We were given beautiful hand carved plaques in appreciation at the Novena one evening. I told the parishioners that only God could have designed the windows. I say this because my sister and I were not raised together and did not meet until I was 28 years old. Only God would know that in another 28 years we would be together putting windows in a tiny church on a far away island called Dominica!

We weren't able to see the windows completely installed but I received word recently that they are in and photos are on the way. Also the German architect has learned of their installation. I have some German ancestry, I wonder if there is another connection, but only God in His infinite wisdom knows!



glass and instruct him in the installation and possible repairs if later needed. There was one hitch! The woodsman did not use the same dimensions that we were given. This called for extra work on his part and our work was at a stand still.

We spent the next several days touring with Tillitson. David, a former student of CALLS, took us

Dear God:

We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. Soooo.....I bet he stole Your idea.



Doc Broome's Benefit Ball Returns

by Butch Ferrizzi

Dr. Frank Broome had a dream. As one of the founding Fathers of the Arlington Knights of Columbus Council 4727, "Doc" as he was affectionately known to all, was the knight of all knights. An optometrist by trade, Doc tirelessly gave of himself to his council and his many patients. Behind the scenes Doc's charitable works and generosity was just a way of life for him but touched so many.

The Benefit Ball as we know it was started by Doc over 50 years ago, with a dual purpose in mind. One was to bring all of his

fellow knights in 4727 together for a yearly social function and then to raise funds from the Ball to help in support of the charitable endeavors of the council. Doc would be proud today of what his dream has accomplished.

On April 30 after a three year lapse the Doc Broome Benefit Ball returned, and returned it did. With a stunning performance by Prince Pele's Polynesian Review and Band, the Kingdom was packed again. Just mention Doc Broome and they will come!

Doc, you would be proud as your legacy and desires live on.

Knights of Columbus Council #4727

2005 Free-Throw Contest



by Staff Writer

The annual Free-Throw Contest begins in January, and is open to any child between the ages of 9 and 14. This year's participation was a bit disappointing because last year we had a larger group of kids from

Jacksonville. Beginning with our council it was held at Christ the King Catholic School then on to St. Augustine for the regionals. Next came state finals in Kissimmee, Florida. I must say the boys and girls were very competitive and enjoyed the contests at their level.

Prizes were awarded at each level for first, second and third place. At the state level all received a t-shirt for their participation. If you like basketball, boys and girls, better practice your free throws, 'cause we'd love to see you at next year's contest.



IN SERVICE
TO ONE
IN SERVICE
TO ALL



EMERGENCY PREGNANCY SERVICES



by Frank Becht, PGK

On April 19, 2005, Arlington Council #4727 had a special guest speaker at an open meeting for its members and spouses at the Council Hall.

The special guest was Tracie Cox, Executive Director of Emergency Pregnancy Services. Tracie is not a stranger to the Council for in the past year when EPS had to move to new quarters, several knights and their spouses assisted in renovating the new facilities located at 1637 King Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

As a result of funding changes, EPS lost its facility to perform sonograms for a limited time until able to purchase ultrasound equipment and hire a sonographer. In Jacksonville, only two agencies have the ability to perform such critically important tests.

Tracie Cox presented a touching story of life and some interesting facts about EPS' 30 year history and the importance of having the ability to perform sonograms.

Here is the story that she shared:

Alyse* called her best friend's mother, Lora*, for help. Lora was a nurse and Alyse thought she could help her with her medical problem. Lora listened to her story and knowing about Emergency Pregnancy Services, called and asked if we could help. We encouraged her to come see us. The following story unfolded during Holy Week at our center. It is a story that everyone should hear. (As told by our sonographer)

Alyse came into the center and explained that she had an abortion two months ago. She wasn't feeling right recently and had fainted at work a few nights before. She decided to take a home pregnancy test – it came back positive. I inquired if this could be a new pregnancy, but she insisted that it couldn't. When I asked what her plans were, she explained that she would probably have another abortion, but not at the

same clinic. She told me how unprofessional the doctor was (she added "...if she was even a doctor.") and how something just didn't feel right about the abortion clinic. She also shared that she had had another abortion a couple of years ago, at 16, and didn't seem openly upset about it.

I asked a few questions to try and better understand what might have happened during the abortion. She explained that it was a surgical abortion and that she did bleed heavily afterwards. Alyse said, "It was just like my first abortion and I didn't have a reason to think anything went wrong." I began to believe this must be a new pregnancy. I knew that the only thing that would tell us for sure was the ultrasound. As soon as I placed the transducer on her belly, I knew it was the same baby. The baby measured a little over 15 weeks and I knew at that moment that I was looking at a miracle. Alyse and I watched her baby roll around, scratch its head, try to put its thumb in its mouth, kick and wave its hands for almost 45 minutes. We didn't discuss the abortion and we didn't discuss what she was going to do... we just watched, laughed and felt joy for the active life that was growing inside her. She began to guide me and ask me to print pictures of certain things. I knew right then that she was bonding and falling in love with her baby. Neither of us spoke of the possibility of the abortion taking any of the baby's limbs, but we were both thinking it. I would freeze the screen so that she could see each and every limb and she joyfully counted fingers and identified parts of her baby's body. We are both pretty sure that it's a boy, but she plans to come back in a few weeks to confirm the gender.

After Alyse's ultrasound we began to talk. She is a fulltime college student and expressed fears that she would not be able to finish school. She lives with her father and feels confident that he will be supportive. I believe that the only reason she had not told him yet was because she

didn't want to disappoint him. Now, she feels comfortable enough to tell him and no longer feels the need to "get rid" of the problem.

We spoke at length about what a miracle this is and that her baby is a fighter. She agreed that her baby has a special purpose and is meant to be here. Her baby was able to survive an abortion... he has a mission in this world. We might not know what it is right now, but God has a very special plan for him. The whole time we talked she kept looking over the pictures of her baby. She said "I did not know it was a baby... There is no way that I could try to abort my baby again, not after seeing this."

We hugged, we cried and Alyse chose life for her son.

An angel wrapped herself around this tiny life on that fateful day in January. He was protected and held in the most special way. Only God knows how his life is planned to make a difference. Maybe it starts with you hearing his story.

Alyse returned to EPS on Wednesday of the next week for a follow up scan. She brought her sister in to see the baby also. We verified that this miracle is indeed a boy and she told us "if you all wouldn't have been here, this baby would not be alive today." She shared that if she had gone to the ER or back to a clinic she wouldn't have seen her son and wouldn't have made a choice for life. She was happy that we would be sharing her story and wants to thank all of the people that made this available to her by their donations. She kept saying "I can't believe this is all free."

*(name changed)

Should you wish further information, please contact Tracie Cox at (904) 308-7510 or write to her at 1637 King St. Jacksonville, Florida, 32204.

Christ the King School Honor Roll

Second Quarter, 2004-2005

4A Austin Boyd Jordan Clapp Caitlyn Considine** Stephanie Grochmal Nicholas Johnson Kevin Klima Denielle Lim Huy Mai Tori Nolen Jack Ogin Lauren Reynolds Gabrielle Stoddard Katie Tackett Maria Tran Josh Urbizu	Christian Chan Darby Clower Peter House Angela Hyse Kyle Kadlub Jackie Lewis** Sunshine Ramirez Noelle Solis** Aleeza Tecson** John Luke Vega Mark Wnuk 5A Ashley Anderson Brandon Chin Maverick Claxton Jan Dela Cruz** Nicole Fares** Paul Longenecker Yara Mahfouz	Ashlea McCrone Emily Mikell** Victoria Salud** Sterling Tomlinson 5B Johnarmon Antolin** Brooke Asher Adam De Vera Zachary Favre Kelsey Hayes Devin Rhoden Emily Shaw 6A Parker Flye Joseph Francis Jason Infante** Laura Jones Amanda Niesen Shelly Sciuлло	Robert Yarborough** 6B Alex DeLoach Justin Essick Sarah Koch Clayton Ludwig** Danielle Wheeler Tyler Williamson 7A Kaylee Burke Crystal Claxton Patrick Considine** Christina Diaz** Mallory Frye** Anastasia Mann** Tyler Wildes** Dena Yazji 7B Joshua Alvarez	Darian Azar Melissa Mitchell** Alina Musharbash Grazielle Ramirez Madeline Sciuлло** Hannah Smith Kelsey Taylor 8A Britnie Banks Samuel Ekkawi Christine Grochmal** Taylor Hull Kyle Longenecker Brian Orcullo Rachel Scott Michael Smith Jacob Stromatt Amy Wallace Kelly Worthington**	8B Lina Bahri Gis D'Orazio Gabrielle Fares** Kirsten Greene Taylor Howard Andy Klima Florence Kuo** Dustin Layland Michael Mayotte Megan McClellan Jimmy Mollenhour Jeannette Saliba Hillary Turner
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** denotes all A's

Third Quarter, 2004-2005

4A Austin Boyd Jordan Clapp Caitlyn Considine** Palmer Frye Stephanie Grochmal Nicholas Johnson Joseph Kersch Kevin Klima Denielle Lim Huy Mai** Tori Nolen Jack Ogin Lauren Reynolds James Scanlan Gabrielle Stoddard Katie Tackett Maria Tran Josh Urbizu	4B Austin Asher Brianna Brugnolotti Christian Chan** Darby Clower Tony Crocco Peter House Kyle Kadlub Jackie Lewis** Tyler Medeiros Megan Messer Sean Patti Sunshine Ramirez Noelle Solis** Aleeza Tecson** John Luke Vega Madison Vestal Mark Wnuk 5A Ashley Anderson	Brandon Chin Maverick Claxton Jan Dela Cruz** Nicole Fares** Kayla Klinkenberg Paul Longenecker Yara Mahfouz Ashlea McCrone Emily Mikell Victoria Salud** 5B Johnarmon Antolin Adam De Vera Zaachary Favre Emily Shaw 6A Parker Flye Megan Garman Jason Infante** Mackenzie Nichols	Amanda Niesen Robert Yarborough** 6B Alex DeLoach** Victoria Harris Clayton Ludwig** Tyler Williamson Emily Wolfe 7A Kaylee Burke Patrick Considine Christina Diaz** Mallory Frye** Steven Gardner Anastasia Mann** Tyler Wildes** 7B Darian Azar Jordan Kierce	Melissa Mitchell** Grazielle Ramirez Madeline Sciuлло** Sawson Shami Hannah Smith Kelsey Taylor 8A Britnie Banks** Samuiel Ekkawi Christine Grochmal** Kyle Longenecker Matthew Niesen Brian Orcullo Mary K.Register Tacoma Robinson Max Schanze Rachel Scott Michael Smith Jacob Stromatt Amy Wallace	Kelly Worthington 8B Lina Bahri Gus D'Orazio Gabrielle Fares** Kirsten Greene Florence Kuo** Dustin Layland** Michael Mayotte** Megan McClellan Jimmy Mollenhour** Jeannette Saliba Hillary Turner**
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** denotes all A's

Congratulations to all!

National Honor Society at BK

Congratulations to the following Christ the King Parishioners who were inducted into the Bishop Kenny High School Chapter of the National Honor Society:

William Blanchard
Brian Burnes
Christopher Infante
Victoria Lynch
Lauren McGill
Paul Nguyen
Lauren Petit
Jacob Plotz
Andrea Toledo
Steven Vergenz.

We Salute you!!!!

Christ the King Carnival was a huge success
There were fun times, great food and happy faces
Thank you for all your support



Meet the New Youth Director

by Starr Bishop

Q: What is your full name?

A: Christina Lyn Davis

Q: How long have you been a youth director?

A: I have been at Christ the King for three months now. Prior to that I was at San Juan Del Rio for nearly five years as the youth director. I have also been involved in youth ministry and religious education as teacher on and off since I was in high school.

Q: Why did you want to be a youth director?

A: I have always felt a calling from God to work with youth, but in a different way. It took me quite a bit of time to figure it out though. First I thought it was teaching, then counseling but those weren't it. Finally, I handed my life completely to God and said okay you tell me what to do- you have one year! Sure enough through a lot of prayer and through my efforts volunteering in youth ministry the answer came.

Q: What were you before becoming a youth director?

A: I worked at AT&T Universal Card/Citi Bank in various positions.

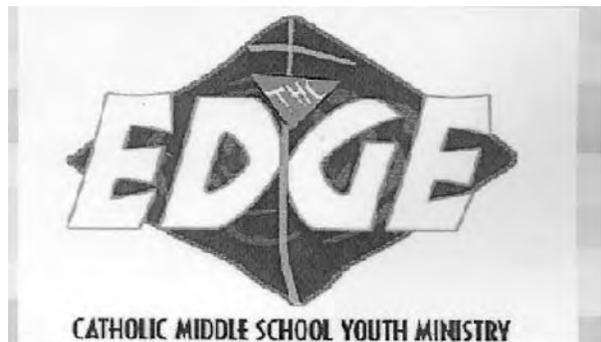
Q: Have you always been Catholic?

A: Yes, I was baptized when I was four weeks old. My mother is Catholic and my father isn't, but my mom made sure we went to Mass each Sunday, attended Catholic school when it was possible and were involved not just on Sunday.

Jason Evert

by Bradley Saad

Jason Evert visited Assumption in April and spoke to the middle and high school grades about living a pure life. Sixteen teens from our church went in addition to the classes in the middle school religious education program and Christ the King School. Jason's talk was very energetic and he was able to reach out and touch the hearts of students. Jason also let you really know what Christ did for us and how to love and respect Him more with ourselves. Jason has written several books and also has a web site, www.pureloveclub.com, he encouraged us to check it out. His books are available at local Catholic bookstores or are available from the Youth Office along with a video of the presentation that took place in April.



Now Recruiting Middle School Core Team Members!

We are looking for 10-12 adults called to work with 6th-8th graders in a dynamic new ministry beginning this fall. Possible candidates should possess love for youth, time to commit for planning and chaperoning, and an absolute desire to bring youth closer to Christ and His church. Interested applicants should call Christ the King's Youth Office at 425-4215 by June 15.

Q: What do you enjoy most about Christ the King's LIFE TEEN Ministry?

A: There is so much I enjoy about LIFE TEEN! The time to socialize and get to know teens, the in-depth topics about our Catholic teachings, the annual **S t e u b e n v i l l e** Conference. It is hard to say that I like one better than the other. It is just awesome to be around people who want to know more about our faith!

Q: Are you married? How long? Do you have any children?

A: Jason, my husband, and I have been married for six years and one month! We have one special little guy in our lives Owen who just turned eight months old.

Q: What does your husband do?

A: Jason is a Chef at a private club in Ponte Vedra.

Q: Have you always lived in Jacksonville?

A: No, I moved here from California when I was a junior in high school. It was a tough move but I am growing to like Jacksonville more and more.



Catholic Youth Rally



by Bradley Saad

On April 9th, 2005, fifty-four youths from Christ the King, Blessed Trinity, and Mayport went to Universal's Islands of Adventure in Orlando for a Catholic Youth Rally. During the two-hour bus ride the church's youth groups got to know each other and make new friends. Not only were these three churches going to the rally but Catholic churches from all over the state of Florida.

During the rides and festivities there was an atmosphere of great joy for the peace and joy that the Lord gives. There were many small things that made this day at an amusement park different from the rest. At 5:30 there was a worship ceremony that took place at the pavilion.

Matthew Klinkenburg was able to get reservations at Margaritaville for a sit-down dinner. Everyone enjoyed it thoroughly and there were people on large stilts that made balloon figures and danced for us. Though the ride was late it wasn't dull and the conversation and fellowship continued.



Diocesan Vocation Director Visits Parish

by Paul Ghiotto

Father Alan Bower, Diocesan Vocation Director and pastor of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Jacksonville, visited the parish on April 16 and 17. Father Alan was making a "homecoming" of sorts since Christ the King was his first parish assignment as a newly ordained priest back in 1989.

Father Bower gave the homily at each of the weekend Masses. The principal messages delivered were: "God has a plan for each of us; God is always speaking to us; in order to discern God's plan we must be willing to listen to God; in order to listen to God we need to prepare and open our hearts; our willingness to listen is the real challenge."

"In order to hear God's voice today we need certain points of reference. The Gospels come to us from the Apostles. In them Jesus tells us that when the Church speaks in His name in matters of faith and morals that we should listen and follow His teachings. Jesus established His Church primarily for those who are sinners and sick spiritually and that the Church will endure until He comes again."

"When we pray the Lord's Prayer we should do so as the Lord intended. We should especially keep in mind the meaning of the phrase, "Thy will be done." Those who do so surely will discover great joy and fulfillment in their life on earth and a heavenly reward thereafter."

Prior to his visit to Christ the King, Father Bower met with me in his "nautically-appointed office" in the rectory at Blessed Trinity. We had been "shipmates" in a Naval Reserve Supply unit at NAS JAX for about a year just prior to his ordination. Decorating the walls were an assortment of Navy plaques and memorabilia noting assignments aboard numerous ships and stations during a Navy career that included 14 years of active duty and 14 plus in the Drilling Reserves.

Prior to his appointment to Blessed Trinity, he was asked by Bishop Victor Galeone in May 2004 if he would be interested in taking Father John Tetlow's place as vocation director. Father Tetlow had done an outstanding job in the role for 12 plus years and was due for relief. After consulting his religious director, who said, "Do it!" he called the bishop back and said, "OK." Father Bower said that since his belief is that he is here to serve the Church and to discover what God's work is for him, then becoming vocation director was a good fit.

Father Bower stated that approximately one in 500 youth will receive a call to religious life as either a priest, brother, nun, or deacon, etc. While the Church



definitely needs more priests it always has needed a dedicated laity. His role as vocations director includes helping each of the diocese's hundred or so parishes/schools develop a "vocations culture" to address this need. The plan is for each parish to appoint a vocations coordinator and a standing committee for vocations in each parish.

To help vocations directors do a better job membership is maintained in two organizations – the National Coalition for Church Vocations and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocational Directors. The latter met last year in Anchorage, AK and this fall will meet in Tampa, FL.

Currently there are ten seminarians studying for the diocese who are below the deacon level. Father Alan meets with seminarians and seminary leadership on a regular basis. This way he keeps up with what's going on in their lives and concerns on both sides of the aisle.

In addition to placing newly-ordained priests in parishes that will be a good fit, Bishop Galeone began a program for priests ordained five years or less to meet together for support the first Tuesday of each month at the Catholic Center on St. Augustine Road in Jacksonville.

Father Alan graciously shared with me the events leading to his call to the priesthood. He was born in Dayton, Ohio on December 28, 1950 to Arlie & Ruth Ann Bower. He has a younger sister, Linda, who lives in Arizona. He graduated from North Central High School in Indianapolis. While in high school he decided that his life plan would involve getting married, having children and serving his country. He even had selected names for his kids and had drawn up plans for his home – just needed to find a mate to make it so!

Nevertheless, he entered Purdue University as a freshman in the fall of 1968. His dad, upon

dropping him off, told him, "Alan, you do what you feel you have to do, not what you think I want you to do." He joined a fraternity, changed his major three times in the first year(!) and eventually majored in Economics.

Before entering Purdue, he thought he'd become a pilot in either the Navy or Air Force but this plan was derailed by the strict mandatory eyesight requirements

“. . . keep in mind the meaning of the phrase,

"Thy will be done."

Those who do so surely will discover great joy and fulfillment in their life on earth and a heavenly reward thereafter."

of the period. While in college, he met the love of his life and was being groomed for the family business. As it turned out, she changed her mind, but Father Alan still ended up working for her father with Lincoln National Life in St. Petersburg, FL.

Two years later a college buddy who had become a hotshot F-14 Navy pilot told him that the eyesight requirements had been relaxed and he ought to look at getting in. Though he aced the "Navigation" part of the USAF exam, the physical exam closed that opportunity due to visual acuity. Fortunately, a sharp Navy recruiter pointed out that his best chance for entering the military would be via the Supply Corps since he was a natural for it by virtue of his extensive business background.

After OCS (March 1975), Supply Corps School (Sept. 1975), and Submarine School (Nov. 1975) he was assigned to the LOS ANGELES (SSN-688) PRECOMMUNIT. This lead ship of the nuclear-powered LOS ANGELES Class fast-attack submarine series was

commissioned the following year (Nov. 1976). Father Alan served aboard her for 40 months as the Supply Officer. A highlight was meeting President Jimmy Carter who visited the "boat" and told him that he, too, was an ensign and supply officer aboard the Navy's first nuclear sub, the Nautilus.

While on shore duty at Cecil Field NAS in the summer of 1979 he got more involved in his Catholic faith. He was asked by the base's Catholic chaplain, Father Roch Laurenzano, if he would teach the Fifth Grade CCD class. He did and realized the following summer that there was more to it than just having enjoyed the experience. He began to ask the question, "God, is there something You want me to do other than what I'm doing?"

While still on active duty, he concluded during the summer of 1982 he "must" enter the seminary to find out if he's being called to the priesthood. The following summer he resigned his naval commission, entered the Naval Reserve, and enrolled in a pre-Theology program at St. Meinrad, a Benedictine monastery in southern Indiana. He later studied at St. Vincent de Paul seminary in Boynton Beach, FL and was ordained by Bishop Snyder on May 20, 1989 in St. Augustine.

The day of Father Alan's ordination he transferred from the Supply Corps to the Chaplains Corps and spent the summer of 1989 in Newport, RI for the Navy's Basic Chaplain School course. Upon completion he began his first priestly assignment here at Christ the King on September 1, 1989. The following June he was assigned to Epiphany Parish in Lake City.

He retired from the Reserves on January 1, 2003. Prior to that, he was recalled to active duty in 1991 for Desert Shield/Storm for 8 ½ months. He also returned to active duty in September, 1997 as base chaplain at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba until March 1999 and Command Chaplain of the USS WASP (LHD-1) until September, 2000 before returning to the diocese.

Father Bower said that his dad wasn't too happy with his career change since, among other reasons, he was his only son and had big plans for him in carrying on the family name, etc. When asked by his son if he remembered what he had told him years ago in the fall of 1968, dad wasn't too happy when told! In closing his homily he reminded the congregation: "While children are gifts from God they aren't owned by their parents!"

Father Bower has had many interesting career assignments but, without a doubt, he has found his vocation for life. May the rest of us be so fortunate! Are we listening?