

## First Holy Communion 2008



by Lucille Guzzone

Forty-nine parish children received the Holy Eucharist for the first time on May 4, at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. In his homily Father Thanh reminded the children to recall their first reconciliation, their communion retreat, and the classroom preparation leading up to this eventful day. He emphasized that they should bear in mind one special thought as they go forth, and that was to thank God every day for all of His gifts to them, especially the gift of Jesus Christ. He reminded them that they should pray often and asked them to recite aloud the Lord's Prayer for the congregation. He mentioned many things for which they should pray, and requested that they do not forget to pray for Father Thanh himself. The last comment emitted soft laughter from the adults! Father then addressed the parents asking them to take the children to Sunday Mass every week in order for them to continue to be nourished by the Eucharist.



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# Father Thanh's Message

Congratulations to our Courier Staff who are celebrating Christ the King Courier's 10th Anniversary with this issue! For ten years they have been faithful to sharing the good news of the Gospel as it has been lived out in our community, in our school, in the sacraments, and in our ministries. I thank God for this gift that we are able to get and stay connected with one another. We have been able to grow in our awareness of God's presence in others. In that same spirit, I would like to share with you the events of the past few months.

Our carnival was a great success from the taste of New Orleans on Friday night along with Bingo and the Silent Auction to all the fun on Saturday ending with joy and fulfillment when the raffle ticket winners were announced. There was entertainment, carnival rides, climbing mountains, games, good picnic food and the camaraderie of all who participated. With the wonderful collaboration of our church community and the school along with the good leadership of Tim McClellan, the outcome of our biggest fund raiser for the school was an incredible \$32,000!

We were truly blessed when two bishops, Christ the King parishioners and families joined with our Vietnamese family for the dedication of our Vietnamese Cultural Center. The Vietnamese Community is so excited about the completion of the building. The mission for the Cultural Center is to provide an environment for the Vietnamese and those who have the desire to learn their language, culture and tradition. It is a place for gathering for community activities, to build friendship and to maintain their Vietnamese heritage. It is an integral part of Christ the King Parish. It is hoped to serve as an integral part of the Jacksonville area. What a great beginning for all of us! We had good weather, good food, good music and good fellowship celebrating good times!

Our next celebration was the 175th Anniversary of The Saint Vincent De Paul Society. In 1960 this ministry, which is dedicated to the poor was invited to Christ the King but its history dates back to its beginning in the early 1800's. In the midst of the post French Revolution, around mid-April, 1833, Frederic Ozanam, a student from Sorbonne, and five other students met in the offices of the Catholic Tribune. The previous week they had been confronted by a fellow student with these words, "We agree that at one time your Church was a great Church and was a source of good. But what is your church doing now? What is she doing for the poor?"

Ozanam had accepted the challenge and he said to his friends, "We must do what is agreeable to God. Therefore, we must do what our Lord Jesus Christ did preaching the Gospel! Let us go to the poor!" On that night the Conference of Charity, The Society of St. Vincent De Paul was born and Frederic Ozanam became the primary founder, inspiration and soul of the Conference. News of their good works spread throughout France and continued to grow worldwide.

While under the leadership of Father Thomas Larkin, founding pastor of Christ the King, we took up the mantel and started this much needed ministry in our community. Ever since that time the St. Vincent De Paul members have met to pray and continued to reach out to the poor in our midst. With your contribution this last year the Vincentians were able to make 860 home visits and helped a little over 2000 people and gave over \$36,000 in food and Food Lion cards. Most of the families we come in contact with have children. As pastor of Christ the King, I am very grateful for their work. Their dedication is to be commended. Through their work they help you and me reach out to those in need as well by using our contributions wisely.

The Holy Spirit is alive in all people, whether they are light-skinned or dark-skinned; big or small, tall or short, wealthy or poor. We can see Jesus in the faces of all His people.

Then on May 10, the Saturday before Pentecost Sunday, five men were ordained as priests in our diocese. Our community has been blessed to know three of them well as they have served here sometime during the

last few years. Their names are Lam Nguyen, Andrew Blaszkowski, and Sawomir Bielasiewicz. We thank God for their taking this courageous step ... to be witnesses of God's love in their new role. In gratitude we will continue to pray for them as they go forth to take on their priestly commitment.

We celebrate the marvelous work of the Holy Spirit in our midst, especially in the Courier where we have recounted His many blessings over the past ten years. I see the work of the Holy Spirit in our community every time we gather in celebration at Mass, at the carnival, and at the dedication of the Vietnamese Cultural Center. I also see the Holy Spirit at work in our St Vincent De Paul Society who minister to the poor. And I saw the Holy Spirit working within our Diocese when we celebrated with our new "Fishers of Men" who stand now ready, willing and able to preach the Good News; sanctified by the Holy Spirit they took their first post. They are beginning their special journey walking hand in hand with Jesus Christ as His spokesperson. We thank God for our many blessings. May we always open our hearts and minds to the grace of the Holy Spirit as we ask Him in prayer...



**Come Holy Spirit**  
**Fill the hearts of your faithful**  
**And kindle in them the fire of your love.**  
**Send forth your spirit and they shall be created**  
**And You shall renew the face of the earth.**  
**Amen.**

## 2008 Communion List

Evelyn Alcaras	Marisa Garcia	Taylor Quinn
Joshua Alexander	Christopher Gau	Sunshine Ramirez
Natalia Arreguin	Benjamin Guzzone, III	Patricia Salem
Paul Ashley	Britnee Johnston	Rylee Schroder
Andrea Barrett	Ryan Johnston	Julia Shami
Christina Batario	Audrey Jolavar	Myles Smith
Meghan Benson	Max Laguerre	Mia Solis
Jared Bowling	Marian LeClaire	Ashlyn Sullivan
Brandon Bunag	Kathleen McClellan	Caitlin Tan
Kathryn Carpio	Alexa Monroe	Austin Talley
Sarah Crocco	Marlo Medina	Nicholas Taylor
Thomas Dean	Brittany Nazario	Asia Thorpe
Diane Domazet	Tony Nazario	Patrick Tonkovich
Jack Eason	Mackensie Parliment	Amanda Urbizu
Jean Fleurimond	Alexis Profit	Alexis Waters
Alfred Flores	Alexis Quinn	Isaiah Ybarra

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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.

# Letters



Dear Patriotic Friends,

Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A) would like to extend out sincere appreciation for your recent donation. Clothing, toys, and school supplies are given to the local Afghans; toiletries, food, and books are given to military personnel.

In the last few months we have completed a number of humanitarian missions. The first mission was to the Kabul Orthopedic Clinic which fits Afghans with prosthetics and provides free rehabilitation to more than 10,000 disabled patients a year. On two occasions we visited refugee villages. The refugees live in mud huts amongst rubble and are really in need of our help; we gave about 100 families three large plastic bags of clothing, toys, and school supplies. On our fourth mission we visited a school that takes in street children and teaches them a trade.

It is your generous donations that made these trips possible; all the items we gave the Afghans were from Americans just like you. As you can see from the pictures, our trips put smiles on their faces; this is what we refer to as winning the hearts and minds of the locals. If you would like to make additional donations please send new and gently used items including conservative clothing for men, women, and children, shoes, winter clothing, blankets, school supplies, and toys ... lots of toys. We can't give them religious items or anything requiring batteries or electricity. The cheapest way to send it is via Space Available Mail (SAM) from your local post office. Donations can be sent to: CSTC-A VCR Program (Pool House), APO AE 09356.

Thank you for your support!  
 Email: [charity@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:charity@afghan.swa.army.mil)

Dear Father Thanh,

We are so grateful to you and the community at Christ the King for giving Emmaus Catholic Young Adult Group a home for the past six years. Thank you for giving us a place to grow in our faith and the opportunity to develop wonderful friendships. Some have developed into marriages and others have found their vocations in religious life. God Bless!

Thank you,

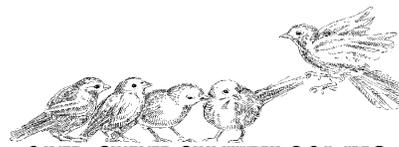
The Emmaus Group

*Emmaus Young Adults moved to St. Ephraim's to be close to the University of North Florida*

### Courier Guidelines Notice

Readers, you may notice in this and other issues of the Courier certain inconsistencies in rules for capitalization regarding God, the Bible, gospel quotes. The reason for this is that, when we use direct quotes from other sources, we cannot make any changes. Therefore, if His, He, Him referring to Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit are not capitalized in the original, we do not "correct" them.

# What's Happening



Laurie Jones  
 Cung Uk  
 Joseph and Lisa DeFioce  
 Hau Suan Khal  
 William Wade  
 Theresa Yurcak  
 Kerry and Timothy Flanagan  
 Thang Lian Khal  
 Derek Thorpe  
 Solange Thorpe  
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Jones  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rafael Fernandez  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Gallessich  
 Johann Schnell  
 Lauren Jenkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alejandro Alcaraz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tony Aguinaldo  
 Amber Carty

Adrena Salem  
 Lee Ann Waters  
 Kenneth Risberg  
 Michael Madden  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Campbell  
 Heather Hudson  
 Paul Nguyen  
 Mary Heaney  
 Sabrina Bamba  
 Brian Ruhl  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eliseo Bundoc  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edelyne St.Fleur  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Wrubluski  
 Kristi Stowers  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Downs  
 Huong Dao  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nguyen  
 Thanh Thuong Nguyen

### Profession of Faith:



Emma-Lorraine W. Araya  
 Meghan R. Bartolone  
 Valerie L. Jennings

Wayne R. Smith  
 Brenda W. Sahioun  
 Patricia C. Munoz



### Baptisms:

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

Isabel Francheska Devore-Suazo  
 Nhan Quang Nguyen  
 Chelsea Emily Fernandez  
 Matthew Ray Maroney  
 Aaron Matthew Resch  
 Ian Dinh Le  
 Angel Tien Nguyen  
 Elaina Garcia Dionisio  
 Allie Michelle Mackin  
 Maya Gabrielle Brumley  
 Brayden Jose Sandoval  
 Carmen Ruby Palenik  
 Daniel James Sapp  
 Madison Ezekiel Garty

Kelsey Jo Hayes  
 Alberta L. Bundoc  
 Eliseo G. Bundoc  
 Daniella A. Tine  
 Vicky S. Quinn  
 Heather M. Hudson  
 Kristi L. Stowers  
 Josephine Zahara Davis  
 Rachalyn Blaire Hudson  
 Adam Hoang Nguyen  
 Courtney Ba Pham  
 Vanthi Dinh  
 Man Quang Le  
 Phuoc Tuong Nguyen

### Deaths:

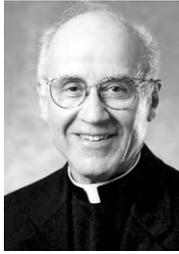
Nen Thi Nguyen  
 Rose Margaret Morency  
 Patricia Hanson  
 Carl R. Piampiano  
 Timothy Stack  
 Teofilo Vincacruz, Sr.



John Farrell, Jr.  
 Wilbert Shearer  
 Lucille Beckman  
 William Thomas Ramp  
 Joseph M. Ghioto

# Bishop Galeone's Town Hall Meeting

by Yolanda Cerqueira



On a cold wet rainy evening in February our bishop, Victor Galeone, held a Town Hall Meeting for the parishioners of Christ the King. The bishop visits us every three years as there are 51 parishes in this diocese and he made the determination early on in his episcopacy to visit 17 parishes yearly. We at Christ the King were part of his first round and we now have come full circle on the three years, hence the visit.

The bishop is a very warm and gracious man which becomes very apparent in his opening remarks to those present. He likes the idea of a Town Meeting simply because of the exchange of ideas and much prefers this mode rather than to give a specific talk. "Anything you wish to bring up as a topic is fine with me," stated the bishop. "If you wish to talk about religion, the diocese, our magazine, the parish, or whatever, nothing is off limits. The only questions I will not accept are those dealing with individual personalities."

With that said we were off and running with a host of questions and comments.

Hazel Ghiotto was the first to raise her hand. She had a comment and a lovely one it was. "I wish to compliment our priests. They're wonderful! We are really living with the spirit of the 60's. You should see all the groups and ministries that we have here at our parish. There are over 40 ministries and every Sunday we have a little talk about one of these ministries so there is no excuse not to be part of one of them."

The bishop heartily agreed with Hazel's remarks and then went on to say that he receives many letters from parishioners and 85% of them are letters of criticism. Every once in a while the bishop receives a letter of praise about a parish or a specific priest, but that was the unusual. He always responds to every letter. If it is about a priest, he not only answers the letter writer, but also sends a copy of his response to that particular priest.

The next question came from our music director, Bernie Sans, regarding the loss of membership in the main line Protestant and Catholic churches and the growth of Evangelical churches.

The bishop stated that statistics can be used very cleverly to achieve the outlook you wish to present to your audience. He said that recently a survey had been conducted in which all of the 165

dioceses of the United States participated. One of the questions was: "Has your diocese experienced any fiscal problems by staff members? The only answer one could give was a "yes" or "no." If the answer was "yes," then how much money was taken? We had to respond with a "yes" because of the incident in Keystone Heights several years ago when the pastor took off with over \$300,000.00 dollars. The diocese made good on the money but that was only one incident out of 51 parishes in all of St. Augustine Diocese.

The point that the bishop was making was that when the report was published it stated that 85% of parishes in the United States experience problems with embezzlement instead of 85% of all dioceses experience problems. There are thousands of parishes in this country and if only one or two in each diocese record a problem the percentage becomes much, much smaller; so remember, statistics may be used to say whatever you want it to say!

James Scott had a question that concerns most of us. The question—"What are the future prospects for vocational priests and religious sisters?"

Bishop Galeone said, "I can only speak for the priests as the religious sisters have their own way of selecting candidates. We want only solid candidates to replace the retiring priests. We can not be concerned about numbers. Recently we have had to ask four candidates to withdraw who had been studying for the priesthood. As time went on it became evident they did not meet our qualifications."

It was interesting to learn that 80% of his time is spent with problems concerning priests. "If the file on a priest is very thin then you know he is the salt of the earth, whereas a priest with a bulky file you better be prepared to duck. Your pastor, Father Thanh has a very, very thin file."

He further stated that the diocese is looking for men of integrity - men filled with grace that springs from their basic nature.

In May of this year five men will be ordained to the priesthood. Two of them are over 60 years of age. Older men must meet the same requirements as a younger man. In addition they must pay their own way in the seminary and have a pension plan in place as there would not be enough years of service to build up a retirement fund.

The bishop informed us that the diocese holds two Discernment Suppers a year for interested men. This year there are 12 young men from Gainesville mostly from the University of Florida and 21 or 22 young men from the Jacksonville area who have a desire to learn

more about the priesthood as a vocation.

Where do vocations come from? "Vocations come from solid families that have regular prayer life. In addition young men must come in contact with good role models, the parish priest, solid Catholic teachers. When you see a young man who is involved in some sort of church work you might comment, "I think you would make a wonderful priest. Have you given any thought to it?" You are the voice of encouragement. Lastly, we must pray that God will send good solid candidates."

James came back with another good question. "What is the state of the Catholic schools in this diocese?"

"This is a problem that is a concern to all of us," remarked the bishop. "The economy is slipping and we have lost students as parents cannot afford the tuition. We do not receive support from the state and therein lies a big part of our problem." As an aside Bishop told us a story about a monsignor in Baltimore and how he would handle this kind of situation. The monsignor's nickname was "Diamond in the Rough" as he pulled no punches.

This all happened when our now bishop was a young priest.

The monsignor said that on the very last day of school there should be a note inserted in all of the report cards of the Catholic schools that they would not be opened next fall and that parents should register their children immediately for the public school. The flood of new students would most certainly bring the public school system to their knees and it would not be very long before aid would fly into the window of our schools. Sounds far-fetched but it would certainly get their attention!

Bishop Galeone said one of our biggest obstacles is the Blaine Amendment which was passed in 1875 and concerns government support to sectarian institutions but its real purpose was to see that Catholic schools received no government funding. It was steeped in Catholic bigotry and is still prominent today with the matter of school vouchers right here in Florida.

Council President asked if we along with the diocese could not become more pro-active in seeking the support of the people in the diocese.

Again the bishop reiterated that this was not a good time to seek additional funds from the parishioners of the diocese as the economy continues to slide. He gave the example of a few years ago when we had the Opportunity of a Lifetime Drive and 37 million dollars were pledged; however they were only able to collect 27 million of those dollars because, like now, the economy took a nose dive.

Bishop said that there is a financial institution that says, "We never forget it's your money." He believes that the diocese should adopt that same principle. "I am scrupulous with your money and by the time I leave everything will be in the black."

The bishop further reported that there have been dioceses that have gone bankrupt due to the many lawsuits the past few years. There seems to be no end to the statue of limitations. Now we aren't the only denomination being sued but here's the rub! Each Protestant church is independent so if there is a wrong doing in a Baptist church, it only refers to that particular church.

Hazel Ghiotto had another question for the bishop and it was: "What has the Catholic Church done to keep predators from joining the priesthood?" The bishop returned with another question, "How do you tell a predator?" He urged us to read the article that Ted Bundy gave to Doctor Dobson the day before he was executed. The point that Bishop was making that Ted grew up in a normal household until he reached puberty and then he slowly got involved with pornography with catastrophic results. The bishop said that the article brought tears to his eyes.

When he met with his fellow bishops at their yearly meeting he stated that many of the bishops were in favor of spending \$1,000,000.00 to study the reasons why priests would fall into the behaviors for which the church is now being sued. For Bishop that reasoning made no sense and he gave this example. When a man and woman marry they make a commitment to be faithful to each other but that requires time and commitment to each other on a daily basis. As time passes and if they fall into a pattern of saying little to each other they will reach a point where there is nothing to share. Many times the next step is the divorce court.

So too, a priest, when he takes his vows, promises to be faithful to the Lord. One remains faithful by spending time with the Lord in prayer. Once that priest starts down that pathway of losing communication with God you can be certain he will begin to fill himself up with something else and it is usually something deleterious to his soul!

The bishop urged us to think about what we are doing here on earth. Where are we going? It is our hope that we go to heaven but we must be prepared to make sacrifices and surrender to Jesus.

As the evening grew to a close the Bishop complimented our parish and our wonderful Father Thanh and stated that he would be most happy to change places with our own dear pastor. The meeting was concluded with prayer and a rousing hymn.

# Bishop's Message Strikes Home

## A Parishioner's Response

I recently attended the Town Hall Meeting on February 26, 2008 at which time Bishop Galeone was visiting Christ the King Parish and made himself available to listen and answer any questions or concerns of the parishioners.

Bishop Galeone responded and spoke freely concerning several topics of interest and importance. However, it was his response to the question regarding "the loss of membership in the main line Catholic churches" that touched my heart. Telling the audience not to raise our hands, the Bishop asked the question, "how many of us in the room have (or had) a family member who has fallen-away from our Catholic faith and may not be attending Mass?" I was moved with his response to this issue and his final advice to "continue to pray for the individual rather than nag." Following the meeting I wanted to thank Bishop Galeone for his visit and insight and particularly let him know how touched I was with his advice on the issue of fallen-away Catholics. I went on to tell him I would have been one of the individuals to raise my hand to his question and proceeded to tell him briefly of my personal family experience. I wanted him to know how appropriate I thought his final advice was since I believe, more than anything else, it truly was through prayer that my child found the way back to participating in the Catholic church and Mass. I'm not sure what I expected the Bishop's response to me would be, but as he listened I could tell he was genuinely touched with my brief story and then he looked directly at me to say, "I wish you had shared that message during the gathering." That left me stunned and I could only tell the Bishop that since I

thought he said exactly what most needed to be said, I felt no need to add anything further. Although he appeared to understand, his comment to me kept me thinking "why would it be so important for me to add anything further when someone far more important than myself just said all that was needed?" After considerable prayer and thought I have concluded that although we listen and take guidance and direction from our church leaders – our priests, deacons, and in this case, our Bishop - *we* are the *living examples* of their lessons. It is also in sharing our personal life experiences that we truly grow fully in our faith and find a deeper understanding of God's purpose and goodness in our lives which then enables us to reach out offering hope and encouragement to others, through prayer, in their time of need!

And so, briefly I share my story. Like so many other parents, I did everything necessary to instill a good Catholic upbringing for my family. The children were provided with a loving environment with active parent involvement and extended family, received a good Catholic education no matter what sacrifice was involved to do so, we were a family actively serving with many church and school functions and I tried to set a good Catholic example for the children. Although there were challenges along the way, I was blessed with a wonderful family and was both grateful and proud of each of my children. I felt God was truly at the core of my family. As the children approached their young adulthood however and were now making decisions for themselves, it was disturbing to know that attending Mass was not always happening for one of them.

I blamed it on the relationship in which they were involved and when possible, I gave little reminders of the importance of doing so. My prayers for my child in this situation began! A few years later when this relationship ended, I felt this was an answer to my prayers. Surely I could help my child find their way back to church. As I continued to offer encouragement and prayed for guidance for both myself and my child, I learned that this child had met someone else and was again dating. I continued to pray for a return to the faith of this child's upbringing, feeling this was such an important aspect missing in their life. Soon I received news of the marriage plans. With all the excitement I felt about the marriage plans for one of my children, I also found out it would not take place in a Catholic church!

At this point, I felt I needed answers...Why was this so difficult for my child? What had I done wrong? How could my child ignore what I considered to be the most precious gift I had given – the Gift of Faith? The dialogues began and usually ended with one of us really upset, crying or arguing. I felt guilt that I had failed God who had entrusted me with the blessings of this child. There were no answers that seemed to make sense to either of us. I was reminded of my own mother who many years earlier experienced the same situation with one of her children. I remembered witnessing her pain over the years and now, it seemed I was feeling her pain! I remembered also, however, her endless love for her child, her belief in the power of prayer and her saintly virtue of patience with any situation. And so, I continued to pray but now I added my

parents to the circle of prayer I wanted surrounding my child. Following the wedding, I felt emotionally drained and the feelings of guilt, anger and frustration seemed to make no sense anymore. I loved my child and I now felt all I could do was continue to be a part of this child's life and put this in God's hands as I continued to pray. I must admit, upon hearing the news of a grandchild entering my life I was convinced this would be the time my child would return to the church. It did not happen but the prayers continued, now with a few trusted friends added to the circle of prayer. As the family grew, I felt in my heart that my child still held the Catholic faith as a cornerstone of their life; but for whatever reason, just couldn't get back to church. The earlier questions to be answered seemed unimportant to me at this point; but for me to have true peace of heart, having my child participating in the Catholic faith and having God as an active part of their family life was important and so, the prayers continued. Following ten years of prayer, it was a glorious Easter last year when my child had the strength and desire of their heart to make the decision to return to the sacraments of the church which was soon followed with the Baptism of my grandchildren! Despite the time it took, I am so proud of my child who I believe never stopped praying either and found their way back.

Truly, as Bishop Galeone told us, it was through collective prayer that brought this child of God back to church and the Catholic faith. I continue to offer prayer for all other families facing the same situation and would always advise, be patient and *continue to pray!*

## My Cursillo Experience



by Sherri Bell

My Cursillo experience began with me not being real sure that I wanted to be there. I had all of these thoughts that something was going to happen and I would not be there for my family. I was not homesick; I was worried that I would put a hardship on my family and was afraid for that to happen. I am the type of person that tries to take care of everyone and does not want them to do without.

I learned some very valuable things on this weekend that God had been trying to tell me for awhile. First, He taught me that I need to let go, not try to be everything to everybody. I need to let people stand on their own two feet. I need to just be there in case they fall, not try to keep them from falling. Second, I learned that He loved us first, chose us and awaits our response. Nothing I could do would make God turn away from me. I may push Him away and close the door, but He is still there waiting for me to open it up to Him. He enables us through light, strength and illuminating moments; we have the gift of grace.

Third, I learned that we need to surround ourselves with Christ-like people. This weekend, every one of the women there was beautiful, loving, caring and awesome. I will cherish those three days for the rest

of my life and hope that our friendships last forever. I would like to thank Darlene O'Neal for sponsoring me and giving me the push to go. I know that God sent me to Fire Station #37 to have Lt. Micah Ethridge and Captain Lance Reynolds bring me to Christ the King for RCIA and meet Darlene and Louie O'Neal so that I could have a wonderful life with Christ.

I would also like to thank Father Ed Murphy for being the spiritual director at our Cursillo. I know that God sent me to him for Reconciliation the Tuesday before because He wanted to lay the foundation. In September I lost my grandmother and I stayed with her the whole month before she passed. I did not attend Mass because I was afraid to leave her side. After I was back home I fell away from the Church. Well, on that Thursday night at Camp St. John, Father

Murphy came up to me and remembered me from confession at Immaculate Conception Church. He told me that he was glad I was there, but especially because I was truly trying to turn my life around and this was a great start.

I feel that everyone who wants a closer walk with Christ should attend a Cursillo to have the same wonderful experience that I and so many others have had. This was truly an overwhelming experience. The best way I can describe it is like, when a child is born and you see this little person as a gift from God, you feel in your heart that nothing could give you a greater feeling. Well, go to a Cursillo and you will experience the greatest feeling of all. I like to think of it as standing in front of heaven, looking in while we are still here on earth.

De Colores !!

# I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.

## Revelation 21:6

by Mickey Kenny

In the renovation of the church there have actually been very few structural changes. However, the new position of the baptismal font and the plan for a fountain are large changes which add new dimensions to the spirituality available in this sacred place. Perhaps first we need again to think about symbols and symbolism in general before we tackle the particular.

From the internet we have this definition: "Symbolism may for our present purpose be defined to be the investing of outward things or actions with an inner meaning, more especially for the expression of religious ideas. In a greater or lesser degree symbolism is essential, to every kind of external worship and we need not shrink from the conclusion that in the matter of baptisms and washings, of genuflections and other acts of reverence, of lights and sweet smelling incense, of flowers and white vestures, of unctions and the imposing of hands, of sacrifice and the rite of the communion banquet, the Church has borrowed, without hesitation, from the common stock of significant actions known to all periods and to all nations."

If we come into church, dip our fingers in holy water, and cross ourselves, we perform an admirable sign; if we perform these same acts with a deep reverence for the Trinity and a humble approach to preparing ourselves for the ultimate gift of the Eucharist, these signs express feelings rooted within ourselves and our faith and are symbolic of our life with God. Anyone could meditate for hours on the feelings and ideas that well up from our thoughts of water and the full meaning surrounding the gift of water.

We have been encouraged to enter the sanctuary in a manner open to every feeling of God's love for us and our thanksgiving and praise in response. We are reminded first that all doors to the church are open and welcome us into the gathering area where we are greeted and can meet our friends. We approach the sanctuary through the middle doors only. Here we are reminded that we are to maintain a sacred silence in order that we and all other congregants may experience a time of meditation and prayer. While there are three doors we are able to use as we leave services, we are invited to enter only through the center two.



We can now see and feel the message: **we enter through baptism the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.** And the message is clear as we dip our fingers in the living waters (holy through the blessing, "living" through the motion of fountain) and bless ourselves "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" in straight view to the altar of the living sacrifice and the crucifix. How beautiful. And can anyone miss the point? This is symbolism at its highest. And how fortunate we are to have Father Thanh show us the path to this powerful experience of entry into the spirit of the Mass we are preparing to receive.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the first three enumerations of the I unit "The Life of Man - To Know and Love God" tell us in detail the "why" of it all:

**1** God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through

him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life.

**2** So that this call should resound throughout the world, Christ sent forth the apostles he had chosen, commissioning them to proclaim the gospel: **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."** [bold emphasis mine] Strengthened by this mission, the apostles "went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it."

**3** Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.

Throughout the Bible the symbol of water meant two things: purification or destruction. From

the waters that flowed at the Garden of Eden to Noah and the flood, water was given power by God. The flood did, of course, destroy the earth, but it also cleansed and purified those whom God had chosen to multiply and fill the earth. In baptism the symbolism is the same: the baptized is purified and cleansed from sin and becomes dead to the Aold man@, the sinner. See Romans 6:3-11:

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as (being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

In The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblical Theology, on page 70 there are words I have edited only for a bit of brevity: (indent)

... to be joined to Christ means to be joined to the central event of His death and resurrection by dying and rising with Him: "You must think of yourselves being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:11).

From the very beginning in Genesis we read about the rivers that flow in the Garden of Eden, and in Ezechial 47 we read of his vision about the apportionment of land for the twelve tribes of Israel before they enter the Holy Land and the waters that flow from beneath the temple. A footnote for

*continued on next page*

## Random Thoughts

by Ann Seravo

A deep Christian walk begins with the decision to spend more time with the Lord. The Bible tells us, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8) To have a close relationship with the Lord takes commitment and time. Start now to make that commitment to spend some time with your very best friend, Jesus Christ. Remember He loves you with an everlasting love. You're very special to Him. Our chapel is open every day, all day, for your convenience and for God's people — you and me.

Come, spend some time with Him. He's waiting for you!



## READERS HAVE WORKSHOP

by Lucille Guzzone

Approximately fifty Sunday and weekday readers attended a lector workshop on April 13. The goal of the meeting was to review, renew and enrich the significance of this important ministry. The class began with a prayer service consisting of word and song. The guest speaker was Glenn Kuhnel, Ph. D., a teacher with a vast and varied education and experience in Catholic instruction. A former Christ the King parishioner, he now serves as Pastoral Associate at Holy Family Church. He emphasized that proclaiming God's Word begins with the reader, and if that reader does not possess a respect and understanding of what he or she is saying, then the message falls short. He suggested that a successful reader should ponder the text ahead of time and then paraphrase the main idea in his or her mind in order to grasp the central idea. The role of the lector is to encourage the assembly to want to listen, and in order to do so, he or she must practice with a competence that allows for speaking slowly and clearly and pausing at the right time to achieve an optimal result. The reader must never advertise oneself, but realize that his or her ultimate goal is to share the Word of God with his or her fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

## *the Alpha and the Omega*

*continued from previous page*

verses 1-12 of this chapter says, "The wonderful and superabundant stream flowing from the temple, restoring to fertility traditionally arid ground, is symbolic of the return of the conditions of primeval paradise; cf Genesis 2:10-14. Water signifies great blessings, just as dryness signifies a curse; cf Ezekiel 26:5, 14." Right through to Revelation where we read of the same in chapter 22, verses 1-5:

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of its street. On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever and ever.

In Jeremiah 2:13 we have the awareness of the Old Testament understanding of the sure relationship of water and God:

Two evils have my people done: they have forsaken me, the source of living waters; They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water.

Throughout the Old Testament allusions to water are plentiful; Psalms has beautiful references to water and in the New Testament we again read of this connection in several places in John such as John 4:9-16:

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (The woman) said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; **the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**" [bold emphasis mine] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back."

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who

thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.' He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive.

and John 19:33-36

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

Note: In the blood and water there may also be a symbolic reference to the Eucharist and baptism ... the Council of Trent points out there is ... reference to the flowing of blood and water from Christ's side, from which the Church was formed, like a new Eve from the side of the new Adam.

In the booklet (*Rite of Baptism*, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota) provided by our parish to those participating in a baptism, much information, prayer and meditation is provided concerning water.

While references and quotes could go on *ad finitum*, I want to refer back to the spiritual treasure we have in the mere entrance to our sanctuary, a beautiful, symbolically rich entrance into the Eucharist.

Beyond that I would refer everyone to the amazing amount of material for education and meditation found both on the internet and the following list of

sources. I, personally, searched by baptism, baptismal..., font, water, symbols, and symbolism. The bibliography would be as follows:

Internet: New Advent Catholic  ENCYCLOPEDIA  S  Symbols

Catholic Encyclopedia, edited by the renowned apologist and editor of The Catholic Answer, Reverend Peter M.J. Stravinskias, Ph.D., S.T.D.

Catholic Source Book, edited by Rev. Peter Klein, and published by Brown ROA, Publishing Media, Dubuque, Iowa.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, English translation 1994.

The Collegeville Pastoral Dictionary of Biblecal Theology, edited by Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota

Dictionary of the Bible, John L. McKenzie, S.J.; Collier Books, Macmillan Publishing Company; New York; 1965.



# 175 Years Young!



by Mickey Kenny

It is with both humility and appreciation that the Christ the King Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society acknowledges our gratitude to our Pastor, Father Thanh, and all the parishioners who gave us such a joyful celebration for our 175 anniversary. In Father Thanh's beautiful homily we heard how Blessed Frederich Ozanam and six other students met the challenge of those who belittled the Roman Catholic Church because those who practiced the faith in the France of the 1800's could not show how their love of and service to God reflected their love of and service to the poor.

What are YOU doing to console and care for the poor? What has YOUR faith in your Church brought to the world? Frederich Ozanam answered these questions with vigor and commitment. Taking St. Vincent de Paul as their example of faithful Catholic teaching and action, these students founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society by working with the poor, making home visits to assist, and becoming voices for the poor in a society which had neither listened to nor heard the crying of those in need.

At the end of the 11:00 a.m. Mass on April 20, Father Thanh called the members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society to the foot of the altar where we were asked to recommit ourselves to Vincentian service. (For those attending other Masses the Commitment Ceremony is provided in another space.)

While Vincentians are able to go to the homes of those in need and bring a measure of God's love and compassion, we are only able to give much needed food and financial assistance because of the generosity of the families in our parish. **YOU** are the people who donated so generously on that anniversary Sunday that a full truckload of foods, soaps, cleansers and personal hygiene items could be brought down to our pantry. We in the society have found there are some parishioners who do not know of the pantry at all. Outside of the gym we have a storage room for items you have donated or that we have purchased for those in need within our parish borders. These items are brought to those requesting such assistance when home visits are made by Vincentians who travel in pairs as Christ taught us to do. In addition, there is an office in the rectory where Vincentians serve transients and homeless from 10 a.m. until 12 noon Monday through Friday.

Of course, we are not able to assist everyone in Jacksonville who has need of us. But we work hard to fulfill this need within our own parish boundaries thereby giving the spiritual blessings available to other Vincentians living in other parishes. It is hard to believe how much joy is available to those who practice the Vincentian way of life and how much we enjoy the company of other Vincentians. Truly it is a blessing to serve in this way. Join us if you have any inclination to become a Vincentian. You will be made welcome and you will find the work fulfilling. Just show up on any Monday evening at 7 p.m. in the rectory. It's that easy. Jesus said often, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me."



## COMMITMENT CEREMONY, A Vincentian Promise and Prayer

After Communion:

Priest: As we celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I invite all the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to come to the altar and renew their Vincentian commitment. In response to the call of Christ who invites you to follow him, do you promise to be a witness to God's boundless love for the poor, the lonely, the marginalized, those without faith and those who feel unloved?

**All: I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in holiness of life and to share in a longing for spiritual growth and enrichment.**

Priest: Do you firmly resolve to treasure the warm friendship and unity which was from the beginning a hallmark of the Society?

**All: I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in humility and simplicity so that true friendship may grow in my heart.**

Priest: Do you promise to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that you can bring them your love?

**All: I do, and I ask for the grace to be sensitive to their vulnerability, to respect and not to judge or blame them.**

Priest: Do you promise to be generous with your time, your possessions and yourself in your mission of charity?

**All: I do, and I ask for the grace to always serve in justice and charity so that I can be an advocate and a voice for the poor.**

Priest: Do you promise to persevere in regarding your home visits as a sacred trust?

**All: I do, and I ask for the grace to be more aware of the blessings I receive from those I visit.**

Priest: Let us ask for the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam to fill our hearts as we pray together:

**All: Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor. Help us to recognize you in them – in their hunger and thirst, their loneliness and suffering.**

**Enkindle within us the fire of love that burned in the hearts of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic so that we will live our mission and core values with integrity.**

**Grant us the grace to be faithful to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, so that we will grow in spirituality, friendship, and service to our suffering brothers and sisters. Amen.**



**“Whatsoever  
you do to the  
least of my  
children,  
that you do  
unto me.”**



# Pope at Yankee Stadium

by Angela Christian

With prayers of the faithful tucked in my pocket, Ray and I



attended Mass at Yankee Stadium with Pope Benedict as the celebrant. WOW, What an honor!

Soon after arriving in New York City it was quite evident to us that the people here were delighted to have the pope in town. We were warmly welcomed as we shared with locals the reason for our visit. Our pope seems to be uniting people of all faiths with his message of love and peace. He is truly a holy man.



We took the subway from our hotel near St. Patrick's Cathedral straight to the stadium. We knew we were on the correct train because of all the clergy on the same car.

We bought a few souvenirs and headed to our seats. Up, up, up we went...second to the top row! But the seats were perfect because we were there!!! We really did have an awesome view of the side of the altar and the procession faced us as they entered the stadium.

The music and entertainment started at noon and everyone sang along as Ronan Tyan led "God Bless America". Harry Connick Jr. singing "How Great Thou Art" was absolutely beautiful. Last, but not least, there was a dance with large

paper doves on sticks, swirling and floating to the music. Then a release of one hundred live doves flew through the stadium, up, over and out in perfect unison.

The procession of cardinals and bishops entered and took their places around the altar, which was dressed in holy linens and a splendid variety of white and yellow flowers. When the pope emerged the crowd hailed him waving white and yellow cloths and chanting "Benedito."

As he made his way to the altar the crowd became very quiet and reverent. He circled the altar with incense and kissed it. He began Mass with, "Peace be with you" and the crowds response "And also with you" vibrated through my soul. A tear came to my eye, as I thought "how blessed we are to be here today."

Pope Benedict began his homily with "Let us take the Lord at His word! Let us renew our faith in

Him and put all our hope in His promises!" It was awe inspiring. Ray said he could stop right there. The pope had already filled him up to overflowing!

I was particularly touched when he spoke of the Lord's own words: "Thy Kingdom Come", and how God's kingdom will come, here on earth as it is in heaven. This gives me hope that good will always prevail over evil. It moves me to do more. I must do my part to help build God's kingdom in all areas of my life. I can do better for God. I must. I will.

Ray's favorite part of the Mass was when we all (almost 60,000 of us) held hands and prayed the "Our Father" together with the Holy Father. 2000 years after Jesus gave



his disciples that prayer we are still praying it, not only because of the glorious tradition of our church, but for most of us, because our parents taught us our faith as their parents taught them, from generation to generation. How proud God must be when we get it right and lead others to Him.

During the prayers of the faithful, which were beautifully spoken in many different languages, I lifted the hundreds (yes, hundreds) of prayers in my pocket, up to our Lord to be honored by God's will and for each of those who wrote them, to be blessed in a special way.

As the Mass came to a close, I thought to myself, again, how blessed Ray and I were to be there (I know there are so many much more worthy), but more importantly how blessed we are that we belong to such a strong and wonderful church community as Christ the King Parish. The really cool

thousands, just as He was truly present at Camp Cherry Lake with Father Zehler celebrating Mass for a few of us on the LIFE TEEN



Retreat, and just as He is truly present at Christ the King with our very own Father Thanh, for all of us,



thing is that the miracle of the Mass happens at every Mass around the world. Jesus was truly present at Yankee Stadium with Pope Benedict celebrating Mass for

everyday! I am so thankful that God is so good!

(By the way, prayers are being answered...My dad's biopsy came back negative! God is awesome!!!)

# “The few, the proud, the Marines”

## Servant of God - Vincent Robert Capodanno

by Father Bob Carleton

How many times have you seen that recruiting commercial on TV with guys scaling up unbelievably steep cliffs? Then they do a perfect military salute in their dress blue uniforms. Who wouldn't be proud, if they could do that?

When I view that commercial, I think of one man, Father Vincent Capodanno – priest, Maryknoll Missioner, Navy Chaplain to the Marines, Congressional Medal of Honor winner and now declared by the Vatican a “Servant of God”, the first step in the process of canonization.

Frank Becht, who at one time studied at Maryknoll Seminary at the same time as Father Capodanno, asked if I would write an article about Father Capodanno for the *Courier*. As a Maryknoll priest who was six years behind Father Vince in the seminary and therefore did not know him personally, I thought it would be a beneficial project. I got a copy of *The Grunt Padre* written by Father Daniel Mode, another Navy Chaplain.

I found the first part of the book most interesting because it traced the same formation I had and it spoke of men I knew and loved. As I got into the book I realized what an extraordinary man he was. Then I couldn't put it down. The last pages had me holding back tears.

Vincent Robert Capodanno was born in Staten Island, NY on February 13, 1929. Vincent was the youngest of ten children of Italian immigrants. He grew up surrounded by the traditions of Catholic culture. Graduating from PS 44 in 1943 he was voted the “best dressed and best looking”. After high school Vincent worked in Manhattan for two years taking night classes at Fordham University and contributing to the support of his family.

Then in 1949 Vincent applied to Maryknoll, the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, in nearby Ossining, NY. He wrote in his application process:

It will mean hard physical labor with and for a people I may never have heard of before. I'll be separated from my family and friends, and all the things I am now accustomed to, for indefinite lengths of time, during which all my efforts will be devoted to the people I am serving.

A fellow student thought Vince was a ‘regular guy, an average student, not very athletic, meticulous in manner and dress.’. The large field stone seminary of Chinese architecture standing high above the Hudson River in New York reminded those who entered that they would soon be entering new and mysterious worlds.

During his formation he heard stories of some of the great Maryknoll heroes: Bishop Francis Xavier Ford, member of the first mission band sent to China in 1918 and later to die in prison under the Chinese Communists; Bishop Patrick Byrne who suffered a similar fate in North Korea; Father William Cummings, a military chaplain who survived the Bataan Death March but not the friendly fire of American planes on the unmarked prisoner transport.

It was into this Maryknoll and American culture that Vince was ordained in 1958. His first assignment was to Taiwan, or as it was called at that time *Formosa*. As the Communist Revolution was coming to an end in the mainland, just a few miles across the China Sea, many Nationalist Chinese fled to Taiwan seeking freedom. Foreign priests were expelled from China and many followed their people to Taiwan. They went seeking freedom. One of those freedoms was the freedom of religion.

Like all missionaries he began his career studying language. Chinese is a most difficult language. It does not have a phonetic alphabet. It is a picture language with more than 10,000 characters. It has many dialects. Father Vince was assigned to a Hakka speaking area. Hakka is not one of the major dialects of China. A friend once told me that speaking Hakka in China was like coming to the US and speaking Navajo. But Vince worked hard and slowly gained enough fluency to be able to communicate with the people. He worked in the beautiful central mountain area doing parish work and working with boys in a youth hostel. He had found his niche. So in 1965 it came as a great surprise when he was transferred to Hong Kong. It was as a disappointment for him. He liked the mountain people with their simple life style and sincerity. Hong Kong meant another language to learn and the teaming overcrowded tenements of the big city.

When Maryknoll was asked in 1965 to send military chaplains to serve the troops in Vietnam, Father Vince immediately volunteered. He asked permission to become a Navy chaplain to serve with the Marines in Vietnam. He couldn't be dissuaded although many tried. So in August of 1965 Father Vincent began preparation as a Navy Chaplain.

His dream was realized when he stepped on Vietnam soil in April, 1966. There was a growing controversy in the United States at that time about American participation in the Vietnam conflict. Father Vince was

not trying to make a political statement. He knew the risks involved in serving in Vietnam. He wanted to support those in harm's way.

Normally new chaplains are kept off the front lines to help them get adjusted to their new environment. But Father Vince had served 8 years in Asia and adapted easily to his new environment. His first months were spent at a military hospital attending the wounded. He would write letters to parents and friends of those who couldn't write.

Parents of one wounded Marine wrote:

Father Capodanno helped our son write us a letter (his last) telling us of his wounds. We were so thankful that someone who knew Ray quite well was with him his last few days on earth. After our son's death, Father wrote us several letters which will always be a treasure to us.

Father Vince's ministry was not so much of words as “presence”. His ministry was to the “grunts”. They were the young enlisted men, usually 18 or 19 just out of high school. They had grown up hearing World War II war stories from their parents and responded with idealism and patriotism to the call of their country.

Father Vince also loved the Vietnamese people he met in their villages. There was an immediate connection between them and the people he served in Taiwan. Shortly after his arrival he gave orientation lectures to chaplains on Asian culture.

Ministry for Father Vince meant he had to be with his grunts. But grunts were on the front lines. Marine command didn't want non-combatants, chaplains and corpsmen, in direct line of fire on the front lines. Father Vince took every opportunity to accompany his men wherever he was needed and especially when his grunts were under fire.

Lieutenant Joseph Pilon, M.D. describes Father Capodanno's last encounter with his grunts.

Over here (Vietnam) there is a written policy that if you get three Purple Hearts, you go home within 48 hours. On Labor Day (1967) our battalion ran into a world of trouble – when Father C. arrived on the scene it was 500 Marines against 2,500 North Vietnamese Army regulars.

Needless to say we were constantly on the verge of being completely overrun ... it means the dead and wounded had to be left outside the perimeter as the Marines slowly withdrew.

Casualties were running high and Father C. had his work cut out for him. Early in the day, he was shot through the right hand which all but shattered his hand – one corpsman patched him up and tried to med evac him but Father C. declined saying he had work to do.

A few hours later a mortar landed near him and left his right arm in shreds hanging from his side. Once again he was patched up and once again he refused evacuation. There he was moving slowly from wounded to dead using his left arm to support his right as he gave absolution or last rites, when he suddenly spied a corpsman get knocked down by a burst of automatic fire.

The corpsman was shot in the leg and couldn't move and understandably panicked. Father C. ran out to position himself between the injured man and the automatic weapon. Suddenly, the weapon opened up again and this time riddled Father C. from the back of his head to the base of his spine – and with his third Purple Heart of the day – Father C. went home.



continued on next page

# The Lord Giveth

by Ray Walker

The Bible contains many sayings that give us a better understanding of life and what may be happening to us. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the Lord," is one of them. However, the "giveth" part usually makes us happy, while the "taketh away" part makes us sad. Quite often we are so distressed by the latter that we cannot see that there is a "giveth" anywhere in sight.

Some friends of mine live in a suburban area west of Jacksonville, right across from the golf course. Their beautiful brick home sits on a large lot with plenty of trees and a lawn that is as well maintained as the golf course nearby. Albert, the father of the family was raised in the country and all his life he has spent as much time hunting and fishing as he could get away with. It is easy to understand why he has so much love for this place.

About a year ago, tragedy struck when he suffered a stroke that left him totally blind, which the doctors reluctantly told him could never be corrected. It was as though he had died. The life he knew and loved was completely gone. While he was aware of what was going on around him, he could no longer participate in it. He couldn't even see it.

Since Albert is the father-in-law of one of my daughters, I spent last Thanksgiving with him and his family. We gathered most of the day in the large kitchen. It was SO large it even had a sofa and television in it. Albert was in a large chair near the center.

After the meal, most of the people withdrew to the nearby living room, but for some unknown reason, I remained in the kitchen. Suddenly, I heard music and looked at once to where Albert was to see him playing his guitar and humming a country song. I have enjoyed his music many times in the past. In a few minutes his two sons, Jerry and Tom, came in from the living room, each strumming his own guitar and singing softly.

It was so beautiful to see and hear that I became quite emotional. I walked over to Albert and, putting my arm around his shoulders, I said, "It's Ray, Albert. I just want to let you know you are as good as you ever were. Don't ever stop playing, okay?" As I turned my head I could see tears in his eyes. I sure know that I had tears in mine. Here he was, entertaining all of us, the center of attention and he did not need his eyes to do it.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the Lord.

## "The few, the proud, the Marines"

### Servant of God - Vincent Robert Capodanno

*continued from previous page*

Father Vince and Corpsman Leal were both killed instantly along with fourteen other Marines. Thirty four were also injured. Three were injured attempting to retrieve his body. Others had to return later that evening to successfully bring back his body.

His fellow Marines were in shock. Tributes abounded from around the world. There were various military chapels named in his honor, a chapel in his old mission in Taiwan, a main boulevard in Staten Island, NY his home town, a Navy destroyer escort commissioned in 1977 here in Mayport, the *USS Capodanno*, the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded posthumously in 1969 and presented to his family. (Father Vince was one of three Catholic chaplains to be awarded this honor in the Vietnam War.).

In 2006 Father Vincent Capodanno was declared a Servant of God which is the first step in the canonization process of the Catholic Church. For more information on Father Vince get hold of *Grunt Padre* by Father Daniel Mode. It is a great read. Also check out the official webpage promoting his canonization <http://www.vincentcapodanno.org/>



Mary Ann Sullivan, Father Bob Carleton, and Carol Ann Black

# James Scott, Director of Marywood

by Darlene O'Neal



James Scott, a Jacksonville native, graduated from Raines High School and attended Tennessee State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in architectural engineering. After spending sixteen years with BellSouth, James was employed as a Project Manager for the Duval County School Board and most recently worked for the Swisher Company.

James and his wife, Jacquelyn, along with their two children, David and Jocelyn, have been parishioners at Christ the King for almost seventeen years. When the Scotts were searching for a day care facility for their son, a friend suggested Christ the King. While visiting the day care center, Jacquelyn noticed a bulletin on the wall promoting RCIA.

The Scott family had been faithful members of the CME Methodist Church on the Westside for many years but James had stopped attending. James had been searching and finally made up his mind to attend the RCIA sessions at Christ the King. He was confirmed and became Catholic first, with Jacquelyn joining six years later. They not only attended RCIA as candidates, but joined the RCIA team, with James becoming the Director of RCIA.

James joined the Legion of Mary at Monsignor Danaher's invitation, and remains dedicated to that ministry. He joined the Knights of Columbus; was commissioned as a Eucharistic minister and is a member of Nocturnal Adoration. After Marriage Encounter, he joined Father Carey's Bible Study class. James gives credit to the Cursillo movement for the greatest impact on his spirituality.

James completed the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension and received a Masters in Religion Education. He also completed the Ministry Formation Program for the Diocese of St. Augustine and is currently finishing the necessary studies to be ordained a Deacon. In between studies, classes and rites of the Diaconate, James still made time for, and never missed teaching an RCIA session. While he was with the Swisher Company he heard about the opening for Marywood Director. He submitted his application and some months later, received a call asking if he was still interested in the position. His answer was yes!

It's a long road from Raines High School to Marywood Retreat and Conference Center! There have been roadblocks, detours, and the road under construction for some time but with determination and God on his side, James Scott reached Marywood. Ironically, James first visited Marywood as part of an RCIA day retreat along with other candidates on their faith journeys. James continues on his journey as he prepares for the next step he will take on June 21, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic Church in Palm Coast, Florida. On that day, along with seven other men, he will be ordained a Deacon.

What an amazing road James has traveled! We at Christ the King parish are truly blessed to have James Scott in our midst.

## What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need.  
Then God combined these qualities.  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

~Author Unknown~

# The Passing Parade



## Wanted: Lots of Brides' Pictures

by Chris McClellan

Terri Vogelsang, wedding coordinator for Christ the King, would like to create a photographic collage of bridal pictures to be framed and hung as a decorative element in the Bride's Room in the back of the church. Terri is ready to proceed with digitizing and organizing her collection of images, but would like to have MORE of them. I thought that, before we begin these steps, more photographs could be gathered from parishioners and school families

The current collection of 51 pictures consists of mostly black and white, older photos. We would love to have some in color and some more contemporary ones. In addition, if you weren't married at Christ the King it doesn't matter. All photos will be welcome additions. Professional or amateur photos can be scanned and used in the collage.

Here is what I need. If you have a scanner or the ability to digitize photographs, I am directing this request to you. Scan your photo and email me the resulting jpeg or tiff image (preferably jpeg if you have the option). Scanning at 300 dpi would be perfect for my needs.

If you don't have a scanner, but are willing to contribute a photo, call me at 699-4475, and we can make arrangements for me to do the scan while you wait. Of course your photos will be treated with utmost care.

We would prefer bride-only pictures, as the collage is only going to contain brides' faces. I will crop the images to include the bridal veil and bouquet if they're in the picture, but the grooms will be cropped out of the final image.

I appreciate everyone's help in making this project a success. This provides Christ the King School families the opportunity to be involved in yet another parish-wide activity.

My email for this project is [chris.mcclellan@supportctks.com](mailto:chris.mcclellan@supportctks.com)



# Vietnamese Cultural Center

by Frank Becht

The Vietnamese Community has been in Jacksonville since the early 1980's. In 1991, Monsignor Mortimer Danaher, Pastor of Christ the King, invited the Vietnamese community to join the Christ the King community on a permanent basis. Prior to that time the Vietnamese people felt isolated in various parishes because many did not speak English well and were unable to assimilate into the local parishes of northeast Florida.

In the four years following, the Vietnamese community developed a cohesive community under the leadership of Father Paul Tram. Unfortunately, Father Tram was forced to resign his position as a result of developing cancer and returned to Vietnam where he died in 1995. As a result of efforts of our former Bishop John Snyder, Father Thanh was transferred from the Vietnamese community in Marietta, Georgia and was assigned to Christ the King as Parochial Vicar to serve the Vietnamese community.



In 2001 as a result of several diocesan changes Father Thanh became pastor of Christ the King. Father Thanh continues to serve both communities well, but being limited to the use of Christ the King to the 2 p.m. Sunday Mass limited many activities for the community. They found it difficult to come to Christ the King on days other than Sunday.

Upon joining the Christ the King community, it has been the goal of the Vietnamese community to develop a Vietnamese Cultural Center. In 2001, it was announced that the Catholic Vietnamese Center, Trung Tam Lac Viet, was to be established on four acres of land on Arlington Road south of Harbor House. The project under the direction of the Core Group had the goal of developing sufficient capital to finance the building. For a number of reasons this goal was never realized. Next, an effort was made to purchase a closed restaurant on the northside of the Arlington Expressway near Christ the King; likewise this effort was not successful.



About a year ago again the Diocese of St Augustine designated a tract of land near Harbor House for a Vietnamese Cultural Center. Subsequently the Vietnamese Community donated a portion of the land to Christ the King for the development of the Child Care Center.

Construction was started on the Cultural Center in late 2007 and was completed in April 2008. Finally after almost 10 years of planning and hoping, the project has been realized. On April 13, 2008, Bishop Victor Galeone celebrated Mass for the Vietnamese Community at 2:00 p.m. in Christ the King Church. After Mass, the Community followed the bishop to the Hall where he dedicated the Trung Tam Lac Viet Center in a long awaited ceremony. A gala reception followed. The Vietnamese Community finally has facilities available that will allow them to enjoy many functions other than on Sunday after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

On September 6, 2005, in the early stages of the planning of the Cultural Center, Deacon Lam during one of his visits to Christ the King, ordered the statue of Our Lady La Vang from Vietnam. Upon receipt on October 29, 2005, it was placed in a conspicuous place, the front of the fireplace, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brekke, 8951 Timberjack Lane, Jacksonville, Florida, 32256. At that time Father Thanh and Lam blessed the statue where it remained until April 20, 2008.



On Sunday April 20, 2008, a group of ladies headed by Dan h Long including Yen Nguyen, Hoa Nguyen, Suoc Vu, Sheila Ta-Nuguyen, Van Le, Ra Nguyen, y Nguyen and Xuyen Tran along with Deacon Lam and a number of young men met at Yen Brekke's home to transport the statue of the Blessed Virgin to the Vietnamese Cultural Center. There, 10 Hail Marys were recited, followed by a hymn and photo taking, before the statue was transported by truck to the Center.

Upon reaching the Cultural Center, the group was met by several more members of the Council of Catholic Mothers, where they again said Hail Marys and sang hymns to honor Our Lady La Vang. This was followed with comments of joy and thanks by Dan h Long and picture taking recording the installation of Our Lady La Vang.

The ladies group will now be able to meet and pray to Our Lady La Vang at their leisure. It was very noticeable that the group of ladies were very young women; this is surely an indication of a growing community!



## Something To Think About

submitted from the internet

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all..."

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee replied, "The one you feed."

# RCIA

by Darlene O'Neal

Christ the King RCIA Ministry welcomes the following new members to our parish: Van Thi Dinh, Man Quang Le, Phuoc Tuong Nguyen, Heather Hudson, Kristi L. Stowers, Daniellee Tine, Emma-Lorraine Araya, Meghan Bartolone, Eliseo Bundoc, Lynn Bundoc, Eric R. Gandionco, Valerie Jennings, Patricia Munoz, Vickie Quinn, Brenda Sahioun and Wayne Smith.

The RCIA catechumens received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil in a beautiful ceremony. It was an extra special evening since this was the inaugural Baptism in the new baptismal font. Nine adults were received into the Catholic faith on this night, and afterward, they were asked to submit comments about their journey or experience that led to their conversion. The candidates for Confirmation were also asked for their comments after they were confirmed on the second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday. The following remarks were submitted by some of the RCIA class of 2008.



My name is Heather Hudson and I recently completed the RCIA program at Christ the King. I was raised in Maryland without any religious upbringing.

I watched my brother go through a similar program with him becoming Catholic in 1982. My brother, Bradley, has been a great example. He received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame and is now a professor at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

My spiritual journey started in Jacksonville as I watched so many people profess to be Christian, a word I was not familiar with. I had a lot of questions and visited a lot of different churches, but never really understood. I enjoyed each service and felt great when I left, but one day this fall I knew where I really belonged.

The school had a mandatory meeting for the parents to discuss the future of Christ the King School. I listened quietly and hurt in my heart at the thought of moving my child from a school where she had been since she was two years old. I am a shy-natured person, but I walked to the open microphone and held back tears asking what would I do? The following week I received calls from many parishioners, spoke with teachers and other parents who said what I had spoken really touched them. The next week we found out the school would keep the students. I knew that God had answered my prayers and the love I felt from the other Christ the King members was the answer I needed. I knew I would go through RCIA and become an active member of

this church that cared so much about me and my daughter.

Heather Hudson



I was baptized in the Catholic Church when I was a baby and I attended Mass until I was ten years old. The church was my life, and I loved my lessons. But, my parents' divorce took me away. I was told by my parents I was not Catholic and being Catholic was a bad thing. I guess I believed that, but I never stopped seeking God.

After high school I joined the Church of Christ and did mission work with my husband, traveling to different places, spending nine years in England. Difficulties with Protestant church life caused me so much grief I left religion altogether and went into Eastern meditation. There I found peace and learned much, but one day I read the guru's statement, "Jesus is the guru's guru." I thought, "if THAT is so, I want Jesus." I kept asking myself the question I had asked for many years, "who is Jesus?" I never stopped asking Him this question. For many years since my Protestant days I asked, and from my heart I cried to Him. In the midst of my sinful ways of living, one day I decided I'd had enough and I left the sinful relationship I'd been in for five years (after divorce). A week later I awoke, sat up in my bed and heard an intuitive voice say "go to church". "WHAT???" I thought, "I'm not Catholic!!" Then I remembered, "YES, I AM!" I went to Assumption Church's chapel and picked up a rosary. All the words came back to me in a flood. I sat at the foot of the cross and felt as if Jesus had just melted into my heart. I prayed the rosary and cried from the depths of my heart.

Then I found Father Thanh and received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in over thirty years. I joined RCIA to pick up where I left off at age ten. On March 30, I was confirmed with the complete support and love of both my parents.

Valerie Jennings



RCIA has been a wonderful experience and enlightening to say the least. Like some people who have gone through RCIA before me, I knew I wanted to be closer to God, but had no idea what that would involve. I felt overwhelmed at first but James Scott and the rest of the RCIA team made me feel very comfortable and gave me a sense of belonging. James also helped me to realize my sense of purpose throughout the sessions and I also realized it through personal conversation with other team

members. I know I have more to learn about Catholicism and growing in the faith, but with the care and dedication of the RCIA team I know my journey will not be without company. In fact, I feel like now I'm at least on the right path to what I know will be an interesting journey to salvation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the RCIA team and the remainder of those in our parish who were in any way involved in my conversion. I would like to thank Mitch Gable, my sponsor, who made my experience truly heartfelt. Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, Lynn, who has always encouraged me to continue to seek God through Jesus Christ after years of yearning for the truth. I feel very fortunate to have met everyone at Christ the King and feel one step closer to God. Thank you all and God bless.

Eliseo Bundoc



My name is Patricia Munoz and I was baptized into the Catholic faith in my country of birth, the Philippines ...

where 99% of the population is Catholic. My father belonged to the widely practiced Catholic faith, and where as, my mother is Methodist and proudly makes up the other 1% of the religious pie. Fortunately, religion was never a dilemma in our family. My parents instilled in their children a deep respect and love for the Lord, but never forced us to follow a particular faith. As a family, we sporadically went to the neighborhood Catholic church on Sundays and major religious holidays, such as Easter and Christmas. Participating at Mass was often frustrating, as I didn't know what to say, when to say it or when to stand, sit, or kneel. All I knew was that I loved the Lord and that was enough for me! All that changed in August of 2007 when Eric and I got engaged and decided to marry in a Catholic church.

On our task-filled journey to wedded bliss, we quickly found out that getting married in a Catholic church wasn't as easy as we thought. We were shocked to discover that we needed to do more than just show up at St. Catherine's on the day of the wedding! This is what led us to RCIA at Christ the King. What started off as just another requirement we would have to complete and mark off our long wedding-to-do list, became the foundation of a religious awakening and a life-changing journey. As a result of going through RCIA, the religion I was baptized into and knew so little of, is now not as foreign, mysterious, and archaic as I once thought, not to mention the fact that I can follow the order of Mass fairly well!

In my personal life I feel as though I've been much more mindful of my thoughts, words, and actions towards others (that's MY subjective opinion, but Eric would be able to give a more objective view). Through RCIA, the foundation has been laid and the tools have been provided to help nurture this rekindled relationship with the Lord; and with the guidance of Father Thanh, Father Zehler, the RCIA team, and the parishioners of Christ the King, I know my relationship with the Lord can only blossom and grow stronger from here.

Patricia Munoz

RCIA has been a wonderful experience for me.

When I decided to come back to the Church, I was really nervous because of the journey I was going to embark on. My classmates and team leaders helped ease my fears and slowly I started to shed that broken shell that had been encompassing my life.

Today, I have a new relationship with God and my life is so much richer.

Vickie Quinn



I am a cradle Catholic, raised in a Catholic family. In my early years, I attended Sunday School and Mass at St. James in Miami, receiving my first reconciliation and Holy Communion. I started the process of confirmation but circumstances in my personal life started to create a rift between me and the church. In addition, St. James was such a large church, I never really felt at home there and eventually stopped attending Mass altogether but I never lost my faith in God. As I became a teenager I attended several Baptist churches, but it just didn't feel right for me.

The years passed and I moved to Jacksonville. My parents live in Ocala and come to visit every so often.

Whenever they came up, my Mom and I would attend Mass. In looking for a church for us, I discovered Christ the King, so we started going to Mass whenever they visited. As time passed, my fondness grew for Christ the King. Everyone was very friendly and I felt very comfortable, a feeling I had never known before. I started thinking about receiving confirmation last year when I attended the confirmation of a friend's son. It reminded me that there was a part of my life that was still missing. I decided to attend Mass one Sunday and after Mass, I approached Father Zehler and mentioned to him that I was thinking about receiving confirmation. He told me about RCIA and James Scott.

# Comments

I also became involved in the Knights of Columbus, which is where I met Louie and Darlene O'Neal. I had expressed my interest in the sacrament of confirmation, so they told me a bit more about RCIA. I contacted James Scott to begin the sessions and Louie became my sponsor. Everyone in RCIA was wonderful and very supportive throughout the process. I had finally found a home at Christ the King Church.

Wayne Smith



As a current student at the University of North Florida, I first started coming to Christ the King Church after meeting my boyfriend in February of 2007. After attending church for a few months, I decided that I wanted to join the RCIA class in order to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Holy Communion. I did not have the opportunity when I was younger. I had a really great experience attending the sessions and learned a lot from the class and more about the Catholic faith during the classes as well.

RCIA has been very helpful at Mass and I am glad that I joined the sessions. My family and friends are very proud of my commitment and completion of the necessary requirements to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Holy Communion. Thank you to all the RCIA team and Father Zehler for guiding me through the classes. You have been truly helpful and friendly. God bless you all.

Meghan Bartolone



It's hard to pinpoint where a journey begins. Looking back, I could claim that my journey toward the Catholic Church began long before me, maybe with my mother or my grandmother, but truly, only God knows. My best recollection, though, was with a conversation between a dear friend, Catholic, and myself, non-Catholic, outside a grocery store in Costa Rica on Thanksgiving Day of 2002. I was sharing my experience of limited participation at a Mass at St. Leo's Monastery near Tampa. She was gently explaining why my experience had to be limited, explaining the great faith of Catholics and the meaning of the Eucharist. I didn't get it, but I listened, and my heart opened... a bit.

As my time in Costa Rica lessened, my journey extended. The Catholic culture, Catholic priests, monks, and nuns surrounded me, for the village where I lived was founded as a Catholic mission. Doesn't God work in wondrous ways? I went to Mass every

evening and I asked many questions of any who would listen. Those of you who know me from RCIA know, I'm still asking. When I left Costa Rica in 2003, I left already contemplating a changing faith and already missing what had been so readily available to me: a Catholic culture and lifestyle, rich in tradition and deep in faith. Nothing would ever be the same.

And it wasn't. As I settled back in to life in the States, my faith was thirsty. Again, just as it is hard to pinpoint where a journey begins, it is also hard to capture the moment that a journey changes direction. Many events and changes led me to Christ the King. But, what I thought was my reason for finding you was in fact a mask. I didn't find a thing, for it was I that had been lost! "Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you; now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burn for your peace." -St. Augustine

St. Augustine and his words met me in my Catechism and I felt my life verbalized. I had been found; I had been led home. RCIA was to be the tunnel through the darkness of my uncertainties. Its team members, leaders and sponsors the shepherds, gentle and loving are guides to the gate. And now you, the Church, standing on the other side, torches lit to welcome me home.

The journey is not over, nor will it ever be. But I know the path I'm traveling now, and to where it leads. I have been given the tools, the love, and the grace to embrace the beauties, mysteries, and obstacles I will encounter. Now, a new journey awaits that will take me deeper and farther than I ever imagined. My thanks I give to you for lighting the way.

Raine Araya



I would like to thank Ms. Melissa Pollackov (my sponsor). If it was not for her kind demeanor in a college course we took together last year — I probably would not have been able to approach nor befriend her. She introduced me to Catholic teachings and Christ the King parish.

I grew up in a home where I witnessed my mother's unwavering strength as a devoted Christian and loving mother of seven children. Mother knew her purpose in life and adored our Almighty God. In my eyes she is indeed a saint.

I honestly believe that although I did not grow up Catholic, God has

always listened to my mother's prayers when she asked Him to always watch over her children. God has always been in my life but the church I attended did not bring me peace. I felt so disturbed and ashamed for questioning my religion. I asked God to please allow me to see the Truth. I believe that God had a plan for me. He opened my eyes regarding this empty world and led me and my little family to find truth within the Roman Catholic Church.

My husband and I entered the RCIA sessions very late in the process but I sincerely believe that when James Scott, Director of the program, heard my honest plea to join the Catholic Church he opened his heart and allowed himself to be an instrument of the Lord. I do not question how quickly the process happened for us compared to others, all I know is that God called and I answered.

I had a very good example growing up. It is my turn now to prepare my family for the Holy City promised to all of us. I know what I must do for my family's salvation and I pray that Almighty God will continue to show us His grace. Thank you dear Lord Jesus!

(I pray that the RCIA team members continue to remain true to their mission, that they will continue to lead those lost or those seeking in the most genuine way. I thank God for their patience and guidance. I feel honored to have been in the presence of some of the most devoted members of this parish. I thank God once again for utilizing them in my walk).

Lynn Bundoc



My name is Eric Gandionco, born in Cebu, Philippines and raised in Jacksonville, Florida since I was seven years old. I was baptized into the Catholic faith and served the Lord as an altar boy at Mass, but was never confirmed. Growing up in a Catholic family I knew that every Sunday was time to reflect on the Lord. I thought to myself, "Reflect? How would I do that?" I discovered at a young age that it was a bit of a challenge to understand what the priest was preaching about. Nonetheless, I still went to church one hour a week with my family. Not understanding the concept of the Catholic faith, I was never eager to learn any more about my own religion. I have always thought that if I gave at least one hour every week to be in church, then I would have some sort of connection with God. Ashamedly, neither my actions nor words that I spoke would ever indicate to anyone that I was Catholic. Catholic was just a religious category, just a word.

The fall of 2004 was the time I met my soul mate, Trish, and by

fall of 2007, we were engaged. I would never have imagined that NOT being confirmed would somehow turn into such a blessing. Just after my proposal to Trish, we decided to seek assistance in order to be properly married at Saint Catherine's in Orange Park. Father Boddie, the priest who assisted us in getting the proper paperwork we needed, advised us that we both were required to be confirmed before we could be married in a Catholic church. This is how we discovered the RCIA program at Christ the King. It worked out beautifully since it fit our schedule and Christ the King is only ten minutes away as opposed to thirty minutes to St. Catherine's.

Not knowing that this would be a life changing moment for me, all I could think about was that it was going to be every Sunday ALL the way up to Easter. I anxiously thought, "Every Sunday?" That was such a long time to commit! As I look back from the first day we started RCIA, I never would have imagined what blessings I was about to receive. It was more than just learning the Catholic faith, it was spiritual awakening for me. Understanding the faith led me to practice what I was missing in my life, to be a better person through spiritual awareness. I treasure and hold dearly in my heart the people whom

God sent to help me through this process — my sponsor, Lyle Stewart, and all the wonderful people I have met during this religious journey.

Someday, I hope to garner enough knowledge about the Catholic faith and to guide someone with the same passion and dedication as I have been guided. God does work in mysterious ways indeed! As I continue to strengthen my relationship with God every day, I am more aware of the person that I SHOULD be as opposed to the person I have SETTLED into being. God bless.

Eric Gandionco

It is with sincere gratitude and affection that the RCIA team has had the privilege of meeting with this group of outstanding men and women. May God continue to guide and bless them in their ongoing journey to the Lord. A special thank you to the sponsors who gave their time: Lyle and Marie Stewart, Robin Allison, Mitch Gable, Roz Balsam, Kathleen Perera, Louie O'Neal, Melissa Pollackov, Sharon Williams, Marcie Bradley, Jennifer Alvarez, Mami Wilson and Shirley Stowers. Thank you to James Scott, Director of RCIA, and his supportive team — Berry and Norma Landers, Kevin Wolfe, Mitch Gable, Roz Balsam, George Barletta, Mary Rouse, Carol and Michael Warwin, and Darlene and Louie O'Neal.

# Christ the King

by Tim Mc Clellan

With a renewed sense of parish community, and an expanded format, the Christ the King parish carnival on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success.

The Taste of New Orleans dinner and silent auction provided the first glimpse of the new format, bringing parishioners together from all walks of life to enjoy great food, fun with bingo and karaoke, and a silent auction that raised more than \$9,000 for Christ the King School.

More importantly, it injected a spirit of excitement into the entire weekend. Young and old alike took part in the festivities, making this a true community event that everyone could enjoy.

On Saturday, the carnival defied the threat of weather, opening to beautiful blue skies and great excitement. The campus was transformed into a fair-like environment with fun for all ages, whether it was bingo, pony rides, miniature golf, or rock climbing that attendees were interested in enjoying. There was something for everyone.

The first annual Country Store saw a steady stream of traffic, offering items donated by parishioners, while also giving small business owners and crafters an opportunity to ply their wares.

When the weather did finally turn from dry to wet, the sense of community spirit could not be dampened as people lingered to hear the results of the cash and vacation raffles, and to enjoy a little more food, and a game or two of bingo to boot.

When the carnival ended, nearly \$32,000 was raised for Christ the King School. But, more importantly, a renewed sense of community helped to make the 2008 Spring Carnival an overwhelming success. All facets of the parish community came together to demonstrate the best that Christ the King parish has to offer.

Future events will continue to build upon this renewed energy. Watch for announcements!



# Carnival





from the desk of Frank Japour

parish activities and ministries, and many have responded. The school administration, school board, and parents have worked diligently to promote a truly unified parish by taking a larger role in church liturgy and communal activities.

Looking ahead in 2008, the Vietnamese Cultural Center opened its doors April 13 with a dedication ceremony celebrated with Bishop Victor Galeone. The center will serve to enable the Vietnamese community to celebrate their cultural heritage while also serving to embrace the larger faith community. In addition, preliminary plans have been submitted to the Diocese for the construction of our new Child Care Center. The projected cost of the Center is \$2,000,000. Through Foundation grants in escrow, patron donations, and the Building Fund balance (restricted), we have approximately \$700,000 on hand to commence the project, tentatively scheduled for occupancy in August, 2009. The facility will meet an increasing community need for quality early learning centers. The proposed center will serve as a marketing tool to attract new families to our campus, school, and church. Our future face on Arlington Road will attract the attention of the thousands of daily motorists going by.

We will finance the balance of the costs to complete the project and will retire the debt over time through your continued generosity to our building fund, funds generated through participation in the Mortimer Danaher Celebration of Life Garden, and through net revenues generated by the center operations. Under the inspired leadership of Director Theresa Little and her dedicated staff, our center earned the remarkable distinction of becoming one of only seventeen FIVE STAR centers in all of Duval County in 2007.

In 2008 and beyond, our tradition of excellence will be enhanced only by our commitment to the future. Collectively we are the future of our Christ the King Catholic community. Collectively through prayer and sacrifice we will provide the continued opportunity for our children and future generations to experience the blessings found in our faith community as we strive to serve our God, who makes all things possible.

## 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. Audrey Dodd - 724-2491.

#### 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. Debbie House, 725-1097.

### HOSPITALITY

#### Coffee & Donuts

Call Michael & Carol Warwin, 504-7288 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. Elaine Calloway, 724-8260.

#### 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. Pam Jones, 722-3638.

#### 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 Ehrbridge, 696-9726.

### 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

#### 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 Patty Stamper, 727-6916 & Pat Birch, 521-6883.

#### Blood Drive

Twice a year Christ the King Church, along with the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance, holds a blood drive, call Sharon Lutheran, 398-3925.

#### 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. Monica Crisp, 721-2754.

#### 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. Carol-Ann Black, 221-2642.

#### 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.

#### Christ the King Fil-Am Ministry

In the spirit of establishing a church with no "walls" the Fil-Am Ministry is inspired to be one of many bridges that will reach across to promote friendship and appreciation among it parishioners without regard to race and language.

We believe that as a ministry we have a great opportunity to share with the community the vast treasure of Filipino values embedded in our traditions, culture and customs.

The Fil-Am Ministry is open to everyone. Our meetings are held every third Saturday of each month. For more information please contact the Imogene Praxedes, 737-4034 or e-mail us at [CTKFILAM@comcast.net](mailto:CTKFILAM@comcast.net).

#### 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.

#### Habitat - 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.

#### Militia of the Immaculata

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. Deidre Hicks, 744-2442.

#### 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 second 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 three 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 Sharon Lutheran, 398-3925.

#### 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.



## Recipe Corner

### Potato Salad –

*This recipe takes two days, or one very, very long day beginning about 5 a.m. for eating at night.*

by Mickey Kenny

Put 1 bag of smallest white/red potatoes in a pan and cover with cold water, bring to a boil. Boil 1 or 2 minutes; turn off burner; allow potatoes to sit this way until cool. I prefer not to peel but you can do as you wish about that. Drain very well. If they are the right size, cut into quarters; if not, cut into sixths or eighths.

While the potatoes are taking care of themselves, make the following dressing:

¼ cup olive oil  
¼ cup vinegar  
1 T salt  
1 T pepper  
any herbs you particularly care about (optional)  
Mix with vigor.

When potatoes are ready place pieces in a bowl with a tight and secure lid; pour dressing over them; place in fridge for six to twelve hours. Every two or three hours you have to pick up the bowl, shake it some, and turn it upside down.

While the potatoes are marinating in the dressing, chop celery, mince onions, and chop peppers. DON'T put them in with the potatoes at this point. They should be left alone so they will crunch!

When the time is up for shaking and inverting potatoes, remove them from icebox and DRAIN VERY WELL. They will never be "dry" again, but they should look it! When completely drained, mix with the celery and onions, and add ever-so-little mayo (use mayo, as "dressing" doesn't have the desired flavor, and this is no time to go "lite" or "no fat" on the mayo!) Chill and enjoy!

## NEWS FLASH

NEWS FLASH

NEWS FLASH

NEWS FLASH

New

**Parish Council**

**President**

**Tim McClellan**

New

**Parish Council Vice**

**President Jim Setser**



# 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 Carl Ludwig, 724-8485.

### 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 Laurie Plotz, 725-9015.

### 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 Barbara Lesher, 646-2748.

### Vincentians

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 Claretta Lamusa at 743-9998 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.

#### Faith Sharing Small Groups

Small groups of people meeting in private homes to discuss the Sunday readings, Scripture and current events that effect our Catholic faith contact Barry Landers, 725-3574.

#### 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, 710-3818

#### 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 Scott Steele, 725-8929

#### Cursillo

A Renewal movement of individuals in the Church who want to deepen their faith and enhance their walk with Christ, call Micah Ethridge, 210-5277.

#### 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' Ceas

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 second

Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Call Darlene O'Neal, 724-2857.

#### 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 Jose Praxedes, 737-4034.

#### L' Arche Harbor House

Mutual ministry with members and assistants, building community support and awareness to the needs and gifts of the disabled members of the L' Arche Harbor House family, call Amy Schultz, 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The principal is Stephanie Chinault. 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

#### 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 Katie, 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 Katie, 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 Katie, 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 John and Tina Morrissey, 744-6843.

#### 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 date with a priest.

Share your  
Time & Talent  
Volunteer

## Christ the King *Courier* - Tenth Anniversary

# “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.”

### Part One

by Judy Koziolk

My dear friend, I couldn't believe it when you asked me to write about the *Courier* for the tenth anniversary issue. I wasn't quite sure I was up to writing about our baby. As I am sure you are aware, we have been a part of the paper since it began in May of 1998. Of course that was the date of the first issue. It really began a few months before and for me, looking back, it was just as Charles Dickens wrote in his book in *The Tale of Two Cities*. “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.”

### The Beginning

Looking back I remember it was a great time — all so new and all so exciting! Father Robert Baker (this was just before he became a bishop) was getting settled in as pastor of Christ the King (CTK). I was his front office manager and secretary. One day in passing he mentioned that he would like to begin a newsletter where we could put in a few articles about the ministries and also use it to inform our members about their faith. I thought it was a fantastic idea! It would be a great addition to the bulletin so I sought him out to ask him if I could do the newsletter. He said he would think about it and asked me to come to the next Parish Council meeting where he planned to bring the subject up.

As editor of the bulletin I had felt for some time that the bulletin wasn't enough to really let everyone know what was happening at CTK. So many things couldn't be expressed in the bulletin and I was sure that some of the people in the community didn't have a clue as to what went on at our church. After working three years in the church office and being a small part of all that went on I was still amazed! As an adjunct to the bulletin a newsletter would be great.

My mind was whirling with the idea! I would go to the meeting and volunteer as the editor of the newsletter. I was quite confident I could produce a newsletter. After all, it would be like doing two bulletins and I had been doing ours since I was hired. So there I was sitting at the meeting waiting for Father Bob to bring it up and when he did, I was given the project! I went home that night and told Rick (my husband) what a fantastic opportunity it was going to be!

Now here comes the kicker! The next workday, Father Bob introduced to me his vision of the newsletter. He brought to me a copy of what he called the Cathedral's newsletter. It was a newspaper! I was floored! Once I finally found my voice I told him it was a grand idea (GRAND does mean big, doesn't it?) but I didn't have a clue as to how to produce a newspaper — I thought it would be a newsletter! He said that I could do whatever it took to get it up and running and he even gave me the number of his editor at the Cathedral, Betsy Coxe, as a reference.

What was I to do? I smiled weakly and agreed to call her and she smiled gently back and left me with the copy of the newspaper. What had I gotten myself into? Somehow I found my chair and just sat there dumfounded. A newspaper! Slowly I began turning the pages of the paper, not seeing a word as I absorbed the impact of his news.

Questions kept rushing through my mind. Then, slowly, I began answering the questions. It was obvious that I wouldn't be able to do something of this magnitude alone — I would need to put an ad in the bulletin. “A call for help” I thought. No, first I needed to know more about what I was going to do. I called Betsy Coxe, at the Cathedral, and arranged a meeting and then I thought of a pamphlet that had come by mail on how to design and write a newsletter. It wasn't how to design and write a newspaper but I figured it couldn't hurt. So I enrolled in the class, and as I look back I see that God took care of everything. Isn't that wonderful?



My meeting with Betsy was the best! She gave me the name of their printer, a list of materials and equipment I would need to get started and took me step by step through the process. As someone who was there you know there were a lot of steps. She also gave me some very practical advice on content, subject matter to stay clear of and helped me to see the responsibility a person took on when becoming an editor of a publication that could make its way to the Pope. Now let me tell you, that was a shocker! Did I say that God was in charge? He was, because at that moment I was inwardly looking for somewhere to hide — like Jonah did! And then I remembered the road his reluctance took him and I determinedly forged ahead.

### The First Committee Meeting

So, armed with prayer, all the information I had on the subject and my list of what I had to do in my hand, I walked into my first meeting. Dear friend, you will never know how scared I was that night. Think of it. I only had knowledge and information on how it could be accomplished — no real experience. To my pleasure and surprise many people came. They too were excited by the idea of a newspaper at CTK. We discussed what we needed to get started: a design for the first page, writers, and photographers to take the pictures. We would need to buy materials and look into purchasing equipment and a place to set up shop. While discussing the layout of the paper, Donna Baker said she knew of someone who published a paper. He was Catholic, she said, and a member of Christ the King. Would I like her to ask him to join us at the next meeting — DID I! Well, let's just say I thought I had struck gold!

At the next meeting, I walked Tony Trotti; he was a definite answer to prayer. Not only did he think it was a great idea. He said he would help. He didn't back down; even though I gave him a chance to reconsider. Eventually, Tony would take the production part of the paper to his own place of business. This saved the church a lot of money in start up costs. We used his equipment, some of which was quite expensive.

### The Process

Looking back on how we put the paper together sounds so primitive now. Do you remember, my friend? I think that it would be a good idea to share a little of what we went through in those early days and we can have fun reminiscing.

We were now at the stage where we could really get busy. Our reporters busily started writing stories on what they knew best — their own ministries! I used the bulletin and enlisted the help of the leaders of the other ministries. Our first issue would inform. Our goal was to have each ministry represented. Soon the articles came in; some were typed, but most were handwritten.

Thanks to Monsignor Danaher's farsightedness we had a computer and a great printer to do the final drafts for the paper. Most of the articles were first typed from home computers by our committee and saved to disc. In the end all the articles were saved on the church's hard drive. Then the articles were proofed, corrections/changes were made and the articles were reread. Each article required two copies and had its own folder and envelope for pictures, which we transported over to Tony's offices where the layout production work began.

The paper was laid out on what the professionals called “blue boards”. Each board held two pages of the paper, so if the paper was twenty pages long we had ten boards. One printed copy would be put through the “waxer”. A waxer was a machine that melted a block of special wax to a block of special wax to a liquid state. When the page was sent through

*continued on next page*

### **COURIER STAFF 1998**

**Publisher - Father Robert J. Baker**  
**Managing Editor - Judy Koziolk**  
**Advertising/Layout Design - Tony Trotti**  
**Newspaper Staff**

<b>Donna Baker</b>	<b>Kathy Nichols</b>
<b>Jacki Davis</b>	<b>Eileen Porter</b>
<b>Bill Dougherty</b>	<b>Kathy Purtle</b>
<b>Leroy Garvin</b>	<b>Meredith Reno</b>
<b>Blanche Iglesias</b>	<b>Mary Ann Sullivan</b>
<b>Wanda Klima</b>	<b>Jo Thomas</b>
<b>Linda McCreary</b>	<b>Tom Thomas</b>
<b>Erin McGuigan</b>	<b>Joanne Wnuk</b>
<b>Jane Middleton</b>	

the machine a thin layer of wax would cover the back of the sheet. These sheets were then cut, using special cutting tools and then positioned on the board. The wax made it stick to the board and if adjustments were made it could be removed and repositioned as often as needed. Now this process may sound easy but each page of the paper had to be uniform; the margins at the top, bottom and sides needed to remain the same. And if a line of printing or picture was not put on straight, the mistake would stand out on the finished product.



The pictures went through the same paste-up process but they also needed to be scanned and sized. I remember you (Mary Ann Sullivan) and Linda McCreary sitting in a room reserved for just this process scanning the pictures and printing them out. Tony would say, "Scan this at 90%" (or 80% or what ever size he needed) and the ladies would "make it so". It always amazed me that Tony seemed to know exactly what size would be needed. It seemed like magic to me. I did say that this was Tony's profession, didn't I? ... Well, it is worth saying it again. He was very generous with his time and the time of his employees. There were a lot of times the paste-up of the articles would be up and ready for proofing before most of the volunteer staff was due to arrive.

Mary Ann and Linda would go over early in the day to get the pictures scanned. Both of you were multi-talented. You soon became our assistant managing editor and have stayed with the *Courier* all these years. I came over after I finished my duties at the rectory which was usually around 5:30-6:00 p.m. Sometimes I had finished the last of the articles and printed them out before I went over. By then most of the pages had been proofed again by our wonderful staff (see insert on original staff names) to be sure that we hadn't inadvertently mixed stories up or left out a part of it while cutting and pasting them up.

After the boards were finished and proofed by the *Courier* staff, Tony would have me do the final run-through. He said that the editor had to O.K. the final draft of the paper. "As editor," he said, "You are responsible for the look and the content. You need to make sure that the pictures, captions and articles coincide with each other. Also the flow of paper needs to be considered. If one article need to be rearranged, just tell me and we move them around. Now is the time for final changes." I thought I was too critical, Tony thought I was too easy. It was after midnight before we all left.

### Christ the King *Courier* is Born!

From his office the final proof went to the printers. Here the boards would be scanned onto plates so they could do their part -- being made into a newspaper! Meanwhile the gang was very anxious to see the finished product. I assured them that I would call them as soon as Tony let me know they were delivered to his place. He would load them up and bring them over to the rectory. When he called, I was on the phone as promised and most of the staff were there waiting. As soon as Tony brought in the first bundle of papers, they were snapped up by everyone in the rectory. "Extra, extra, read all about it!" was my chant to all. Of course it was a "Kodak" moment when all of us stood or sat on Tony's truck surrounded by the Inaugural Edition!

What a moment! God surely blessed us that day! Our baby, Christ the King *Courier*, was born!

### The Aftermath

What a mess! Did I mention the clean up? No. Well, that was truly something to see and experience. Each subsequent issue was like a new child. We planned it, worked on it and put it together. And like parents, we also had to clean up after it. Remember, I said that we used "blue boards" as our paste up guides to be sure all was straight? Well, it turns out that they were expensive to purchase and they were always returned with the finished newspapers. So at our next meeting, after the issue was distributed and we received our congratulations on our new baby (It does sound like a new parent doesn't it?), we would tackle the cleaning of the boards so we could use them over and over. Off came the pictures and off

came the words and then we had to clean the boards of all the wax still on the boards. Now we had a marvelous tool just for such a project -- spatulas! Think of that when next you cook eggs or hamburgers on the stove! I truly believe that was the messiest part of the job. Am I right, my friend?

Now you, the reader, might think that this was a great experience and it was a very memorable one. But this was only the beginning. In the 9-1/2 years I was the editor we put together 37 issues and for a little over four years, the paper was made just this way. That was 18 complete issues and each issue had at least 20 pages and as many as 44 pages. Then came Quark--but that's another story (see part two in the next issue).

For the second issue and all subsequent issues we worked together to make our paper one of the best. Tony reminded us whenever we became frustrated, not to be too hard on ourselves or each other because we, as well as the paper, were still in the infant stages and we would learn as we went along. And learn we did. Each issue came with its own unique set of problems and solutions. Some of the faces of the committee changed but the core of the paper did not. Tony and I agreed that the making of this paper, along with keeping in tune with Christian values, also needed to be fun. Fun for the church community to read but also, it needed to be fun for the *Courier* Staff and anyone who chose to contribute to it. I looked on this paper as a work of love; love of God, love of the people we served and love of the people who worked side by side with me to produce the best paper ever.

Everyone should know how much I've appreciated all the hard work they have done on the *Courier*, but it too is worth saying again and again. There are too many of you to list in this article, but I thank all who wrote an article; proofed the paper, edited a page "one last time"; took pictures or edited pictures; talked someone else into writing--you name it; if you helped, I was thankful. You are the ones who helped to make our baby grow into the best church paper ever. Please know that I pray for all of you, and I always will.

My thanks also go to the readers of our publication. Without you, there would be no reason to publish the *Courier*. I hope you continue to enjoy each and every issue and after you have read it...pass it on to someone else. They may enjoy reading it as well.

By the way, remember when I mentioned about our paper being read by more than just our community? Our paper has been around the world and it even made it into the hands of our pope, John Paul II. Did you know that Pope John Paul II and our founding pastor, Bishop Thomas Larkin were friends? Well remember -- you read it in the *Courier*! "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Christ the King *Courier* celebrates its 10th Anniversary!"



# Away We Go

by Yolanda Cerqueira

"Summer time and the living is easy" is more than a line in a song; it's a way of life for many of us at Christ the King parish. Some of us will be hitting the road or flying away to far away places, for others it's time to go to the beach and soak up the sun. There are still many of us who believe the best vacation time is the leisure time you have with your kids; some just like to putts around the house. There are those who revel in tilling the soil and creating a beautiful summer garden. And let's not forget the folks whose idea of a perfect vacation is to do nothing. Whatever you decide it's your vacation and each of us have our own way of relaxing from the normal busy work or school day schedule. This is an article about what some of your fellow parishioners are doing this summer; perhaps it will inspire you to do the same; so read on!

Carol-Ann Black



Carol-Ann is the editor of the Courier and is a person of many interests. Her vacation plans are usually full of family activities and this year is no exception.

Carol-Ann will be home for the early part of the summer but from then on, she is on the go. There is a twenty year tradition in Carol Ann's family of getting together with her family, and her brother and his family once a year. Their locale changes each year and they have vacationed in Jamestown, New York, the Pocono Mountains, West Virginia, and parts of North Carolina where they will be this year. This is not a small undertaking as Carol-Ann has five children who are married with children. This year the entire clan will be in Waynesville, North Carolina where they rent individual cabins for each family. They do this to catch up with each other's happenings, to explore the area, and to enrich their lives by building on their already very close ties.

After that, as Carol-Ann says, she will just have time to change her socks and she will be off and a running to band camp. Yes, band camp, but this is a camp for adults.

In August for two weeks she will go to Lubec, Maine to study violin which she took up later in life and affords her much pleasure. Happy fiddling, Carol Ann!

Frank and Betty Becht



If all goes according to plans Frank and Betty Becht will be in Edwardsville, Indiana for a family reunion. It has been three or four years since they last attended a reunion so they are really looking forward to seeing everyone.

The families rent a place in a local park big enough to accommodate this large clan of at least 100 people. It is the job of the siblings to bring the meats and everyone else brings an accompaniment, which makes for a very large variety of food.

Betty said that in this park there is a large open barn like structure where there are tables; this is where they set up their headquarters for the day. Besides eating and visiting, the family likes to play all sorts of games such as horseshoes and basketball. There are swings and slides and play equipment for the kids so you can be sure that everyone is having a high old time.

Peggy and Steve Morgan



Peggy and her husband, Steve, along with their two children Carolyn and William are doing something different this summer. Peggy's sister, Emily who lives in Highpoint, North Carolina is going to have a baby and it will be a boy! Emily was married last summer so this is the second year in a row that big happenings have occurred in this family.

Emily wanted her sister, Peggy to be there for this blessed event and also to help out when she brings the baby home. No one could be more delighted than Peggy's daughter, Carolyn, who is ten years old and so eager to be a part of this special occasion.

Bill and Helen Damato



Bill and Helen Damato are taking a late summer or maybe better to say an early fall vacation to Daytona Beach. The month is October. They have been doing this for 25 years. They have a time share unit there and always look forward to this time of the year as school is back in session, the crowds are less, the weather in October is usually quite pleasant not too hot and of course, the first chill is far off on the horizon.

What do they do there? They love to walk the beautiful white sandy beach and enjoy the sights of the area from their condo. Bill enjoys playing golf and he has plenty of time to pursue that endeavor. Another activity they really relish is going to the flea market where they might find a hidden treasure. And in the evenings they delight in sampling the foods of the various restaurants in town. Sounds like a very restful and change of pace vacation for this very active couple.

Editha Tiamzon



Editha and her three children, Julie Ann, Tim and Andrea are going on a four day cruise to the Bahamas. This is a special cruise in that it is a graduation gift for her son, Tim, who is graduating this spring from Bishop Kenny High School. The whole family is excited about this trip and eagerly counting the days till they board the ship.

Editha, who is a full time working mom said that she is looking forward to just doing nothing. Can you imagine—nothing to clean up! It will be wonderful to be waited on. Raise your hands, moms, if you can relate to what Editha is expressing to us! Take plenty of pictures and come

back renewed, refreshed and with a sack of happy memories.

Tim and Donna Johnson



Tim and Donna are very involved parishioners of Christ the King Parish. Donna is a 1976 graduate of our school. They have three very active boys and are heavy into sports. Tim is president of Christ the King Athletic Association. He is also the coach for his son's Little League team and he has high hopes that the team will be going to the state tournament this summer. The name of their team is the Diamond Backs; it is for boys who are twelve and under. They play every weekend in the spring and right now are in the middle of their season. One can see why they are setting their sight on that summer tournament. When asked who was their biggest rival, Tim stated that it is the Southside Athletic Association and the president of that association is none other than one of our parishioners, Ron Lynch.

We wish them both well!

Billy and Sybil Jones



Billy and Sybil Jones are going to Inglewood Beach which is on the west coast of Florida. This vacation tradition extends back 46 years when there was only Sybil and Billy and their three kids. It has now grown so large that they rent six condos right on the water. All of the children and grandchildren are there for this special week in their lives.

It has not only grown to include all the Jones clan but Kitty Ludwig, her daughter, Linda Dutton and her husband are also part of this marvelous tradition.

Everyone loves the beach where the swimming is great and the sand is soft to the touch. The family spends the day fishing, swimming and collecting sea shells. Kitty Ludwig and Sybil enjoy combing the beach for unique and colorful shells.

*continued on next page*

# CKCCW Chat

By Willie Blaquiére

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women had a busy winter-spring season. A noon general meeting was held at the Olive Garden on January 24. Our annual luncheon and card party was on February 16 in the parish hall. The card players had some serious games going by eleven a.m. There were several large round tables set up for those who wanted to visit. Many issues were discussed including the presidential election, the price of gas, etc. but most of the talk was just plain fun. There were door prizes, a raffle basket full of lovely items and a catered lunch. Amy Wanat, an out-of-parish guest, won the raffle basket. Amy bought 20 tickets at \$1.00 each, the basket retail value was \$200.00. Good investment, Amy.

winds from the northeast and blue skies that fooled you into thinking it was a spring. Claretta Lamusga's sister-in-law, Dolores Lamusga, a visitor from Minnesota, did not mind the weather; the rest of us looked forward to a hot cup of tea. After Mass we had good food and a good meeting. As I looked around the room at the dozens of women talking and eating, I thought of the hundreds of thousands of hours of life experience, some good, some not so good, but everyone had a smile and was glad to be there.



ladies and young ladies. Pat Setser looked lovely in her beautiful blue hat, a reminder of the days when we wore hats to church and on dress-up occasions of all sorts. Perhaps next year we will have more hats. Thank you, Monica Crisp, for suggesting an event that may become a parish success and to all the volunteers who baked and served.

### Getting to Know You

Gene and Jenny Salzman were married March 2, 1958 in Portsmouth, Ohio. A brunch was held at their son Bill's house to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March. The Salzmanns have four children: Bill, Brenda, Brian, and Brandon and two grandchildren Sar and Brian, Jr. Congratulations, Gene and Jenny.

Pat and Jim Setser have been blessed with two new grandchildren. A granddaughter, Hailey Anne, was born in January and Lucas Emmanuel in late March. Hailey Anne has an older sister and

Lucas has an older brother. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents.

Patrice Pruitt had surgery and is recovering well. To all of those who have surgery pending, we wish you a surgeon's steady hand and a speedy recovery. To all of those who are suffering the loss of a loved one, we wish you God's comfort.

Each year prior to Mother's Day and Father's Day, CKCCW sells cards to remember these special people in our lives. The cards will be placed on the altar on Mother's Day and Father's Day. This is a lovely way to tell your parents you love them. The profits go to Born Free, a diocesan program that provides crisis pregnancy assistance for needy, abandoned or homeless mothers. The sale will already have taken place at publication but remember us next year.

To our CKCCW members; have a great summer. Tell other



The spring deanery meeting was a brunch at St. Paul's, Jacksonville Beach on March 8. This was a very cold day, high

A High Tea was held on April 20, in the Shirley David hall. This was a first time event and was well attended. Tea was served in lovely china cups with dainty sandwiches, scones and a variety of cookies and cakes. The table decorations were beautiful as were the dressed-up



women about the activities of the council; help increase the membership for next year.

## Away We Go

*continued from previous page*

When Kitty returns home she has another hobby and that is to create little animals from those shells.

In the evening everyone gathers at Billy and Sybil's place where they have the pleasure of each other's company at dinner and of course sharing the events of the day. Usually there are about 25 people for dinner with everyone pitching in to make each and every evening lively and filled with loving companionship.

Pam and Dennis Jones



Pam and Dennis and their two children along with another couple and their family are going on a cruise in August. What are their ports of call? Well, they are going

to St. Thomas, St. Martens and then on to Nassau. In Nassau they, of course, will go to Paradise Island and certainly will not miss the opportunity to visit the beautiful aquarium which has many varieties of tropical fish.

They are also looking forward to all the fun activities aboard ship and the never ending parade of food. When they are ashore Pam says they will spend time beach hopping, looking for shells, and most of all just relaxing! Sounds like a great vacation to this writer!

Doris Bordiere

Tumwater, Washington is the destination of Doris Bordiere this summer. She is going to visit her daughter, Becky, her son-in-law and her grandchildren who are 5, 8, and 10 years of age. Becky is a graduate of Christ the King and Bishop Kenny High School.

Doris particularly chose the month of July to visit because that is the peak of the raspberry season and Tumwater has an abundance of raspberries. Doris said that at this time of the year the cars stream into town to try to get first pickings of



those luscious red raspberries. This is an activity that the whole family looks forward to and, of course, after the picking comes the eating. Since her daughter and family are so far away they try to make every day special which could be going somewhere or just spending time with each other.

And for all of you readers who do not know where Tumwater, Washington is (including the writer) it is a few miles south of Olympia, the state capitol.

Steve and Ann Franklin

If we were going to give an award to the family that was traveling to the farthest point this summer Steve and Ann along with their two boys, Chase and Gus, would

win hands down. They are flying to Sydney, Australia to see the sights and to bring their daughter, Sydney, back to the States. She has been studying in Sydney since February and the family will travel over there in July, and have a most splendid vacation.

The whole family is looking forward to this trip. Kangaroos and koala bears are definitely on their list of things to see. They will learn about the aborigines and all other interesting things that this lone continent has to offer.



They will be gone for 10 days so that will give them plenty of time to stack up the memories of this exotic and exciting vacation. We can hardly wait to hear about your Australian adventures!

## Music Week



Notre Dame Glee Club before program

by Carol-Ann Black

Early March is always a busy time. But this year was special and quite unique at Christ the King. We enjoyed two really fine musical performances. The University of Notre Dame Glee Club performed on March 5 in the church, to a packed house; and on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March in honor of St. Patrick's Day to come, the Irish Musical Show was presented.

The Glee Club was presented by the Notre Dame Club of North Florida, an organization of alumni and friends.

Their program included some sacred music selections, some ethnic folk songs and some

barbershop harmonies. Of course they finished up with their Notre Dame Victory March, and then trotted out of the church to meet with their host families, who would house them for the night.

The Irish Music came to the Kingdome after the 11:00a.m. Mass courtesy of Jean Sell and her committee. Some of the musicians had been with us last year, but the dancer and the harpist were both new to the group. Both of these young women are award-winning performers, who compete internationally on a regular basis. The lunch served before the show was very good, and enjoyed by all who attended the show.



Irish Variety Show



## Angelus



by Frank Becht

The **Angelus (Angel)**, a Christian devotion, is not very well known and practiced today as it once was in the past centuries. The **Angelus** is a devotion in memory of the Incarnation which started as best can be determined in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by the monastic communities by reciting three Hail Marys during the evening vespers. This practice was extended by the monastics to morning and eventually noon time. Now the practice is daily at 6 a.m., 12:00 noon and 6 p.m.

The practice was gradually expanded to include the ringing of bells from local churches with the recitation of the Hail Mary and a brief prayer. There are several versions of the **Angelus**, depending on the location and the religious affiliation, but it is considered a Catholic devotion, although it is a common practice of the Anglican and Lutheran churches worldwide. It became common practice in many European countries including England, Ireland, Germany, France, Italy and Spain. The practice has become worldwide with the spread of the Christianity to the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America and the Philipines.

The **Angelus** is an indication of the piety and devotion of Catholics in the world of the past and today. During the time of the Crusades, the Popes encouraged it as a daily devotion to Catholics at that time and granted indulgences for the practice. The ringing of the bells called the faithful to times of prayer for the redemption of man's struggle of the times. Even King Louis XI of France in 1475 commended the ringing of the bells as a peace movement closely associated with the Passion of Christ.

As youngsters, my wife, Betty, and I grew up in rural Southern Indiana communities where it was customary for the praying of the **Angelus** during the ringing of the bells from church steeples daily. It was not uncommon to see farmers in the fields praying as the bells tolled from nearby churches. People in the cities often stopped for this devotion while shopping or walking the streets.

### THE ANGELUS

**V/. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings unto Mary,**

**R/. And she conceived by the Holy Ghost**

**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.**

**V/. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord."**

**R/. "Be it unto me according to thy Word."**

**Hail Mary, full of grace ...**

**V/. And the Word was made flesh,**

**R/. And dwelt amongst us.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace...**

**V/. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.**

**R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Let us pray: We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion we may be brought into the glory of His Resurrection: through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

What a beautiful prayer! Even at Christ the King when the **Angelus** is occasionally recited, many pray most often at 6p.m. but many of us are too much in a hurry to stay for this beautiful devotion. Nor do we take the time to stop and reflect as the bells toll in church. Try it! Stop, Look and Listen!

by Susan Grossholz  
 Director- Little Angels Handbell Choir

# Why I Like Being a Little Angel



The Little Angels Handbell Choir is a really good place to begin in Music Ministry at Christ the King. Angels can start making a Joyful Noise with the choir when they are about two years old. I actually had an eighteen-month-old one year, he was incredible! He couldn't play the notes as written, but he could process up and down the aisle with the best of them. Giving the little ones the opportunity to join in at an early age allows them to learn how to be part of the celebration and it helps them learn respect for where they are and why they are there. As they get a little older, with a better command of their instrument, they really enjoy helping each other and "teaching" the younger ones.

We play with color-coded bells. When I point to their color they know it's time to ring their bell. As they get older I like to introduce them to the handchimes, there is no color-coding on those and they have to know what note they are playing. My "sheet music" has the name of the note in the color, so they are learning and don't even know it.

I asked the group to tell me why they liked being a Little Angel. I found out that it's fun "to hear the music we make", fun to "march to the front" of the church, and it's fun spending time on Tuesday nights with "my best friends for life". Also, they are sometimes afraid when "everybody is looking at me" that it might be because "I'm not playing the bell very well". It happens, but it's good to get over that one early in life.

Members in the group include; Nigel Goldberg, Sammi Hardin, Samuel Jallah-Harding, Antonio Ryan, Mia Solis, Ashlyn Sullivan, Katie Yarborough, Madison Yates, Megan Yates and Regan Yates. We practice on Tuesday nights at 6:15 and we normally perform on Sunday mornings just before the 9:00 Mass. This year we added several Friday school liturgies to our schedule, which has been a great success. I want to thank everyone for their support of our Little Angels and their ambitions to be part of our community celebration. I think the following, written by one of the Angels, has become my favorite prayer. "Please, Lord, let me be the best handbell player in the world. Amen." I would love to see them all have the opportunity to do just that.

# Bishop Visits Christ The King

by Frank Becht

Bishop Victor Galeone spent one day at Christ the King, arriving in the afternoon on Tuesday, February 26 and departing in mid-afternoon on February 27.

To the delight of many he held a Parish Town Hall meeting in the Shirley David Hall on Tuesday evening. It was an open forum meeting with questions from those in attendance. Many more would have been able to attend but there was a conflicting Knights of Columbus meeting conferring the Second Degree on 10 new members that had been planned far in advance.

Another surprise event by the Bishop involved visiting brother Tim Stack, a fellow parishioner and Knight of Columbus member, at his home on early Wednesday afternoon. The Bishop was accompanied by Deacon Lam, Grand Knight Jose Praxedes, and yours truly. Tim is a Past Grand Knight of Bishop Larkin Council 4727. Sally Stack and their daughter, Theresa, were in attendance.

A friendly visit of conversation was followed by a very touching Eucharistic ceremony by the Bishop. Picture taking (some of which are featured below) followed.

For those who may not be aware, Tim Stack underwent brain surgery over a year ago and has since been suffering from lung cancer. Tim Stack is being placed in Hospice at the Mayo Clinic Center. Tim and his family ask that he be remembered in your prayers.

*Author's Note- Regretfully, shortly after the Bishop's visit, Tim Stack passed away.*



## Columbian Squires

by Frank Becht, PGK

The Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council of Knights of Columbus is in the process of reinstating the Columbian Squires Circle, which had been disbanded several years ago from lack of interest.

The Columbian Squires is an organization of Catholic young men from 10-18 years of age. The Knights of Columbus hope to groom these young men into mature and responsible young leaders and knights of tomorrow through a wide variety of community, church and social events.

The following members have volunteered to guide the Squire Circle;

PGK Al Martin—Overall Chief Counselor  
 Brother Michael Stirna—Counselor/Mentor of Christ the King School  
 Brother Tom Nesmith—Counselor/ Mentor of Resurrection School  
 Brother Mario Rivera—Counselor/ Mentor outside of school

If you have or know of a young man whom you feel has the desire to learn and develop as a leader in the community and Church, please contact one of the above Counselors.

## K'Cees Happenings

by Darlene O'Neal

The K'Cees had a busy month of April! The first Bunco night of the year was a success with twenty-nine people attending. About 90% of the players had no idea of how to play Bunco, however, with Shirley Mosley's experience in the game everyone had fun. Pizza and soda were served during intermission and prizes were given. Darlene O'Neal chaired the event but without Shirley it wouldn't have happened. Hopefully there will be other fun nights ahead.

The following week the K'Cees had the annual yard sale. This year's sale was not as profitable as

years past due to lack of buyers. Laura Morris and Virginia Moore co-chaired this event and worked very hard along with several other women. Thanks go to Betty Becht, Tina Porter, Tommee Porter, Rita Wendel, Joanne Thompson and Larry Turner for their help. Thanks to Stanley Moore, Dan Wendel and Don Thompson for providing security during the sale. Leftover items were donated to the Fil-Am Ministry as well as the St. Vincent DePaul Society. A big "thank you" to Virginia and Stanley Moore and Larry Turner for packing up the items.

An auction/white elephant sale will take place sometime in June with Ralph Mosley as auctioneer.

## Mary's Ramp



by Darlene O'Neal

men to get not only a wooden ramp built, but a concrete walk formed and poured. This was just a normal thing for the Knights of Columbus to do for someone in need. It was especially nice to see Mary using the ramp and walkway. What a blessing it was to help Jim and Mary.

Jim "Bonnie" is a member of Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council #4727 and also a 4th Degree Knight. Jim is also the insurance agent for the Knights of Columbus.

One morning in April, the telephone rang. It was Jim "Bonnie" Bonitatibus calling. He needed someone to show him how to build a wooden ramp. The ramp was needed for his wife's wheelchair.

His wife, Mary, suffers from Alzheimer's and is confined to a wheelchair when not in bed. That one phone call brought enough



## KC Historic First

Note from the Editor:

*The below article has been circulated on the internet during the Pope's visit. Dennis Stoddard and his wife, Linda, were in attendance during the White House visit. Dennis is a member of Christ the King parish, a past grand knight of Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council 4727, a Florida State Deputy and Supreme Director of the Knights of Columbus.*

will represent the entire Order and the Catholic Church.

"I have told my men that we are representing not only the 1.7 million Knights and their families throughout the world, but also the 68 million Catholics in the United States and the 1 billion Catholics in the world, since people will be watching this ceremony all over the world," Rossi explained. "Any Knight who sees the Fourth Degree honor guard on TV will know that he is being represented. People all



The first visit to the United States by Pope Benedict XVI as Holy Father will also mark a historic first for the Knights of Columbus.

During Pope Benedict's April 16 meeting with President Bush at the White House, 30 Fourth Degree Knights in full regalia will provide an honor guard for the ceremony. It is the first time the Fourth Degree will stand in formation for a pope and president at the White House.

"We take this, first and foremost, as a supreme honor to be there for this historic event," said Joseph P. Schultz, supreme master of the Fourth Degree.

"We are greatly honored that we would be chosen for such an honor, and I think it's a sign of the high regard that is given to the Knights of Columbus as a whole."

The White House ceremony is scheduled to take place at 10:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden.

The Fourth Degree also is scheduled to take part at the Masses in Washington's Nationals Park and Yankee Stadium in New York, as well as at the pope's departure ceremony at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Vice Supreme Master Ralph Rossi is organizing the Fourth Degree's activities for the pope's visit in the nation's capital, and Masters Martin Loughlin and Marvin Dalton are handling arrangements in New York.

Rossi said that the 30 Sir Knights at the White House

over the world will be able to see who we are and what we are, that we are Knights of Columbus."

Rossi was enlisted in the U.S. National Guard for 41 years, retiring two years ago with the rank of sergeant major. He will draw on his military training as he prepares the honor guard for its most important assignment. He said that at the White House, the Sir Knights will march in three rows of 10, with six different colored capes displayed. No ceremonial swords will be carried at any of the papal events.

At Nationals Stadium on April 17, an honor guard of 50 Sir Knights will lead the liturgical procession at the beginning and the end of Mass. At Yankee Stadium on April 20, as many as 165 Fourth Degree members will accompany priests and deacons as they distribute Communion to the thousands attending. Later that day, a contingent of 50 Sir Knights will serve as honor guard as the Holy Father departs from JFK Airport.

"This is a unique opportunity to show the world what the Knights are about," said Supreme Master Schultz.



## Message From Michael Masters



*The following message from Lieutenant Michael Masters was sent to his family and friends. This message is "unclassified." Mike is currently in the States and it is expected he will remain here until May 1 before returning to Afghanistan.*

Editor's note- Michael Masters is the grandson of the Ambrose and Betty Masters and Mike and Irene Capizzi families. He is also a member of the Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Knights of Columbus.

I'm currently a member of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, serving in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, specifically the Hit region. My responsibilities include serving as the Scout Sniper Platoon Commander and Assistant Intelligence Officer for the Battalion.

Our goal is to successfully turn over provincial security to the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army.

The local atmospherics are very positive and many infrastructure projects are underway. One of the main tasks for 1st Battalion, 7th Marines is key leader engagement which identifies issues in which the Marines can assist the Iraqi people. We continue to strive to involve Iraqi forces in all operations.

The scout sniper platoon supports a variety of missions as a battalion asset. We have a wide variety of backgrounds, ages, and job classes. Of course we continue to uphold the reputation of the most highly trained platoon within 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. The Battalion Intelligence Section helps the Marines stay one step ahead of the enemy.

Hit City population is approximately 100,000. Within the city of Hit, Marines conduct constant patrols on foot and by vehicle. Marines also patrol the rural agricultural areas, which are primarily located near the Euphrates River Valley.

Before Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Iraqi Army was the third largest in the world. Upon the fall of the old regime much of the conventional military munitions went unaccounted for. Coalition forces spend much of their time finding and unearthing caches that are buried in the ground. Sadly much of this ordnance is used against coalition forces in the form of improvised explosive devices (IEDS).

The members of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines continue to uphold their proud battle history and go to great lengths to provide security for the Iraqi people and facilitate the formation of their democracy. Sheep herding and salt mining are two economic mainstays within the Hit region.

One of the most important and often most difficult missions for the Marines is training the Iraqi Army soldiers.

Sometimes celebrities make their way to Iraq, this day was one of the better days for the Marines, "Chuck Norris Day." Chuck signing my copy of "Fist of Fury" and sharing a few laughs, as you can see he is an honorary Marine because of all the sweet movies he has made. The noncommissioned officers continue to train the marines even during combat.



I hope this explains a little about what is going on in Al Anbar, Iraq. The Marines are working hard everyday to assist the Iraqi people accomplish their goals and afford them the opportunities that Americans enjoy on a daily basis. Thank you for all your prayers and support during this deployment.

"Semper Fidelis"  
Mike

## Ministry of Mothers Sharing

Hi, my name is Deidre Hicks and I'm the new MOMS Coordinator. I went through the MOMS journey in the fall of 2006 and feel a strong connection to the mission of MOMS and to the MOMS of Christ the King.

I'd like to report on several new updates about MOMS.

But first, for those of you unfamiliar with MOMS, it is an eight-week, parish-based peer ministry using the book *MOMS: A Personal Journal*. Each session begins and ends with a prayer ritual designed to enhance the Christian perspective on each weekly topic, such as Self-Esteem and Self-Acceptance, Stress, Worries and Anxiety, Everyday Spirituality and more. The objectives are:

- ◆ To gather mothers together to form a network of mutual spiritual support.
- ◆ To provide a group experience of learning, praying and ministering to each other.
- ◆ To introduce mothers to opportunities for personal and spiritual growth in a faith sharing group.
- ◆ To increase communication skills and the use of prayer rituals in the home.

### The Journey

Fall sessions will begin Sept. 18 and will run for 8 weeks. There will be morning and evening sessions. And we are pleased to announce that the sessions are open to new moms and **PREVIOUS** MOMS participants. So, if it's been 3 or more years since you've been through the journey and would like to "Renew the Journey", we would love to have you join us.

### Continuing the Journey

We are doing things a little differently next year. Usually, there are both fall and spring sessions. However, next spring we will be offering a Women of Grace Study Series. It will be open to the recent fall 'graduates' and to all other MOMS members.

The Women of Grace Study Series is Based on Johnette Benkovic's book, *Full of Grace*. In a group study format with video lectures by Johnette Benkovic, host of *The Abundant Life*, you'll delve into prayer, Sacred Scripture, Church documents and teachings, the *Catechism*, the lives of women saints, and the example of our Blessed Mother. You'll be nurtured spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. You'll learn to embrace your gift of authentic femininity and your dignity as a daughter of God. You'll be equipped to fulfill your call and mission as a woman of grace in the world today.

We're sure this curriculum will enhance the MOMS journey.

### Core Team Member Positions

There are several Core Team member positions that are open and we would love to have you join the team.

### Session Facilitators

We need 1 more facilitator for the day session and all 3 facilitators for the evening session.

**Also, formal facilitator training will be held on August 23 at St. Anastasia in St. Augustine.** So if you've never been a facilitator before, the training will completely prepare you.

Please let me know if you'd like to attend the training and be a facilitator for fall sessions.

Other open positions are Facilitator Coordinator, Secretary and Marketing Coordinator. I'd be happy to give you more information about each position if you're interested.

### Other Plans

MOMS is also excited to be working with the FSA and the Carnival Committee which is already putting plans in place for an Octoberfest. MOMS will not host a Halloween party, but will have a part in the Octoberfest, which will be a great fall event for the entire parish community.

We also have plans to 'adopt' a group that helps mothers in our community. We will volunteer our time and resources to assist mothers in their important duties.

I'm excited about the upcoming sessions in the fall and anxious to see how the continuation of the Women of Grace Study Series in the spring will impact our group.

There is a lot of work to be done to prepare for all of these activities, so if you'd like to help in any way, please let me know. And of course, I'd be especially grateful for your membership on the Core Team.

I can be reached at: Deidre Hicks, 6516 Fincannon Rd. Jax, FL 32277 (904) 744-2442

dandkhicks@yahoo.com

One last note, PLEASE send me your email address, so we can streamline all future communications to the MOMS group. I look forward to hearing from you!

## An Affair to Remember

by Dolores Bianco

Look out folks: here comes that perpendicular pronoun used in excess!

The gist of it all is the fact that while I couldn't get an audience with the pope, I settled for "Moses" – Charlton Heston. (He passed away at age 84 on April 5, 2008.) This "happening" evolved by sheer serendipity.

In November of 1983, Mr. Heston received an honorary doctorate degree at Jacksonville University. I covered the event as volunteer Arts Editor for a small monthly paper, The River City News. Dinner followed the ceremony where I was, by accident, seated just in front of him – close enough for a warm handshake from the gracious artist.

In June of 1985 I spent three weeks in Europe, beginning and ending in London where Charlton Heston was appearing on stage as Captain Queeg in "The Caine



Mutiny Court Martial." With best wishes from JU's President Fran Kinne (she and Mr. Heston were on the National Council of the Arts together at the time) and with the article and pictures from my column on his former visit, I approached his secretary, Jackie Martin, asking if it was possible to see Mr. Heston. She first had to see what I had. She liked it and wanted to know how long I'd be in London, and said "You must come

to my party – and you must wear white!" That night, after the "Caine Mutiny" performance, I went to the backstage door where "Malcolm", whom I had met earlier, escorted me to Mr. Heston's dressing room. He had already removed the heavy Navy jacket and was seated in a large chair from which he rose as soon as I entered. There followed an awesome 15 minutes or so of fame.

Malcolm kindly took a picture of our meeting and I floated out the stage door!

Three weeks later, when my daughter and I returned to London to leave for the states, it was the night of Jackie's party. The entire cast of the play was invited. (Malcolm had told me not to go early – "no one goes early," so I did as he said and by chance I had just one dress with me – a white one

that rolled up like a handkerchief.) I found that this was the way those who party like that check (with a strobe light) those who are actually invited. My daughter chose not to come with me, and Charlton Heston didn't attend. Many of the cast were there along with Juneau from Paris, a female furniture designer from New York, and me, from the River City News in Jacksonville (as if anyone cared!)

When I arrived home a letter awaited me from Mr. Heston thanking me for the visit and sending best wishes to Fran Kinne. On the envelope the return address simply said, in upper case letters, CHARLTON HESTON – not USA or London – and the bottom of the letter said, "dictated in London, typed in Los Angeles."

I really did see Pope John Paul on a pilgrimage with Fr. Thanh in 1996 and yes, the pope was by far the greater honor! However, my encounter with the legendary actor was, indeed, an affair to remember.

## Courier Ten Years

by Carol-Ann Black, Editor

May, 1998, Monsignor Danaher celebrates 45 years of priesthood. August, 1998, Life Teen established as a ministry at Christ the King. November, 1999, Father Baker named Bishop Baker of Charleston, S.C. Diocese. February, 2000, Father

McDermott joins Christ the King. August, 2000, renovated school dedicated. February, 2002, Father Thanh officially named pastor. January, 2002, First Epiphany Dinner held. September, 2004, Christ the King parish celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. August, 2005, Stephanie Chinault named principal of Christ the King School. November, 2007, Church remodeling completed.

These are just a few of the lead stories found in the issues of Christ the King Courier over the past ten years.



The Courier was the brainchild of Father Baker, but the lovechild

of the corps of volunteers who put together the first issue in May of 1998. Those volunteers were headed up by editor, Judy



Koziolek, who organized and directed all of our activities for nine years and Tony Trotti, who shared his knowledge of publishing and layout and design AND the facilities of his publishing business. When Tony's health failed him, and it became necessary for the Courier to make its way in the world under its own steam, Judy led us into the realm of computerized, desk-top publishing using the Quark program.

In her initial Editor's Note, Judy said that the original issue could not have been produced successfully by one person. And that statement remains as true today as it was then. I thank everyone who works on the Courier as each issue is produced. It has been quite impressive to watch our staff become more and more adept at creating an informative and attractive newspaper. And I extend an invitation to those who would like to join our ranks as we move into the next ten years of Christ the King Courier.

by Peter House

The 2008 Lenten Fish Fry was a definite success all around. Six matches were played in this epic battle with a team of outstanding volunteers and an opposing team of eager diners. Both teams won as far as this writer is concerned.

The volunteers prepared 1/2 ton of fried and baked Atlantic Whiting, 200 pounds of delicious fried shrimp, 72 #10 cans of baked beans, 1728 pieces of melt in your mouth sweet cornbread, 240 pounds of creamy Cole slaw, 30 gallons of sweet mélange tea, 30 gallons of regular tea, 30 gallons of coffee and a slew of desserts provided by the School Science Club.

The opposing team spent a little over \$7,000 on primary food purchases, about \$500 on desserts and shared about \$500 in six unopposed 50/50 raffles to benefit the School Science Club. Any food unfinished by the opposing team was donated to L'Arche Harbor House at the end of each match.



Good food and fine fellowship combined to make this year's Lenten Fish Fry a memorable event in the minds of all who attended.

A series of six rematches are planned for next year and you are invited to come and join one or both teams. The first match will be on Ash Wednesday and the five following matches will take place on the five successive Fridays following the week of Ash Wednesday. The dates next year are: February 25, March 4, March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3. Feast with Friends and Feed your Faith.



## Religious Education For Children Celebrates Easter

by Lucille Guzzone

On the evening of March 19, students in the upper grades presented a four part Easter program to the younger children, families and staff. Each of the four groups, grades 5-8, performed a 10 minute short play depicting an important aspect of the holy season. Fifth graders took on the roles of the disciples as they joined Jesus at the Last Supper. The students, appropriately costumed, spoke lines from the Bible and sang a hymn to honor that occasion. Sixth graders, carrying baskets of goodies, explained the legend of colored Easter eggs and its relationship to the Bible. Seventh graders enacted the scenes at the tomb and in the upper room. They emphasized how the disciple Thomas had to touch the wounds of Jesus in order to believe. Eighth graders became Old Testament prophets such as David and Moses. Each one spoke with Jesus asking forgiveness for their sins and requesting that He allow them to enter Heaven through His mercy.



Many thanks to Mrs. Williams, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Balsam, Mr. Birch and their talented students for a unique and creatively reverent production. The presentations were an appropriate way for the little ones and the adults, as well, to focus on the true meaning of this most holy and important celebration.

## A Benefit for L'Arche

by Amy Schultz



For the last 19 years, the First Coast Apartment Association has hosted a softball game on Palm Sunday to benefit L'Arche Harbor House. It was a perfect day, full of fun, food and prizes. The core members of L'Arche enjoyed participating in hitting the balls and running the bases, while being cheered on by the crowd. All proceeds from the game go towards supporting the mission of L'Arche, which is to announce the gifts of people with developmental disabilities and to create communities based on mutuality, respect and love. L'Arche Harbor House is grateful to the apartment association for their incredible fidelity and to Christ the King for the use of their wonderful ballfield.



## Christ The King School Honor Roll Third Quarter 2007-2008

### 4a

Beau Butler  
Sara Debellis  
Adam Geesey  
Deanna Hickox\*\*  
Rachalyn Hudson  
Gracie Korkmaz\*\*  
Alexander Mann  
David Williams

### 4b

Lexie Byerley\*\*  
Emily Duncan  
Christopher Luyando\*\*  
Michael O'Connell  
Carolyn Morgan  
Michael Pruitt  
Andy Quach\*\*  
Emmy Tackett  
Asia Thorpe  
Claire Wnuk

### 5a

Colin Boyd  
Yasmeen Chan\*\*  
Jennifer Essick\*\*  
Donna Mahfouz  
Paola Ramos  
Camille Rodriguez\*\*  
Erica Stanfill  
Kelly Wolfe  
Annalee Pesnell

### 5b

John Ashley  
George Assi  
Ricky Boyette  
Jeffrey Dela Cruz\*\*  
Julia Eason  
Ashlinne Hickox\*\*  
Joshua Johnson  
Mathew Lynch  
Cody Mcelveen  
Drew Mikell  
Janel Palomo  
Megan Schroder\*\*  
Michael Urbizu

### 6a

Rachel Belen\*\*  
Matthew Dinh  
Rebecca Jones  
William Morgan\*\*  
Yanni Palatsidis  
Tristan Reyes  
Gregory Shannahan  
Katie Smith  
Leann Snow  
Michael Martin

\*\* Denotes All A's

## Star Student

### Third Quarter 2007 - 2008

1a Samuel Jallah-Harding  
1b. Megan Yates  
2a Amanda Urbizu  
3a Jean-Paul Korkmaz  
4a Logan Walls  
4b Huan Mai  
5a David Longenecker  
5b Larissa Ogin  
6a Nate Caron  
6b Royce Reyes  
7a Marley Caron  
7b Sunshine Ramirez  
8a L.J. Morante  
8b Victoria Salud

Art K-5 Hunter Crist  
Art 6-8 Kathleen Patti  
Computers K-5 Tiffany Barras  
Computers 6-8 Trey Swanson  
Library K-5 Nisreen Atallah  
Library 6-8 Tyler Gilliam  
Music K- 4 Reagan Gunter  
Music 6 - 8 Palmer Frye  
Liturgical Music Stephen Azar  
PE K-5 Silvia Montana  
PE 6-8 Courtney Wildes  
Spanish 1-5 Megan Schroder  
Spanish 6-8 Andrew Dinh

## Bishop Kenny

### Third Quarter Honor Roll

Hannah Christian  
Mallory Frye  
Christine Grochmal  
Jason Infante  
Jennifer Jones  
Jaaziel Juego  
Kyle Longenecker  
Clayton Ludwig  
Allison Lynch  
Connor Marsh  
Megan McClellan  
Matthew Mills  
Melissa Mitchell

James Mollenhour  
Zachary Neaves  
Amanda Niesen  
Megan Raesemann  
Trenton Raesemann  
Grazielle Ramirez  
Timothy Noel Toledo  
Timothy Vergenz  
Tyler Wildes  
Richard Williamson  
Robert Yarborough  
Rebecca Yount

## Bishop John J. Snyder High School Third Quarter Honor Roll

Eryn Coyle

Steven Gardner

Taylor Hull

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AND a professional 8X10 photo.

Sign-up after Mass for photo appointment. Smile pretty.  
Anyone making additional purchases will receive  
a 20% discount and seniors an additional 10%

# Modern Woodmen of America Writing Contest

Modern Woodmen of America is a society founded in 1883 and offers financial services to individuals and families as part of its dedication to service. In addition they sponsor a creative writing contest for students in grades 4-6 to encourage creativity and stimulate thinking about the quality of service to the community. The 2007-2008 contest has as its essay topic "The Best Volunteer Project Ever."

## The Best Volunteer Project Ever

by Ashley Brooks



My idea would brighten up the day for old people who live alone, in nursing homes, or are in the hospital. I would get a group of hair stylists and manicurist to go visit the elderly every week. They would cut and style their hair and give them a manicure. Men could get haircuts and a shave too. This would make them all feel better and they would know that someone really does care about them.

I feel this project is needed because many old people don't have visitors, so they are lonely. A lot of them cannot take care of themselves. My project would also give them something to look forward to every week.

The old people will be very appreciative and feel loved. I would try to have the same volunteer visit the old person each time so that they can make a new friend. This would give them someone to talk to and share ideas with. I would give the old people in nursing homes a party or dance the last week of the month after their hair and nails are done.

My volunteers would need a lot of gas money for driving back and forth. They would also need hair supplies, blow dryers, curling irons, and Chi straighteners. The nail people would need a lot of nail polish, files, buffers and nail polish remover. Most of all my volunteers would need to always smile and be cheerful. I think all the old people in nursing homes or hospitals would love my project.

## Camp Get Fit

by Megan Schroder



The best volunteer project ever is a camp called Camp Get Fit. At this camp kids will learn how to become and stay healthy. Childhood obesity is a big problem for school age children. When kids don't eat healthy foods or get enough exercise, they can become overweight or obese. Obesity can cause heart problems and other diseases that can cause early death. Camp Get Fit can help kids that are overweight and out of shape.

Camp Get Fit will introduce fun and exciting ways for kids to get in shape. They will learn the proper way to stretch and warm up before exercising. Yoga and swimming are just a few of the sports that will be taught at this camp. There will be coaches to help kids learn how to run faster and farther. Playing games and sports can help kids feel more confident and build their self-esteem.

Kids can also learn to help themselves by making healthy food choices. In cooking classes, kids will learn which snacks have more vitamins and fewer calories. Salad, soup, and smoothie recipes will be used so kids can taste different types of foods. They will learn how much food their body needs each day. Kids will learn that their bodies need water and that it is important to drink water and stay hydrated, especially when playing sports.

After coming to Camp Get Fit many kids will have dreams of being athletes. Guest speakers that are famous athletes will volunteer to come to talk to the kids about how important it is to be healthy. These speakers will talk about how they wouldn't be where they are today if they didn't take care of their bodies. One of the guest speakers will be Mia Hamm, a champion soccer player. She will talk about why she loves soccer and what makes her go on even when she is tired.

If you have decided to come to this great camp, you will meet many great volunteers that are interested in helping kids get healthy. Camp Get Fit is located just outside of the peaceful town of Cleburne, Texas. When you sign up, every family member automatically gets season tickets to Dallas Cowboy football games that have been donated by the volunteers. Camp Get Fit is open during the whole summer. When you first get into Camp Get Fit, you know from the start that you will have a healthy happy time.

## The Best Volunteer Project Ever

by Jeff Dela Cruz



Imagine a place where disabled kids (in wheelchairs or on crutches due to paralysis or major injury) can play sports and games despite the fact that they are injured. That is the type of center I will try to create. This program will be a nonprofit organization. To join, the kids and their parents will just have to sign up at the center. This is a great opportunity for kids to build character, self-esteem, and to make friends that are just like them.

This volunteer project will not be easy considering the price of construction, materials and food. I will need about \$5,000,000 to make this center. It will include amenities such as basketball courts, football fields, tennis courts, soccer fields, and playgrounds. The amenities will be adjusted especially for the handicap kids. There will be adjustments such as smaller and shorter basketball courts and tennis courts, and instead of having field goal posts and goals to kick through for football and soccer fields, there will be hooplike goals in which you would throw a ball through. My center will also provide lunch for the kids who sign up. We will have a cafeteria similar to one at a school. For indoor activities we will buy things like board and video games.

My center will be called the ECDK, which stands for the Entertainment Center for Disabled Kids. Kids who are disabled can sign up for free at the center. They will be able to play sports that are specially altered for their disabilities, and play games like board games and video games. Kids will be able to be active even though they have a physical disability. If they want to, they can go indoors to play board games like Chess or Monopoly, or age appropriate video games. There will even be art supplies if kids want to make some art. All of the activities will be supervised by volunteer adults. Kids will be able to make new friends that are like them. They will also build self-confidence, character, and self-esteem. The ECDK will be open on weekends from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays because of school. Lunch will be served for free on weekends in the cafeteria. Kids will be able to pick their own food. They can also bring their own lunch if they want to.

I think this volunteer project is great for kids who feel left out because of a disability with their mobility. They will finally get a chance to have some fun. They will become new people with different personalities and new friends. Kids could make their dreams come true at ECDK. It would be a great center that could change kids' lives.

# LIFE TEEN King Quest Retreat



by Katie Szarkowski

“We have a God who loves us so much, he steps down off his throne and walks among his people,” “today I claim victory,” “go forth in truth and courage, seeking first the kingdom of God,” “Man, I’m a holy woman!,” “men, claim your baptismal promises,” “Jesus measures the universe in the span of his hand, wow, we have a big God.”

These are all bits of truth that our teens heard on the LIFE TEEN King Quest retreat in mid April. After many months of planning and praying our 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders traveled to Camp Cherry Lake for our annual Spring Retreat. This year, we invited our Confirmation class to be a part of our retreat, and it was so great to have them along!

Take a moment to imagine the scene. The room is created to look like the interior of a castle; there are chains covering the walls, and the lights come on, and you see a man chained to the wall. He is taking a minute to look back over his life to see what chained him there, drugs, alcohol, pornography, sex, cheating, and so much more. He then realizes there is more to life than just this, and he struggles to break free from the chains (sin), that have held him in the dungeon. He is free. The rest of King Quest followed the journey of this man; he was on a quest to find the King. From there we talked about who God really is; we talked about what it really means to be a man and a woman of God; we talked about sitting before the throne of Jesus and finally, we talked about being a knight for Christ. It was a really amazing weekend.

Our teens did not just sit around and listen to talks all day. They had an opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; they met in small groups; had a fun time on the inflatable games; participated in a princess party; and man’s lunch; adored Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration; and sang their hearts out in praise and worship. Father Zehler even made a special appearance as King Father Zehler and looked spectacular in his robe and crown!

I am always amazed at the relationships that are formed and strengthened when teens are taken out of their everyday environment of television, Facebook, MySpace, MTV, and iPods. The week before retreat I was watching Fox News, and my heart was broken for a sixteen year old girl in Lakeland, FL. Let me take a minute to refresh your memory about the news of the week of April 10. A girl named Tori was “talking smack” about some girls on her MySpace page, so in response to this, six girls invited her to the house to deal with the situation. In dealing with the situation, they did not sit down and talk, but they took turns beating her up. One by one, they bruised her from head to toe, beating her unconscious and then beating her again once she woke up. She begged to leave, but they continued to hold her hostage in the home. Tori would not fight back, she just continued to get mauled by each girl until she had the opportunity to escape. The girls considered it a “fair fight” because only one girl was hitting her at a time, and to top it all off they videotaped the entire thing. Why do I bring this up?

I wish that all teens could experience a time when they could get away from all the stress of high school and getting good grades; from fights and relationships; and sports and families. I wonder if the situation with Tori would have been different if someone would have invited them on a retreat. Here at Christ the King, we are empowering our teens to live in the light of the Gospel, so even when things go wrong, they have a safe place to turn, the Church. We had 37 teens attend King Quest, and they each came back a different person; for some of them, they began a personal relationship with God and for others that relationship was strengthened and renewed.

King Quest was so much more than just a time for teens to hang out; it was more than the talks, more than the inflatable games, more than the fireworks show. King Quest was a time for teens to grow in their personal relationship with a King who is madly and passionately in love with them.



## EDGE

by Katie Szarkowski

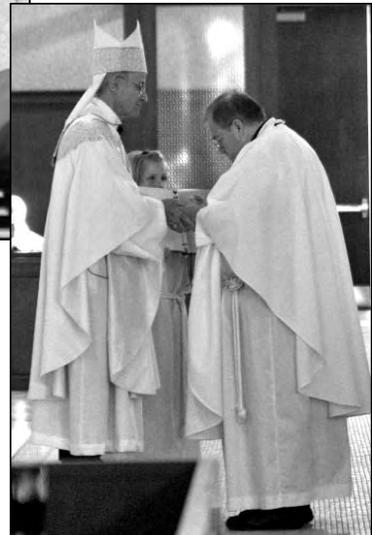
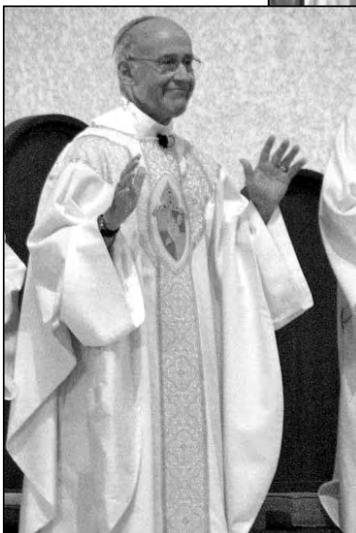
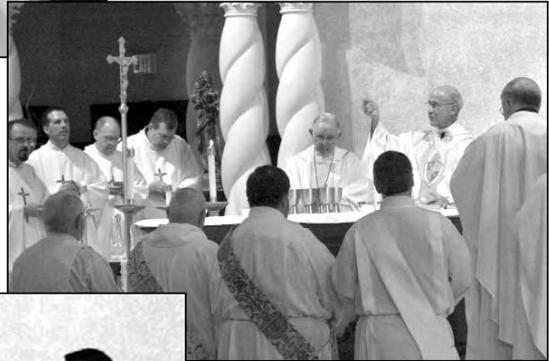
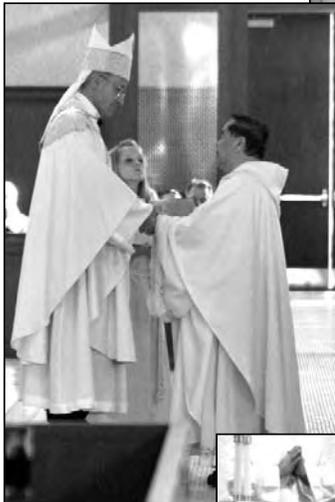
I know there have been tons of rumors flying around about the EDGE program, so I want to take a few minutes to explain how the EDGE program really will run. EDGE is for all of our rising 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It will be a time of fun and fellowship, and a time to get together and pray and to talk about the things most important to middle school students. EDGE will meet on the first Saturday of every month for a social event or service project, and then on the third Sunday of every month, we will gather for a meeting at the Church. We want our EDGE students to grow in their personal relationship with God, to build a community among themselves, and have a safe and fun place to hang out; all EDGE meetings will end with our LIFE TEEN Mass. The EDGE students will have special seats to attend Mass together. Parents, please come and worship with your student at LIFE TEEN Mass! Please see the schedule below for all the EDGE events from June until December.

We are still looking for volunteers for the EDGE program. If you feel God may be whispering to your heart, please call the youth office for more information.

- June 27-29:** EDGE Camping trip to Atlanta to see the Coca Cola Museum and Aquarium
- July 5:** EDGE beach cook out at Hugenot Park
- August 2:** EDGE day at Sea World’s Aquatica Water Park
- August 17:** EDGE Meeting 3:30-6:00 p.m. (Mass included)
- September 6:** EDGE family movie night on baseball field
- September 21:** EDGE meeting 3:30-6:00 p.m. (Mass included)
- October 4:** EDGE service project
- October 19:** EDGE meeting 3:30-6:00 p.m. (Mass included)
- November 1:** EDGE Hayride
- November 16:** EDGE meeting 3:30-6:00 p.m. (Mass included)
- December 12-13:** EDGE retreat

# Priest Convocation at San Juan del Rio

Diocesan priests recommit themselves  
to priestly service and their promise to obedience



Photos submitted by Karen Patterson