

Holy Rosary Procession and Mass



by Nick Klepac

May! Mary's Month! Christ the King parish began this wonderful month honoring Mary with a Holy Rosary Procession and Mass on May 7.

The procession began at the grotto and ended inside the church. The procession was led by the Cross-bearing servers and the Knights of Columbus in full regalia. These were followed by different communities within Christ the King; the First Communion class, general parishioners, a litter with a beautiful statue of Mary and ending with Fathers Thanh and Sal. The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary were recited during the procession in different languages: English, Vietnamese, Taglog (Philippine) and Spanish.

The weather was crisp, filled with the sounds of people walking and praying, slowly moving to the church. I was honored to be in front, as a Knight, leading the procession. Once the Rosary was completed, the singing started as we moved to our pews to share in the celebration of Mass.

Before the Mass began, the Vietnamese children performed a beautiful Ceremonial Flower Offering. The readings and Gospel were proclaimed in various languages as were the accompanying songs.

A reception followed the Mass, with food provided by CKCCW, the Vietnamese and PhilAm communities and Knights of Columbus.

What a wonderful morning, honoring Mary, our Mother!

Inside this issue of Christ the King Courier:	
Pope John Paul and St. Maria Faustina.....4	Lady in White.....19
Spotlight - Al Martin.....13	Gratitude.....19
Roller Skating in the 40s.....18	Catholic Women's Conference.....26

Father Thanh's Message

Soon after arriving in America I began learning about customs, traditions and celebrations relative to the land where freedom reigns. On Memorial Day we remember the dead especially those who had sacrificed their lives in order to preserve the freedom we have come to expect. But remembering those who died to protect us did not start with the wars we learn about in history class. As Christians we remember that Christ died to protect all of us. And as Christians we know that forgetting is the great sin for all sin stems from forgetting. The term "memorial" means to "remember"... my reflection is on why we should not forget.

We must remember lest we forget that we are connected...one to another and to God. We are His children. In our secular society we are taught to forget this basic fact. We are taught over and over again that we are merely a bundle of uncontrollable urges...people therefore can rape each other and kill all we hold dear, after all, what more can you expect? Are we responsible for that which has been determined uncontrollable?

With the seductive, incessant advertising that leads us to believe that we are merely consuming machines, we are taught to forget that a person lives on more than bread alone. So we go out and purchase things we do not need, things which will eventually suffocate our space and dry up our spirits. We cheapen our holy days when we don't remember their reason for existing. Holy days and days like Memorial Day are not days to reflect and remember. They become just another day for shopping and for getting those wonderful discounts. Time which could be used in remembering and thanking God and the people who sacrificed so much for us is spent thinking about "me, me, me."

Day after day we are told it is OK to do our own thing. We can do as we please and should feel no remorse when we hurt others with our words and our deeds. We are individuals with rights but no obligations. We no longer realize that by acting in this way how much we are really hurting ourselves. We forget that we belong to the human family, the Mystical Body of Christ and we can do and say anything we like without concern for others who may find it offensive or hurtful. We forget that we are children of God, made to God's image and likeness and that we have tremendous dignity and therefore there are certain things we simply must never do or say or take part in that would defile that image.

If we believe the lies we are being taught, we will fall deeper into sin and we will worship only the insistent present and become our own self-measurement living out the creed, "If it feels good, do it." People do terrible things because they have forgotten who they are. The truth is we are not just a commodity, a lump of clay, a solitary atom with no past, no future, without any connections with God or humanity. We must remember truths that have been taught down through the ages. We must remember who we are...we are the daughters and sons of God.

For God tells us that we are His beloved. We must act accordingly. Remember the turning point for the wayward son in the Prodigal Son parable? It was when he remembered where he came from...he had a home and a name and a father who cared for him...what was he doing here in this land where no one knew him nor wanted to? When he remembered who he was and whose child he was he repented and reconnected with the sources of his dignity.

It is no wonder the ancients held that forgetfulness was the source of all sin. Basically kids do drugs, spouses have affairs, people rape each other, men and women embezzle, and people hate and harbor prejudices because they have no sense of who they are. We lose our sense of solidarity with all creation and seek answers in all the wrong places. If they remembered who they are they would not commit these sins.

This is why we should never forget. Having that sense of being a part of humanity we can pass on to others the knowledge they too are children of God, not just self-sufficient beings but a part of a community, a nation. We can help others to find ways to remember that we are interconnected, co-joined. We are all children of the same God and we must be responsible stewards of creation. We are our brother's keepers, today...here in this time and place of history. We must remember.

There are several ways we can make the presence of God more apparent. Most important is to remember God's presence and love. At the Last Supper Jesus commanded: "Do this in memory of Me." We hear those words at every Mass we attend. It reminds us of all that Jesus has done. "do this..." means not only celebrating the Eucharist, but also breaking the bread of ourselves as Jesus has done. Serving one another as He has done...helping all to remember that everyone needs love and encouragement and forgiveness. Remember the Eucharist and all it contains.

Remember the blessings of the past and the people who bestowed them on us. Those blessings may be our parents, our family members, our friends, our teachers, or other people who made a difference in our life. The blessings they shared with you include their time, talent and treasure. Pass those blessings on to people you meet every chance you get.

Remember that Christ the King Church was founded on the blessings of those in the past. They helped to establish the foundation, giving us a solid tradition and legacy, one which we must care for and help to continue to grow. We must remember to take the time to realize and relish these blessings. Because of them we have a vibrant community with great hospitality and spirit-filled worship. We have been blessed with successful ministries and a Blue Ribbon school. Remember also our past crosses, the burdens and sufferings that gave us golden opportunities for growth. Remember and thank God and pass it on.

Because of the blessing of God's forgiveness and love, we must remember that we have the opportunity to begin a new day...a new hour. Let's not forget who we are...WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN. And as God's children our lives must reflect the image of our God who always remembers: "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget. See upon the palm of my hands I have written your name." (Isaiah 49:15-16).

May we always remember; and I hope that you have a blessed Memorial Day with those you love.



Happy Fathers' Day!



Christ the King Courier

742 N. Arlington Road
Jacksonville, FL 32211
Phone: (904) 724-0080
Email: CKCourier@gmail.com

Publisher:
Father Thanh Thai Nguyen

Managing Editor:
Carol -Ann Black

Associate Editor:
Mary Ann Sullivan

Photographers:
Bill Coppedge
Kevin Wolfe

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 them closer to God and our parish church family. Wisdom and enlightenment are two of God's many 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.

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. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

Letters

Dear Daisy:

The Farm Workers Ministry is overwhelmed by the generosity of the members of Christ the King. Thanks to you for such great promotion and beautiful brochure, the recent food drive and collection exceeded any past quantity of donations.

We are very pleased that the congregation of Christ the King fully understands the desperate plight of most of our migrant and immigrant farm workers and their families during these difficult times. Their response to these needs is truly in the spirit of Jesus and we thank them most gratefully.

May God bless you all.

Best personal regards,
Olga P. Lara-Moser
Coordinator
Catholic Charities Farm Workers Ministry

Note: Daisy McDonald is the parish coordinator of the Farm Workers Ministry food drive. Originally this was a CKCCW project, but Daisy was so effective that Father Thanh asked her to extend her efforts to the entire parish—with great success and generosity.



Dear Parishioners:

We would like to thank all the members of Christ the King Parish who donated socks and underwear for the members of Weapons Company 2nd Battalion 9th Marines that was requested by our son Captain Ronald L Diefenbach who commanded Weapons Company. Again, our thanks for those donations and our request to keep the men and women who are still deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and who are still in harm's way in your hearts and prayers. Again, thank you, and God bless you all.

Nydia and Richard Diefenbach



May 1, 2011

Dear Christ the King Catholic Church and Father Thanh,
Again, as each month, we at St. Francis Soup Kitchen thank Christ the King for your generosity to support the soup kitchen. Your ongoing gifts of support do so much – buying food and some clothing, paying JEA bills and buying much needed paper products.
Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,
Diane McVety
Co-Director, St. Francis Soup Kitchen

Mass Class

Presenter: Father Sal
Date: August 3,
Time: 7:00 p.m. right after Feast with Friends
Come to refresh your knowledge of the Mass
Why do we say and do what we do
throughout the Mass?
Location: to be announced. Check your bulletin

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.

Editors Corner

As I begin my column for this May/June issue of the Courier, I have just finished listening to radio reports of the devastating tornado that tore through Joplin, Missouri. That report was followed by discussion of the Mississippi River flood levels that will carry on well into the summer. And, if that isn't enough, how about the tornadoes that ripped up Alabama just a few weeks ago? All the cash, earth-moving equipment, construction workers and government aid cannot "make it better." But the spirit of the people in these stricken areas is remarkable—"We're doin' the best we can; neighbors are helping neighbors; all we can do is pray for our loved ones." And so that is what we can do also—pray for the comfort of those whose family and friends are gone. Remember them in each rosary you say; each Mass you offer; each hour of Adoration. As well, maybe you can find time and cash to send some relief item as requested in our Sunday Bulletin.



When we began work on this issue of Courier, we fretted loudly that we must have nothing happening during these months. No articles coming in. What are we going to do? How wrong could we be!!! Women were at the forefront of our activities with the First Annual Catholic Women's Conference and the convention for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Both of these events addressed the needs and interests of women of all ages, and are well covered in this issue.

Activities among the young people of the parish are really numerous and quite inspiring in this issue. We can read about First Communion and enjoy the pictures; we can learn about the School Retreat with Aslan* as an inspirational figure; and then the Teen Retreat, which moved our young people in very special ways. Our parish and its school have been blessed with some very creative leadership in nourishing the spiritual life of our youth. In addition we have some original poetry from Gracie Kormaz and Allie Holbrook, and a wonderful mural created by another student from our school, Caroline McClellan.

Finally, I want to recommend to you the Spotlight article about Al Martin. Al is such a fixture here at Christ the King that we run the risk of forgetting all that he does as an individual and as a member of various ministries to help make this parish the wonderful place it is. Thank you to Charm Saults and Paul Ghiotto for putting together this article.

Have a fun, safe, relaxing summer. Consider writing for the Courier. Your personal articles are the most satisfying for our readers.

* Aslan is the God-figure in *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis.



We welcome Carol Warwin to the office staff.

Carol is working directly with the Pastoral staff as secretary.



Pope John Paul II and Saint Maria Faustina

by Yolanda Cerqueira

"BE NOT AFRAID!" I venture to say that there are few among us who do not know that these words were uttered by Pope John Paul II early on in his papacy when addressing his fellow Poles who were still facing the depredations of communism. Powerful words spoken by a powerful man that led to the complete breakdown of communism in eastern Europe. He did this not with guns or bullets but with constant prayer, courageously speaking out on the evils of communism with the sincere belief that all men should stand tall in freedom.



What is the connection between John Paul and Saint Maria Faustina? The obvious one is that they were both Poles. John Paul was the younger of the two but both had decided early on in their lives to dedicate it to God. Both were deeply in love with their Lord and desired to serve Him whatever the price.

It was to Sister Faustina in the year of 1931 that Jesus first appeared, and asked that she see that an image of the Divine Mercy be made for the world to see. That image, so well known now, was one of Jesus in a white robe with two rays emanating from his heart. They were to be red and white which represents the blood and water that came forth from his pierced sides at the crucifixion. At the bottom of the image were to be the words, "Jesus, I trust in you."

All that was revealed to Sister Faustina can be found in her diary of 600 pages which tell of

her personal experiences and mystical insights. The message of Divine Mercy is that God is waiting to pour out his mercy on each and every one of us. Faustina served as the secretary and apostle of His mercy. Jesus revealed to her all the ways we could respond to that mercy and He is just waiting to shower those graces upon us.

In message 1784 Jesus says to us, "**How very much I desire the salvation of soul!...I want to pour out My divine life into human souls and to sanctify them, if only they were willing to accept my grace. The greatest sinners would achieve great sanctify, if only they would trust in My mercy. The very inner depths of My being are filled to overflowing with mercy, and it is being poured out upon all I have created. My delight is to act in a human soul and to fill it with My mercy and to justify it.**"

The beauty of the words of Jesus speaking to Sister Faustina cannot fail to move you and want you to act upon it. Such was the case with our now Blessed John Paul who played a large part in bringing Faustina's message to the world. It was he who said at her canonization in 2000 that the message of Divine Mercy is "God's gift to our time." He went on to say that in a world that is filled with suffering and violence that we should seek refuge in His Divine Mercy.

Again from the diary of Sister Faustina (message 699) note how precisely our loving Lord sets even the date for the celebration of this feast. **The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.**

And so we did, here at Christ the King, as we have for so many years but this time we had the added joy of celebrating the beatification of Pope John Paul on the very same day. The image of the Divine Mercy and a portrait of John Paul were prominently displayed in the sanctuary.

It truly was a solemn Holy Hour led by our pastor, Father Thanh, which began with the Rite of Exposition. Father then led us in a reflection in which he told us that the mercy of God was our only hope and as we walk through the daily difficulties of life that we learn always to whisper these words, whatever we are encountering, "Jesus, I trust in you! Jesus, I trust in you!"

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy followed this, led by our seminarian, Richard Pagano, and in keeping with the international flavor of our church, each decade was represented by a member of that community. So we were privileged to have the nations of Vietnam, Haiti, Philippines, Latin America and the United States.



Interspersed between the prayers and the chaplet was an ensemble of musicians who with the congregation offered joyful praise to the Lord. They say that lifting our voices in song is another way of praying; the reverence and joy shown by all must have been pleasing to the Lord.

Father Sal gave a reflection on the beatification of John Paul II who spoke of him as being electrifying in his zeal to make changes in the world. He certainly did that with the way he stood up to the Communists. John Paul did not back down and he knew how to pray. He stood up for Christians and the truth.

Our seminarian, Richard, led us in the Prayer of Intercession through Blessed John Paul II and then the Hour of Adoration was closed with Benediction led by our pastor.

It would not be correct to say that this was the finish. One could see on the faces of those present (and there were many) great joy and their sense of being in a place where the mercy of God was truly present. Alleluia!

RCIA Comments

by Darlene O'Neal

The following comments were submitted by some of the RCIA class members. Please locate their pictures on the RCIA poster in the gathering area and let all of them know we're happy to have them in our parish family.

Welcome to Christ the King!

When I began my RCIA journey, I really thought that I was prepared to become a Catholic. I had worshiped with my family at Christ the King for over twenty years. I was a certified Diocesan catechist, and I was a member of a Why Catholic? faith sharing group.

I knew Jesus Christ as my savior, and turned to prayer and the Bible for guidance on a daily basis. What more did I need to learn to become a full member of the Church? I soon found out that the Holy Spirit worked through RCIA to grow my faith in ways that I couldn't have imagined. I'm so thankful for the discipleship of the RCIA core team and sponsors, for their example of Christ at work in the world, and for their unselfish gift of time to mentor catechumens and candidates by their personal witness. What a privilege it has been to get to know this great community of believers and to finally know that being a Catholic is not just about being



"instructed" in the faith, but about "living" your faith in the parish community.

Barbara Boutte

The Easter Vigil - RCIA Class of 2011

by Darlene O'Neal

The Easter Vigil is considered the "mother of all



vigils." This is the night that the Church keeps watch, awaiting the resurrection of Christ and celebrates it in the sacraments. This was the



night that the Catechumens and Candidates had anticipated since the inquiry sessions began last August.

It was a beautiful night as the RCIA class and their sponsors, along with other



parishioners, gathered near the outdoor fire pit for the Service of Light.

As the Paschal candle was lit and blessed, everyone processed into the darkened church where each had his/her own small candle lit from the Paschal candle. This Paschal candle symbolizes the triumph of Jesus and the Light against death and darkness.

The Mass began with Father Sal Di Fazio chanting the Easter Proclamation, the Exultet. This ancient hymn of praise of the risen Christ is sung over the Paschal candle and has been part of the Roman tradition since the ninth century. From the Liturgy of the Word we heard about the story of creation, reflecting on God's interventions in time, and concluding with the resurrection of Christ. Some of the readings reflect on Baptism, the sacrament in which those who lived in darkness and death are buried, and are baptized in Christ, filled with the light and life.

The Easter Vigil, since ancient times, has been the time for adults to be baptized and enter into the Church. This year five people were baptized, confirmed and received the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Two of the class were confirmed and three will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday by the bishop at the Cathedral in St. Augustine. One of the class will be returning when the next sessions begin again in August.

The newly baptized are: Dreon Benton, "Thang" Lam Cin, Gary Foxworth, Tammy Foxworth, and Michael Parenteau. Barbara Boutte and Diem Tran were confirmed, and all received Holy Communion. Jamie Carreon, Stacey Dixon and Adam Toro will be confirmed by the bishop in St. Augustine in June. Pam Soule will rejoin the RCIA class in August.

The church was decorated beautifully and the King's Choir was outstanding. This was truly a wonderful Easter Vigil.

A special thank you to all the sponsors: Mark Plotz, Andre Boutte, Jeff Kress, Lian Thang, Melba Bellefontaine, Lyle Stewart, Marie Stewart, Jean Maroney, Keith Hicks, Wendy Le and Louie Soule.



Thank you to the RCIA team: Deacon James Scott, George Barletta, Mary Rouse, Kevin



Wolfe, Mary Jo Hires, Berry and Norma Landers, and Louie and Darlene O'Neal. Thank you to Father Sal for his spiritual guidance.



RCIA Comments

RCIA was a wonderful experience. I learned so much more than I ever expected. The team was great. They made me feel so comfortable and welcome. It was wonderful to have so many caring people there to answer questions, pray and help us through our journey. I never expected so many people to be there to help with anything we needed.

Tammy Foxworth

RCIA has been a wonderful experience for me. Through this program, I have met many kind, sincere and blessed people. In this busy world, it is hard to find people that still "stay-in-touch" with God, but in RCIA, I find them.

Personally, I think God has brought me closer to Him through this program. I have learned the meaning of each sacrament that is performed in church. I have gained a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church and its rituals. Most of all, when I am in the RCIA class, I feel free. I feel as if the competition, busyness and hardness of this world is gone, and what is important is me being surrounded by God and the simplicity of His people.

Diem Tran

RCIA has meant a lot to me. From the leadership with Deacon Scott and George Barletta to my sponsor, Lyle Stewart, everyone

has been a great help. The main thing RCIA did for me is open my eyes to the Holy Eucharist.

Gary Foxworth



First Communion Weekend



by Lucille Guzzone

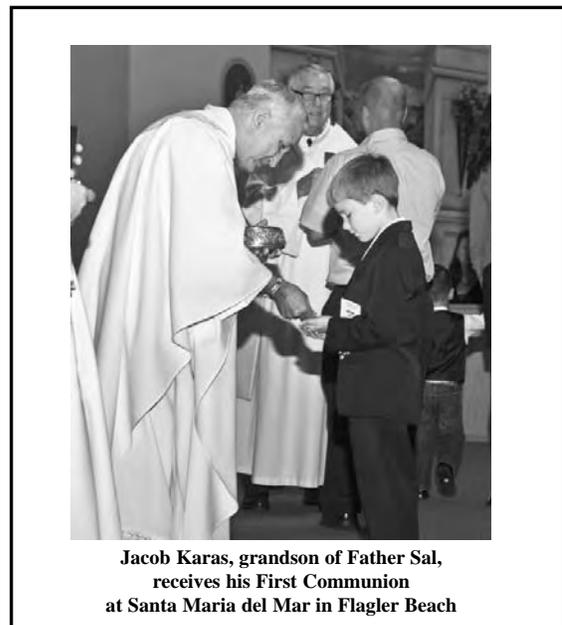
Parish children who received Communion for the first time on May 8, 2011, participated in a preliminary event which led up to that special day. For the first time, the little ones experienced a three-day weekend filled

with various activities of creativity, song and prayer. On Friday evening, May 6, the class attended a retreat/workshop. They visited the church where Father Thanh reviewed, explained and, in some cases, introduced them to the significance of certain items on the altar, colors and meanings of the priest's vestments, and other information pertaining to the church itself. The children also designed placemats and wrote letters to Jesus. They were treated to a pizza dinner, as well.

The next morning they took part in the May procession honoring the Blessed Mother. As they marched, they recited the Rosary with other members of the parish and then attended Mass.

On Sunday morning, at the 9:00 a.m. Mass, the communicants received the Eucharist for the first time.

Although the children prepared for many weeks in regular classroom study, this weekend was the culmination of all they had anticipated. Their hearts were filled with purity and innocence. Hopefully, as they continue to receive the Eucharist in the days to come, their love for God and His Church will remain in their lives as they continue on their faith journey.



Jacob Karas, grandson of Father Sal, receives his First Communion at Santa Maria del Mar in Flagler Beach

Real change is coming!

by Mickey Kenny

176 days before November 27, 2011

It is and should be exciting for each of us. **We need to be prepared!** In the first article in the *Courier* on the subject of these changes the article referenced the reasons for the changes. In the second article the changes in the people's responses for the greeting, penitential act, Gloria, at the gospel, and the Nicene Creed were given.

Because of the importance of the Third Edition Roman Missal, there have been and will be throughout the 146 days many sources of information and education. As much research as possible has been done on these articles, but it is now time to refer onward and upward! To be one hundred percent sure you have read only the best and most accurate information check with one of these sources.

The *Magnificat* has several spiritual articles in the opening pages and, among them, will be an article "Preparing for the Roman Missal, Third Edition." For those of us who do not have subscriptions to the *Magnificat*, copies of prior months are frequently left in the chapel with other periodicals and prayers. Feel free to use these.

The *St. Augustine Catholic* will be having a "Theology 101" series which surely will have great information in a manner we will easily understand.

USCCB has an entire section of "Welcoming the Roman Missal" with many, many links and articles.

All of these sources are clear, direct, informative, and above all totally accurate. Please use these resources in the remaining time we have to learn how we will be affected and why.

New Bishop for St. Augustine Diocese

On April 27, 2011, Most Reverend Felipe de Jesus Estevez was appointed Bishop of St. Augustine. As Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, he currently oversees the Ministry of Pastoral Services/Lay Apostolate, which includes youth and young adult ministry, campus ministry, rural life, family life, and respect life ministries, airport and seaport ministries, as well as all the apostolic movements and lay associations.

Bishop Estevez was born the second of three children of Adriano and Estrella Estevez on February 5, 1946, in Havana, Cuba. He came to the United States on a Pedro Pan flight as a teenager. (Operation Pedro Pan flights were organized by Catholic Church leaders following the Cuban revolution. More than 14,000 Cuban children were sent by their parents to this country where they were raised by relatives, foster families, or orphanages. Family reunions often didn't occur for many years, if ever.) Most of his family lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Bishop Estevez was ordained in 1970 and has done extensive studies in spiritual theology, earning a doctorate from Gregorian University in Rome. He is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Italian. His priestly ministry has taken him to Honduras, where he served as an associate pastor and on the faculty of two different seminaries. From 2001 to 2003, Bishop Estevez served as spiritual director of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, where he served as rector from 1980 to 1986. He was pastor of St. Agatha Parish in Miami for 14 years, while also directing the Campus Ministry at Florida International University. Bishop Estevez was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, November 21, 2003, and consecrated to the episcopacy January 7, 2004.

The above information was taken largely from the Archdiocese of Miami website, www.miamiarch.org



Invite Them Back

by Yolanda Cerqueira

How many of us here at Christ the King are really aware of the ongoing stewardship campaign of the last few months entitled "Invite Them Back." Truthfully, now—is this something that has sort of slipped in or out of your busy life? Maybe, for a few of you the idea of welcoming back those who have fallen away from the faith has captivated your attention.

If you come down on the side of those whose thoughts have slipped away, you are missing a great opportunity to bring a family member, close friend, or even a neighbor back to the faith. Our priests here at Christ the King are deeply concerned for our spiritual welfare and that extends to those who are near and dear to us. Both of our priests, Father Thanh and Father Sal, have given their commitment, their time, and whatever resources to bring one lost sheep back into the fold.

It was interesting, and at the same time appalling to learn that the largest denomination in the United States at this very time is "Non-Practicing Catholics!" How did this all happen?

We all can come up with some pretty good reasons why we don't go to Mass on Sunday. If you are a parent it wouldn't surprise me that your young adult probably said something like this—"Why do I have to go to worship God in a church? If God is everywhere then I choose to worship the Lord out at the beach or in the woods where I can really commune with nature." I suspect kids have been saying that since time immemorial and probably some older folks too.

That's an easy one, but some of us have been hurt by things said or done in the past by church members or even by the clergy. Perhaps it is only a simple case of misunderstanding, that could be cleared up with a good explanation.

Some reasons can run pretty deep and leave emotional scars that make us feel unworthy to return. This is not true! We have a loving God who cares for us in a most tender way. "Oh, I've had an abortion and feel unworthy." You are worthy and your loving Father is waiting for you with open arms!

There are folks who believe that once someone has been divorced, they may no longer receive the sacraments. So why bother to go if you are unable to take Communion!!! A divorced person may participate in the full life of the church, as long as they are living a moral life.

Those are just a few of the obvious examples; there are many more and our priests want to meet with you and get to the root causes of those painful happenings.

If you are reading this article maybe you know someone who would benefit from a call from the priest. Please let us know. We need your assistance in order to make this plan work.

One way is via e-mail, to laurie@ctkcatholic.com. If e-mail isn't your favorite way to communicate you have the option of dropping their name in the collection basket, with the pertinent information. You may also speak to one of our priests. The choice is yours and we really are counting on your help.

Once the information is received, the Welcome Committee will mail them a "miss you" card, inviting them to an event like "Meet the Pastor" within the month or so.

These words are for you to act upon for yourself or for someone whom you know needs them. All is completely confidential and all information given is kept private.

Jesus is knocking at your door. Will you answer the call?



Sunday Morning Bible Study Has moved

To Thursday at 12:30 at Mickey's house.
Give her a call for further details at
725-9361 or email msjfk50@hotmail.com
Study of Genesis will begin in about two weeks.

Letters to Jesus

Thank you for everything in my life I love you
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

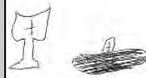
From: John
to: Jesus



Dear Jesus, thank you for all the food you have us. Thank you for the ocean for sea animals. Also thank you for loving us all equally. Thank you for helping ~~me~~ be good. Thank you for making me an every body. Love, Angelle River



Dear Jesus,
I thank you Jesus for giving us our first Holy Communion.
From Christiana



Dear Jesus, Thank you for letting me receive my first Holy Communion. I love you!
From, Anne

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for this day at first Holy Communion
from Hunter



Thank you Jesus, for my Family and friends the world food, water, shelter and every thing else!
Love,
Marion Perez



Dear Jesus,
I love you
I hope you are doing good
and thank you for dying on the cross for us. I love you.
Emilie

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for this day that really means so much. It really is great for this day. I'm really glad I'm getting really close to you and love you.



Dear Jesus,
Thank you for giving us our parents, our friends, the food, we eat and everything else.
Love, Max

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for making my family, for Chipper, many blessings & Church, for the world and everything in it.
Love,
Caitlyn



Jesus thank you for loving us and Jesus you are the best in the world
thank you Jesus for the pool.
Thank you for keeping my family safe. thank you
Love,
Caitlyn



Meet The Pastor



By Laurie Plotz
Welcome Committee

Thank you to new members, Ron, Angie, Bruce, Alice, Adam, Mary and Loan for not only attending our Meet the Pastor event but for making it special. We had a great dinner prepared by Father Sal. The laughter, story telling and faith sharing made for a very memorable evening. A very special thanks for Fathers Thanh and Sal as well as Richard for opening their home to us. I would also like to thank Jane, Gloria, Helen, Bill, Louie and Darlene for their help with this special evening.



European Court Affirms Crucifixes May be Displayed in Public Schools

by Terrence McKeegan, J.D.
Taken from Catholic Family & Human Rites Institute website
Strasbourg, March 24

Last Friday, a European Court affirmed the right of Italians to display crucifixes in their public schools, signaling a significant victory for religious freedom in Europe.

The 15-2 decision of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), the highest European court charged with interpreting the European Convention on Human Rights, overturned a unanimous 2009 judgment by a lower chamber.

Sole Lautsi, an atheist, originally brought the case in Italian courts where she lost. She then turned to the European court, which originally supported her arguments on the grounds that religious symbols violated the right to "freedom of thought, conscience, and religion" and a child's right to a secular education.

The 2009 decision resulted in an unprecedented outcry from European states and politicians. Ten European countries intervened in the case, while 10 additional European countries supported Italy's position publicly. Dozens of European politicians also joined the case as interveners.

"Overturning the decision of the Chamber represents a rejection of a 'One Size Fits All' Europe and a vindication of its pluralist tradition ... for recognizing religious symbols in the public space," said Professor Joseph Weiler of the New York University School of Law. Weiler, an Orthodox Jew, represented eight countries defending the crucifix display before the court.

The final decision can be summarized by the concurring opinion of Judge Giovanni Bonello who wrote, "The Convention has given this Court the remit to enforce freedom of religion and of conscience, but has not empowered it to bully States into secularism or to coerce countries into schemes of religious neutrality." "It is for each individual State to



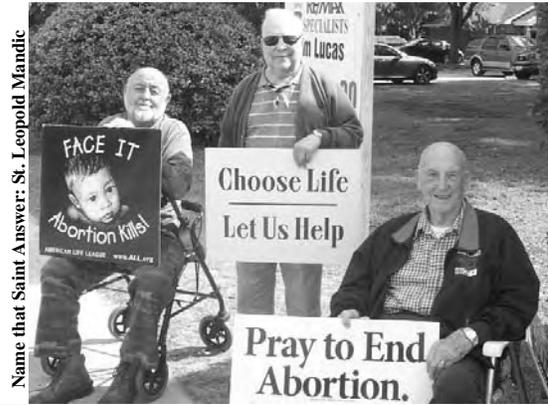
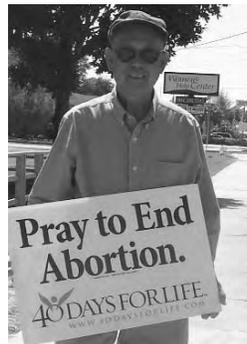
choose whether to be secular or not, and whether, and to what extent, to separate Church and governance."

"This case sets a very important precedent for the Court of accepting neutrality over the previously accepted concept of secularization," said Grégor Puppinc, Director of the Strasbourg-based European Centre for Law and Justice, whose intervention was supported by 79 members of European parliaments. **"Secularization is exclusive because it favors a secular belief system to the exclusion of all other beliefs, especially religious beliefs, while the principle of neutrality is inclusive because it allows both religious and secular**

beliefs in the public space," said Puppinc.

The governments of Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Russian Federation, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Romania and the Republic of San Marino joined Italy as interveners in the case. Their position was supported publicly by Albania, Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

"A loss in this case would have meant, in essence, that it would be illegal under the European Convention on Human Rights to have religious symbols in any state institution anywhere in Europe," said Roger Kiska, Legal Counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund that represented 33 Members of the European Parliament in the case. "That would have set a dangerous example for the rest of the world."



Name that Saint Answer: St. Leopold Mandic



40 Days for Life

by Trudy Perez-Poveda

Friday, March 25, the day we commemorate the Annunciation to Mary and the Incarnation (Conception) of Jesus, which is exactly nine months from the feast of Jesus' Birth, our Family for LIFE was in full splendor!

Over 40 of us stood praying, remembering His Passion, in front of A Woman's Choice of Jacksonville, 4131 University Blvd. S. We prayed that all the mothers with death appointments for their children would be moved to change their minds and keep on driving.

We gather EVERY Friday, the busiest of the abortion days, both in the morning at 8:30 a.m. and in the afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

We pray for the mothers, the employees, the owner and the abortionists. They are all children of God, which makes us all Family.

We pray for the off-duty policeman hired by the abortuary, the passersby and all those who are confused by thinking the killing of an unborn child should be a legal choice by a mother.

We know that God sent His Son to die for all of us!

When Moses was leading the Jews out of bondage in Egypt, the Egyptians were behind him and the Red Sea was in front of him. He was probably praying a prayer like this:

God, I can't, you can, and you promised!



Sign



by Paul V. Esposito, a Catholic lawyer who writes on a variety of pro-life topics. He and his wife Kathy live in Elmhurst, Illinois, where they are raising their six kids.

submitted by Frank Japour

As we were leaving Mass, a friend handed me a note left in her mailbox by an anonymous neighbor. Its first words were “SHAME ON YOU PEOPLE,” certainly a tip-off that it wasn’t an invitation to a picnic. Sue and her husband Larry are devout Catholics, law-abiding and peace loving people. What crime could they have committed to warrant such a nasty note?

Turns out that it was all about a sign on their front lawn. It wasn’t big or graphic. Its message was simple: “Abortion stops a beating heart.” Although claiming to agree “100 percent,” the neighbor (and supposedly others) didn’t like the message being “thrown in [their] faces” and “shove[d] . . . down everyone’s throat.” Proclaiming it in the neighborhood was “[un]reasonable” and “gross.” Twice more the note repeated the shame theme. Good thing that neighbor agreed 100 percent. The note would have been *really* nasty otherwise.

Recently, a much bigger sign found its way into a much bigger neighborhood. The pro-life organization *Life Always* paid to display a four-story billboard in the SoHo neighborhood of New York City. It showed a beautiful six-year old black child, above whom was another simple message: “The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb.” The sign caused a firestorm. Pro-abortion Rev. Al Sharpton said the sign “sends a message of racial profiling and discourages a woman’s right to choose.” Planned Parenthood, which in 2010 did 17,000 abortions in New York City alone, called the sign “an offensive and condescending effort to stigmatize and shame African American women . . .” But two black pastors head *Life Always*. PP also claimed that the sign seeks to “discredit the work of Planned Parenthood,” a telling statement about PP’s *real* mission given that the sign does not mention PP. Uncomfortable about the controversy, Lamar Advertising took down the sign.

When the subject is abortion, reactions to a pro-life message are often fierce. Walter Hoye knows that truth only too well. Hoye, age 54, is a black pastor in south Berkeley, California. In 2009, Rev. Hoye went to abortion clinics in Oakland to pass out pro-life literature on the sidewalk. He carried a sign: “Jesus loves you and your baby. Let us help you.” He was prosecuted for violating an Oakland ordinance requiring abortion protesters from approaching within eight feet of women, staffers, and escorts entering clinics. Clinic staffers would surround him, block his signs with large pieces of cardboard, and make loud noise to block out his words. At trial the defense produced video evidence that the prosecution conjured up phantom victims. In the end, it didn’t matter. Hoye was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The battle to rebuild a culture of life is no picnic. It will not be won by a slick slogan or by yet another parish program. It cannot be won with just a small cadre of pro-life warriors. The battle for the culture is a bat-

tle for the hearts and minds of people in our homes, schools, workplaces, and parishes. It is often waged house-to-house, face-to-face. And as any war veteran will agree, those close-in battles are the worst. There *will* be casualties.

That’s what makes us afraid to join the fight: it could be us. Will my spouse and kids roll their eyes at me if I say “no” to the wrong television shows or movies? Will my boyfriend stop liking me if I tell him that I want to wait? Will word spread around the office if I tell a colleague that I’m pro-life or if I challenge a colleague’s pro-abortion views? What if clients see me holding a sign or praying near an abortion clinic? Do I dare vote against a pro-abortion candidate from my lifelong party? What will my pastor say if I pass out pro-life literature? Should I preach about the unborn more than once a year, if that much? Fear can be very real.

As Jesus moved from town to town His popularity grew, and why not. He healed the sick, chased out demons, and fed 9,000 hungry people with just a few loaves and fishes. But He had a more important mission to accomplish. He had to repair a breach caused by Adam’s willful disobedience. That breach could only be fixed by His obeying the Father’s will, wherever that would lead him. Jesus knew just where it would lead Him. The thought made Him sweat blood. Yet He obeyed. He carried the Cross to His death, but not before He was betrayed, denied, unjustly accused, slapped, scourged, whipped, spit on, mocked, and pierced with thorns and nails. How did He overcome the fear of all that? In a word, Love. He loved His people so much that He could endure whatever came His way. Jesus’ love even allowed Him to die for the people who were killing Him. That includes us.

Jesus told us that if we want to be His followers, we must carry the cross of insult and ridicule, rejection and even persecution. Christianity is not for the faint of heart. Ask any martyr. But we can do it if we remember that love overcomes fear. Rev. Hoye did not need to go to jail. The judge offered him a different sentence if he would stay 100 yards from a clinic, about over 37 times the required distance. Love for the unborn and their mothers would not allow him to do so. He chose the Cross. It was his sign of love.

In love we must speak the truth, come what may. Abortion *does* stop a beating heart. The most dangerous place for an African American *is* in the womb. In New York City, where about 41 percent of all babies are aborted, the rate for African Americans is about 60 percent. More black babies are killed than see the light of day. But those messages must not just come from signs. The pro-life message must come from each of us. Face to face, heart to heart. Will it be a struggle? Sure, for love does not end fear. But love overcomes fear. Love will help us to speak about the things that need to be heard to those who may not want to hear it. Love will help us to witness in ways that fear would otherwise cause us to reject. We just need to remember what perfect Love did for us. On the Cross. That is *our* sign.

The only sign that matters.



Clergy Burnout

by Frank Becht

Much has been written in the press in recent years regarding pastors and clergy who struggle to handle their daily responsibilities. It seems that much of what the press relates to deals with the non-Catholic clergy who are married and struggle to perform their religious duties and maintain a good family relationship. This is understandable since most would be married with families, which creates an extra burden to find the time for church and family. That can be very misleading, for our local parish priests also struggle to keep up with daily demands that are placed upon them. On the surface one might consider Catholic clergy as having an advantage since they do not have to juggle time for family.

At Christ the King, it's been said that we have two parishes, thus we have an example in that of our Pastor struggling to meet the needs of two communities, not a church and family, but two churches. Our Pastoral Assistant, Father Sal, a widower, father and grandfather, can testify to the demands of family. He can also testify to the heavy demands placed upon his time at Christ the King; he has indicated that it is much greater than he ever imagined.

Since Vatican II, there has been a tremendous loss of priests and religious, including nuns who ran our Catholic schools. Today many parishes have an inadequate number of priests, particularly in the rural areas where many priests must serve more than one mission church. In our own Christ the King, at one time we had as many as three priests serving the parish. It's been said that in effect we have two parishes for our Vietnamese community must be handled as separate community to a great degree, although Father Thanh has made great strides in unifying our communities. This situation is a universal problem not only in the United States but worldwide. The answer is we need more priests.

Over the past several years, I've personally heard numerous comments from fellow parishioners, "What do our priests do?" I'm sure this is something our priests have also heard for most people have no earthly idea what goes on in the rectory and the demands placed upon them unless you are there. The several employees and volunteers can well vouch for the fact that our pastor and pastoral assistant have heavy demands placed upon them from early morning till late in the evening. They only get one day off each week to try to recoup even though they have no limit on their work-day hours.

An example of their daily routine includes saying of the daily breviary prayers, daily mass, numerous phone calls, people coming in to see them for a myriad of reasons, visiting the sick in the hospitals, nursing homes and those shut in at home. Plus there are the many ministry meetings they must attend after hours at church or at the homes of parishioners, marital and grief counseling, baptisms, funerals, and community involvement. Then there's the time needed to prepare for the many homilies required in their daily Masses and numerous other unexpected happenings. Can you imagine the stress placed on them by the constant pressure to counsel and come up with needed solutions to many unsolvable problems?

In June 2009, the **Year Of The Priest** was declared by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy by Pope Benedict XVI to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests. The spiritual impact of the loss of priests has been

horrendous to the Catholic population worldwide. Pope Benedict XVI asked for help from the faithful to enable our priests to meet their goals.

How can we, the faithful, help?

We can help by becoming more active in our parish programs of Time, Talent and Treasure. By volunteering, we can allow our priests to have more time with spiritual things. By becoming more pro-active in church, we can help others through service in the many



parish ministries established for this purpose.

Join "Why Catholic?" Get to know your faith better and become a better Catholic and in so doing try to "make a difference" by volunteering your time to help relieve the burden of our clergy.

Answer God's call to the religious life or encourage family members and others to do so. Sometimes we must ask our family members to consider a religious vocation. Our teachers should be alert to aid young people, particularly 7th and 8th graders who might show signs of interest. It is not an easy decision to make for most. They need encouragement.

Do Daily Adoration and/or Nocturnal Adoration praying for our priests and for others to foster vocations.

Live a prayerful family life style to encourage and foster loving care and responsibility in others. In so doing, they begin to understand the complexities of life and the need for them to choose their proper station in life.

Pray for our priests and religious daily to help them bear their burden of their daily life, for whom do they have to counsel them in times of tribulation?

Our Pastor, Father Thanh, has worked hard to benefit from "The Year of the Priest" goals. He has worked hard to more closely align the Christ the King Community and the Vietnamese Community for whom he is responsible. Christ the King Parish is a very diverse community, which makes it more difficult to accomplish necessary goals. He established the First International Dinner, which has helped bring both communities together; each have supported and attended this affair very well.

Father Thanh has worked hard to increase interest in vocations within the parish. In the summer of 2010, he established the first annual vocation dinner in which several young men of the parish were invited to discuss interest in a religious vocation to the priesthood. We need more priests and nuns. Teachers and parents need to encourage our young people.

It is important that we, as parishioners, fulfill our own tasks with energy, intelligence, and love to make it possible for our clergy to do their work without feeling it's a goal to no-where. We can help. Let's start now by asking how we can help.



Kindergarten (KA & KB) shopping for St. Vincent de Paul



Religious Article Store

This is the list of winners from the drawing on Palm Sunday.

- Theresa Snider - basket full of gifts
- Al Martin - book or CD of his choice
- Stanley Moore - wall rosary
- Yolanda Cerqueria - statue of Our Lady of Grace rosary holder
- Nick Wrubluski - birthstone rosary
- Scott Lutheran - Saint Stephen medal

Watch for the next giveaway during the winter holidays.

In The Spotlight...

Recognition is being given to the following people
for being a beaming light of hope, love, and caring.

Unconditionally giving their time to others...

Volunteering to go that extra mile to help when they are needed.

by Charm Saults



When it comes to naming a winner of a Christ the King "Lifetime Achievement Award", the names of any number of people come to mind. Surely, one of the top candidates for such an award would have to be Al Martin. Al Martin is and has been a most valuable player on the CTK team for many, many years.

Al Martin has led a very interesting life. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, he has one brother, Lawrence, ten years younger than he is. His mother, Sophia, was of Polish descent and his father, Alfred, Portuguese descent.

Both of his parents worked at St. Luke's Hospital, New Bedford, for 20 years. Al attended public schools in New Bedford. When he was in elementary school, he walked a mile to school daily and had chores to do every day after school. While in junior high, Al participated in several school plays, and really enjoyed the acting, singing and dancing. In junior high his chores included delivering milk before school. For this work he earned two quarts of milk and \$10.00 per week, which went to his mom. Al said, "I knew what white glove inspection meant before I joined the Marines at age seventeen." He credits his folks with providing him a good life foundation

and strong work ethic. Al said, "My religious formation came from weekend stories about God, the devil and other subjects of a religious nature." His parents attended ethnic parishes in and around New Bedford—Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for his father; the Polish National Church for his mother.

Al feels blessed to have had parents who really cared about his welfare. Only when he was in the Marines, did he realize and understand all that his parents had done to bring him up to be a really good person. Al trained to go into the Korean conflict, but fortunately he never went. He believes that God had other plans for him.

Al met his first wife, Frances, at a family reunion. Someone said he was a Yankee from up north and her comment was, "He eats corn and collard greens, grits and black-eyed peas, so he cannot be that bad." They had a wonderful marriage of 43 years and raised three great children. After Frances died, Al was lucky to fall in love a second time and found another special lady to share his life. He met Wanda at the Queens and Kings here at Christ the King. He proposed to Wanda over a home-cooked dinner of liver and onions, and they married in September 2000.

Al came to Jacksonville in 1954 with the Prudential Insurance Company. He came to Christ the King in 1957 and he has been a very active parishioner ever since. He has been in the Knights of Columbus for 56 years. His involvement in the Knights has been as a 4th Degree Faithful Pilot, Faithful Captain, Faithful Navigator, Faithful Admiral, Trustee for three years, and Color Corps Commander for three years. He has also served as Grand Knight and District Deputy.

Al Martin has been an avid supporter of the Knights of Columbus for many years and early in his Knighthood years has worked diligently to attract new members to Arlington Council 4727, now Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council, as far back as the early 1960s.

In the last 2-3 years, Al has concentrated his efforts on re-establishing the Arlington Squires circle in Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council. The Squires circle had been discontinued years ago, but through his effort, and that of other knights, the Squires circle has attracted several young men in Christ the King and Resurrection parishes. These young men offer great promise in developing new members for the Knights of Columbus.

Al is outgoing, friendly, persevering and persuasive, and has chaired many committees for the Knights, which have always been successful.

All three of his children graduated from Christ the King School and as his children grew, so did the school. Al remembers the first open house at the parish. It was advertised in the Jacksonville Journal & Florida Times Union. People came from all around to see the vestments of the priests, confessionals, burning candles, statues, altar, etc. One group brought gallon jugs and gathered around the Holy Water font to fill them.

The year after that Al said there was a good old revival at Christ the King starting on Sunday evening

with a Paulist Priest who opened with the singing of "Bringing in the Sheaves." The church at that time was in what is now called the John XXIII Hall and was packed every night.

According to Al, Christ the King was known as "Rotary Club for Priests." Each year new priests would come to live at Christ the King while they taught at Bishop Kenny. Then they would move on and be assigned to other parishes. Al was delighted to be a part of these years of growth at Christ the King. He enjoyed getting to know so many young priests as well as the older retired ones.

Al never had the chance to be an altar boy when he was growing up, but in the late fifties he always attended the Saturday Mass with his children. One Saturday morning one of the "Rotary Priests," Father Jamie Lara, came out of the sacristy and beckoned to Al saying, "You are going to be my altar boy today." Although Al said he stumbled through the Latin responses, his career as an altar boy was launched. Father Larkin gave each of the Holy Name Society officers a 45rpm record of the Mass in Latin and they all studied it. This way they learned what was going on and could lead the congregation in the Latin responses.

Al had the opportunity of organizing a "This Is Your Life, Father Larkin" program. Another notable project he was involved with was the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine.

In recent years he has been involved as a Lector, Extra-ordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and teacher for religious education for children in sixth grade. Al and Wanda served as coffee and donuts coordinators for several years. Al said he has had so many wonderful friends in his life from Christ the King that they are too numerous to mention. Al feels his life has truly been blessed.

Christ the King parishioners have also been truly blessed by the many contributions of Al, Frances, and Wanda.

Thank you, Al!

Teen Retreat



Teen Retreat



by Ashley Anderson

If you attend the five o'clock Sunday Mass, then you might have noticed a slight change in the youth that attend. To put it simply we, the youth, have had our hearts set ablaze through the power of the Holy Spirit. A couple of weeks ago 50 teens set out for what we thought would be a good weekend retreat. Little did we know that this retreat would not only set our hearts and our very being on fire for Christ, but that it would also drastically alter our view of prayer, the Lord and even ourselves.

The weekend started out at the famous Christ the King fish fry. After "Feasting with Friends" the buses were loaded and we were off to Camp Cherry Lake. After arriving and getting settled in we had the traditional praise and worship session, had a talk by one of the core members and then we broke into our small groups. A small group meeting is when seven or eight teens, paired with a core member, discuss the talk they just heard and express their emotions about it. A small group is like a family; you say whatever comes to mind and whatever is said in the small group stays in the small group. After that was a midnight snack and then off to bed.

Day two began with all of us gathering on the docks to watch the sunrise. When you're out there on the docks seeing the sunrise, you really start to think about the power of God. We can never fully comprehend His power or His love, but we do know without a doubt that He did all of it for us. That, in itself, is a very powerful thing. Once the sun was up, we headed back to the hall and received unconsecrated Eucharist and each of us brought them out to the altar. We had Mass by the lake, which was more beautiful than words can describe.

After Mass was over we had a "heavenly" breakfast (served by angels), more talks by core members and had small groups. Then came lunch. Lunch was themed "You Amaze Me." The hall was beautifully decorated and the kitchen crew was decked out in their "amazing" costumes. The food never ceased to impress. After lunch ended, we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Richard, the best seminarian in the world, gave quite a powerful talk and then, you guessed it, we had small groups.

Emergency Pregnancy Services

by Frank Becht

Emergency Pregnancy Services (EPS) has undergone a number of changes in staff and locations in the past year, thus it was felt advisable to provide an update of the organizational changes to those who have offered tremendous support throughout the years.

As you may recall, EPS was formed over 30 years ago. In 1974, the first location opened in Riverside and was operated primarily by St. Vincent's Medical Center, which continues to provide the leadership and support for EPS, which has become the seventh largest crisis pregnancy center in the United States based upon the number of locations and clients served.

Executive Director

In 2010, former Executive Director Tracie Cox Loftis resigned to take a direct position with St. Vincent's Medical Center. She is now the Director of Pastoral Care. In October Suzanne Crittenden, who was born at St. Vincent's, was named the new Executive Director. Suzanne's father was employed by Southern Bell and consequently, Suzanne spent most of her growing up years in south / central Florida, North Carolina and Georgia. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and is the proud mother of two daughters; one a veterinarian living in Wisconsin, and the younger an engineer in Gainesville.



In 1979, upon returning to Jacksonville after graduation, Suzanne worked as a reporter for The Florida Times-Union covering the activities of the City Council and other government affairs. She next served as the Director of Marketing for the Duval Unit of the American Cancer Society before accepting the position as Executive Director of Dreams Come True. Suzanne is familiar with my neighbors who have two spina bifida children, each of whom have received a dream. She then served as Regional Director of the American Lung Association for three years prior to becoming Executive Director for EPS.

Crisis Centers

The first EPS crisis pregnancy center located at 1555 Oak Street had deteriorated to the point of requiring a new location. St Vincent's Medical Center provided a two-story dwelling at 1637 King Street, which was remodeled with the help of several organizations including the Arlington Knights of Columbus Council 4727. This has served as the headquarters for EPS since June 2004.

In August 2007, the Orange Park center located at 2300 Park Ave, Suite 204 was opened and is in operation on a full time basis.

In August 2008, EPS purchased an office building located at 6903 Merrill Rd., which was completely remodeled and serves as the Arlington crisis center. Again Council 4727 was the major restorer of the Arlington location. This has become a major center of activity resulting in the center being open for visitations on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00p.m.

A mobile crisis center at Edward Waters College was established with the support of St. Vincent's Medical Center that provided the mobile unit and driver. This project was started in September 2009 but discontinued in October 2010 due to a lack of visitations.

A fourth crisis center is being considered on Phillips Highway in a newly created Obstetrics Clinic of St. Vincent's Medical Center. Space is being provided free of charge to EPS so that valuable life-saving counseling and ultrasounds may be offered to women in the area experiencing unplanned or crisis pregnancies.

EPS Staff

Director of Operations-Melissa Kennedy, Riverside office, employed seven years and is a Sonographer

Pregnancy Counselor and Sonographer - Kiersten McGuinness, Arlington office, employed since September 2009.

Pregnancy Counselor and Registered Nurse - Audrey Niel, Orange Park office, newly employed.

Counselor - Gloria Stelma, Riverside office, employed 16 years.

Counselor - Jessica Thomas, Riverside office, employed five years.



Receptionist - Andrirea Thompson, Riverside office, newly employed.
Part-Time Counselor - Melissa Brown, employed 12 years as a client and volunteer counselor.



Mission Statement

Empowering women to make fact-based decisions about their pregnancies without judgment or pressure.

EPS is a local pro-life crisis pregnancy center, where a woman can find someone who understands her feelings, knows the available resources, respects her situation and has love and compassion for her life and the life of her baby.

EPS Goals

As the demand for the free services of EPS continues to increase, fund raising has become more and more important. For this reason EPS hosts, annually, Stories of Hope. This annual event featured guest speaker Pam Tebow, mother of former Gator quarterback Tim, last year. More than 330 people attended to hear her moving story of being advised to abort Tim. Thankfully, her faith gave her the strength to withstand this pressure and as a result we have Tim! Plans are underway for the 2011 event. More to come!

In 2010, 121 babies were saved by EPS. Sadly, 7300 babies were aborted in Duval County alone. In 2010, EPS assisted 3,655 women of whom 130 wanted an abortion; 106 changed their minds. EPS is proud of an 83% mind change.

EPS Wish List

Volunteer greeters in Arlington on Saturdays
Volunteers for other days at Arlington and Orange Park
Volunteers for landscaping and handyman activities
Groups to collect change for Baby Bottle drive
New baby bottles
Large size diapers (4, 5 and 6)

Contact: 446-9009

Emergency Pregnancy Services has become an organization of interest for many at Christ the King and its many ministries. The Knights of Columbus have become a major supporter and fundraiser in recent years. Many women of Christ the King and Resurrection provide volunteer office support and materials for children and families.

EPS is appreciative of this much-needed support and we ask for your continued efforts to help them meet their goals of saving the lives of the most innocent.

Tim Talks



We are all guilty of putting things off from time to time. We may be presented with an opportunity to offer someone assistance, or do a good deed. Somehow, we get sidetracked, and good intention evaporates into thin air. In life, it is rare to get a do-over, so once that moment has passed, getting it back is practically impossible.

In the grand scheme of things, that one act of kindness might not alter the course of the universe, or even make a difference in the life of someone else. But, you never know what simple act might be the very one that does indeed touch someone in a manner that helps them to move forward from a difficult time in their life.

Delaying that first step can always be justified. We are always too busy or too burdened by our own problems and challenges to set them aside even for a brief moment to try to help someone else. It is just

easier to carry our own burdens and not worry about what other people might be going through, or where there might be a need that you could satisfy through one act of kindness.

Instead of offering up your own suffering to God and extending a hand to help others, we usually wind up sitting on the sideline. We recoil and stew in our own pain and suffering. On occasion, the easiest way to shed your own troubles is to reach out and help someone else.

Why put things off?

The next time an opportunity presents itself for you to go that extra mile, seize the moment and step up. Reach out to help someone who needs you. Make that change and maybe it will make the world a better place.

There is never a better time to take advantage of the opportunity to help someone than now.

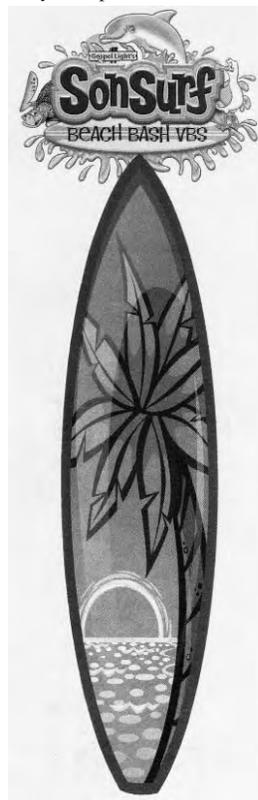
As we enter the summer season here at Christ the King, there are still many ways to get involved to ease the burden of others while continuing to foster the spirit of volunteerism that has been a hallmark in our community for more than half a century. All that is required is for you to ask yourself what it is that you want to do to enrich not only our parish, but to bring yourself closer to God through your actions.

With dozens of ministries, and many activities to select from, there is always something you can do to become involved. Your willingness to participate might be the spark that nudges someone else to follow suit.

Whether you like working outside in the garden, or you prefer the

quiet contemplation of prayer, there is always something you can do to help our parish community. All you need to do is open up your bulletin and find that one thing in which you would like to become involved.

All it takes is that first step. Once taken, you will quickly recognize the joy in becoming a more active participant in our parish family.



Christ the King Catholic Church 2011 Vacation Bible School July 11-15

For Children entering PK-4 through 5th grade

Hours: 9 am -12 pm

**Cost: 1 child - \$20,
2 children - \$30,
3 or more kids - \$35**

Volunteers and Donors Needed

For more information, contact Suzie at susiewrubluski@bellsouth.net or call 613-6633

June 30 is deadline to ensure that your child will receive a T-shirt

Prayer Network

by Frank Becht

The Prayer Network does not seem to be very widely known or understood by Christ the King parishioners. The Prayer Network was formed by Donnell Baer, at the request of Father Bob Baker during his tenure as Pastor, now Bishop Bob Baker of Birmingham, Alabama. Donnell was assisted in the development of the program by Blanche Iglesias, Peggy Mills, and Lee Callahan.

When Donnell and her husband moved to St. Augustine Beach in 2002, Peggy Mills took over as the ministry coordinator. When Peggy moved out of state in 2008, Gloria Nebrich took over and is the current coordinator.

The Prayer Network is not limited to Christ the King parishioners, Catholics, or other local residents. Anyone wishing for prayers will be included.

Prayer request lists are updated monthly and placed in the gathering area of the church for parishioners to take and pray at their leisure. In addition, when the Prayer of the Faithful is recited at Mass, it is requested that we pray for those listed on the Prayer Network.

Gloria has indicated that she finds it difficult to maintain an updated list, for people rarely

call to inform her of the status of the person. If prayers are no longer needed due to recovery or death, please call Gloria so that the list does not become unruly.

If you wish to have someone added to the list, simply call Gloria Nebrich at 724-3518.

It is projected that many miracles and healings have taken place as a result of the Prayer Network. At the time Donnell Baer formed the Prayer Network thirteen years ago, she had liver cancer; had an operation in which it was decided that nothing could be done. She is still a survivor, possibly a Miracle Survivor.

We encourage each and every person to join in the Prayer Network program and PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, for those on the Prayer List !!!



Roller Skating was the 'In thing' in the 40s



by Jean Sell

This article was submitted to Reminisce Extra in October of 2003. Jean still has the skates in their case.

When we were teenagers in Paterson, New Jersey, back in the 1940s, roller skating was the "in thing" on Friday nights and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

I belonged to the Paterson Recreation Figure Skating Club of the Roller Skating Rinks of America. Twice a year we put on a review. This photo (above) shows a number we did in a 1944 review called "School Days." We all wore beanies.

In 1945 and '46, the rinks in New Jersey and New York were asked to participate in a charity show, with all the proceeds going to the March of Dimes.

In one review, each club represented a different country. We were China. I remember having to catch the train before 6:00 a.m. to get to Queens for our practice sessions.

We had many skaters who were as good as some of the professional ice skaters we see today. I think it's sad that roller skating was never added to the Olympics.

I'm 73 and skated until I was in my mid-50s. I still have my skates and their metal case.

Editor's note: today, Jean is now 80 years old.

A Minister Nobody Wanted

Author Unknown

One of the toughest tasks a church faces is the wise choice of a wise minister.

A member of an Official Board undergoing this painful process finally lost patience. He'd watched the Pastoral Relations Committee reject applicant after applicant for some fault, alleged or otherwise. It was time for a bit of soul-searching on the part of the committee. So he stood up and read a letter purporting to be from another applicant.

"Gentlemen ... Understanding your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position.

"I have many qualifications ... I've been a preacher with much success and also some success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader most places I've been.

"I'm over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than 3 years. In some places I have left town after my work has caused riots and disturbances.

"I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrong doing.

"My health is not too good though I still get a great deal done.

"The churches I have preached in have been small though located in several large cities.

"I've not got along well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically.

"I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known to forget whom I have baptized.

"However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

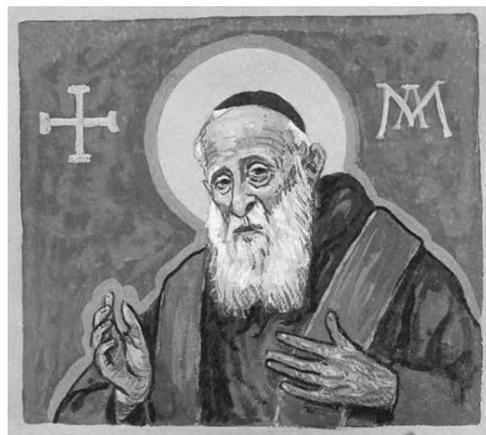
The Board member looked over the congregation ... "Well, what do you think? Shall we hire him?"

The good church folks were aghast. Hire an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded, ex-jail-bird?

Was the board member crazy? Who signed that application? Who had such colossal nerve?

The board member eyed them all keenly before he answered ... "It's signed, The Apostle Paul."

Name that Saint



Born May 12, 1866

Given name was Bogdan

Became a Capuchin Friar

Physically weak his whole life and was only 4 feet 5 inches in height as an adult

Motto: "Have faith! Everything will be alright. Faith, Faith!"

For nearly forty years, twelve hours a day, he received, counseled and absolved thousands through the sacrament of penance.

On October 16, 1983 he was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II.

Find the answer somewhere in this issue of the Courier

Student Reflections

The following are poems reflecting on what two students learned from Mrs. Helena Zuber's recent visit to grades 6 to 8. Mrs. Zuber is a WWII concentration camp survivor and was a member of the French Resistance.

The Lady in White

by Gracie Korkmaz

The Lady in White,
Must have been a sight
For those to who were sent to her.
They had screamed her name,
They were calling to her "Elaine!" Arms wide open,
Like the wings of a Dove.
She embraced them close to her.
She let them play for awhile,
And watched them with a smile, But then she had grown sad.
As the White Dove,
Had to set the little birds free.
She hugged them tight,
And with all her might,
Watched as her little birds took flight.
Into the wings of a Caring Bird,
So that they could be safe.
The White Dove had shed crystal tears,
For the little birds who were young in their years
But the White Dove is never forgotten,
As the children think of their Lady in White,
Elaine.

Gratitude

By Allie Holbrook

'Holocaust,' for a hated time,
Falling from despaired lips,
Years into the past.
'Genocide' for unfair eradication,
For a race, a religious difference.
'Murder' for a sin.
'Bravery' for those few,
Who rose against the evil.
'Memory' for what we'll have,
We here at Christ the King;
And four mere words saying
Out to you, from all of us;
"Thank you, Mrs. Zuber!"

Bishop Kenny High School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

9th Grade	Darby Clower	Albert Tine, III
Rhett Butler	Palmer Frye	Alexandra Young
Brandon Diaz	Stephanie Grochmal	
Rebecca Jones	Peter House	12th Grade
Ezekiel Juego	Hansy Monrose	Alexander DeLoach
Madelyna Khoury	Andrew Raesemann	Parker Flye
Kelli Maroney	Kaitlyn Tackett	Elizabeth Holland
Brendan McClellan	Aleeza Tecson	Jason Infante
John McCrone	Joshua Urbizu	Jonathan Koch
William Morgan		Sarah Koch
Elizabeth O'Malley	11th Grade	Ji Lee
Joseph Parker	John Armon Antolin	Clayton Ludwig
Royce Reyes	Brooke Asher	Nina Matos
Alexandra Richer	Brandon Chin	Jason Mollenhour
Madison Shaw	Jan Edward Dela Cruz	Mackenzie Nichols
Katie Smith	Andrew Dinh	Amanda Niesen
Kelsey Smith	Stephanie Joost	Trenton Raesemann
Courtney Wildes	Paul Longenecker	Timothy Vergenz
David Yarborough	Miranda McCown	Charles Wendel
	Ashlea McCrone	Danielle Wheeler
10th Grade	Hilario Morante, Jr.	Richard Williamson
Austin Asher	Christopher Saliba	Emily Wolfe
Christian Mikel Chan	Christopher Sandoval	Robert Yarborough

CKCCW Convention

by Carol-Ann Black

I want to share a few words with fellow CCW members about our diocesan convention, which Daisy and I attended during the weekend of April 8 – 10. It was a wonderful experience in all ways. It is always fun to meet up with women from other parishes. The common ground of commitment to Council makes it easy to get to know each other, and convention serves to renew personal enthusiasm for our organization. Day to day involvement in affiliate business can become a bit tiresome, but when we hear the reports from the various diocesan committees and realize and understand the value of our service to our diocese and to the universal Church, it becomes easier to return to our parish and get back to work.

It should be a source of pride for you to know that Council of Catholic Women contributed close to 100,000 hours of service to our diocese. Consider having to pay for those hours—\$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 per hour. Truly a monumental achievement.

The convention was held at the Wyndham hotel on the Riverwalk in Jacksonville. It was a very comfortable venue and the meeting room was the best I've attended and the guest rooms were also comfortable. Probably my favorite presentations of the convention were the workshop on large and small event planning and discussion of the evil of human trafficking.

The theme for the convention was "Moving Forward while Reflecting our Past." In that regard the Saturday evening dinner featured CCW members dressed in all manner of vintage outfits. The twenties and the fifties were the best-represented eras. Dinner honored our past presidents and several were in attendance and spoke of their most memorable moments as diocesan presidents. It was well organized but informal and very informative. Other activities were: a leadership workshop titled "Positive CCW," living rosary, a discussion of Florida gardening, a very personal talk about living with disabilities by FCCW president, Marianne Torgler, and a workshop about Safety in our Society, which was very entertaining as well as informative.

Also reflective of our theme....Reflecting our Past...there was a room set aside to include many items relating to the history of Council of Catholic Women in Florida. An amazing treasure trove of articles and photos were available to peruse. There was also a room set aside for meditation and another for the wares of various vendors.

Final words—Consider attending next year's convention down in Palm Coast. The planning parish is very excited and enthused about having us as their guests at a local hotel, which will be a first for them. We will be sure to get the word out to you all with plenty of notice for planning.



**Spring Country Store
total was \$5,739.99**

**Many thanks for those who worked many hours,
those who donated and those who purchased items.**

Let's Start A Journey Together A Biblical Walk Through The Mass

by Charm I. Sauls

The Mass has been the central act of Christian worship since the time of the apostles.

At the beginning of the Mass we stand as the priest comes in and the priest begins: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Everyone makes the sign of the cross. The sign of the cross is not just a simple way to begin praying. It is a sacred tradition that goes back to the early centuries of Christianity when this ritual was understood to be a source of divine power and protection. With the practice of making the sign of the cross, we are also calling on God's name. In scripture, to call on the name of the Lord denotes worship and is often associated with prayer and sacrifice.

Next is a greeting from the priest: The Lord be with you.

The people's response is: And with you also.

This is not a general greeting. Like the priest saying "Good morning" and the people responding and "Good Morning to you, too, Father." These words really convey the reality of Jesus' presence with the community of

believers. Jesus said that "when two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst" (Matt: 18:20).

Next in the Mass we go on to the Penitential Act. (This is the new version.)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

There are numerous times in the Old Testament where God manifests His divine presence to His people. It is usually a surprise and quite unexpected. Since we are truly not worthy to participate in what we are about to do in the Mass, the priest invites us to "prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries" by humbly confessing our sins publicly before Almighty God and the whole congregation.

Remember our journey has just begun. We will continue in the next issue.

God Bless

HE HAS RISEN! (Literally - About Five Feet!)



by Paul Ghiotto and Frank Japour

Just in time for the Easter season, the six-foot tall nearly 4000-pound statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has also risen! In early April, Nieman & Co. Rigging workers led by Tim Wilde hoisted the statue to its new position above an impressive concrete block base at the church's main entrance off Arlington Road. Attached to the adjacent night-time illuminated base is signage proudly proclaiming our faith community and the prestigious U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Award presented to Christ the King School – an achievement worthy of splendid signage!

You may have already noticed that the new entrance monument bears a resemblance – color scheme, lighting, etc. - to that marking the entrance to the Christ the King Child Care Center nearby. This is because Brown Enterprises in Arlington, working with church administrator Frank Japour, designed each monument.

Just over a year ago the granite statue itself arrived from China via Palmyra Marble and Tile at Atlantic Boulevard. Palmyra owner, Marwan Atallah, absorbed about half the cost of the statue with other church parishioners, Pat Thomas, and Frank Japour and family, picking up the remainder. Initially, it sat on a base between the two walkways leading to the southeast approaches to the church. When it was decided by our church Grounds and Environment Committee that the main entrance off Arlington Road needed a more recognizable entryway to both Catholic church and school within, the statue was moved. The school's national award afforded the perfect timing and the student body, through the fundraising efforts of the Student Council, contributed \$1000.00 to facilitate the project.

The former triangular-shaped entrance sign was moved inside the entrance road to a new location in the median just beyond the rectory building. City code allows only one fixed sign within certain parameters. Rather than destroy the existing and long-serving marquee the decision was made to move it – to preserve the legacy and to provide a prominent source of information to our visitors.

As it turned out, removing this 20,000-pound rebar and poured concrete behemoth involved a lot more work than initially anticipated. The visible above-ground portion of the triangular monolith is 12 feet tall, supported with an 8" thick concrete buried foundation – no problem. The 30-ton crane easily hoisted the sign and foundation out of the ground – ooops, what are THOSE? Those were three subterranean, six-foot long, large cylindrical concrete, steel-reinforced pinions: uni-poured, of course!

Fortunately, the whole thing held together when Nieman employees lifted it out of the ground. Craftsmen then used a jackhammer to cut away about four feet of each support. However, the pre-dug hole at its new location wasn't deep enough. After digging three holes to accommodate the shortened pinions it was discovered that the structure when placed would be mere inches over the main sewer line! (Does "Call before you dig" come to mind?) The site was reengineered a bit to the side so that monolith and sewer pipe could live in harmony.

Once each structure – Sacred Heart statue and legacy entrance sign – had finally and safely (in one piece each!) been moved to their new locations everyone involved – church staff, Brown, and Nieman employees alike – were heard to shout:

HE HAS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!

Now, when folks want to know where we are located we simply tell them: "Turn onto Arlington Road and COME TO JESUS."

Courier Social



On April 30 after the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass, the Christ the King Courier staff met at the home of Frank and Betty Becht to celebrate thirteen years of successfully publishing the Courier. In May 1998, Father Bob Baker, former Pastor of Christ the King, now Bishop Bob Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, published the first quarterly issue of the Courier.

Over the years, it has become tradition to celebrate annually the establishment of the Courier, initially at a restaurant, more recently at the home of one of the staff members.

We were happy to have in attendance this year our Pastor, Father Thanh, and our Parochial Vicar, Father Sal.

The evening was celebrated with cocktails, a covered dish dinner and mucho conversation. The evening was enjoyed by all and yielded many good ideas for enhancing future issues.

Trip to the Holy Land Experience

by Jan Dela Cruz

On April 25, six young men in the CTK Vocations Group and our seminarian Richard Pagano, Father Thanh, and Father Sal left Jacksonville for a trip to the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, FL. We in the Vocations Group are continually living out God's plan for us in discerning the priesthood, keeping our hearts open to whatever our Lord has in store for us, and on this day in particular, it seemed as though God's plan was to bless us with a day of laughter, fun, and fuel to the fire of the love we share for our Savior. After we met for 6:30 a.m. Mass that beautiful Monday morning, we boarded our white van, said a quick prayer, and set off for our trip down to Orlando.



For a long time now, it's been a dream of mine to try out the Richard Petty NASCAR Driving Experience and open up on one of those NASCAR racecars. It would prove to be a dream come true on this day, as I got the next best thing - the Father Sal Experience. As an expert on European roadways, this little trip to Orlando would prove to be child's play for Father Sal, as we passengers thoroughly enjoyed this "experience." Let's just say that I learned the 11th Commandment that day: Thou Shall Not Switch Into Father Sal's Lane. The consequences of committing this sin could prove life-threatening, as screams of "Move It, Potato-Head" would launch at you

from Father Sal's seat. Luckily Rich was fully experienced in keeping Father Sal cool, as he taught me that "If you pet his head, he calms down." All joking aside, Father Sal is truly a pro out on the road. When he's driving, you know you're going to get where you're headed, with many laughs along the way. After a delicious stop at Cracker Barrel for breakfast, we would soon arrive at our main destination, the Holy Land Experience.

We didn't really know what to expect when we arrived at the Holy Land Experience, as for many of us it was our first time there. Surrounding the Holy Land Experience Park were several animal statues that represented those of Noah's Ark. Richard would have a field day with this, as his intense love for gorillas led him to make it his personal goal to either find a gorilla there, or get them to add one. Sadly, there were none around the park, but we [minus Rich] wouldn't let that get to us, as we approached the entrance. Before entering, we were greeted by a powerful crucifix that in great detail depicted Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross. This would prove to be a foreshadowing of the kinds of moments we would all experience for the remainder of the trip. The first experience that we would have that day would be in the re-enactment of the Passion of Christ in the show "Behold the Lamb." To watch the scenes of the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' Trial, Scourging, and Death upon the cross right in front of us would leave us with images that we could never forget. Watching this re-enactment, with Easter Sunday being just a day before, really highlighted the miracle that Jesus had performed for us to save us from our sins, and the immense love that he has for all of us. We'd share a similar experience with the show "The Last Supper," in which a re-enactment of Jesus' final meal took place right in front of us, with us as full participants around the table. What was so moving about these experiences was that you could now put something physical to the words of Scripture that depict these moments in Jesus' life. This, along with other shows like "Forgiven," "Legna" (angel spelled backwards), and "The Wilderness Tabernacle" not only entertained and amused us, but also intensified the fire of the Holy Spirit and the love we share for Christ within us.

Following our visit to the Holy Land Experience, we spent some time at the nearby Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. There we found a rosary-shaped walkway and garden in honor of John Paul II, in which we prayed the Divine Mercy Novena, led by our very own Clay Ludwig. This was one of the most beautiful moments of the day, and following this came dinner at Rich's suggestion - Smokey Bones. Dinner was fantastic, and filled with laughs as Clay tried out his



Irish impression, continually repeating the word, "absolutely" in his best Irish accent over and over again. The laughs did not end there, as the ride home would prove to be the funniest part of the trip. Clay "absolutely" was the ringleader of the hilarity that gripped the entire van as he shared his unique obsession with hits from both Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. His favorite song was "Man in the Mirror," to which he let Rich know by placing his cell phone's recording of it straight into Rich's ear, more than likely causing permanent damage to his hearing. Clay would belt out the lines to that song as loud as he could, and his selection didn't stop there. I was later honored to listen to him sing the Lion King African Chant, and it was simply amazing. The highlight of the night, though, came when our trip was at its end. Just before we arrived back home at Christ the King, we asked Rich to turn on the radio to Lite 96.1, knowing that Delilah would be playing some great songs at this time. As the beginning of a song started to play, Clay's face lit up with excitement. We thought he was crazy, but as the song kept going, we realized what it was - "Man in the Mirror." We all sang along, went crazy, and Rich recorded the whole thing on his iPhone. What a way to end this great night of brotherhood in the Holy Spirit.

Our trip to the Holy Land Experience was one of the greatest experiences I have had. I love the camaraderie and brotherhood that we all share through our love for Christ. It is extremely a blessing to know that within our Vocations Group you are surrounded by a group of guys who believe and share the same feelings you do for the Lord, and journey together in carrying out God's mission. The trip strengthened this love and desire to do what He asks, as we continue to move closer and closer to complete devotion to God.



Knightly News

by Frank Becht, PGK

First Friday Mass

First Friday Mass at the Council hall is an old tradition going back to the 1990s when Monsignor Danaher became Chaplain of Council 4727. Monsignor Danaher still says a monthly Mass on the first Friday of each month. The Mass is at 6:30 p.m. followed by a covered dish dinner or one



that is often prepared by Laura Morris, Virginia Moore and the K'Cees. Monthly Mass intentions are published in the Knightly News Letter. All members are encouraged to attend.

Sharing of the Green

On March 12, the Florida Knights of Columbus, KC Charities, sponsored a social at Christ the King Church Kingdome which included a social hour, dinner and dance. Proceeds were to go to Emergency Pregnancy Services and other Pro-Life causes.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

St. Patrick's Day dinner was held on March 17 at the Council Hall on the Arlington Expressway. PGK Ralph Mosley was the chairman of this good old-fashioned Irish dinner. DGK John Klinkenberg was the chief cook for a delicious Irish meal including green beer. A brief program of Irish melodies lead by Foxy Sell insured an evening enjoyed by all.



Kasino Knight

The first annual Casino Night sponsored by Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council 4727 was held on Saturday March 19 at Resurrection's Family Life Center. This charity gambling event, under the direction of DGK John Klinkenberg, featured dinner and chips for \$25 plus \$5 for the spouse.

Resurrection Breakfast

On March 27, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Resurrection, a breakfast to benefit the Resurrection 8th Grade Trip was held; Greg Bell was chairman of the event.

Coffee and Donuts

Council 4727 has made a commitment to the CTK Coffee and Donut Ministry to provide service for the first Sunday of each month. This event is chaired by Robert Roche who would welcome your comments and assistance.

Horseshoe Pitch & Oyster Roast

The Second Annual Horseshoe Pitch and Oyster Roast was held on April 16 at the Council Hall from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hotdogs and oysters were served for a fee. Bill Misenheimer of Resurrection chaired the event.

Tootsie Roll Drive

The annual Tootsie Roll drive was held at Christ the King after all Masses on Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6. Resurrection will conduct a separate drive to benefit the disadvantaged. The event was very successful

even though it was held after Masses at both parishes only and not at grocery stores as in the past. Chairman of the event was Dennis Scobie, PGK.

Brotherly Care

The Brotherly Care Program continues monthly under the direction of John Porter. He encourages members to attend 8:30 a.m. Mass at Christ the King on the third Saturday of the month followed by visitation of the sick and distressed Council members and wives.

40 Days for Life

Christ the King sponsored a day of prayer at "A Woman's Choice of Jacksonville," an abortion clinic, on March 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and April 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 4131 University Blvd. S. PGK Dennis Scobie, Respect Life Coordinator for Christ the King, enrolled many Knights to assist in this nationwide campaign to end abortion.

Easter Egg Hunt

The traditional Easter Egg Hunt was held at Christ the King Park/Children's Playground on Larkin Road on April 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Games and prizes were awarded. Chicken and drinks were provided and parents were asked to bring their favorite side dish. John

Lewis was Chairman of the event as usual.



Golf Tournament

Council 4727 held its annual Golf Tournament on May 1 at Deerfield Golf Club. Following the tournament, a putting contest took place after which a delicious bar-b-que dinner was served. Jim Bonnitatus was chairman of this major fund raising event as he has been for several years.

Mother's Day Brunch

On Sunday, May 8, at 10:30 a.m., a delicious brunch honoring mothers was held at the Council Hall on the Arlington Expressway. As usual, the team of PGK Ralph Mosley and DGK John Klinkenberg and their cohorts provided a beautifully decorated hall and a fabulous egg casserole. A great job!



Kasino Knights



by Nick Klepac

Having fun and giving money for charity! What a night! The Knights of Columbus Bishop Larkin Council 4727 hosted a casino night at Resurrection Catholic Church March 19.

A very classy event punctuated by a Master of Ceremonies (John Klinkenberg, Deputy Grand Knight) and Club Pit Boss (Bill Smith) in tuxedos, an elegant spaghetti dinner with all fixings (prepared by Mike Stirna and Joey Klinkenberg) and felt-covered tables for your playing pleasure.



After dinner was served, the Master of Ceremonies introduced his staff and of course the rules of play. Even though the event was played with no value chips, those who collected the most at the end of play could win first prize (an elaborate 'bragging rights' trophy). All proceeds from the dinner and games would go to the Council general charity fund.

Players immediately cashed in their tickets for poker chips and headed to the tables. Games available were Texas Hold'em, Blackjack, and a Number wheel. It got noisy quickly as players found their tables and hastily gambled away.



First prize was won by Liz McGovern, second place was won by Kathy Zwass and third place was won by Joe Adamczyk.

The Knights want to thank everyone for making this 'first annual' Kasino Knight a success.



Letting The Sunshine In...

by Imogene T. Praxedes

Peter 4:9-11

*Be hospitable to one another without complaining.
As each one has received a gift
use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.
Whoever reaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves let it
be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be
glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion
forever and ever. Amen.*



The Extended Care building on Larkin Road has been resuscitated and revived with new paint and beautiful murals. On March 11 and 12 parents and caring adults came to share their time, talent and treasure to give the place a colorful makeover.

Flyers had been printed out by Rachel Baldwin weeks before requesting for volunteers to help. Don Hoyt was in charge of putting together the manpower and supplies for this undertaking. The word was spread to various organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and parents of the children in extended care. Home Depot had donated the paint.

Yellow was the color chosen to cover the main walls. Honeydew green was selected for the patio wall of the preschoolers' room. The extended care staff felt the place needed to exude warmth and joy, a place that is carefree and secure.

On Friday, March 11, the walls were prepped and cleaned. Tables, chairs, bookshelves, and wall decorations were removed. Extended care had to relocate for the day to allow Mr. Hoyt and the volunteers to finish prepping the place for the painting crew on Saturday.

The dedication put forth by everyone on Saturday was truly amazing. They were ready to put in the manpower needed to uplift the surroundings. It was grace in action. At the time I believed that their presence was the embodiment of what true stewardship should be.

As each volunteer arrived Mr. Hoyt gave work assignments. Conversation flowed easily infused with laughter. One could sense the atmosphere of camaraderie and purpose.

As the walls were being painted the bathrooms were being fitted with vanities that were generously donated by Mrs. Baldwin. Mr. Sullivan worked on the doorbell so it could be heard throughout the building and in the back.

Mrs. Harden took charge of caring for the children who accompanied their parents. The playground provided hours of fun and games. After lunch they watched a movie and were treated to ice cream by Mrs. Harden.

The children got to witness stewardship in action. Their parents manifested it by their willingness to sacrifice their weekend to show their compassion for the children's surroundings.

Mrs. Judge provided lunch. She had ten boxes of pizzas delivered from Al's.

The cooperation and teamwork made it possible for all the walls to be painted by the end of the day. I could not wait to see the children's reaction on Monday. Would they notice the "smiling walls?"

Fortunately for us, we have a talented artist in Miss Nora Santamaria. She drew the murals of the tree and St. Anthony preaching to the fish. Miss Maureen and Miss Carolina helped with the painting.

A few days later the Boy Scouts planted flowers in the flowerbed. Then Mr. Cobis planted additional foliage and trimmed the bushes. He also collected the leaves into trash bags.

We are very grateful to everyone for the generosity of their time, talent and treasure. There are plans to convert one of the rooms as our "BooBoo" clinic. We are searching for a cot to put in there.

If you happen to be spring cleaning and come across any complete board games you need to get rid of just pass them on to extended care. We are encouraging the children to discover the benefits of playing board games with their friends.



Gifts from God



by Charm I Saults

Even with the mass devastation in Japan during the week of March 7, God was at work. I want to share with you the gifts my husband, John, and I received. We immediately tried to contact the Japanese students who had stayed with us in an exchange program during their high school years. One student who was with us in the mid-nineties and is now thirty years old went to the Baptist Church while he was here. We had many long talks about God and the Bible. Ultimately, he accepted Jesus as his savior and was baptized. He returned to Japan, where he kept secret his conversion to Christianity. A year ago he came back to the U.S. and contacted us to help him get his baptismal papers because he was ready now to tell everyone he was a Christian. He wrote to let us know that he was okay and he had gotten a group of young men and women together to pray for the people of Japan. He said they were going to meet each week.

Our very first student also wrote to let us know he was well and so was his family. He said it hurt his heart to see the news. He searched through some albums he had kept with pictures, notes and letters. He found some prayers that I had given him during his student days with us and he said he was going to pray each day.

Another student said he remembered some of the things we discussed about God. One phrase he particularly remembered was: For the battle is not yours, but God's (2 Chronicles 20:15). He said he had faith that God would help all the people get through this.

We never know when we've touched someone's life in a meaningful way. I have heard a number of times someone ask, "What difference can I make, I am only one person." Hearing from these young men has shown us we have made a difference. Now they are making a difference.

These three emails assuring us of their safety were very special gifts; the kind you cannot put a price on.

In the Merry Merry Month of May or In the Merry “Mary” Month of May

by Tina Caiñas Harrell

So many different songs float through my brain on a daily and even moment-to-moment basis, as you can well imagine in my musical vocation. Even in a casual conversation, a tune will pop into my head and might find itself injected into the mainstream of the talking with melodic enthusiasm. People have gotten used to my suddenly breaking into song in a restaurant, grocery store, and a lot around the Rectory offices. They also tolerate my sometimes passionate singing along with songs in a movie, a commercial, the radio, or anything else we might be watching or listening to together.

If you have read my previous two articles, you journeyed with me through an incredible healing and spiritual renewal, especially with my struggle with Marian devotion. This year’s Rosary Procession and Mass was particularly moving for me as I recalled my experience last fall in Lourdes with all the languages praying as one when joining in at the second part of each prayer: The Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary decades, and Glory Be. So with all this in mind,

I share with you a tune that came into my head in thinking about Our Blessed Mother’s month.

We all “date” ourselves whenever we remember and start singing a particular song. Younger folks curiously stare at us and wonder just how old we might be, but I like to keep everyone guessing...but here goes: Remember that song: “In the Merry, Merry Month of May,” which is actually entitled “While Strolling in the Park One Day?” Written by Ed Haley in 1884, the lyrics are: “While strolling through the park one day, In the merry, merry month of May, I was taken by surprise by a pair of roguish eyes; in a moment my poor heart was stole away. A smile was all she gave to me. Of course we were as happy as can be, I immediately raised my hat, and finally she remarked. I never shall forget that lovely afternoon I met her at the fountain in the park.”

In my rather jumbled-up, playful mind, I like to take songs and adapt them to our spiritual life, which is, of course, our REAL life in this often challenging and crazy world that tries to turn our values upside-down and debunk the truths that are life-giving. “In the merry,

Mary month of May, I was taken by surprise by a pair of holy eyes; in a moment my own soul was filled with joy. A smile was all she gave me. Of course, I was as happy as can be. I immediately raised my hands, and offered her my thanks.” Whenever we honor Mary in any

and thus, His mother becomes our mother, too. Please take a moment to look more closely at the above picture that helped me understand this more deeply and personally. Look at the pictures of Jesus in Mary’s arms and imagine Him saying, “Mama.” Now ask yourself, “where am I in the picture (remembering you are grafted into His Body at baptism, one with Him each time you receive Communion)? “Mama Maria, I love you, too!”

If you would like to enjoy this song on your computer, please e-mail me: tina@ctkcatholic.com and ask for the YouTube links for “Strolling in the Park.” I have several delightful ways for you to hear and view this song:

1. a sing-along with a “bouncing ball”;
2. the Chipmunks singing it;
3. a barbershop men’s group, and
4. the Lawrence Welk Show. So, whenever you might hear this song, remember our play on the words: In the merry (because our Catholic Faith makes us very happy), MARY (our Mother), month of May (a whole month to ponder the wonder of her role in salvation history) and put a smile on Jesus’ face by loving His Mama!



way, I do most heartedly believe that this pleases her Son. In the humanity received through His mother, Jesus, Lord and Savior, is made our Brother. Through our baptism, we are joined with Him

Christ the King Child Care Center Activities and Events

By Gigi Montoya

Have you heard what we’ve been up to at the Christ the King Child Care Center? If not, let me fill you in on the activities that have been happening at our school. During the month of December we were busy with our annual gingerbread house building event. Each year we invite the families to build a gingerbread house with their children during the Christmas season. It is a time that we cherish because it brings us close to the children and their families; we value build-

ing a sense of community here at the center. Our children also put on a Christmas program for their families starting with the young twos up through the VPK program. Each room has its own Christmas party and we get a special visit from Santa Claus each year.

February is a sweet month – literally! All the children can think about is Valentine’s Day and candy, desserts, and class parties. The VPK classrooms learn about the story of St. Valentine and how this holiday began; it’s not just a holiday for romance but one that

encompasses true love for all mankind. All the classes create a Valentine’s Day gift or card to give to their families. Families are always welcome to the class parties; the children enjoy showing off their room and friends to their families. They love passing out their Valentine’s Day cards to their classmates and teachers. They proudly and joyfully show off their bounty at the end of the day.

March was quite special this year! Ash Wednesday fell on March 9. Historically, Christ the King Child Care Center has had the children receive ashes from our parish priest. We were fortunate this year, not only did we have Father Thanh but we were blessed to have a seminarian, Richard, to help with the ashes this year. He was a bona fide hit with the children! He explained the importance of Ash Wednesday to them in a story that the children could relate to. The children truly enjoyed his story of choosing the light and staying away from the darkness. Honestly, he so charmed the chil-



dren that if they had their way they would have kept him all day to tell them more stories.

March 17 is also St. Patrick’s Day. In observance of the day all the children are encouraged to wear green and they learn about the story of St. Patrick. We have class parties and lots of green treats. In my room I treated my class to a healthy snack of green grapes and organic lemon/lime soda.

Springtime is a season for rebirth and renewal. All our classes had been busy decorating their classrooms and preparing for their Easter parties. We had our annual Easter egg hunt and a visit from our friend the Easter bunny. Everyone had a great time.



Out of the Mouths of Babes; An Explanation of God

submitted by Kathy Daniels
taken from the internet

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

EXPLANATION OF GOD

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.'

And...that's why I believe in God.'



by Shelby Miller

Nikki Wallace and I joined a thousand other women from throughout our diocese at UNF's Lazzarra Theatre on Saturday, April 16. The first Catholic Women's Conference was a spiritual and emotional experience: praying, singing, listening to inspirational talks, participating in Mass and being with so many spirit-filled Catholic women. Greg Walton and his band led us in praise songs throughout the conference – very uplifting and speaking to the heart.

One of the most dramatic speakers was Johnette Benkovic, host of the EWTN television and radio talk show, *Women of Grace*. She is a dynamo – both in voice and constant motion on the stage. Johnette drew us into her theme, “God is always about the business of bestowing blessings upon us.” He is doing this even in times of suffering and when we seem bereft of His presence. God knows us before we are formed in the womb; he chooses us as women to lead people to a higher reality.

Johnette spoke movingly of her return to the church after losing her way as a young woman in the 1970s. It was a ten-year process begun when God gave her an “illumination of conscience.” Even after she acquired healing through the sacrament of confession, she continued to have “wounds of the heart.” Johnette realized that the Evil One works to

keep these wounds open. She found a treasury of grace in the cross of Jesus that bound up and knit together those wounds.

Stephanie Weinert, who works from home for Family Life Center International, grew up in Florida as the daughter of a Presbyterian minister. He became involved with Operation Rescue in its early years. After abruptly leaving his church, he announced that he and his family were joining the Catholic Church. This decision caused misunderstandings between Stephanie and her friends and relatives. But Stephanie's strong faith and devotion to scripture helped her. After graduating from Ave Maria College in Michigan, Stephanie worked with teens and young adults through her Next Wave Live EWTN talk radio show. The married life was Stephanie's true vocation but she had to wait and wait for the Catholic husband that God had intended for her. In her late 20s catholicmatch.com asked her to write articles for young adults. Hesitantly, she accepted. A free membership to the site came with the position. After letting her membership expire, she decided to try one more time and signed up again. Soon she began exchanging e-mails with her future husband. Married now and with a young son, Stephanie quoted one of her favorite scripture passages “God makes all things work together for the good of those who have been called according to his decree” (Romans 8:28).

Stephanie also explored Proverbs 31:10-31 (the ideal wife). This passage provides us with six principles for becoming the woman God created us to be. Briefly, the principles are: 1. Be self-aware and self-confident 2. Control your tongue 3. Cultivate inner beauty by staying close to the sacraments and virtues 4. Cultivate outer beauty by dressing modestly 5. Provide a pleasant home for your family 6. Pursue marriage as a vocation.

Father Leo Patalinghug, a dynamic speaker and author of *Grace before Meals: Recipes for Family Life*, combined humor with theology to speak about the dignity of women. We are daughters of Mary who teaches us to be beautiful. Fr. Leo gave us four “TIPS” to be beautiful: 1. Try to think theologically. Remember how Mary pondered all things in her heart. 2. Integrate inspired information, i.e., read and study good “stuff,” don't be deformed by the consumer culture propaganda you receive. 3. Practice practical purity. Be yourself, be content with yourself, be healthy, dress modestly. 4. Sincere sacramentals are like dress accessories. Have religious items in your home, speak to God from your heart, and realize that many worldly experiences, especially those found in the created world, can be sacramental. Father Leo said we are called to be saints if we want to live eternally in heaven but recognize we are not perfectly sanctified yet. We are reserved for God, who calls us each by name.

Christ the King School Retreat



On April 1, to the utter surprise of all the students, classes were suspended so that students could participate in Christ the King's first school retreat. Our parish liturgist, Mrs. Tina Harrell, began the retreat by showing a few minutes of the movie, *The Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. These opening scenes showed four children entering a secret land called Narnia through a wooden wardrobe in a spare room. The children learn that in the land of Narnia, an evil witch has caused a permanent winter that never has a Christmas. One of the children was tempted by the witch to betray his siblings. Through art, music, talks by Seminarian Richard, and games, Christ the King students learned to make correlations between the movie and our everyday life. Walking through the wardrobe became a metaphor for the spiritual realm. Winter and the Witch were metaphors for a life of sin. In fact, the Witch turns characters to stone just as our sins keep us bound. But the children's presence in Narnia coincided with the rumors of Aslan's return. Aslan, a lion who led the characters in a fight against the witch represents the Lion of Juda – Jesus Christ. Aslan's presence in Narnia caused a thaw and the bloom of spring. Aslan readily forgave and willingly laid down his life to save Edmund. Like Christ, the lion was resurrected, breathed life into the characters who were turned to stone and defeated the witch. Through our study of the book and movie and the spiritual exercises on our retreat, Christ the King students learned to take responsibility for their actions and see Christ as a source of their strength. They practiced some critical thinking skills as well without even realizing it!

Teen Retreat

After the talks were over and the small groups closed, the fun really kicked in, in FREE TIME. In free time you can play football, basketball, volleyball, shoot golf balls into the lake or go in the mud pit. Most people went into the mud pit. The words "mud pit" sound pretty gross and most people would think no one would ever want to jump right on in a pit of mud. But those people haven't met the youth of *your* parish. A frenzy occurred in the mud pit. People threw mud at each other and Lord only knows what else. This lasted for a bit but the real fun was getting cleaned up afterward.

After practically 2 hours of people showering and all the bathroom drains completely clogged we were ready for a Vallostell Raptor themed dinner and then Confession. Confession is probably one of the best sacraments we as Catholics have. Once our souls were cleaned, we headed off to a very powerful Adoration session. We got to kiss Jesus, literally, by kissing the monstrance. You couldn't ever ask for more.

As fireworks exploded into the night sky, we grabbed some ice cream and then hit the hay.

Our final day was, for me, the most profound and most powerful by far. After the usual breakfast, talks and small groups, we all took part in the blessing of the sick. Each one of us was anointed and blessed. The amazing part was that we were all connected. Each one of us had a hand on someone else and they had someone else and it just went on and on. Eventually someone was holding on to Richard or to Father Sal or to the person being blessed. There wasn't a dry eye in the whole place. You could literally feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in the building. Father Sal blessed each and every one of us. Then we got the chance to bless him. The closeness we felt to one another and to the Holy Spirit is completely indescribable. This experience was priceless and that, along with everything else, is what really set me on fire. However, this put us way behind so we ate lunch, cleaned up, and made it back with minutes to spare.

This retreat changed a lot of lives and set a lot of people on fire for Christ. We couldn't have done it without Father Sal who was there for us the whole time; and Richard whose wit, humor, and powerful way of speaking entranced us; the Klinkenbergs and the parents who planned out every detail; the band who set the mood for every situation with their angelic voices and impeccable rhythm; the kitchen crew who kept us full and focused; and, of course, the core members who helped us down our spiritual path. We are so lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful people, not to mention the amazingly supportive parishioners who were praying for us the whole time. This retreat is one we won't soon forget.

School Mural



by Caroline McClellan

I wanted to be able to showcase, to the school, what such a young being was capable of completing. Everyone has a passion to do something, something spectacular. I've been told quite a lot that my artwork is beautiful and that I'm a very talented young lady. Flattery helps when it comes to doing my best. I've always wanted the entire school to know that my talent was more than they'd presumed it to be. I'd heard about the rumors circulating around the school about the mural. Some of the students had thought that it was our new Art teacher, Mrs. Davidson. When the news had eventually gotten to me, I was shocked that they'd actually thought it was our teacher. It was truly remarkable to me that they'd assumed it was someone else. No one expected me to take on such a great task.



The mural means quite a lot to me, actually. It still seems too surreal that I'd created that entire fifteen-foot mural all on my own. There was some constructive criticism from the students when they'd passed by, and, to be honest, it made me perfect the mural to the best it could possibly be. I tried to make it look as real as it could possibly become. From my perspective, it's quite amazing. I'd wanted the people of the school to see something more than just some ratty old paper stapled to the bulletin board outside the office. I wanted them to see it as an exquisite piece of artwork created by a humble seventh grader. It was one of the main goals that I'd had going into this project. I wanted them to see something grand. I'm no mind reader, but judging by their reactions towards it, I'm guessing they saw something intriguing in it.

Richard Pagano: A Young Man Moving *Forward!*

by Paul Ghiotto



So there I was minding my own business when intrepid COURIER editor Carol-Ann Black assigns me the task of interviewing Christ the King's "seminarian in residence," Richard Pagano. Immediately I asked myself: "What kind of things do COURIER readers, with their intensely inquiring minds, want to know about this young man?" So I sat down at the same PC I'm writing this on and drew up a list of 20 questions. These I forwarded to Richard's email address and a time and place was agreed upon to discuss them.

Arriving at the CTK rectory a week later I found Richard engrossed in Game 3 of the NBA conference playoffs between the Atlanta Hawks and Richard's favorite team, the Orlando Magic. Down 3 games to 2, it was do or die for the Magic. The Magic ultimately lose but not before we share a Bottling beer together, eat some cake that Father Sal's sister sent to him, and talk about the quality of referees, the entertainment aspect of professional sports, the sheer joy of attending an NBA game, and his love of basketball in general.

During the course of the game I discover that Richard, 29, is very competitive in everything he pursues, has a deep interest in meeting and talking with everyone he encounters, gets great enjoyment performing all of the religious tasks assigned him, and receives a lot of emails and text messages!

Richard was born in Park Ridge, NJ, the older son of Richard and Ellen Pagano. He has one older sister, two half sisters, and a younger half brother. Following the divorce of his parents his mother remarried and moved to Palm Coast, FL where he grew up.

Active in student government and sports, he graduated from Flagler Palm Coast High School in 2000. Growing up he received all of the sacraments but says he wasn't particularly religious.

Following his high school graduation, he worked any number of jobs, hung out with friends, was sort of a "surfer dude," partied a lot, and moved back and forth between Florida and New Jersey. Following a severe knee injury he realized not only that his dream of becoming the next Bobby Hurley on the Jersey city courts was over but that he needed to do some serious evaluation of his life to date and what he wanted his future to be.



Fortunately for him, he had a maternal grandmother who prayed a lot to the Sacred Heart and said rosaries three times a day. His mother also had the patience of St. Monica with her "Augustinian" son! In other words, Richard was basically "normal."

His conversion to a more religious life and "obedient lamb" began one morning in Palm Coast when he found an opened Bible in his mother's kitchen, began reading it, and became engrossed in its words. After meeting Father John Tetlow, then pastor of Santa Maria del Mar Catholic Church in Flagler Beach and also the diocesan vocations director, he eventually landed a job as the church's youth program minister. Richard considers Father Tetlow as one of the very influential people in his life.



This work greatly moved him and he began wondering if studying for the priesthood was in the cards. Shortly afterwards he was heading to Naples and the new Ave Maria University. With Father Tetlow's encouragement, he was accepted into the diocesan seminary program. He graduated in 2008 with a degree in philosophy.

From there he began a five-year studies program at St. Vincent Seminary in Boynton Beach.

In the fall of 2010 Richard was able to take a break from seminary studies and traveled extensively to places such as India and Israel.

In December 2010 he was assigned to Christ the King parish to perform his required "pastoral year." He arrived on January 3, 2011 and will be here until late July. After a brief vacation it's back to the seminary to begin his "deaconate year" which will culminate with his ordination as a deacon. God willing, he will be ordained as a priest for the diocese in May 2013.

Richard is one of about 14 seminarians/acolytes who are assigned throughout Florida by their respective bishops. Twice so far these young men have gotten together and discussed life in their parishes and the assignments they've been given. While he had no choice in where he was assigned he was very grateful to have been sent to Christ the King having been here briefly three years ago. Here he has received much invaluable advice and encouragement from both Father Thanh and Father Sal, as well as being given many challenging assignments.



His duties at Christ the King are many and varied. He serves at Masses on the weekends and at some daily Masses throughout the week. His schedule is somewhat flexible. He may be found at the school working as a substitute teacher, leading morning prayer, advising troubled youth, or teaching a religion class. He visits hospitals, retirement homes, and all places in between. His "drifting period" after high school and his experiences with life on the other side of the street serves him well when counseling peer group members facing life's tougher challenges.

Richard told me a story about being asked recently to do some readings and also preach a homily at a funeral in south Georgia. It was for a young girl whom he had witnessed first-hand, fight a losing battle with cancer. During the three hour trip there he prayed fervently that God would not only give him the courage to perform this task but also give him meaningful and comforting words to say to help the grief-stricken family. God truly answered his prayer! The intimate experience of being present to that family and ministering to them impacted his life in a huge way! Talk about a challenging assignment!

In what spare time he has, Richard enjoys going to a good movie, playing pickup basketball, learning to golf, and laying back at a Starbucks with friends. He went last week to Orlando with his brother to an NBA playoff game and also led a group of young men from Christ the King to the Holy Land Experience theme park.

Richard told me that his work experiences and studies have made him fall completely in love with his Church and his Lord. He immensely enjoys relating this joy to others around him. Anyone who has encountered Richard can certainly attest to this! And who knew – until his singing at the Easter Week services – that he had such a beautiful voice? Perhaps we should nickname him "Luciano?!"

So here's to you, Richard Pagano. Thank you for your service to the Lord and His Kingdom on Earth. And a BIG thank you to all who are helping you achieve your goals in life!



So here's to you, Richard Pagano. Thank you for your service to the Lord and His Kingdom on Earth. And a BIG thank you to all who are helping you achieve your goals in life!