



COURIER

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May 2015

Lady Ravens win Championship

by Sue Pietrusza

Christ the King girls' softball team had an awesome season. Led by Coach Sue Pietrusza and Assistant Coach Ethan Yates, the team, consisting of 14 Christ the King students and 2 Morning Star School students, had an undefeated season. After the regular season, they went on to face some tough competition in the Diocese of St. Augustine Division I Tournament. They played Resurrection Catholic School and won 2-1 in a close game. In the final game, they faced St. Matthew's.

At the end of the tournament, they took First Place defeating St. Matthew's and became the Division I League and tournament champions. Hope Barras was named MVP and Alyssa Pavek, Megan Yates and Jodasea Peterson were selected to the All Star Team.



Congratulations to Megan Yates, Alyssa Pavek, Hope Barras, Amira Springfield, Eleanor Hofmann, Brooke Pavek, Jodasea Peterson, Gili Garner, Erin Kress, Elyssa Audije, Kylie Wnorowski, Layne Baldwin, Emily Williams, Veronica Mella, Regan Yates, and Olivia Ross.



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Father Boddie's Message

Planning for the Now and for the Future

by Father James Boddie

The next five years at Christ the King will see important—perhaps even dramatic—changes for the entire parish community. We have slowly begun the development and implementation stages of our Pastoral Plan. The involvement of each and every one in the parish will be essential to bring a new vitality to Christ the King.

As we build towards the vibrant faith community that we all desire, we continue to acknowledge and recognize the 60 years of history and faith formation at Christ the King. The history of Christ the King continues to show and demonstrate to us, that the parishioners of Christ the King always responded to a call to action that created the active Catholic community that we enjoy today. We acknowledge the many sacrifices, hard work, sorrows and joys it took to build not only the buildings of brick and mortar, but our healthy Catholic faith community.

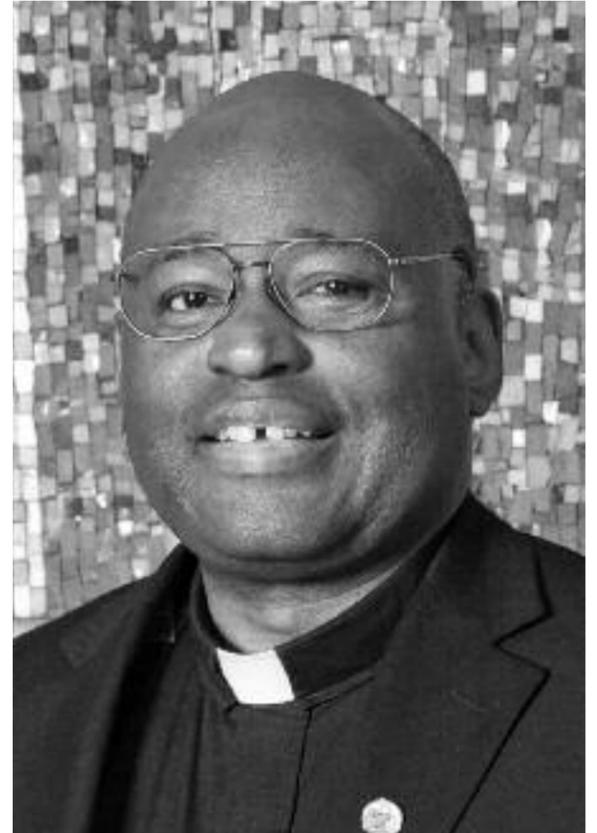
Now it is our time and opportunity at Christ the King to answer a new call of the Lord to continue to build and to expand our Catholic Community for today and for the future. The name of our parish reminds us that Jesus Christ is our Rock; Jesus Christ is our Foundation; Jesus Christ is our real presence and we are called to reach out and invite into our midst the members of the wider community. We are the face of the Catholic Church at the intersection of Arlington Expressway and Arlington Road. As that face of the Church in this part of the community, we have an opportunity and an obligation to impact and influence this wider community.

I, as your pastor, cannot do this by myself. I need each and every one of you involved in the labor. How do we do this? First and foremost, we must pray, asking our Mother Mary to inspire and encourage us in our prayer life. We must listen and respond to the Lord's call in our lives to proclaim the Good News in our parish community and in the larger community of Arlington. Then what? You ask.

Just as you responded when invited to town meetings, filling out census forms and questionnaires, we need you to participate in parish-wide activities and ask questions and express opinions. Nothing changes, nothing improves without new ideas, and creative new ideas don't come from the same people all the time. They get tired too.

Later in the summer or early fall we hope to have a Fall Fair when we have the opportunity to get to know other parishioners and their families—and their hopes and desires for the parish. Every Sunday can be a Visitor Sunday. Invite your neighbor—perhaps new to the Arlington area—to accompany you to Mass to meet your friends, to have a donut and coffee. Encourage new faces sitting beside you at Mass to register with the parish so that they can enjoy a Meet the Pastor evening and get to know more about the parish itself. Meeting other new families can be so reassuring to newcomers, rewarding for the parish community, and hugely beneficial to the wider Arlington community. The time is coming for elections to fill leadership positions on the Pastoral Council. When you receive information on how that will be handled, pay close attention and consider and share your responses. Oh, yes. Response required.

As I said earlier, the pastor cannot do this work alone. Our prayer life is the stepping off point for our work together. I ask you to pray to our Blessed Mother Mary for her guidance and inspiration and encouragement as we continue to share the Good News of the Lord with our parish family and with our neighbors in the Arlington community.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Christ the King Courier

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

Publisher:
Father James R. Boddie, Jr.

Managing Editor:
Carol-Ann Black

Associate Editor:
Mary Ann Sullivan

Photographers:
Bill Coppedge
Kathy Daniels

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.

“Your Calmness and Your Touch”

by Doris O. Cass
submitted by Barbara Hanuscin

I have contact with many wonderful folks in my line of work with a local hospice...One lady in particular was going through a difficult period with her brother across the country and under care of a hospice there at his end of life...She wrote this prayer/poem to help her get thru that time. I told her it would be wonderful to share it so she sent it to me with her permission to submit it to the Courier.

I have felt your calm, Lord
At times when I've been stressed.
I have felt your touch, Lord
and know that I am blessed.

The anxious feelings leave, Lord
Perhaps for just a while,
But I know you're still near, Lord
and soon again I'll smile.

I don't know why it is, Lord
I seem to struggle so
The calmness and your touch, Lord
Just often come and go.

How do I hold on tight, Lord
to that calmness and your touch
Please help me to have faith, Lord
I need you oh so much.

I pray for my dear loved ones, Lord
Who struggle as I do
That they will feel your calming touch
In the valleys they walk through.

Thank You, Lord for everything
you have done for me.
Thank you for my loved ones,
My friends and family.

May they know you as I did today,
In that Moment that we shared,
The reassurance that our God
Is the one who really cared.



Editor's Corner



After the fairly quiet, sedate pace of our Lenten season, Easter bursts upon us all and keeping up with all the demands and activities becomes very challenging. Therefore it was especially rewarding for *Courier* workers to have an article or two tumble into our “mail box” before we were even ready to begin a new issue.

Number One—be sure to read Dennis McLaughlin's article with a unique and prayerful look at our pastoral council. And then, similarly prayerful are articles from Sister Jane Stoecker, SSJ and Amy of Harbor House. Sister Jane considers the meaning of the word “neighbor.” Amy writes about Sharon Starling our former neighbor from Harbor House. Sharon was truly, physically our neighbor, but she was known for being a caring friendly neighbor to all who lived with her and who happened to visit her or work with her. Sister Jane's article surely personifies Sharon and her caring kindness.

As usual we have articles with information and activities of various ministries—canoe trips for Scouts, dinners with Knights of Columbus, a few prayers. But go to the back page to find Paul Ghiotto's history lesson for this issue. He goes into the history of St. Joseph's Hall. Was it a school, a church, a multi-purpose building? This article really begins the overall physical history of Christ the King parish, which Paul will fill out in future issues.

Finally, in recognition of Memorial Day, we can recall and pray for our military veterans as we read an article by Barbara Hanuscin. She tells us about the “miracle man” from Christ the King. Mr. Berlin Clark, who is known to some of us, is now a resident in the VA Hospital in Lake City. We even have an address so you can say “Hi” from Christ the King.

I hope that you enjoy this issue and plan to send an article for the next issue. All are welcome.

Something To Think About

by Frank Becht

Much is being said about the need for praying for others. Hardly a day goes by when we do not have a request for prayers for church members, family or friends. We have become an older community with a considerable increase for the help and consolation of others.

In our church community alone we have daily requests for prayers from various church organizations - the CKCCW, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul and others. Even with this large community, there are many lost in the need for prayer.

Recently, discussing the great need with a fellow parishioner, I asked if he said the Morning Offering each morning. His response left me with the feeling of “in some form.” And this is a very common answer received from others.

The Morning Offering has long been a tradition in the Church, but became popular as an aspect of the League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus “Apostleship of Prayer” which was born in 1844 in a Jesuit seminary in Vals, France. Later, another Jesuit, Father Ramière, published the “Messenger of the Sacred Heart” which helped to spread the Morning Offering prayer.

There are many versions of the Morning Offering, but the most common one is as follows:

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for the intentions of the Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our associates, and in particular for the intentions of our Holy Father, the Pope.

What's important about this prayer is that throughout the day you offer your hardships, joys, and sacrifices to Jesus. Your whole day is a day of prayer.

Also you offer your prayers for the intentions of your associates and the Pope.

The Morning Offering is the one prayer that brings us and our associates closer to God. If there is a question about who our associates might be, the Webster Dictionary paints a very broad definition of “associate.”

Please, make your first action of the day the recital of the Morning Offering.

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.

The Easter Vigil RCIA Class of 2015

by Darlene O'Neal



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a welcoming ministry for adults interested in learning about the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to provide information and instruction to inquiring adults, both baptized and non-baptized. After months of sessions and introduction to the teachings of the Catholic Church, these adults are received into the faith community at the Easter Vigil.

This year, the RCIA class, with their sponsors and other parishioners, gathered outside where the fire pit had been prepared for the Service of Light. The Paschal Candle was lit after Father Boddie blessed the fire. This Paschal Candle will be used at baptisms and funerals throughout the year.

The congregation processed into the darkened church where they were given a lighted candle to carry as Deacon James Scott chanted "Christ be our Light", followed by "Thanks be to God" by the faithful. The Mass began with the Exultet, or Easter Proclamation. Father Jaisemon Xaviour sang this ancient hymn of praise of the risen Christ that has been part of the Roman tradition since the ninth century.

The liturgy of the Word began with a reading from Genesis, "God created the world and saw how good it was." The readings that followed revealed God's plan for salvation throughout history. The last reading from Romans claimed, "we are dead to sin and living for God in Christ." After the homily, the catechumens were called for Baptism.

The Baptismal water was blessed and each of the catechumens was called by name to the baptismal font. Mothers with their small children were called first, then other children, followed by the adults. It was a little confusing but as always, with God's help, things worked out fine. All were given a special candle to keep, along with a white baptismal garment. All except the very young were confirmed after their baptism.

When everyone returned to their pews, two candidates with their sponsors were called to the foot of the altar to be confirmed by Father Boddie. They were Sarah Olinger and Roberta Okochi. Receiving the Eucharist for the first time was, for most of the class, very emotional. For them, this was the culmination of the Easter Vigil.



The new Catholics are Sarah Olinger, David Olinger, Jean Quann, Michael McIntire, Celestine Awily Bokor, Janene Elliott, Jalen Hill, Jamison Hill, N. Marie Glorence, Jean Claude Manishlmwe, Reveliano Nshimirimana, Roberta Okochi, Daniel Okochi, Thanh Minh Phan, Trinh Nguyenen, and Linh Huynh. Kevin Gbadoe will be confirmed by Bishop Esezve on Pentecost Sunday in St. Augustine at the Cathedral.

As always, special thanks go out to the sponsors who give freely of their time. Thank you to everyone who made this Easter Vigil possible, from the choir members and volunteers who decorated the church, to Mike and Henry for all their work setting up everything inside and out. Thank you to Jackie for her artistic touch and endless help.

Thank you, Joe Birch, for sharing your knowledge and love of the Catholic faith. To all the RCIA team members, Mary, Mary Jo, Norma, Michelle, Mark, Theo, Tito, Patricia, Louie, Darlene — thanks. Most of all, thank you to Father Boddie, Deacon James Scott, George Barletta, Peter Nguyen, Father Lam and Father Xaviour.

To all the new Catholics, welcome to Christ the King community.



RCIA Class of 2015 Comments

Submitted by Darlene O’Neal

Each year members of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) class are asked to submit a few words about their experiences while on their faith journey leading up to the Easter Vigil. The following remarks were submitted for sharing with our fellow parishioners. May God continue to bless Christ the King’s newest members.

Sarah Olinger

RCIA has greatly influenced my journey in becoming a Catholic. I’ve learned so much about the Catholic faith and what it means to be a Christian this past year going through RCIA at Christ the King Catholic Church. I’ve met the most warm-hearted and caring people at Christ the King and I’m happy to call this my home parish.



Michael McIntire



My experience with RCIA this year was something I’ll never forget.

I went through RCIA eight years ago at a different parish. After participating in the program, I still had doubts and more questions, and ultimately decided not to be confirmed with the rest of the class. But eight years later my faith journey landed me in the RCIA program at CTK.

Whether it was the friendly people, the great teacher or just the Holy Spirit, I was drawn in - it was different than before.

During the class I gained a better understanding of the liturgy and the sacraments. Now I’m eager and excited to begin my new journey as a Catholic. Joe is a great teacher.* He was very informative and encouraged questions. I really enjoyed the dialogue at the end of each meeting. It was nice to hear everyone’s thoughts and opinions pertaining to the topics we discussed that day. Everyone who helped out with the class really made me feel welcomed and comfortable, and they always greeted me with a smile.

This was truly an amazing experience. Thanks again to everyone who helped guide me on this journey.

“We can’t have full knowledge all at once. We must start by believing; then afterwards we may be led on to master the evidence for ourselves.”

- Thomas Aquinas

*Joe Birch is Director of R.C.I.A.

Father Brian Carey’s Bible Study



by Judy Koziolk

Little Rock Scripture Study
The Passion and Resurrection
Narratives of Jesus: A
Commentary

I was surprised to get a call from Deacon James Scott telling me that he was hoping to revive

a Bible study that Father Brian used to teach when he was parochial vicar at Christ the King and I was happy to hear that James was going to revive the study. James had everything organized for us to begin. We received the study plan, and a study guide. He also got the video where the author of this study (Stephen J. Binz) goes over the week’s lesson. Then James lead the group in discussion answering any questions we had about the lesson. The study was a success! Both classes (morning and evening) were well attended. Lots of questions were asked and answered.

I was once told that I could read the Bible many times throughout the years and I would learn something new or see the passage in a different light. At the time I doubted this could be true, after all it was the same story wasn’t it? Today I know the wisdom of those words and The Little Rock Scripture Study is a great way to become immersed in the Bible and its teachings. It is a simple, yet comprehensive study, that asks you to think about specific parts of the Bible which corresponds with the study, and to share your thoughts with others. Sharing what we learn is a key to learning more about scriptures. Sharing is evangelization...spreading the good news.

As you read this edition of the *Courier*, Deacon James is busy getting ready for the next study, The Acts of the Apostles, beginning June 4, 2015. I hope you will decide to join us. He teaches the class on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and an evening class at 7:00 p.m., in the Shirley David Hall.

Stewardship

by Sister Nancy Keane, SSJ

“As each of us has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Pt 4:10)



What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. Therefore, we could say that stewardship is a method of managing the gifts God has given each of us. We look to the life and teachings of Jesus as our model in how we live our lives.

Each one of us is uniquely called by God. We are not “a nameless person in a faceless crowd.” We each have our role to play in carrying out the Church’s mission, which is to teach and proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We are called to keep the Church alive, to reach out “to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church with our time, money, prayers, and personal service according to our circumstances.”

When we use our parish envelopes for our monetary offerings, we are clearly saying to God: with the gifts and talents you have given to me, I have earned this money and I freely give a portion back to you, my God, as an expression of my gratitude and desire to help others. Additionally, the envelopes do keep track of attendance so that, for example, if you are asked to be a sponsor for Confirmation, your attendance attests to the fact that you are a practicing Catholic. Maybe you do not itemize your taxes at this time, but in the future it may help you garner a refund. Perhaps your circumstances do not permit you to be as generous as you would like and you find yourself with only the widow’s mite. What counts in the eyes of God is not the amount, but rather the generosity in your heart to be of assistance to others in spreading the kingdom of God and His love and mercy. For all of these reasons, if you are not currently using your envelopes, please reconsider your options. As you place your envelope in the basket you will even feel good about it. Thank you.

(Quoted material is from the USCCB website under Stewardship)

Who is the “Dear Neighbor”



by Sister Jane Stoecker, SSJ
General Superior, Sisters of
St. Joseph of St. Augustine

Who is my neighbor? While the answer may seem simple at first, it becomes both profound and challenging as one reflects.

As a young child I understood that my neighbors were those surrounding my home, who encapsulated the perimeter of my play and daily life activities. As a child, my understanding was safe and limited to where I lived. My parents spoke about having “good neighbors.” Who becomes the “good neighbor?” Was it the lady whose house was so close to

ours, we could hear her TV during the day and her loud arguments with her teenage son on the weekends? The widow on the other side of the hedge was quiet and kind; she sometimes brought us a surprise dessert from her weekly shopping day. Our neighbors across the street were seldom seen, busy about their own lives. Occasionally, we could hear the arguing and slamming doors or barking dog.

...true charity does not consist only in smiles,
attitudes, and words;
it arises from the depths of the heart;
it is rooted in benevolence

At age 10, I was enrolled in Catholic school, and the understanding of the neighbor began to take on a deeper level of understanding, far beyond the safety of my home surroundings. “On one occasion, a lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asks him what is written in the law. He replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” “Correct,” answers Jesus. “But who is my neighbor?” Jesus proceeds to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan, and then asks the lawyer, “Which of these three was neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” The answer came, “The one who treated him with compassion.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.” What a story for reflection! Jesus not only identifies who my neighbor is BUT ALSO how I am to treat my neighbor!

Until I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, I had no idea how important the “dear neighbor” was to the mission and charism of the Congregation; how central the “dear neighbor” was in the Little Plan of our founder, Jean-Pierre Medaille, S.J. In a small little book entitled *Meditations on the Little Plan*, I read: “Charity is the characteristic virtue of our Congregation, as it was of St. Joseph and of our Lord. Jesus is so intent upon it that he hides Himself in our neighbor, as in a sacrament, declaring as done to Himself whatever we do to others,” and “My daughter, true charity does not consist only in smiles, attitudes, and words; it arises from the depths of the heart; it is rooted in benevolence.”

So, who is my “dear neighbor?” All God’s children; those whom I have come to know well, and so many people whom I will never know; those who have lived and died without our paths even close to meeting, who are living and dying this very moment, and who are yet to be a part of the future of our precious world.

Our Mission Statement reads: *Seized by God’s love, we work in collaboration with others to bring union and reconciliation to our world, “That all may be one.”* John 17:21

The Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine share in a history grounded by our eight French Sisters who responded with courageous and heroic charity to the needs of the “dear neighbor.” More than 10,000 Civil War freed slaves were without education or religion in the mission grounds of Florida. The Sisters left their homeland, learned a new language, adjusted to the climate, and joyfully embraced the “dear neighbor.” It was through their contemplation in action that they saw the face of Jesus.

Remembering Sharon



Dear Friends,

It is with a heart full of both sadness and hope that we share the news of the death of Sharon Starling. Sharon passed away early this morning (April 14) after a short but serious illness resulting from emergency surgery and infections. She was in critical care at the hospital. When it became apparent yesterday that her health was greatly compromised and that she was in a lot of pain and discomfort, her family chose palliative care. All of her siblings, many family members and many L’Arche community members visited her during the day and night to tell her that she was loved and to say goodbye. Sharon

was asleep during most of this time, but we are certain she could hear us and feel our presence. We gathered around her bedside and sang her favorite songs to her; we prayed the Rosary; we told her why we loved her; we reminded her of funny stories; we told her it was good for her to be at peace; we told her to *Be Not Afraid*. Her little sister, Robin, stroked her hair and whispered to her assurance of her belovedness. Our neighbor and priest, Father Boddie, joined us to pray with us and bless her. Her dear friend and housemate, Sister Rita was by her side when she passed to God.

Sharon has been a core member at L’Arche Harbor House since May of 1988; for 27 years, she has been an icon of the community. She is well known for her outgoing and friendly personality, her ability to host and welcome all guests, visitors and friends. Sharon had a beautiful singing voice and was often the reader and narrator at prayer services and special events. Sharon led us in prayer and song, and also had the best Donald Duck voice ever. She loved people – especially young children and babies. When she was not working at Pine Castle or other places, she was volunteering at Christ the King Childcare, the Rainbow, Morningstar School, Dignity U Wear, St. Vincent de Paul and many other places.

She had close friendships with many, many people. Her heart was always open and others felt comfortable and joyful in her presence. We know that she deeply missed her loved ones who passed before her, and that she is grateful to join her parents, brother and many friends in the arms of God.

We hope you will join us to celebrate Sharon’s amazing life.

Blessings,

Amy and all of L’Arche Harbor House

**Keep a close watch
on your bulletins
You don’t want to miss
the next segment of
The Father Brian Carey Bible Study**



Were You a part of the Gratitude Tree?



US Catholic Magazine ranks Cursillo high among Spirituality Programs

by Tony Marinucci

In an article appearing in the March issue of US Catholic Magazine, Cursillo was ranked among one of a few good men's spirituality programs. In the issue a member of the Christ the King Cursillo group was interviewed and brought some national and international notoriety to our Parish while explaining the Cursillo movement.

Even though the Cursillo movement is available to both men and women, the article was centered on the impact Cursillo has on men's spirituality.

The article acknowledges that Cursillo is "the oldest and probably most well-known of spiritual renewal movements." And goes further by stating "it connects participants with their spirituality in small group meetings that help them live out their faith in the community."

The Cursillo experience begins with a three-day weekend that combines a retreat with courses in Christianity presented by clergy and lay persons. Most men become deeply and spiritually moved, resulting in a "transformation" to becoming more concerned with their families, raising their children, attending mass, prayer, sacraments and evangelization as they reach out and show more compassion for other people.

Come and experience the sensation and transformation by attending one of the next Cursillo weekends to be held in September 2015 at Marywood.

The weekend dates are:
September 17 - 20, 2015 (Men)
September 24 - 27, 2015 (Women)

For further Cursillo details contact: Anthony (Tony) Marinucci
Tele: 904-994-9123
Email: afmarinucci@comcast.net

St. Vincent de Paul Reports

by Yolanda Cerqueira



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is like the cycles of the year, winter, spring, summer and fall you can count on our Society to be here for whatever comes our way. One of the most important reasons we can be at the ready is your support of our Society. The parishioners at our parish always rise to the occasion, whatever the need. Your kindness and generosity in contributing to our Poor Box and

food baskets allow us to keep operating all year long.

Jesus told us that the poor would always be with us. That is certainly verified by the number of clients who call us. Some of our clients work full time but they may have run into an unexpected car repair bill or medical expenses not covered by insurance. We have many clients who have part-time jobs. They want more hours but their company does not provide them. It's tough for some people. There are all sorts of situations. We run into individuals who are simply poor managers and have never learned how to budget. We also have clients who, no matter how hard they work, never seem to bring enough money home to make all ends meet.

We at St. Vincent de Paul try to be the go-between with JEA, the rental company, or the grocery store. As you know we never give money outright but always write checks to the agency where the money is owed. It is also imperative that parishioners understand that before any bill is paid we ask the client to try to get some of the money themselves. That way they have a stake in it. We have agencies that we refer them to in order to seek assistance. We also suggest that they seek part of the money from a family member if that is possible. We want you to know what you donate or put in the Poor Box is appreciated and that it goes only to clients that are in real need.

We also want you to be aware that, besides bringing food or financial assistance, we bring Jesus to our clients. Many times we have been surprised that the clients bring Jesus to us. What do I mean by that? There are some beautiful Christians among our clients that no matter what unfortunate circumstances have befallen them; they have not lost their faith. They know that Jesus not only loves them but takes care of them. This is not an unusual occurrence as any Vincentian would tell you so.

As mentioned in the introduction of this article it will not be long before summer season is here. Summer means vacations. Many people will be away enjoying the pleasures of the season but St. Vincent de Paul is never on vacation. We will be here this summer and beyond serving the needs of our clients. Please help us to keep our baskets full. As always, we thank you, the generous people of Christ the King.

Remembering

by Charm I. Saults

This past year within our church family we have lost many special people. It is always sad when a loved one passes on, but we need to remember how they touched our lives, and having known them how much better our lives have been. God sends friends to us to be the angels in our lives. Then when He feels they should return to heaven He calls their name, because He has other plans for them.

I want people to remember me in a special way so I wrote the following.



Give Me Away

When I die give me away
If you cannot give me away
At least let me live in your heart
And not in your tears

I want to leave you with a memory more precious
Than just the words I have said... The little ways I
Have tried to touch you, so look for me in the
People I have known. Those that I have loved and
Enjoyed making special memories with.
Remember I am just hiding in the warmth of a hug,
The glow of a smile, the twinkle in another's eyes.
Or the gentle touch of a friendly hand.
Remember I will always be with you.
You can love me most by letting me go as you touch
Another's hand, by letting life touch life, and by
Letting hope conquer despair.
Love doesn't die, so when all that is left of me is love
Give me away.



Welcome, Martin



by Livinus Chinonye Ibeh (Martin)

My Life Profile

My name is Livinus Chinonye Ibeh. I was born on the 23rd August 1976 in my hometown Amiri in Imo State, Nigeria. My father's name is Mr. Godwin Ibeh (of blessed memory) and my mother is Juliana Ibeh. I have seven siblings, three brothers and four sisters. I am the fourth son and sixth child of the family. I was baptized when I was four months old at my home parish, St. Paul Catholic Church, Amiri.

Early Life

I was born into a practicing Catholic family of devout, responsible and loving parents. By God's grace, I was a fairly smart and healthy child. My parents raised us in discipline and morals that come

from the fear of God. I do not remember many experiences I had when I was a child. However, one thing remains vividly fresh in my memory. My mom once told us a story about heaven and hell. She so described hell that it instilled fear in me. Right from that moment, I firmly resolved to obey my parents and lead a good life so as to avoid the torment of hell and share in the vision of glory. I learned over time that God does not want me to serve Him with servile fear, but rather with filial fear, complete, joyful love of a child for his loving father. The moral upbringing I received from my parents really nurtured my heart in the practice of virtue.

Childhood

I had a joyful life growing up in the poor, rural area located in the eastern part of Nigeria. As part of our village life, every night all the children in the neighborhood gathered in our house for moonlight plays. We had varying activities to spice up the recreation, including folktales, folk dance, lyric poems, hide-and-seek. All the children would participate with a delightful spirit until we grew tired. Then we ended for the night rest, bidding one another good night. We spent some days hunting rabbits, cane rats, squirrels and others. It was exciting returning home with one or two bush animals. We shared what we caught among ourselves. Each family would use their own portion of the meat to prepare soup for the family. My parents inculcated the value of responsibility and hard work into me early in my life. They taught me how to cook and also set me to work in the farm. All of us in the family would carry out the chores according to his or her capacity.

Primary Education

I did not attend any formal education until I was seven. At seven years of age, I was ready to begin my primary education. Though they were not formally educated, my parents understood the value of education. They often encouraged me to be diligent and persevering in my studies. But their wise counsel did not get into my ear in time. In the school, I played away my time; hence I lost two years without getting ahead in school. At the age of nine, I felt a profound urge within me to be serious with my studies. With great ardor and determination, I pursued my studies. As a result, I performed creditably well in school. I was chosen to serve as prefect for the students. My teachers showed me great love, encouraging me to maintain my zeal for learning.

High School

With remarkable excellence, I completed my primary education in 1991. I entered into the public high school, then called Boys Secondary School, Amiri. It was an affordable school for the poor villagers. My teachers in the school appreciated my effort to learn. At senior level, I was chosen to serve as Senior Prefect. Afterward, I was admitted into St. Kizito Secondary School, Umuchima, a boarding institute owned and administered by the Catholic diocese of Orlu, Imo State. Reverend Athanasius Onyima, the Rector of the school, was my mentor who guided me in my vocation discernment. When I graduated from the school, I sought admission in a number of dioceses, but each of them replied that they had more than enough candidates from their minor seminaries. They had no opening to accept aspirants from outside their minor seminaries. This seeming disappointment never disheartened me. I pressed on in hope and confidence in the Lord.

Tertiary Education

Upon completing my high school in 1998, I pursued a course in teacher education. I attended the Osisatech College of Education, Enugu, Nigeria, where I received the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) in 2001, having completed a three-year program for the English Language and Christian Religious Studies. I took up a teaching appointment for a short time. Then I went to the Madonna University, Okija, Nigeria, where I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Library and Information Science in 2005. Following my graduation, I was accepted to work in the university as a reference librarian.

Faith Background

I was blessed to have come from an active Catholic home. I was a member of the Block Rosary Crusade. We had a prayer center in our house. Our daily Rosary attracted a large number of children to our home every evening. I was very involved in a number of religious functions in our parish level. Even though our parish Church was distant from our home, we did not grow weary walking the long miles to attend Mass and other parish functions. All this helped me to hold firmly to the faith.

Initial Inspiration for Vocation

My desire for holy priesthood was a fire that the Lord enkindled in my heart early in life. In my childhood years, I heard about how Jesus called the disciples and each left everything and followed Him. I could imagine the profound joy of life in Christ in them, so overwhelming that they could not keep the Good News to themselves. They saw themselves as ambassadors and instruments for bringing the life of Christ to the entire world. I often felt inspired listening to our parish priest preach the word of God. He was really on fire with the love of Jesus. At that tender age, I had the interior prompting to dedicate my life entirely in serving the Lord. I remember one day telling my father that I would become a priest. He chuckled and said, "Well, nothing is impossible for the Lord. Pray that God may send the money to train you." I understood that I faced certain limitations to the vocation at that point. My parents could not afford the huge amount of money required to train me in the minor seminary. Even so, I prayed daily for God's will in my life, hopeful that the holy desire would be realized one day by His grace. Each passing day the fire of this holy service burned in my heart with greater intensity. Over time, I found that "the Lord of the harvest" had planned to take me through a vocation detour, through colleges and jobs outside the seminary walls.

Activities While in the Schools

It was in my high school days that I joined the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I was involved in the teaching ministry of the Renewal ministry. When I was in the college of education, I served as the coordinator of the Young Catholic Students Association, Osisatech College Chapter (2000/2001). As a student-teacher, I had my first teaching experience at New Bethel Primary/Secondary School, Enugu. Following my graduation from the college, I taught at Maria Goriotti Girls' School, Obibi-Ochsi, Orlu. I had a striking cordial relationship with the teachers and the students of the schools. I remember them with great affection. In Madonna University, I served in the following capacities: president of the Patrician Forum of the Legion of Mary; hall representative; president of the Catholic Biblical Movement; and student representative for the department of Library and Information Science. I also helped in teaching catechism to students preparing for various sacraments.

Friendship

I had a number of friends in the course of my life's journey. Some of them were my professors and some were my school mates. Rev. Reginald Nnamdi, the academic dean for Social Science department in the University, was a close friend and mentor. He was very supportive of my interest in the vocation to priesthood. Father Reginald co-founded a Marian prayer group. I did spend some weekends with him. It was a soul-stirring experience praying in that holy ground with people who were passionate to grow daily in holiness. I would add that I had some female friends. I came in contact with some of them in the schools. I was impressed by their deep spiritual fervor and pure desire and effort to grow in virtue. Based on the grace of God, the discipline I imbibed early in life and my desire and earnest effort to deepen in faith, I have kept a morally oriented attitude toward women. I keep in mind the Christian call to chastity and the celibacy that vocation to Catholic priesthood calls for. I strive daily to maintain a healthy and holy relationship with people I come in contact. Many of them have shown me great love and taught me how to love in a sacrificial manner. Since I cannot thank them enough, I daily commend them to God who rewards generously according to our deeds.

Welcome, Martin

continued from page 8

Publications

In 2005, I published my first book titled Making Saints in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Award

By the grace of God, the Senate of Madonna University Okija chose me as the winner of the annual moral excellence award, the best graduating student in morals in the 2005 Convocation Ceremony of the university.

Hobby

In my teen years I was a member of our cultural dancing troupe. I danced and also beat the drum for the troupe. Currently, I enjoy jogging, biking, hunting, reading and writing.

Vocation

When I was completing my degree course in the university, I thought about what I would do afterward. I was in contact with my mentor, Reverend Athanasius Onyima. He was very concerned and willing to help me in my vocation. Since he spent his annual summer vacation in Oregon, USA, Father Onyima thought about the possibility of recommending me to a diocese in the USA. Through his help, I started corresponding with the archdiocese of Portland, Oregon. In 2005, the authority of the archdiocese gave my application a favorable consideration, officially inviting me to USA to study as a seminarian for the archdiocese. But God had a different plan for my life. All my efforts to obtain a USA visa were fruitless. Even though the prospect seemed bleak at that moment, I was convinced that the Lord was calling me for a special mission. I kept waiting patiently for the Lord; I kept persevering; I kept trusting in His unfailing promises, for I believed that I needed “endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised” (Heb 10:36).

At some point, I began considering religious life as an alternative. Now many of the more active religious communities in Nigeria had

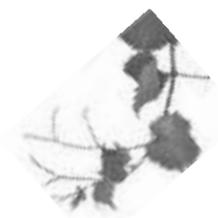
placed age limit for their aspirants and gave more consideration to those who passed through minor seminaries. Thus I found that I had a narrow chance of securing admission even in religious life. Nearly two years after my graduation, a friend told me about the Society of Our Mother of Peace. Having discerned my vocation there, I was admitted in 2007. After three years of initial formation, I took my simple vows, taking the religious name Brother Martin (after St. Martin of Tours). Then our Superior reassigned me from our community in Nigeria to our mother-house in the States. I was convinced that it was providential and a privileged moment of missionary experience, which would, at least in the social sphere, expand the horizons of my knowledge and understanding of the peoples and cultures in that part of the world. I had no doubt that it would be grace-filled, but not without its concomitant challenges and sacrifices. I arrived in the USA in September 2010. Soon after my arrival I began serving the door-to-door evangelization as apostolate of my religious community. In January 2011, I started my studies for the Pre-theology program at Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis. In May 2012, I was asked to make my final Vows for our community. I knew that the hunger to be more actively close with the people of God was still burning in me. Yet, since my Superior begged me not to leave the community, I managed to move forward as one under an obligation.

In December 2014, we received the news that the bishop in charge of our community was questioning the structure and the priestly duties available in our community. I felt that it was now an opportunity to go, the time to leave for the diocesan life which had been the desire of my heart all my life. I would confidently say that my experience in religious life has been a great blessing to me. God designed my vocation journey this way to nurture, shape and set my heart free from attachment to passing things, in order to be disposed to help others encounter Him more deeply, God willing, in my future priestly ministry. I remain joyfully submissive and pliable to the authorities of the Church, constantly opening my heart to the movement of the Holy Spirit to be better equipped holistically to the challenging vocation to diocesan priesthood in this modern age.



Father Devlin's Homily

Sunday, May 3 John 15:1-8



Let me see a show of hands? How many people own a cell phone? Who has ever had one of the following experiences? Halfway through the day your cell phone battery wears down and you're not able to recharge your phone until later. How did you feel? Or you're away and you forget your charger. How'd you feel? (After the 9:00 a.m. Mass today, we found a cell phone in a pew....not kidding....) Imagine how you'd feel. Ever lost your cell phone? We're so dependent on phones today....without them we're not able to function...we're cut off.

If Jesus were teaching today, I wonder if He would've used the image of a cell phone and battery along with the vine and the branches to make his point in today's Gospel. This would easily communicate how important it is that we remain in Him and receive life being connected to Him. Jesus wants to make it abundantly clear that we need to remain in Him if we are to be spiritually alive and bear the fruit that shows itself in love of Him and love of neighbor—if we are to flourish as his disciples. Interestingly, Jesus uses the word “remain” eight times in the eight verses that make up this Sunday's Gospel.

Here's the point: Being connected with Jesus is critical. We remain in Jesus when we are part of the Church, part of the living Body of Christ. It is in the Church that Jesus speaks to us as we hear the scriptures proclaimed and preached—scriptures that not only comfort us, but also challenge us to turn away from selfishness and sin. It is in the Church that Jesus nourishes us through the sacraments, above all through the Eucharist in which He gives us a share in His very life and unites us with Himself in one “holy communion.” It is in and through the Church that Jesus supports us through our fellow Christians who walk with us on our journey of life and who give us examples of holiness, sacrifice, generosity, and service. It is also in the Church that Jesus tests our faith as we deal not only with saints but also with sinners. We deal with people who are not always easy to love, who make demands, who fail to live as they should, who need forgiveness. In other words, in the Church we deal with imperfect people like ourselves. Being imperfect, to use the word found in this passage, we're all in need of a good pruning. What does being pruned mean? How should we understand this? I read this week, that the Greek word for “to be pruned” can also be translated as “to be cleaned.” Interesting, isn't it?

A California vineyard owner gives the following explanation for the pruning/cleaning process in the vineyard. “New branches,” he says, “have a natural tendency to trail down and grow along the ground. But they don't bear fruit down there,” says the vineyard owner. “When the branches grow along the ground, the leaves get coated in dust. When it rains, they get muddy and mildewed. The branch becomes sick and useless.” Instead of cutting the dirty branch off and throwing it away, the vineyard owner goes through the vineyard with a bucket of water looking for those branches growing along the ground. On finding them, the vineyard owner lifts them out of the dirt, washes them off, then wraps them around the trellis or ties them up. Pretty soon thereafter they're thriving. This is what Jesus is talking about too. He is the Vine, we are the branches. But sometimes we are like those low lying branches trailing along the ground. Our leaves are coated in dirt. When it rains we get coated with mud and mildew, if you will. At such times we are incapable of bearing good fruit. What does our Vineyard Owner do with us? Does God cut us off and throw us in the fire? No, we are too valuable to God to do that. Instead, God tenderly washes us off and lifts us up with his gentle, nail-scarred hands and places us up higher where we can thrive again.

Isn't this a magnificent picture of what Jesus does in our lives? In and through the Church, particularly in the Sacrament of Penance, Jesus says to each one of us, “I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener....for every branch to bear fruit he cleans and lifts up, through his forgiveness, so that it will be even more fruitful. Yes, we can only bear fruit by being cleaned and lifted up by the Lord, by always remaining in Him, never allowing ourselves to become detached from the Lord. There's no surer way of remaining in Jesus and Jesus remaining in us than through our active, committed, participation in the Church.

When we follow the advice of Jesus, the Divine Power Source (can we say, Divine Charger?) and live by His words by being dedicated members of His Church, Jesus remains in us and we remain in Jesus. Remaining in Jesus we bear much fruit. Remaining in Jesus in and through His Church is essential because without Jesus we can do nothing.

Are You a Member or a Disciple?

by Yolanda Cerqueira

Are you a member of Christ the King Parish? What a silly question you probably are thinking. Of course I'm a member of Christ the King Parish and have been for years. My kids go or went to school here and on Sundays we attend the Mass faithfully. We also make a monthly tithing. However, if I were to ask you if you are a disciple of Christ the King Parish, what would your answer be now? This was the question presented to us by Father Ron Chochol during our Lenten Retreat in March. Frankly, who among us has given much thought to this very unsettling question? It certainly opens up the Pandora Box.

First of all what is a disciple? According to Webster's dictionary, a disciple is a pupil or follower of Jesus or any teacher or school of religion. That seems easy to understand; but there's far more to it than a simple definition. For our purpose a follower then, is one who tries to spread the message of Jesus to those around us in words and/or actions to our friends, co-workers, and neighbors. As you leave our church there is a huge sign that reads "Entering the Mission Field." How many of you have taken that message to heart and followed it through?

It's not easy for Catholics to talk about Jesus to others. Most of us feel somewhat uneasy, and not really prepared to open up this topic of conversation. It is not something that Catholics feel comfortable doing. You probably worry about how to start the conversation. Sometimes even with friends we associate with all the time we tend to talk about everything else except Jesus. Do I know enough about my faith? How do I start? What if someone asked me a question and I don't know the answer. Relax, no one has all the answers.

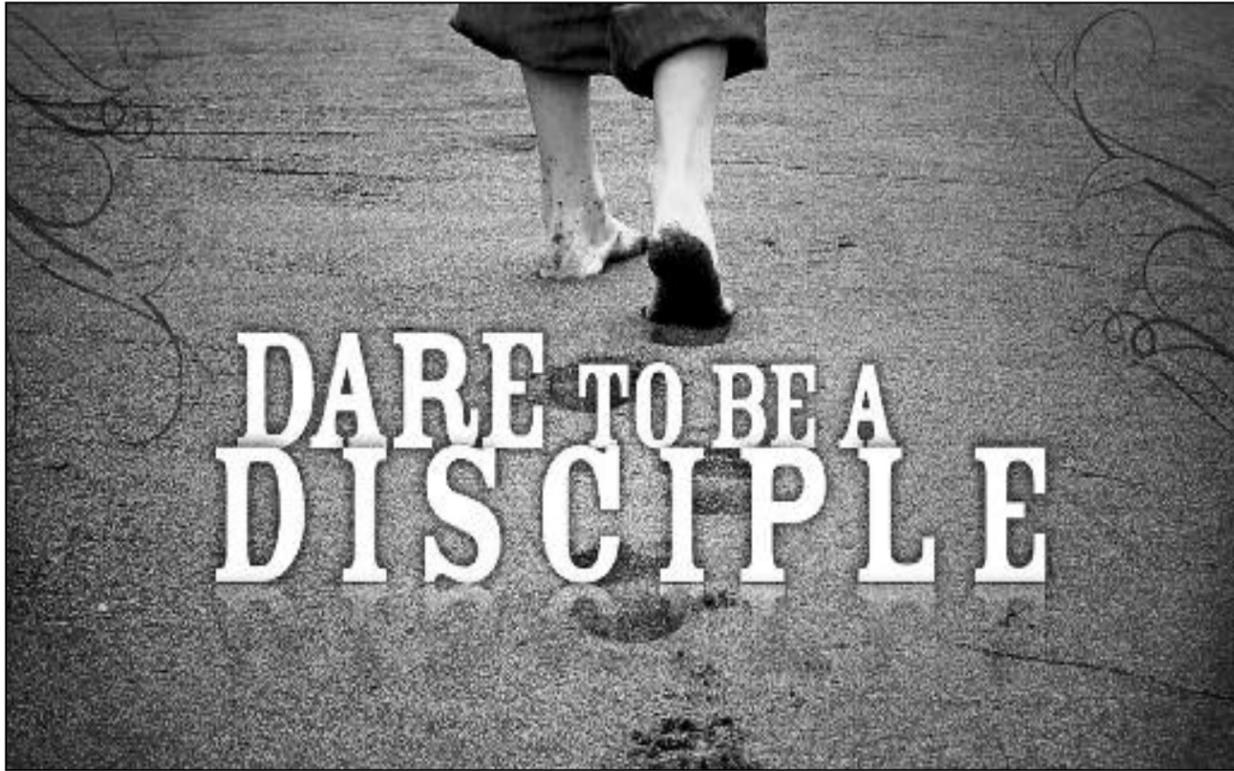
But before we step out on faith we must first work on ourselves, as Father Chochol gently reminded us. What is there in you that would tell people that you are a disciple of Jesus? How do you conduct or handle yourself? For example, are you short tempered, or do you pause before giving a response? None of us is perfect, but if you tend to be more on the hot-headed side, then those around you would not exactly consider you a disciple of Jesus.

Father went on to speak about how we spend our time. Do you start your day with prayer, asking for guidance for the day? Do you allow time for reading the Bible or other spiritual material? There are unending stories of faith and hope in the Bible. And of course, the Holy Spirit is always at your side; He will give you the words. Father emphasized that how you spend your time says much about the quality and character of your discipleship.

With whom do you associate? The people you choose to associate with should tell you and others about whether you are really a disciple of Jesus. We have to make choices as to whether our friends are helping us to move spiritually upward; or are you teetering on a ledge that will catapult you into unsafe waters.

Most of us know we have to make some changes in order to be truly a disciple of the Lord. Change isn't easy. It takes effort and courage to change an action that feels so comfortable to us. Prayer and persistence is the key to a change in the heart. Remember we will never be perfect, but it's in the steady persistence that we chip away our imperfections.

Father brought up something that one would probably never relate to being a disciple. Do you always sit in the same seat at church? How many of us become upset if someone is sitting in "our seat?" When we have parish gatherings or meetings do you always sit with the same people? Would you feel uncomfortable if you sat somewhere else? This is also discipleship. It is an attitude we assume toward someone or something. We can start in church by speaking to someone new and extend the hand of friendship. Have you thought of inviting your non-Catholic neighbor to come to Mass with you, and in turn, go to their church and see how much you have in common? Around the office or in a social gathering someone



might speak in favor of abortion? How do I handle that? Should I keep my mouth shut even though it really bothers me? In a pleasant tone, state what you believe and why. There are probably others there who agree with you. The way you speak, the love and kindness you extend to others makes your light of discipleship shine very brightly.

We have some idea now as

to the difference between being a member of Christ the King and being a disciple of Christ the King. So what are you going to do about it? Is it important enough to you to make some changes in the way you react to certain situations? Only you can make that decision. You are a Catholic; be proud of it. Hopefully, you are a disciple of Christ the King, but more important, a disciple of Jesus Christ.



Continues its Winning Ways

That Man Is You! reached many milestones and accomplishments as it ended its second year and planning its third year of success.

First - It was acknowledged in the March issue of US Catholic Magazine as one of the four most highly ranked as a good men's spirituality program. (Cursillo was also ranked as well, making Christ the King a participant in two of the four highly ranked spirituality programs.)

Second - That Man Is You! is the fastest growing men's ministry in the nation today dedicated to helping men find God in marriage and family life.

Third - That Man Is You! concluded two years of sessions and is preparing for the next session that will begin in September 2015.

Fourth - Even though we have completed the formal session, the men have continued meeting every Thursday (6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.) in the

Vietnamese Cultural center. It continues to be centered on praying the rosary, reading the scripture of the day and praying for people in need of those prayers. We also pray for a cure for the trials and tribulations besetting our nation today.

Fifth - The That Man program is preparing to continue its third year of sessions beginning this September (dates will be announced shortly).

The program continues its march to men's spirituality and asks each and every man reading this article to join us in that march by attending the sessions beginning in September.

Come and join us the Thursday after you read this article and enjoy the camaraderie and spirituality with other men with the same goals as you.

For further information contact: Anthony (Tony) Marinucci, 904-994-9123 or email: afmarinucci@comcast.net

A New Orleans Weekend

by Carol-Ann Black

A weekend in New Orleans—sounds like fun, wouldn't you say? Our Father Boddie had such a weekend recently, March 23 to be precise. I will make the assumption that he enjoyed it. His mission was to represent Bishop Estevez at the installation of Bishop-elect Fernand Cheri as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This would seem a singular honor in and of itself, but Bishop-elect Cheri is a returning native son of the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans with a unique background. This makes for an especially interesting event.

Bishop-elect Cheri was serving as director of campus ministry at Quincy University, a Franciscan university in Illinois, when he received the call from the apostolic nuncio that he had been appointed by Pope Francis on December 20, 2014.

It was in high school that he began to think of the priesthood. When he attended St. Joseph Seminary in Covington, Louisiana, there were only about 15 black seminarians studying for the dioceses across the state. In spite of the fact that he had almost no black priests in his life at the time, he persisted and was ordained in 1978. Seminarian Cheri spent 10 weeks in 1976 as chaplain at California State Prison in Vacaville. His words, "...In those 10 weeks, those men taught me more things than I ever thought possible. My ministry at Vacaville gave me the courage to go on to be a priest." They also taught him that he wanted to help other and future priests to achieve a broader grounding in formation, so that they would be better able to serve their diverse parishes.

After ordination Father Cheri served in several New Orleans-area parishes when he discerned a call to a religious community. He chose the Franciscans for their service to the poor. He served in a high school in Chicago; as pastor in Nashville, Tennessee; and in East St. Louis, Illinois, as guidance counselor and choir director. (This latter assignment was especially appropriate, as he had loved to sing as a boy and was always a welcome addition to any choir.) Bishop-elect Cheri's time working with high school youth prepared him for campus ministry at Xavier University, New Orleans and Quincy University.

Bishop Cheri's growing up in the difficult years of racial integration, his prison ministry, and his work among the poor with the Franciscans gives him a valuable perspective as he enters his new ministry in New Orleans.

At installation a special blessing for Bishop Cheri was the presence of his mother and his six siblings. His father had passed away in 1995.



Nocturnal Adoration Society Chapter Is Becoming Thin!

by Paul Ghiotto

No. I'm not talking about a "weight loss" program! Rather, the local chapter needs new members if it is to continue to be an active ministry within the church community.

The Christ the King Chapter includes members from Christ the King, Holy Spirit, Holy Rosary, Resurrection, and Blessed Trinity. Currently, the eight "rotating" bands are led by the following individuals:

Band One – Paul Ghiotto; members: Hazel Ghiotto, Nydia Diefenbach, and Emily Berlinghoff; **Band Two** – Ron Lynch; members: Valerie Lynch, Matthew Lynch, Christian Lynch, and Doris Adams; **Band Three** – Richard Sollee (Assumption); members: Dot Sollee, Paul Sollee, Jim and Terry Connolly, Mike Porkert; **Band Four** – Al Martin; members: Terry and Catherine Yip, Dan Yip, Stephen Yip, Fernando and Carmen Rodriguez; **Band Five** – no current leader or members; **Band Six** – George Pruitt; members: Patrice and Mike Pruitt; **Band Seven** – Anatole Maher, Pedro and Angela Arias, Del and Jesse Rosario; **Band Eight** – John Lewis; members: Colleen Lewis, George Lewis, Bob and Nancy Fritch, Maryann Middleton.

New members for Band Six and Band Five (and a leader!) are definitely needed!

Christ the King's chapter first began rotating hours of adoration in "bands" in 1962. Four original members are still "aboard." They are Al Martin, Bruce Shuert, Anatole Maher, and Frank Becht.

"Non-rotating" bands spend an hour of adoration beginning at 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Monica Crisp leads the 6:00 a.m. band and Leo Milano heads the 7:00 a.m. band during Stu Pierce's upcoming absence.

Members of the Society give one hour of adoration on the First Friday/Saturday combination of each month. Members spend part of the time reciting prayers contained in an official Society handbook and in periods of silent meditation. Adoration is held throughout the night beginning officially with the 10:00 to 11:00 p.m. hour and ending with the 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. hour the following morning. Benediction and Holy Mass follow the last hour of adoration. The only commitment required of Society members is that they try their best to come at their appointed hour to pray with others before the Blessed Sacrament.

For those who are tentative but still contemplating coming to this night adoration for the first time, you may wish to start with the 10:00 to 11:00 p.m. hour and see how you like it. If you wish to join a rotating band, and every month advance your adoration to the next hour, great. We especially need YOUNGER parishioners to join with us!

For those who would like to join but not participate with a rotating band I suggest that they sign up with a group which comes between either 6:00 to 7:00 a.m. or 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning following the nocturnal hours.

Attention MINISTRY Leaders! Please consider the idea of adopting a particular band or hour for your group. Only three members need be present each month and different people can come each month!

The Nocturnal Adoration Society is a national association for Catholic men and women and was established in accordance with Church law on November 28, 1928. The purpose of the Nocturnal Adoration Society is to respond to Our Lord's invitation to spend one hour with Him (Mark 14: 37-38), to atone for sins committed, and to draw down God's blessings.

Questions? Please contact me at 727-5040, or Secretary/Treasurer Monica Crisp at 721-2754.

Emergency Pregnancy Services



10 babies saved in April

Total babies saved in 2015 is 32

Happy
New Year!
We
celebrate
again in
261 days



St. Anthony

by Ellin Iselin

How was it that a little boy named Fernando from the Iberian Peninsula came to be called St. Anthony of Padua? One could say the hand of God was directly involved with the transformation of a young man who is today linked to Italy. St. Anthony is associated with St. Francis of Assisi for several reasons: St. Anthony was a Franciscan, he was a contemporary of St. Francis and stories of animals are prevalent in narratives of both men.

Born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195, Fernando Martins expressed during childhood that he wanted to become a missionary and initially joined the Congregation of Canons Regular of St. Augustine in Lisbon at age fifteen. In 1206 the Franciscans began to influence the region, and Fernando requested a transfer from the Augustinians to the Franciscan order. He was welcomed there with open arms, and his wish to mission in Morocco was granted. It was around this same time that Fernando became Anthony. Anthony's time in Africa was short-lived, however, due to a serious illness with which he was stricken. There was no choice but to head back home to Portugal. Plans again changed, though, when a storm blew the transport ship off course and Anthony landed in Sicily. Again the Franciscans took him in and eventually sent



him to Assisi. Anthony travelled throughout Italy and France, and finally stopped in Padua, which would be his final resting place.

Anthony was known as an effective lecturer and teacher in his own day; in fact he could be called a "fisher of men." Legend has it that one day Anthony was fed up with the lack of listening skills among the people of Rimini; he went to the riverbank and began preaching to the fish. When the fish responded to Anthony's rhetoric by showing up in their own schools, the townsfolk decided they'd best pay attention to Anthony's homilies too!

Anthony of Padua died on June 13, 1231. He was canonized within the year—the quickest canonization in the history of the Church. Because of his scholarly abilities and his communication skills, St. Anthony was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1946. He is frequently depicted holding a book or the infant Jesus. The Basilica del Santo in Padua houses his relics.

Due to divine destiny during a storm, Fernando Martins from Lisbon, Portugal developed into one of the most venerated saints in the world known today as St. Anthony of Padua. And if you ever lose a valued article (keys or a cell phone for instance), Anthony might just be the saint to help you find them.

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A Visit with "The Miracle Man"

by Barbara Hanuscin

Quite a few years ago, an active parishioner was taken ill and was almost lost. He was in hospice and all medications were removed and many of his friends went to say good-bye to him. This guy was dubbed "the Miracle Man" by Father Thanh, because he suddenly seemed to wake up and then went on to do rehab and to live. He did quite well. He



returned to his home and to driving his car and serving as Eucharistic Minister once again. He was able to do this for several more years. Then the effects of his previous illness started to cause some confusion and he realized that he needed to be in a place that would "watch his back." This wonderful guy is Berlin Clark and he is still a miracle. He is living in a Veterans Home in Lake City—quite a distance for visitors to drive.

He keeps up with Christ the King by weekly church bulletins and looks forward to each one. In fact he probably knows more about what is going on at Christ the King than some parishioners who take the bulletin home and forget to read it.

On a recent visit to Berlin, there was much hugging and a few kisses and lots of smiles and reminiscing. I know the visit did me as much good as it did him. While there, we joined with the veterans who were playing bingo, which was sponsored by a Moose lodge. There are vets in their 50s on up to probably 100 years old. As I scanned the room I could sense the history of our country and the military conflicts in which these men had served in various years. To me the Veterans Administration Home is not like any of the nursing homes I have ever visited in Jacksonville, and in my line of work as a nurse, I have been to quite a few. The men are accepting and appreciative of where they are and the staff treats them with the respect every human being deserves, along with the respect they deserve for their service to this country. It is a moving experience that generates pride in our servicemen.



Berlin said, "Take a photo and put it in the bulletin" along with a big "hello" from him. In addition to the bulletin, however, I think another good place would be the *Courier*. So here it is right now. Drop him a line and let him know he is remembered for his service to Christ the King as Eucharistic minister for so many years and for his service to his country as well. His address is:

Mr. Berlin Clark
Robert Jenkins Veterans Domiciliary Home
751 Sycamore Terrace
Room 154
Lake City, Florida 32025

Any man
can
be a father
but it takes
someone special
to be a Dad.

First Holy Communion 2015

by Lucille Guzzone

On May 3, 2015, forty-two parish children received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time. This day marked the culmination of a two-year period of classroom lessons, spiritually enriching activities, meetings and various gatherings in preparation for the important event.

At the end of this preliminary instruction, the class, consisting of Christ the King School students and children in the Religious Education program, participated in a three-day intensive session called the "First Holy Communion Weekend."

On Friday evening, May 1, after enjoying a pizza dinner, the little ones attended a retreat. The class was separated into three groups. The groups alternated between participating in two sessions of hands-on activities and a meeting with Father Boddie who summed up and reviewed what they had learned.

The next day, bright and early, along with their families and other members of the parish, they participated in the Rosary march and Mass honoring the Blessed Mother.

Finally, Sunday morning, at the 9:00 a.m. Mass, dressed in white and feeling great anticipation, they processed up the church aisle carrying white carnations to the altar. These flowers were a symbolic gift from them to the Lord for His many blessings. As the children received the Eucharist during the Mass, they realized that this was another step toward their full membership as Catholic Christians. With the help and guidance of their personal and church families, it is hopeful that these little children will, in the future, continue to experience the joy and love of the many gifts that they will receive from God and from those of His Holy Catholic Church.



Congratulations to 2015 First Communicants

Anna Abercrombie
 Ty Aralar
 Dezeree Bunag
 Torin Cartwright
 MJ Cascone
 Taziana Ciavatta
 Veronica Daza
 Bella DeMendoza
 Emma Decker
 Dang Duy Doan
 Klara Drozdowski
 Paul Elhajj
 Sean Flanagan
 Emma Giles
 Sarah Gozar
 Elizabeth Harden
 David Martinez
 Julie Meehan
 Evelyn Mehl
 Ali Milagrosa
 Sean Moneyhan

Chimmy Nduka
 Matthew O'Connell
 Daniel Okochi
 Martina Onasanya
 Thomas Orf, Jr.
 Carmen Palenik
 Mavie Pedroza
 Hunter Pepper
 Juan Perez
 Jeremy Reckers
 Hannah Riker
 Ben Ross
 Sam Ross
 Carson Rukab
 Abigail Satkoff
 Brandon Sullivan
 Colin Ulrich
 Chloe Vila
 Kaitlyn Webb
 Wallis Whelan



Rosary Procession



First Holy Communion 2015



To Our Lady

Lovely Lady dressed in blue---
 Teach me how to pray!
 God was just your little Boy,
 Tell me what to say!
 Did you lift Him up, sometimes,
 Gently on your knee?
 Did you sing to Him the way
 Mother does to me?
 Did you hold His hand at night?
 Did you ever try
 Telling stories of the world?
 O! And did He cry?
 Do you really think He cares
 If I tell Him things---
 Little things that happen and
 Do the Angels' wings
 Make a noise? And can He hear
 Me if I speak low?
 Does He understand me now?
 Tell me---for you know?
 Lovely Lady dressed in blue---
 Teach me how to pray!
 God was just your little Boy.
 And you know the way.

Fathers are Wonderful People

Fathers are wonderful people
 Too little understood,
 And we do not sing their praises
 As often as we should...

For, somehow, Father seems to be
 The man who pays the bills,
 While Mother binds up little hurts
 And nurses all our ills...

And Father struggles daily
 To live up to "HIS IMAGE"
 As protector and provider
 And "hero or the scrimmage"...

And perhaps that is the reason
 We sometimes get the notion,
 That Fathers are not subject
 To the thing we call emotion,

But if you look inside Dad's heart,
 Where no one else can see
 You'll find he's sentimental
 And as "soft" as he can be...

But he's so busy every day
 In the grueling race of life,
 He leaves the sentimental stuff
 To his partner and his wife...

But Fathers are just WONDERFUL
 In a million different ways,
 And they merit loving compliments
 And accolade of praise,

For the only reason Dad aspires
 To fortune and success
 Is to make the family proud of him
 And to bring them happiness...

And like OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,
 He's a guardian and a guide,
 Someone that we can count on
 To be ALWAYS ON OUR SIDE.

Helen Steiner Rice

When was the Last Time?

by Cynthia Surles

When was the last time

...Sat down with a parent and asked about their memories of younger days? (They'll love talking about it and you'll collect family history.)

...Hugged your sibling or friend simply because?

...Let another driver into line in front of you even though you were running late? (That has more meaning than if you had lots of time!)

...Waved thank you to a driver that did you a favor? (Make someone happy.)

...Moved into the pew to allow room for someone else instead of hogging the corner? (Did you call "dibs" on that, or are you a transplant surgeon that needs to move quickly?)

...Took a day or even a half-day off from work just to surprise your kids with a special activity? (This could be as simple and free as a day at the beach or a walk in the park. Don't tell your child/children in advance and you won't disappoint if an emergency comes up.)

...Sent a card to a friend to let them know they're thought of? (Do it today.)

...Gave a cheery smile and hello to a tired cashier even though she didn't look happy? (She'll probably treat the next person in line a little better because you were nice to her.)

...Complimented a window washer, floor cleaner, etc. in the building where you work?

Many of these are little things that only require a few seconds of your time but it could make a big difference in someone else's life without you ever knowing it. I'm sure you can think of other "little" things to spread joy around.

Kale Salad

shared by Yolanda Cerqueira

Pkg/bundle of Kale
 1 -2 tbsps. of good olive oil
 1-2 tbsps. of lemon juice

Remove the stems from kale, use only the leaves. (You may tear the leaves into small pieces) Pour 1 tbsp. of olive oil into bottom of bowl. Place leaves into a good sized bowl. Add other tbsp. of olive oil on top of leaves. Massage the leaves with your hands for a few minutes. Add 1 tbsp. of lemon juice on bottom of the bowl, then kale w/oil, then the other tbsp. of lemon. Mix all together. Add kosher salt to taste. Mix again. Put in refrigerator to chill. Serve. Add pine nuts or sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, if desired.





Tim Talks

by Tim McClellan
President, Pastoral Council

For most of us, living and practicing our faith is a very personal thing. We go about our lives without overtly sharing our journey with others beyond the time we spend weekly at Mass. Even in our own homes, most of us tend to wait until we find some quiet time when we are alone to have a conversation with God. We don't want to come off as preachy or even a little odd in the eyes of others.

In a world growing more secular by the minute, those who put their faith out there for others to see without any regard for how they will be perceived have become the very people who are now targeted and persecuted. We see news reports every day that express, at a minimum, a broad misunderstanding of what it means to be Christians or Catholics. Our views are twisted in ways that allow secularists to punish us for our beliefs. We've all seen the news reports where Christian business owners are being forced to shut down their livelihoods and go into hiding because they aren't willing to compromise their principles to earn a buck.

It is times like these where we all need to become soldiers for our faith. Not necessarily in the traditional crusader role, but we should strive to be better educated about Sacred Scripture,

and about the traditions of our faith. The best way to combat ignorance is to shine a light on that darkness in a way that leaves no question what we stand for.

Not only should we strive to be better stewards of our faith, but we should double our efforts to assure that our children are also given the tools with which to carry the traditions into the future. We are entering a period in our culture where faith is almost shunned and mocked. Society is pressing the faithful on issues ranging from marriage and family to healthcare and the sanctity of life itself.

Never before have we seen such a full out assault on our beliefs. Those preaching tolerance seem to be the same people who don't bother practicing it when it pits their secular desires against the beliefs of the faithful. Our children are most vulnerable as they deal with the constant peer pressure, trying to fit in and be liked by others.

More immersion in our faith is important. Having the weapons to defend it properly is an absolute necessity. That starts with understanding the basic tenets of our faith, and expands from that into having a meaningfully deep and faithful relationship with God.

I often write about ways to help grow involvement in our parish community, and if there is a way we can accomplish that goal while also helping to enhance our spiritual growth, I see it as a win-win for everyone. Such an opportunity is now before us. This fall, Christ the King will host Christ Renews His Parish. This program provides us with an opportunity to take the next step in our spiritual journey as a parish, and allows us to embrace the new mission of evangelization that we have been called to undertake by Pope Francis.

At a time in our history where it seems like we are taking arrows from all sides for our beliefs as Christians and as Catholics, programs like Christ Renews His Parish are a vital tool in helping us to stand up to the challenges of an ever growing secular movement, and to assure the viability of our own parish community for generations to come. Together as a community, we can withstand the challenges we face today.



Come join us for Dinner, Mystery, and Fun at the exclusive nightspot in Christ the King Kingdom Hall. May 30th 2015 annual Youth Mystery presentation.

Matinee - Lunch 2:00 PM
\$15 per person \$25 per couple
Dinner Theater 6:30 PM
\$25 per person \$40 per couple

Solve the "Who Dunit" mystery. Come wearing your 1920's best outfit. Tickets available after each Mass

Proceeds to Benefit CTK Youth Group Mission Trips

Unless a Seed Fall

Photo meditation by Joseph R. Veneroso, M.M.
Reprinted with permission from Maryknoll magazine
Submitted by Carol-Ann Black

**Does the farmer cling to last year's seed
Or mourn the loss of yesterday's harvest?**

**He has learned to let go freely
Confident that today's apparent loss
Will tomorrow bear abundant fruit.**

**Teach me, O Lord, to let go
And let nature take its course.
All you have given me will one day
Be given back to you.**

**All you have loaned me for a time
My breath, my body, my life
Must return if, like the seed,
It is to bear abundant fruit.**

**Until that day, help me
To use your gifts
Wisely and well
That others may see your hand
In the world and in their lives.
You let your Son fall to the earth
And die. And Rise! And see!
The Earth is now ripe for harvest!**



CKCCW

by Carol-Ann Black

CKCCW stuff -

A few things went down recently with the Christ the King Council of Catholic Women besides the diocesan convention. Most important of course was the installation of a new board of officers, which took place at our recent general meeting on April 30. We met at Copeland's in the Tinseltown area of Southside, where we enjoyed an excellent lunch. It is rewarding to say that we could not have fit another person into the room, which means that we had very good attendance and that is always important for an active organization.

Stacy Duncan did the installation of the new board. We have two officers returning for another year—Kathy Nichols, secretary and Willie Blaquiére, treasurer. The new officers are Cheryl Davis, who will serve as vice-president, and Sue Pastorini, who will be our new president. Their willingness to serve our ministry is an indicator of their even greater willingness to serve the parish at large. There is almost no activity that doesn't see some involvement of our Council of Catholic Women.

After our business and lunch were done, we totally enjoyed Cat McCarroll's talk about EPS—Emergency Pregnancy Services. Cat recently took over as director of EPS in the Jacksonville area. She reminded us of the early history of the organization, recent developments and changes in their activities, and several important changes in the offing. I

hope to include a more detailed article about EPS in the next issue of the *Courier*.

Before adjournment we enjoyed the distribution of some "Dandy Daisy-Wrapped" door prizes. These had not been used at an earlier event and provided a great finale to a successful general meeting. One thing more—What is a Dandy Daisy-Wrapped door prize? Our long-time, multi-talented member, Daisy McDonald, has been our official wrapper for many years. Each gift is individual and specially wrapped and always a hit with each winner. Thank you, Daisy.

A little more stuff—

During the summer we have a few activities coming up. Number One of those would be the Women's Conference on Saturday, August 15 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. There will be plenty of information forthcoming in the bulletin and in other local publications.

Really, really important is the National Convention of NCCW to be held in Orlando from September 10 – 12. Being so close to the venue is an excellent opportunity for our local members to attend with little travel expense and an opportunity to attend for just one day if that is what works best for you. Team up with a roommate or an additional driver and GO and TAKE PART in National's business.

Finally, the new CKCCW executive board will begin its planning for next year. Watch for announcements in the bulletin.

Queens and Kings

by Annie Sabatino

Queens and Kings met in February and celebrated Valentine's Day. Tables were decorated in red and so were some of the desserts. Music was provided by Vivian Lopes "The Entertainer."

The March meeting always has a St. Patrick's Day theme. There were plenty of green colored desserts. Bingo was played and prizes went to the winners. Fred Schmidt, one of our members, played some Irish tunes on the piano and set the mood while we had our lunch.

April 12 was our Easter dinner meeting. Delicious ham and great side dishes were the fare. Fred Schmidt entertained us with a few Easter songs.

Come join us. Our meetings start with a prayer, the pledge of allegiance and God Bless America. Birthday and anniversary announcements are made and prayers for those who are ill.

Queens and Kings meet on the second Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Shirley David Hall. Check bulletin for our next meeting.



A View of the Pastoral Council

by Dennis McLaughlin

I have been impressed by the great time and effort spent on the organization of a Catholic parish this size.

Asking what is CTK doing now? And how do members respond to the answers: good or bad? Assembly of this data is an awesome task. Then what does a new Parish Plan development structure look like? You have accomplished much. But what standard guides the Council committee in its decision-making; choosing questions the committees need to discuss in their activities and functions with the rest of the parish. The subject matter sounds typically like that of a business (like one recommended to you by a business developer). But this is a church, and a Catholic one at that. More importantly....it needs to be revealed that this is a Christian organization inspired by the life of Jesus Christ. I notice that no mention of God is made in the study.

In my view the overall presentation is generally "male" in tone, which denies the fact that much of the work and thought has, in the past, been performed by women. Unfortunately, the Catholic Church is presumed to be led by men, which is not really true.

Please, allow me to make recommendations for new titles to the committees, without changing their purposes, just imposing a Christian vocabulary that defines the functions that will add spiritual excitement to the Christian message. This will attract hearts and minds not familiar with the faith and draw interest to what is within. With that in mind, I suggest the following group titles that project an inspiring spiritual imagination into efforts toward the spread of faith in this Catholic Parish. Andrew Greeley, a Catholic priest, journalist, now deceased, had long been a critic of the lack of imagination of some modern Catholic Church projects. If there is to be a successful effort to encourage new young members to the faith at Christ the King, a first look should be fresh, not "the way it has always been."

Education	Mind of God
Spiritual Growth	Breath of God
Ministry	Voice of God
Infrastructure	Feet of God
Marketing	Joy of God
Technology	World of God
Social	People of God
Liturgical	Work of the People
Volunteer	Psalms of God
Finance	Wealth of God

CKCCW Convention, April 10 – 12, and other stuff

By Carol-Ann Black

I signed up for the St. Augustine Diocese Convention sometime in March. The theme—*We Need to Pray*. The purpose of most conventions is business. The news this time is that it was not a business meeting with a little retreat thrown in, but the opposite—a beautiful retreat with some business thrown into the mix.

Our first gathering at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Baymeadows Road was purely social. It is so good to meet up with other Council of Catholic Women from the many parishes of the St. Augustine diocese. Last time we were all together was a year ago in Gainesville. Now it was time to catch up on each other's lives. Just hang out together. And in this case, explain which biblical character it was that we had in mind when we put on our costume for the evening. We had a couple of women at the well, Moses (what a beard!), Veronica and her veil and a few others.

Business began on Saturday morning with the standard presentation of credentials, invocation (Father Luke McLoughlin), pledge of allegiance, nominating committee report. Then began the retreat part. Father Tom Willis presented his *We Need to Pray* talk entitled "Prayer with our Families: From 1565 to Today – Promoting Unity and Purpose with God and Others." He took us back to the establishment of the city of St. Augustine and our diocese. It was a beautiful history lesson and an inspiring reminder of the hardships that the original Spanish settlers endured with the aid of four priests who accompanied them on their journey to establish a defensive position in La Florida.

After lunch we enjoyed a presentation by Paul Santiago, director of development with PACE Center for Girls. He explained the mission of PACE—to help difficult or troubled teenaged girls avoid the civil justice system and complete their high school education putting them on the road to successful, independent lives. He then introduced a young woman who entered the PACE program in her junior year of high school and completed her diploma studies in just one year and went off to college. She was waiting to hear the results of her Florida Bar Exam the weekend of our convention. What an impressive organization doing much-needed work with at-risk young women. This is the first year that Council of Catholic Women of the St. Augustine Diocese has worked with PACE and I reckon that it is not the last.

We moved on from PACE to a presentation by Mrs. Patty Kuhlman, the mother of six children, two of whom are currently seminarians. "Prayer and Vocations" was her topic. I thought her talk was more broad—as in "prayer **in** the family" with vocations being one of the fruits of that prayer. She had a wonderful sense of humor about the vagaries of raising a big family and she would preface or complete many of her statements with, "yaknowatimsayin." A fascinating, believable, prayerful mom.

Once deanery reports and other business were dispensed with, Monsignor Haut spoke about "Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina." His aim was to make understandable a prayer system that to most of us has always been a bit of a mystery and only for priests. In addition, Liturgy of the Hours and other structured prayers (such as the rosary) make it easier to maintain a regular prayer life. They provide a framework which most people find helpful.

Probably the most important piece of business presented was a talk by Rosie Shuhmacher entitled "The Big Picture." Membership—or the lack of it—is the most pressing problem for all the affiliates. Her words were aimed at our poor efforts at increasing our numbers. She used humor to chastise us all. Sadly, she was absolutely correct in her assessments. Sue Pastorini and I came away with a to-do list for Christ the King Council of Catholic Women.



On Sunday morning we saw to more business and a talk by Sister Jane Stoecker, SSJ "Adoration from the Heart." Lunch followed and then another Sister of Saint Joseph, Sister Ann Raymond Wood, spoke of "God's Mercy; God's Love." Both were deeply meaningful and relevant to our theme of *We Need to Pray*. Pat Cook, active in Catholic education at all levels in the diocese, offered the final *We Need to Pray* topic—"Praying the Liturgy."

Business was completed and we adjourned for closing Mass with Bishop Estevez, Father Luke McLoughlin, Father Kelly (St. Paul's, Beach) and Father Boddie concelebrating. To close our wonderful convention we enjoyed a fine banquet and Bishop Estevez' remarks about "The Battle for Prayer." Not the usual term one considers when considering one's prayer life, but as he said, "It is always a *battle* to make a time and place for our prayer, but it is a battle necessary to wage." Father Boddie offered the closing prayer and we all headed for our homes and families refreshed by the excellent speakers and pleased to have accomplished all the necessary business required to keep an organization on the straight and narrow.

It is important that I tell all who read this that St. Augustine Diocesan Council of Catholic Women presented two important checks—one to the bishop for \$2,500.00, the proceeds of our Burse Fund to aid the seminarians; and one for \$20,000.00 to Camp I Am Special, the result of the lunch and fashion show that was held earlier in the spring. The CIS money will go to offer scholarships to those campers who need financial assistance for their week at camp.

My own final thoughts on the convention were these: Embassy Suites has undergone (is undergoing) major renovations that have made it very comfortable and very accommodating with excellent food; we Council of Catholic Women of St. Augustine are truly blessed by the gracious participation of our retired (really?) priests, Father Luke and Father Haut, not only at our convention, but at all of our activities: invite, invite, invite were the most repeated words when talking about membership for CCW. These are Father Boddie's magical bywords and they were repeated over and over at convention.

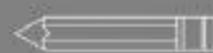
Ooops, I have neglected one member of the clergy—Pope Francis. Flat Francis (remember Flat Stanley?) accompanied all of our activities, thanks to the efforts of Staci Duncan who escorted him personally throughout the convention.

Proofreading



Proofreading

Proofreading



by Cynthia Surles

Have you heard about the dinosaurs? Yes, of course you have. How about the Oxford comma? Maybe not so much! You've probably used it sometime, or refused to use it, but just don't know it by its official name. You're not alone. I had never heard of it till I was researching the use of commas as part of my volunteer job on the *Courier*.

Many will remember rules we learned 20, 30 or 40 plus years ago but English is a fluid language. Words change and rules change. Such is the challenge of the proofreader. Our Wednesday nights are fun as we read articles and try to make corrections (amidst friendly arguing sometimes) based on the most common rules of today's English language. Then we have to check various book resources – except resources do not always agree. So we make a decision on what we will use as a standard in the *Courier*. As of this issue we have decided to NOT use the Oxford comma in our own articles but if you use it in your article we will leave it there. Keep sending us articles. We can always use more.

As I mentioned, we have fun on Wednesday nights. If you have a tendency to find mistakes in the written word or you like working with desktop publishing (QuarkXPress), our other need, why not join us sometime. We don't need a full-time commitment.

So what is the Oxford comma? It's the comma that goes before "and" in a list of three or more things, e.g., bells, buttons, and bows. To read more about it just type "Oxford comma" in a Google search.

Confirmation 2015



The Passing Parade



J.U. University Singers



J. U. University Singers



Meet the Pastor



Meet the Pastor

Knightly News

by Frank Becht, PGK and Nick Klepac, Chancellor

First Friday Mass - On Friday, March 6, the Mass was celebrated by Father Boddie at the Council Hall and was well attended; coffee and cake were served. Grand Knight John Klinkenberg suggested that members support the Fish Frys of their parish.

First Friday Mass for April 3 was cancelled since it was Lenten Good Friday with parish services scheduled.

Road Cleanup - Mike Stirna supervises a cleanup of Lone Star Road from Townsend Boulevard westward to Lillian Road at Arlington Park Cemetery on a monthly basis.

Knights of Brotherly Care - The Knights of Brotherly Care were unable to visit our Brothers and Sisters as planned on March 14 because of the Diocesan scheduled Eucharistic Congress. Instead the regular Mass and visitation took place on Saturday, March 21 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King. Three teams consisting of John Porter, Theo Naessens, John Deihl, John Mollosso, Frank Becht PGK, and Dennis Scobie PGK visited Pam Oliveria, Carol and George Coseo PGK, Joe Brosovich, Gino Roca PGK, Marge Yarborough and Grace Berkey.

Theo Naessens has been assigned as the new coordinator for the Knights of Brotherly Care.

April 18, our brothers Stu Pierce, Daladier Desprez, Dennis Scobie, Frank Becht, John Deihl, Theo Naessens, and John Molasso visited our sick or homebound Knights and families. They visited John Faustini, Marge Yarborough, Grace Berkey, and George & Carol Coseo.

It is a great privilege to visit our brothers and sisters and bring them Jesus. We serve an awesome God!

Coffee and Donuts - coffee and donuts are served by Council 4727 on the first Sunday of each month under the supervision of John Lewis.

Christ the King Country Store Sale - The Knights of Columbus served lunch, consisting of a variety of luncheon items, including hamburgers and hotdogs from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11.

40 Days for Life - The Knights have participated in a program of praying before the abortion clinic on University Blvd. from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday. The Knights also join members from Resurrection and Christ the King each Monday at the same location for one hour.

Eucharistic Congress - The Diocese of St. Augustine hosted this annual event at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in downtown Jacksonville on March 13 and 14 for the whole Diocese of St. Augustine. The two days were filled with numerous religious exercises, speakers, Mass and featured Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. All parishes and religious organizations were encouraged to participate.

K'Cees New Officers - newly nominated officers for the Knights of Columbus women's auxiliary, the K-Cees are:

- Bernie Klepac President
- Diana Morris Vice-President
- Maria Gregorio Treasurer
- Staci Duncan Secretary



Third Degree Presentation - Grand Knight John Klinkenberg presented certificates to three new third degree Knights at a recent meeting: Charles Tassosne, David McClellan and Mickey Moneyhan.



Bunko Night - was sponsored by the K'Cees at 6:30 p.m. at the Council Hall on Saturday, April 25, under the able direction of Bernie Klepac. Lots of fun and pizza during the break.



CTK Honor Roll Breakfast - The Knights of Columbus served breakfast on March 24, shortly after the opening of school, to honor the Christ the King honoree students. The students ate well, as usual, and were delighted to have a group photo taken.



Squires Membership Blitz - On March 15 the Squires held a membership drive at Resurrection after the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. They were able to acquire five new members who were invested on Sunday, March 29 at 1:30 p.m. at Resurrection prior to a business meeting.



Knightly News



May Rosary Procession - Honor Guard members of the Knights of Columbus participated in the May Rosary procession held Saturday, May 2, at Christ the King.



Jim Bonnie Invitational Open - The location of the tournament has changed to the newly renovated Blue Sky Golf Club located at 4700 Monument Road in the Arlington area. The tournament took place on May 3 at noon, followed by a delicious dinner provided by Butler's Barbeque at 6:30 p.m. in Christ the King Hall. Numerous door prizes were given. All proceeds go to local charities.



Christ the King Parish Corporate Communion and Membership Drive - On Sunday, April 19 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King, coffee and donuts were served to all members of the parish, the purpose being to make the men of the parish aware of the many advantages of becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus. The coordinator for this event was Tito Espejo, Trustee.

Family Dinner: New Knights Dinner - We celebrate our new members by sharing a special spaghetti dinner with them and their families. New Knights added in the last 18 months are: Father Xaviour (Christ the King), Barrie Snyder, John Molasso, David McClellan, Daryl Johnson, Charles Tossone, Jose Sandoval, Michael McQuade, Jiggs Jose, Michael Duncan, Zackary Dodge, Randolph Davidson, Dalandier Desprez and Michael Bell. Welcome to the world's largest Catholic men's fraternal organization.



St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Founders Day Celebration - was held at the Council Hall on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. The coordinator for the event was Ralph Mosley PGK and FIN SEC. The event was well attended with over 50 people enjoying a delicious dinner.



Easter Egg Hunt - was held at Christ the King under the direction of John Lewis on Saturday, April 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the children's play area. Prizes were available. Chicken and drinks were provided. Parents brought a side dish.



St. Joseph Building

Continued from page 28

across the hall (from the room which had been the scene of the great water disaster of 1961). School Principal Sister Mary Damian, SSJ, was our teacher. During Religion class one fall day our room was suddenly invaded by assistant pastor, the indomitable Father O. T. Carl, OP (a Dominican priest who in a previous life had been a Baptist preacher!)

Before Sister Damian could hide the colored chalk Father Carl had grabbed them and made marks upon the blackboard that no cleaning aid could remove for weeks. Glaring at the six rows of boys before him he quickly yelled out, "You boys in these first three rows are all going to Hell and those in the other three are not!" Being a good altar boy, and one who happened to be seated in the first row (!), I immediately wondered about Father Carl's source because the real devils in the class were almost all in the absolved rows! Well, after "Hurricane Carl" had left the classroom, Sister Damian quietly assured us that none of us was going to Hell – anytime soon, anyway – and that Father Carl was just trying to get our attention and make his point. We all agreed that he had succeeded!

I graduated from Christ the King School in June 1962 and went on to Bishop Kenny. I returned in 1969 and coached the boys' basketball team to a 16-2 regular season record while also serving as a part-time physical education aide. My wife of 43 years now, Hazel, came to Christ the King School as coach of the girls cheerleading team and also part-time physical education instructor in 1970-72. Our two children, Catherine and Paul, Jr. also graduated from Christ the King in 1994 and 1995, respectively. My mother volunteered for a few years in the library and my dad set ceramic tile in two bathrooms. Our family knows the main building.

But enough idle reminiscing from a youth with nary a lick of sense. I asked long time former principal, Janet Morton, to give some insight from the other side of the aisle.

"On June 30, 2005, I walked out of Christ the King Catholic School after twenty-five years as the school's principal. As I looked back at the main building, where my office had been, I reflected on my first day entering the building and its evolution over a twenty-five year period. What a transformation.

When I entered the main building for the first time in 1980, today's school office was three small rooms. There was one entrance door to the building. At some time an extension had been built onto the main building which was called the Larkin room after Bishop Larkin. The half of the room facing Larkin Road was divided into two rooms - the Church's Religious Article Store and the non-smoking Teachers' Lounge. The remaining section was the Title 1 Reading Room. Eventually, this area was gutted and became the "new" teachers' lounge. Later, it became a middle school classroom.

Under the stairwell to the second floor was a room with a smaller room in the rear. The room was actually a storage room, but, was commonly known as the "dungeon." Down the hallway, the library was on the left, then a classroom, and finally the "smoking" teachers' lounge. Opening the door meant you put your lungs into the beginning stages of COPD!

Across from the "dungeon" was the bookroom, the school's office, two classrooms and the clinic. The Office was, probably, the original office or close to it. Over the years, these three classrooms housed kindergarten, fourth, and fifth grade.

When changes were made to the building, it was during the summers. One year, all the asbestos was removed from the main and back buildings at a cost of \$25,000. One year, when we had to renew our accreditation, a recommendation was made to have a science classroom separate from the science lab upstairs. The science lab, headed by Marysia Witowski, was the first permanent one in a Jacksonville parochial school. This was when the teachers' lounge, the former Larkin room, became a classroom.

Another year, Monsignor Danaher decided to focus on redoing the office, front entrance and making the office and entrance secure, as the office staff were usually the only ones in the office during the summers.

That summer the new office moved to the classroom next to the old office. The front entrance was redesigned; the office was expanded by absorbing the old bookroom; a security system was installed for the office; a video/security system was installed for the front entrance; and a security switch placed which connected

to the JSO. Another summer, Monsignor had fiber optics installed in the main building and the rest of the buildings. This was done by Thompson Electric.

We knew the library was outdated and needed to be converted to a media center which would include a computer lab and a library. The question was how to accomplish this. Then, Father Baker was appointed pastor and one day he asked me, "What do you need for the school?" I thought this was my chance to ask for the sky and hope to get something in between. I explained to Father Baker our need for a media center to stay competitive with the current trends in education. However, to accomplish this would mean adding a second story to the back building (completed in January in 1959) to accommodate the classrooms which were on the first floor of the main building. Fortunately, when Father Larkin, later Bishop Larkin, built the back buildings, he had the foresight to make the original structure capable of carrying a second floor.

This project began when Father Baker was pastor and ended with Father McDermott as pastor. The project entailed remodeling all the classrooms, except the top floor of the main building. Funds to remodel the upstairs rooms were not available.

The library was named the Sister Therese Horan Library in honor of Sister Therese, who became librarian in 1979. Sadly, she returned to Ireland before the dedication ceremony in her honor in 2000. Sister Therese taught students in grades K-5 and every student whom she taught learned to recite "To Our Lady," and say it at the beginning of each class.

It was the summer of 2000 when this project was underway. However, at the beginning of July, the project added yet another phase. Mike Klima, Mark Plotz, and Gus Carlson came to me and said they wanted to remodel the upstairs and they could do it at minimal cost. Permission was granted. I told them they had six weeks to complete the job. I had such trust in these men I did not hesitate to turn this project over to them. Then, I walked upstairs during the first week of the remodeling. The area looked like a war zone!

The science lab and the old computer room had to be converted into two rooms. The walls were down; concrete was everywhere; chalkboards were off the walls; and all the doors were removed. My first thought was, "What the heck did I agree to?" I remember Bill Damato looking at me and asking "What do you think?" I really did not want to tell him!

During the day, the retired men of the parish worked and then, beginning in the afternoon and through the evenings, the Dads would come and work. True to their word, they had the rooms ready for the opening of school and every classroom looked brand new.

The project was completed. The first floor of the main building had a new clinic, a resource room, teachers' workroom, and a media center which included the Computer Lab and Library.

How did I become principal? In 1980 Monsignor Danaher called me to meet with him and discuss being the principal. I told him I was very happy as a classroom teacher. At the time I was teaching at San Jose Catholic School where I had been hired by Sister Enda. However, after prayer, thought, and discussing the opportunity with my husband, I agreed to accept Monsignor Danaher's offer with one caveat. I would take the position for one year and at the end of the year we would evaluate the year and decide if we were a good fit. Eighteen years later, Monsignor Danaher retired. I retired seven years later after twenty-five years as the school's principal.

Thanks, Janet. Those are some great memories. No doubt there are thousands of great and not so great memories of this building that students, teachers, staff, and parents have told to co-workers, friends, and family members. If walls could talk!

(Ed. Note: Next edition – the church/cafeteria!)

A Passion for Cooking

by Yolanda Cerqueira

A passion for cooking is the best way to describe a young man named Zachary Dodge, who is the official chef for our priests here at Christ the King. Maybe you've seen Zach around our campus, as he is easily identifiable with the big black chef's hat he wears as a proud sign of his profession. Zach was born and raised right here in Jacksonville and is a graduate of our very own school. Since early childhood he has been interested in cooking. Zach distinctly remembers telling his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Jenkins, that he wanted to be a cook when he grew up.

By way of introduction, his mother is Paula Dodge; he has two siblings. Each has chosen a different path to follow. His brother is in pre-med and his sister has been a nurse in Puerto Rico for six years. Each of the Dodge children has chosen careers that have a beneficial impact on others.

Before Zach graduated from Christ the King he had already set his career plans in motion. He researched high schools in Jacksonville and found that there was one which offered training in the culinary arts. It was Frank H. Peterson High School. At one time this school was known as the Westside Skills Center, but now it is a magnet school for aeronautics, culinary arts, and cosmetology. Enrollment for the culinary school is about 150 students and the classes are small. Zach was delighted to learn that it had a full commercial kitchen but unfortunately, only the teachers and seniors were permitted to eat there.

At Peterson High Zach received a ground-up education in culinary skills, as he had to start with the very basics. Much time was spent the first year in what is called "the front of the house" in which he learned guest services, how to set a proper table, and the many ways to fold a napkin. The training was quite intensive; and by the time Zach completed the four years he learned about the many styles of cooking, how and when to use the different knives, prepping the food, preparing the menus, cooking meals, and finally as seniors they were in charge of managing the restaurant at Peterson.

It is said that we learn from our mistakes; Zach will tell you he has had his share of disasters. One time he and a group of students were competing against another school with hopes of winning, but such was not to be the case. The chicken they prepared came out burnt. To make matters worse, the gravy was too thick and adding water did not solve the problem. There is nothing worse than to see little flour balls floating in a gravy. At another competition Zack was preparing a soup that needed to be thickened in a hurry, he just added flour without making a roux. The results were not good. Life seems to teach us more by our misfortunes than by our successes.

Zack's last year was a tough one; much was required of the students. For their final year project, each student had to create and be able to demonstrate that they could run their own restaurant, as well as prepare a

menu for it. Zack came through with flying colors. This was the end of the first phase of his plans. The Culinary Arts program at Florida State College of Jacksonville came next, where he is currently enrolled.

Zach said that there is still so much to learn about the art of cooking. Before he could do this, however, he spent the winter semester doing strictly academics. This spring was his first semester in the culinary program at FSCJ in which he had to learn where all the parts of a pig are located and to demonstrate that he could also cut up said pig. In case you are curious bacon is located over by the upper leg below the rib cage.

With all this study Zach was more than ready to put his skills to good use. The opportunity came when a need for a chef arose here at our rectory. Frank Japour heard that Zach was available; he arranged for an interview with Father Boddie. The interview went well and Zach is now happily employed as the chef in the Christ the King Rectory.

Zach absolutely loves his work and the priests love his cooking. He is allowed to be creative; he sets up his own menus. He is hard at work in the kitchen during the week preparing and planning menus. He has a budget and does the marketing at Publix on Mondays; Wednesday is the day that he plans the menus for the week.

Zach says that Father Boddie is very easy to please as he likes everything.

He enjoys fish, pork, roasted potatoes, and chicken as long as it is not fried.

Father Xavier loves salmon and green beans sautéed in butter and garlic.

Father Lam likes all kinds of fish and brown rice.

As an aside Zack's favorite food is a spinach, artichoke, cheese, and macaroni pasta.

Besides cooking at noon time, there are some special dinners that he prepares in the evening for special guests of the pastor. One that he remembers especially was for the Advent Penance Service. There would be ten priests for dinner. He came up with a very inviting menu which more than pleased the priest's palates.

He began with a mixed berry salad with raspberry walnut vinaigrette dressing. Zach chose two entrees: one being a Parmesan Crusted Tilapia and the other Chicken Parmesan. The accompaniments were roasted potatoes, green beans, and asparagus, and a most tempting dessert to finish a sumptuous meal. He remarked that it was a high point for him to see the priests enjoy that meal.

But that is only one side of Zack. He is also a core member of the Youth Ministry at our parish and when he has time he loves to surf. Zack always has plans. When he finishes Culinary School at FSCJ, he will then go on and get his business degree. He knows that with a business degree he will be equipped to understand both the business and the food part of operating a restaurant. This is one young man with talent, drive, and a very bright future. We wish him well.



Youth Retreat

By Zack Dodge

Wow!!! This year's spring retreat was one for the books! When you think you have everything planned, God then shows you His plan and how He wants it to go. This is what made this a great and memorable retreat; and I am so blessed that I was able to be a part of it. The weekend was filled with laughter, rain, and the Holy Spirit. If we weren't hearing the good news with our news anchors, Ray and Sunshine, or the bad

news with Doom and Gloom, we were in an intense game of playing pot frisbee. One of the really pivotal moments was seeing Faith take on Media in a boxing match for the world. We got to see how Media really twists the world's eyes and makes it easier to turn away from God and faith. This retreat was really about changing the world. You have to change the world into what you want it to be, starting with ourselves. We can't help others until we help ourselves to know what God wants from us and for us. This

retreat was powerful. I am thankful for all the hands that made it possible, for the amazing youth ministers, and core team I get to work with. Thanks go to great high school students who want to grow in their faith and get close to our Lord, our pastoral staff and parishioners for their faithful support of the youth ministry. It was an amazing retreat and we are looking forward to the one in the fall.

Scout of the Year



by Hank Jinks

On February 8, 2015, the 77th annual Catholic Boy Scout of the Year breakfast ceremony was held at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Jacksonville Beach. Each year the award is presented by the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of St. Augustine to a Scout nominated by each Catholic Troop and Crew units.

This year's award was presented to Elizabeth Holden of Crew 5 and Tyler Boudreaux of Troop 5 from Christ the King Catholic Church.

Elizabeth is currently the Crew Vice President, a role which



requires leadership in planning and executing the program for the

Crew. She does an excellent job in this endeavor. Outside of Scouting, Elizabeth is an active member of the First Coast High School marching band.

Tyler is a Life scout and is in the early stages of planning his



Eagle project. He has been very active in multiple leadership roles in scouting. He is currently the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 5. Also, he finished a term as the OA Sauriwa Chapter Vice-Chief, and is currently the Section Contingent Committee Chairman of Echockotee Lodge 200. He demonstrates great leadership quality which serves as a great example for younger Scouts to follow.

Pinewood Derby Day

by Steven Lutheran, and Sharon Meier Lutheran

Valentine's Day was a day to remember. Fifty plus kids, parents, and grandparents gathered for Pack 5's Pinewood Derby Day racing in the Blessed John XXIII Hall. There were 24 official entries for the Pinewood Derby: 6 Tiger, 5 Wolves, 4 Bears, and 9 Webelos. There were also 5 sibling and 10 adult entries.

The first Pinewood Derby Day was in 1953 in Manhattan Beach, CA. The first racing kits were composed of a block of wood, a pair of axles, four nails, and four wheels. Each car was designed and built by the Cub Scout. Pack 5 Scouts received their car kit in December at the Christmas party and they had approximately 8 weeks to design and build their car.

It was an afternoon full of racing. The Tigers went first. The crowd shouted 3, 2, 1, Go at the start of the first race. A crowd favorite was the Hot Dog Derby car. Each of the 6 Tiger cars raced 4 times. The final winners were Davin, Blake, and Daniel.

The 5 Wolves raced next. In the first car race, the yellow car won and the final winners were Brandon, Noah, and Thomas.

Next to race were the 4 Bears. In the last race, the orange car had a casualty and had to be repaired to race again. The final winners were Gabe, Caleb, and Isaac.

Last to race were the 9 Webelos. The average race was 2.3 seconds long. The green car had a busted wheel after a race, but quick repairs were completed. The final winners were Devin, Torin, and Kyler.

The top three cars from each division had a final race to determine the overall winner. The quickest cars of the day were as follows: Devin Rhow, Brandon Sullivan, and Gabe Satkoff.

The top 3 winners of each division went on to compete on March 7 at the District Pinewood Derby Race.

This is the last year the Rhow family will be in the Pinewood Derby Race. Devin is the youngest son of Terry and Deidre Rhow and has two older brothers and the family has been racing for about 10 years.

50-Mile Canoe Trip

by Tyler Boudreaux, Senior Patrol Leader

During spring break Troop 5 went on a five-day, fifty-mile canoe trip on the Alapaha River in South Georgia. During the trip, the younger scouts learned new canoeing skills from the older scouts. As the trip progressed, the youth were making great time while in the canoes, averaging about three miles per hour. At night, we stayed on various sand bars on the river. While we were canoeing we got to go down a couple of rapids that were on the river. Since the river was in Georgia, we were able to see how the landscape was different from the Florida landscape. We were able to finish the trip a day earlier than planned because everyone was doing so well. I know that all of the youth had a great time on this trip since our five-day, fifty-mile trips are always fun for everyone.



Mardi Gras Party



by Jean Sell

Christ the King School's first and second grades had their fourth annual Mardi Gras Party on February 17 in the school cafeteria. We had our beads and crowns and lots of dancing to "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Father Xaviour joined in the fun, as well as Genevieve, Trisha and Foxy "Grandma."

Father crowned the kings and queens who found the baby in their king cake: Sam Ross and Elizabeth Hardin in first grade and Hayden Nararro and Daniel Phillips were second grade winners.

Come join the fun next year.



Thank You

The Country Store is proud to announce that we raised \$4,523.10 for Christ the King School and we received lots of donations for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

We had a great crew. I would like to thank the following for their hard work:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Barbara Dupuis | Raine Arava |
| Larry Turner | Kimberly Smith |
| Dee Klima | Sandy Hill |
| Stanley Moore | Annie Sabatino |
| Brian Ashley | Kitty Kowalski |
| Nikki Wallace | Yolanda Cerqueira |
| Brian Pavek | Stephanie Chinault |
| Paula Logan | CTKS Ravens, (girls softball team) |
| Ver Flores | The Vietnamese Community |
| Ed Wey | Knights of Columbus |
| Joe Mella | |

All those who donated items & supplies
 God bless each of you and thank you ever so much.
 October 23 – 25 are the dates for the next Country Store.
 Please call Charm if you have donations: 377-1299




A SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES OUT TO MRS. HILL AND OUR CHRIST THE KING FAMILIES! THIS YEAR WE RAISED \$1604.50 FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. THIS BRINGS OUR 28 YEAR GRAND TOTAL TO \$102186.60!

AMAZING JOB CTK!

Do the math. Help save lives
 For more than 35 years, the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, has been America's largest education-based fundraiser. To participate, kids in grades K-8 ask family and friends for pledges to solve math problems in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon Funbook, developed by Scholastic.

Father - Daughter Dance



St. Joseph Building

The “St. Joseph Building” - Christ the King Catholic School’s Main Building

by Paul Ghiotto

In January 1956 four classes of street urchins proudly marched into the first building opened on the new Christ the King Catholic Church and School campus. Today this building bears the name of “St. Joseph” but back in the beginning it was simply the only building on the grounds. It was a combination of a school – grades one through four of two classes each – on the top story and the church on the bottom. This setup would remain the same until September 1957 when a new “provisional” church building – today’s school cafeteria and church hall - was constructed.

During the fall months of 1955 the new school began its first year on the second floor of Immaculate Conception Catholic School in downtown Jacksonville while the Arlington campus was being constructed. While the new digs in suburbia didn’t have cloakrooms in the back where we could hide, it smelled brand new, because it was! I was in Mrs. Mary Ward’s second grade and my brother Phillip was in fourth grade headed by Mrs. Seay. The following year a fifth grade was added to the mix. Each year thereafter saw a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade added as the students progressed. Initial enrollment was 220 pupils.

Father W. Thomas Larkin was the church’s first pastor, arriving from North Miami Beach in mid-1954. Sister Mary Ethelbert, SSJ, was the first school principal. Father Larkin eventually became a bishop.

In the picture of the first First Holy Communion class held at Christ the King – May 6, 1956 – I’m the little dude on the far right looking over Father Larkin’s left shoulder. While this accomplishment made my parents very proud it earned me the admonition from Mom to next time stand in front when the photo is being taken!

The little guy kneeling in the front row – Vern Duncan, Jr. – was best man at my wedding to wife, Hazel, fifteen years later in the building that’s now the cafeteria! Sister Ethelbert is on the right and Sister Phillip Joseph is on the left, standing next to assistant pastor Father L. Douglas Brown.

This photo may have been one of the first taken of the new school. Note that we are standing on risers and the brick planter but that the grounds still needed work as there was no grass present. The cross hanging above us was newly installed. And, yes, there was a set of double doors on the north side of the ground floor that led out to today’s Larkin Road.

Every time I walk by the scene of this photo shoot I get taken back to my youth. Some of the children in this picture have passed on. All in all we’ve done pretty well for ourselves. If I’m not mistaken, I believe I am the only person in this picture who is still a Christ the King parishioner.

I also think about the early parishioners of Christ the King who footed the bill for all the new construction so their children could have a Catholic school of their own where they could learn in a safe environment. The first Building Fund Campaign was kicked off in June 1955 while the early church members were attending Sunday Mass in the newly built Swisher Gymnasium at the Jacksonville Junior College (soon to be renamed Jacksonville University). The goal was to raise \$150,000. Pledges quickly raised this sum with groundbreaking taking place in June 1955. Arlington was booming following the opening of the Mathews Bridge in 1953 and the future church and school were moving in tandem with this growth.

Almost fifty years have passed since the grand opening. Just think of all the teachers, administrators, custodians, parents and students who have walked the halls of this building. Think of all the tests taken, the bathrooms cleaned, and school lessons planned. Think of all the special events (graduations, First Communions, Confirmations, parties, school plays, class elections, carnivals) that have taken place. Remember the smell of new textbooks, paste (!), loose leaf notebook paper, uniforms? Remember the smell of 50+ prepubescent boys returning to the un-air conditioned classrooms after a rigorous recess period out on the school grounds? OK, OK. Scratch that last one!

Think of the men who built the building, who have painted it, roofed it, and who have landscaped the grounds for all these years. Think of all the people who have worked to constantly renovate this building to meet the changing needs. Remember the first custodian, Richard Schlinkmann, who had recently immigrated with his wife, Clara, from war-torn Germany. Remember other stalwart custodians like Rufus Hardy, Ed Wozniak, and Frank Miller. Appreciate the work being done today by Mike Klima, Henry Nguyen, and Mr. Do.

Think of the Ladies Guild and all the fundraisers they held to support the school. Think of the Thrift Shop on Atlantic Boulevard (across from where Beck Insurance now stands) that Jewel Newman and others operated. Think about the Religious Goods Store operated by Mrs. Rogero and many others to help pay for school and church expenses.

Think of all the skinned knees, upset stomachs, headaches, and loose bowels that have occurred – and that’s just the staff! Think of all the



telephone calls, emails, text messages, etc. that have gone forth from the main office to mothers everywhere letting them know that their “little Johnny” or “Suzie” is having a bad day.

Think of all the students – and teachers – who have joyfully run for their lives on the last day of each semester as they looked forward to their Christmas or summer break. What a feeling! I think of this every time I see the newsreel of the great Civil Rights era “Poor Peoples March” on Washington back in the summer of 1963 and I hear the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he quoted the words from an old spiritual: “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!” And then, all too soon, we were back!

The main building has seen it all. If walls could talk!

In the church on the ground floor in the early days countless Masses – beginning in December 1955 - were said, baptisms and weddings performed, and confessions heard. When I advanced to fifth grade two downstairs “classrooms” were added which consisted of portable chairs and tables which were utilized by Sunday morning churchgoers – no Saturday afternoon or Sunday evening Masses back then. The two fifth grade classes were separated by curtains which ran floor to ceiling and could be pulled back for Mass.

I still remember how the supreme taskmaster, Sister Philip Joseph, SSJ, oversaw the annual Christmas play in the church. I think I played a sheep – it was a non-speaking role – in the play held on a Saturday night (we had gotten out of school the day before) and how relieved we were once the play was over because we could now actually enjoy the Yule season.

In the past two years the main building has received yet another facelift. The new office area, for security reasons, now has its doors facing south, has bright airy spaces, and is very welcoming to visitors and staff alike. One of the hallmarks of the school and this building in particular is the staff who have all served faithfully and long, thereby providing students and parents with a sense of continuity and care. Thank you Stephanie, Martha, and Karen!

Long time administrative assistant Martha Farah (25 years and counting) gave me a guided tour of both floors. Very impressive! As we walked upstairs I noted that the small statue of the regally-adorned Christ Child was still in its place on the window ledge and that a water fountain still occupied its east side second floor spot.

The water fountain reminded me of the time when we boys (girls and boys were in separate classes beginning in sixth grade) were in the seventh grade classroom of Mrs. Curtis which was the room nearest the fountain on the north side of the hall. Boys were taking turns reading passages from a true narrative about a World War II bomber crew of U.S. airmen who had crash-landed their plane in the North Africa desert. The desert heat was oppressive and the men were quickly running out of water and food. Death was imminent. The more we read the thirstier we became in our non-air conditioned classroom. Finally, someone (it might have been Joe Taylor) blurted out to Mrs. Curtis that “we’re dying of thirst, too!” and begged her for a water break. No sooner did she grant our request than the water fountain was assaulted as we all jockeyed for position in line pushing and shoving!

It was in Mrs. Curtis’ classroom in 1961, that we held our breath as we listened on someone’s transistor radio – a marvel of the time – as astronaut Alan Shepard roared into space in a capsule atop a Vanguard rocket from Cape Canaveral. She also let us play the radio and listen to a daytime baseball World Series game.

The little Lord Jesus was perched on that landing window ledge a year later when, as eighth graders, we scalawags now occupied the room

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