



SAINT
VINCENT
de PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Finding Ways to Grow in Your Faith

Each week at Mass, we are called to be Disciples of Christ in our daily lives. At the end of every Mass we are given a mission, to go forth and spread the gospel. This instruction sounds simple, but in our world today, it is becoming a bit more of a challenge.

To spread the gospel we need to know what we believe before we try to share with others. The third pillar of Stewardship, Formation, calls us to learn about the Catholic Church. Once we understand the teachings of the Church, then we are better able to spread the gospel message. Michal Tincup, the Director of Adult Ministry, is working to make sure there are several opportunities for our parishioners to grow as disciples. Current opportunities include bible studies, retreats, movie outings, speakers, parish missions, and group discussions.

Adult Bible Studies are offered about three or four times throughout the year. The studies sometime focus on themes, such as The Rescue Project, which will start in early Fall this year. Other times they may focus on a book in the bible, like our study in the late Fall on the book of Revelation.

Another opportunity is monthly discussions on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These discussions are using the Ascension Press', Catechism in a Year reading plan to guide the group throughout the year. To keep the learning going after December, Michal plans to have a monthly discussion group on the Bible in a Year, also using Ascension Press' reading plan.

Michal wants to provide a variety of formation opportunities for our parishioners. We are not all interested in the same topics or even have the same schedule. By providing studies that are 6 to 8 weeks, retreats that are

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St. Vincent de Paul

July 23

SAINT BRIDGET

Pray For Us



Birgitta Birgersdotter, born in 1303, was a mystic and a saint. She was also the founder of the Bridgettines nuns and monks after the death of her husband of twenty years. She is one of the six patron saints of Europe. Outside of Sweden, she was also known as the Princess of Nericia and she was the mother of St. Catherine of Sweden.

After the loss of her husband in 1344, she became a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis and devoted herself to a life of prayer and caring for the poor and the sick. It was at this time she developed the idea of establishing the religious community which was to become the Order of the Most Holy Saviour, or the Bridgettines, whose principal house at Vadstena was later richly endowed by King Magnus IV of Sweden and his queen. One distinctive feature of the houses of the Order was that they were double monasteries, with men and women both forming a joint community, but they lived in separate cloisters. During her pilgrimages to Rome, Jerusalem and

Bethlehem, she sent back precise instructions for the construction of the monastery now known as the Blue Church, insisting that an “abbess, signifying the Virgin Mary, should preside over both nuns and monks”.

In 1350, a Jubilee Year, Bridget braved a plague-stricken Europe to make a pilgrimage to Rome to obtain authorization to found the new Order from the Pope. It was not until 1370 that Pope Urban V confirmed the Rule of the Order, but Birgitta had made herself universally beloved in Rome by her kindness and good works. Save for occasional pilgrimages, including one to Jerusalem in 1373, she remained in Rome until her death on July 23, 1373.

In her lifetime, she saw visions concerning the reform of the Church, messages to kings and popes and many other persons in high places, directing them to work for the Church. It may be noted that Birgitta never wrote in the first person.

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A Letter From Our Pastor

MIRACLE

Dear Parishioners,

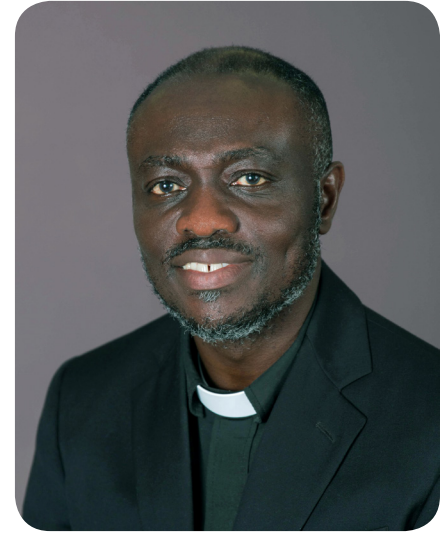
A few short weeks ago, we start the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Most of the time when we hear the word ordinary we think “common”, something that is not unique or special. In the Catholic Church, during the season of Ordinary Time, we are focused on the miracles that Jesus preformed and His teaching.

When we hear the word “miracle” we think of big spectacular events that don’t happen often. Truth be told, miracles happen every day. We have children being created and born daily, this is a miracle. We have people cured from diseases that they might not have survived 100 years ago, that too is a miracle. God is continually preforming miracles in our world.

When God decides to perform a miracle, sometime they are by His hands alone; and other times He allows his people to participate in them also. My being a priest at times feels like a miracle. When I was a child, I had no intention of becoming a priest. When given the choice as a young teen between two high schools, I chose to go to a minor seminary. After high school, I planned to attend a university. I thought I would go to seminary for a year and then I would quit. But God had other plans, and I kept staying on. Year after year, until seven years had passed and I became a deacon, and then I became a priest.

God used the time I was in school to change my heart and my way of thinking about my future. He worked a miracle in me. I enjoy being a

priest. It’s always a great joy to be able to celebrate the sacraments. As a priest, I minister to God’s people, to let God’s love and mercy be known to other people by reaching out and touching the lives of other people. As a priest, I am able to see many miracles in the lives of our parishioners.



I have been blessed with so much. It is through God’s grace that I am here today able to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination as a priest. I am looking forward to see how God continues to work in my life and the life of our parish family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Philip Brembah
Pastor

St. Vincent de Paul

Noreen's Nourishment

A little more than twenty years ago one of our parishioners, Lori Fitzgerald, approached our parish office with an idea. She wondered if it would be possible for us to take care of the families on the oncology floor at Cook Children's Medical Center. Recently her family had gone through a trying time with her young daughter Noreen battling cancer. While at the hospital, her focus was on how the medical tests, the medication and the results of the treatments were impacting her child. The basic day-to-day needs at home were no longer as important. This meant that often meals were forgotten or the ability to leave the hospital to get food was a challenge. She wanted to see if our parish could fill a need for these families, many of which were struggling both emotionally and financially.

Noreen's Nourishment Ministry was born from this idea. The group was named for her daughter Noreen Katherine Burke (9/28/98 – 8/14/99). Noreen's Nourishment started potluck style, by having their members cook a homemade dish to share. Every Sunday afternoon the members

would bring their dishes to the parish and a few of the members would take the food to the hospital and serve. As the ministry grew so did the appreciation for a hot home cooked meal. The families on the hematology and oncology floor enjoyed the meals and the caring individuals who were available to talk with the families while serving them. Families shared their child's journey with cancer and ministry members provided a caring ear.

The members of Noreen's Nourishment and other parishioners wanted to do more for the families at Cook Children's Medical Center. They began giving hospital cafeteria gift cards to feed the families during the week and putting together gift baskets of snacks for the families. Later, as donations to this ministry flowed in, they began sending money to the hospital chaplain to distribute to families with financial difficulties and at Christmas time giving each of the oncology families Walmart gift cards.



Over the last few years, the policies at the hospital changed regarding how the families can be served, but Noreen's Nourishment's mission never wavered. They changed from providing home cooked meals to providing meals from restaurants, and when they were no longer able to serve food in the oncology nourishment room at the hospital, they began to deliver nonperishable, individually packaged commercial food items. Although ministry members are not allowed to interact with the families, they continue to impact their stay at the hospital by showing them that St Vincent de Paul parishioners care about them and are praying for them.

The first Sunday of each month, the ministry gathers breakfast bars, jerky, chips, cookies, apple sauce, microwaveable popcorn and mac-n-cheese,

and many more donated goodies that are shared with the oncology families. Ministry members gather to create baskets of goodness that are then delivered weekly to CCMC.

Members can participate by signing up to provide non-perishable items for the baskets, by helping make up the baskets, and by delivering the baskets to the hospital. All of this is coordinated through email and by using the ministry's Signup Genius website. Monetary donations are collected by the church office and through Faith Direct and distributed to the oncology families through the hospital chaplain.

Please email noreensnourish@yahoo.com or call Amy Minton at 817-229-2388 if you have any questions or if you would like to join the ministry.



Scripture Reflections

Psalm 89:16

There are many in our community who are studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church with Father Mike Schmitz and with each other. The beginning paragraph of the Catechism tells us, "God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, in a plan of sheer goodness, created man to make him share in his blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man." God's very plan is for us to know Him, to love Him, and to share in His life. To help us get to know Him and love Him, He shows us who He is in very powerful and quite beautiful ways: through all He has created – animals, plants and flowers, the sun and moon, the stars, the oceans and beaches, and so much more; through Scripture, which is almost like His love letter to us; and most powerfully through the family and friends He has given to us to love and care for and who love and care for us. God wants us to know Him, to love Him, and be in a very personal relationship with Him. He never stops calling to us or drawing us near; He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows that we will find the greatest happiness in our relationship with Him, in knowing Him and loving Him. He walks beside us every day through all we are doing, in every moment of our days – and He wants us to walk with Him and talk with Him. God wants us to get to know Him and love; so much that He sent Jesus to us so we could see His face – the radiance of His face.

Think about the people in your life you love the most. When we truly love someone, we don't want to disappoint them or hurt them. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should want to do all we can to not disappoint Him. How do we do that: By getting to know Him and understanding what He asks of us – to follow His commandments and teachings. God knows that if we really try to know Him and follow what

He asks of us, we will know what happiness really is; God wants our hearts and He knows if we give Him our hearts, we will find happiness.



Reflection Questions

- 1) **Adults:** What keeps you from giving your whole heart to God? In what areas of your life do you not walk with God? How much time in your day do you spend thinking about or talking to God?
- 2) **Teens:** You have many distractions in around you seeking your attention, what can you do to walk with Jesus in the midst of those distractions? How can you keep Jesus' face before you? What frightens you from giving Jesus your heart?
- 3) **Children:** How do you know that God loves you? Do you ever just walk and talk with Jesus? Does it make you happy to call Jesus your friend, to let Him into your heart?

St. Bridget *continued from page 2*

She always said that she carried a message from a very High Lord. Although she had longed to become a nun, she never even saw the monastery in Vadstena. In fact, nothing she set out to do was ever realized. She never had the Pope return to Rome permanently, she never managed to make peace between France and England, she never saw any nun in the habit that Christ had shown her, and she never returned to Sweden but died a worn out old lady far from home. She can be called the Patroness of Failures. In this she was like her Lord. He was also classed as a failure as he hung on the cross. Brigitta was a successful failure as she was canonized in 1391. She was the only woman ever to found a religious Order, Ordo Sanctissimi Salvatoris. It was never a double order but an order primarily for women with permanent chaplains, ruled by an Abbess. The brothers had as their head, not a prior but a Confessor General who was responsible for the spiritual business of both convents.

Finding Ways to Grow in Your Faith

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one-day events, or an evening with a speaker, we are better able to reach out to more of our parishioners and give them options for growing in their faith. Keep an eye out for new opportunities. We are keep adding events to the website, bulletin and other areas of communication in our parish.

“I am always looking for new opportunities to meet the needs and wants of our parishioners. Over the next year or two, I am working on adding more talks by local Catholics on a variety of topics, looking at offering more one or two-day retreats, offering a parish mission each year, expanding the bible study program, and taking a trip to the Holy Land hopefully in the near future.” By offering multiple opportunities, we are able to provide all of our parishioners an

opportunity to learn about God and grow in their faith.

“I love serving the people of St. Vincent de Paul Church. I appreciate it when people come to me with ideas about what we should do next”, said Michal. Hearing from the parish about what they want to learn helps Michal with her planning and expanding the Adult Ministry opportunities. Therefore, please feel free to reach out to her at any time with any ideas or requests at mtincup@svdpcc.org or 817.478.8206 xt. 217.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

THERE ARE OVER 10,000 SAINTS RECOGNIZED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. OF COURSE, ANY PERSON WHO ENTERS HEAVEN IS A SAINT, BY DEFINITION, SO THE NUMBER OF ACTUAL SAINTS IN EXISTENCE IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE NUMBER CANONIZED BY THE CHURCH?

 **CatholicLink** FACTS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONSISTS OF MORE THAN JUST THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. THERE ARE OVER 20 EASTERN RITES THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY GO BY DIFFERENT NAMES, ARE IN FULL COMMUNION WITH ROME?

 **CatholicLink** FACTS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Vincent de Paul



REVIVE ◦ REVERE ◦ REACH

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Dear God, our Father,
we know that all that we have
and all that we are flows from your goodness.

We thank you for the many blessings
you have bestowed
on our vibrant parish.

We ask that you bless our Capital Campaign
as we seek to beautify and revive our church.

We know that all things are possible with you,
and through this campaign,
we strive to revere you.

We ask that you give us full hearts
so that we may
reach all who should hear your voice.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever. AMEN.

St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.