

Vocation Night -

## God's Call; Our Response



by Nick Klepac

I was invited to attend Christ the King's first dinner for prospective seminarians. I didn't know what to expect and wondered if this was simply going to be a "sell" evening. I am not very fond of any "sell" meetings, be it for cruises, time shares or anything religious. So I guess you could say my mindset was being more "apprehensive" than letting God do His thing.

Well, I quickly learned from Father Thanh's opening remarks that in order to do God's Will, we need to get out of the way! I did and quickly!

The evening was captivating, enlightening and very spiritual and the best part was I didn't have to buy anything, even though Father Thanh sold me on the priesthood. I had gone to the seminary, high school level, way back in 1964. I, of course, didn't become a priest. I became a father and a husband. After this evening, I felt I left something behind.

In attendance were Father Thanh, Father DiFazio, and Father Zehler. Seminarians in attendance were Adam Kersch and Joseph (JoJo) Kuhlman. The young men interested in the seminary were: Armon Antolin, Jandela Cruz, Andrew Dinh, Clay Ludwig, Tyler Williamson, Joey Klinkenberg and JJ Kuhlman.

Father Thanh introduced the group to each other, the purpose of the social and his desire to see more of these socials in the future. Dinner was served and was superb, (Tina Morrissey and Jackie Comstock were awesome). After dinner, JoJo led us in prayer and song and then Father Thanh spoke of God's call, our response to it and the need for discernment.

The most amazing part of the evening was next. The stories of man's personal response to God's call flowed like a river and everyone was captivated. First, Father Thanh told about his call and response, then seminarian JoJo, Father Zehler, Father DiFazio and seminarian Adam Kersch. I will not go into any details here, very personal stuff, but suffice to say their personal stories were fascinating, enlightening, and the stuff heroes are made of. I never sat so quietly in my life. I don't think any of the young men moved much less breathed.

Questions were asked and answered and the final prayer was said. I felt sad this was ending.

The evening didn't end. I don't think it ever will for a lot of the young men, at least I hope not. Although this was an evening to promote the priesthood and religious life, I felt what was said here could be applied to all vocations. I learned that God does call us and it is our job to discern that call and then, of course, we must respond.

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# Father Thanh's Message

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus marked the close of the Year for Priests. During this year I had many opportunities for me to reflect upon my priesthood. I already shared with you my reflections on when I made my pilgrimage to Ars. Thank you again for being a part of my priesthood and thank you for your prayers and encouragement throughout this year.

Last June, we held a vocations night here at the rectory. Tina Morrissey and Jackie Comstock prepared a delicious meal for all who attended this event. We took advantage of our newly ordained priest, Father Sal and seminarians JoJo and Adam Kersch while they were here by asking them to join us (Father Zehler and me) as guest speakers. JoJo led us in evening prayer. Six students were there as each of us shared a defining moment when we said 'yes' to God's call to priesthood during open sharing that night.

I shared about my 18-day trip from Vietnam to the Philippines. Many of you have heard my story that after surviving the trip I prayed to God: "Lord, my life was on the sea. The life I have now is a new life You have given to me. I offer my life to You for whatever You intend."

Father Zehler also shared his personal conversion. It happened to him one early morning, around 2:00 a.m., when he was drawn to the Church and was praying before the Blessed Sacrament. He felt a strong call to the priesthood and he said, "Yes."

Father Sal also shared his defining moment. It was during the time when his wife was dying (about 5 years ago). She asked him, "What are you going to do after I die?" and he answered, "I will try to study to become a priest." His "Yes" to God's call on that night sent him on his journey through his studies; the culmination was his priestly ordination last Mother's Day weekend at the Cathedral.

JoJo shared that he was ready to begin medical school when God stirred in his heart the call to priesthood. After prayerful discernment he decided to say goodbye to his girlfriend and to change his path from doctor of medicine to the priesthood. This fall he will begin his studies in Rome where he will study theology.

One of our parishioners, Adam Kersch, shared that he had been engaged to marry and began preparations for their wedding but it didn't work out. He struggled and wrestled with it for a year when finally through discernment he listened to his inner voice to become a priest instead. He applied and was accepted to become a seminarian for the Diocese of St. Augustine. He leaves to begin his studies at Mount Saint Mary in Maryland this fall.

We left the vocation meeting with a good sense of how amazingly God works in people's lives and how mysterious God's call to the priesthood is ... I hope that this is a good start for continued success for vocations in the future. If you happen to see any man that you believe would be a good candidate for the priesthood or any woman for religious life approach them with the idea and let them know that their time and talent are needed.

It may interest you to know that during the Priest's convocation last May at Marywood, I heard that "in five years, the Diocese of Saint Augustine will lose 17 parochial vicars." It may mean that Christ the King will end up as a one-man parish. Please, if you are already praying for vocations, continue. If you haven't begun to pray for vocations, please begin. We need your prayers.

Church vocation doesn't always mean becoming a priest or a nun. Sometimes it is a call to do ministry work within the church. We are proud of the reputation that Christ the King has for its volunteer support. We are thankful for all our volunteers who have given their time and their talent to help keep this legacy going. At this year's annual Ministry Dinner we were given an opportunity to thank everyone who supported various ministries this past year and to give special recognition to those who have contributed to this ever growing legacy.



This year's **Ministry of the Year Award** went to "Ministry of Hope." Sue Pastorini and the volunteers for this ministry have done a great job organizing and helping our parishioners deal with the loss of loved ones. Their support has been an asset in helping parishioners who are going through the grieving process to know that their priests and parish cares about them.

Our **Volunteer of the Year Award** went to Yolanda Cerqueira for her dedication at Christ the King in many ministries such as Christ the King Courier, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Sulzbacher Center. Recently, she opened up her home to host the *Why Catholic?* program that helps Catholics to learn more about their faith and the importance of spreading the word to others.

John and Doris Faustini received the **Distinguished Service Award**. They have been members of Christ the King for over 40 years. Their untiring dedication and support to various ministries including our school has not gone unnoticed. We are very proud of people like the Faustinis who not only know the meaning of charity but are wonderful role models to the rest of us who see them continually working for their church and community.

The **Outstanding Service Award** went to Tim McClellan, our Parish Council president. Tim has been very active in our parish and school. He is a great organizer as proven by his outstanding success with our Christ the King School Carnival during the last four years.

I personally want to add my thanks to these fine parishioners we have recognized this year and to all who have added their time, talent, and monetary support to make our church more than just a building. They have helped to make Christ the King a welcoming place for all who enter through the doors of our church, our school and our childcare facilities.

Perhaps you have been ignoring that inner voice asking you to help the church support others. Please answer that call by joining one of our many ministries published in our church bulletin. Or if you know of someone you think would make a good volunteer why don't you ask them to join us in our efforts to serve God and one another as a volunteer at Christ the King?

It is my prayer that each of us is willing to respond to God's calling whether it be the priesthood, religious life or parish ministry. It is only by responding generously and faithfully that we show God how much we appreciate what He has done for us. Just as the prophet Isaiah answered when God called, "Here I am Lord, send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

**LORD, JESUS,**

*We ask you to send more servants  
to your people.*

*Choose from our parishes,  
from our homes,  
from our schools and colleges,  
an abundant harvest of apostles  
for your Kingdom:  
priests, sisters, brothers, deacons,  
and lay ministers.*

*We pray that those you call may  
never lose awareness  
of the dignity and need of their vocation.*

*O Virgin Mary,  
Mother of the Church,  
teach all those the Master calls  
to say a joyful "yes"  
as you did at the Annunciation.  
Amen.*

## Christ the King Courier

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

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

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

The *Christ the King Courier* is a quarterly newspaper published by Christ the King Catholic Church. Publisher reserves the right to refuse articles, poetry, advertisements, etc. contrary to paper's policy and standards. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

# Editor's Corner

by Carol-Ann Black

This issue of the Courier is a very priestly one. We have articles about priests and by priests at various points in their vocations. In addition the Year of the Priest has concluded and there is reference to that.

One thing I would like to say about Year of the Priest is that I believe that we at Christ the King enjoy the presence and joyful ministry of happy priests. In conversation with various friends and acquaintances I have discovered that very few parishes have paid much attention to this unique appreciation for the vocation of the priesthood. Father Thanh and Father Zehler both spoke of the Year of the Priest often and shared their feelings about their priestly callings; we prayed the Prayer for Priests frequently, until it was superseded by the *Why Catholic?* Disciple's Prayer; Father Sal has built himself into the parish with apparent ease and is immersed in a new teen program for the parish. We are truly blessed.

By the time you read this end-of-summer edition, school will be back in session for several weeks—with its new and well-deserved designation of Blue Ribbon School and with a student population that has remained stable since last year. Vacation Bible School is just a memory, but what a great one it was again this summer. Parish Council will have met for the first time this year with a changed schedule and adjusted by-laws. AND the Shirley David Hall has been completely refurbished and redecorated, thanks to the financial contributions of the Christ the King Council of Catholic Women and the Nocturnal Adoration ministry. The actual physical labor was supplied by men and women of several ministries, and they are what made the renovation possible. Paying for their time and talent would have put the project out of reach at this time.

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and that you are now ready to look forward to a new and different ministry season and a second round of *Why Catholic?*

## RED, WHITE AND BLUE

**I am the symbol of freedom.  
I fly high proudly watching over my land from shore to shore.  
I clothe the naked and feed the hungry.  
I am home to the homeless.  
I defend the defenseless around the world.  
I restore hope where hope is lost.  
I cry for the countless souls who have given their precious lives to defend me.  
I fly forever in their honor.**

**I am despised by some whom I have fed and sheltered.  
I see contempt in their eyes when they look upon me.  
I am trampled by blind vengeance meant for their old rival.  
I am mutilated and burned by ignorance and hatred.  
I am desecrated by my enemies to incite rage among my children.  
I see the tears in their eyes as I am sacrificed on the altar of self-serving injustice.  
I live in their hearts to comfort them in dark times.  
I will not abandon them.**

**I am a survivor.  
I unite a proud and diverse people under one banner of love and security.  
I bridge the divide between right and reason.  
I represent the greatest nation on the face of this earth.  
I have resided here more than two centuries.  
I will be here long after you are gone.**

Kevin O'Neal  
May 4, 2000

### Courier Guidelines Notice

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

# What's Happening



## OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

We welcome the following individuals and families to Christ the King Community

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Elmer Gonzales            | Mr. Karlins Pierre-Louis   |
| Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Carter | Ms. Jaime Carter           |
| Ms. Paula Mills               | Mr. & Mrs. Jonardson Lamug |
| Mr. & Mrs. Caleb Amerson      | Mr. Derek Klabacka         |
| Ms. Julia Tuttle              | Ms. Dana Hemke             |
| Ms. Thelecia Wilson           | Tuyen Do                   |
| Mr. John Bustamante           | Mr. Khoa Hua               |
| Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Harden     | Mr. An Phuc Nguyen         |
| Ms. Kristy Tubel              | Ms. Vanhka Thongkhamdy     |
| Mr. Caleb Schwenk             | Mr. Thanh Quang Tran       |
| Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bateh          | Ms. Mai Kim Luu            |
| Mr. & Mrs. Leonard LaGara     | Mr. & Mrs. Bret Bechtold   |
| Ms. Alejandra Campos-Amegin   |                            |



We acknowledge the following parishioners who were recently united into the Sacrament of Marriage.

- Nicole Marie Hughes and Matthew Peter Schmitt  
Emily Elizabeth Wheeler and William Tyler Patterson  
Amanda Michelle Sharp and Jonathan Ryan O'Neal  
Kim Vu and Alex Anh Nguyen  
Stacey Anne Ramos and Paul Alexander Garn  
Meghan Rose Bartolone and Thomas Michael Bradley



## Baptisms:

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

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Vincent Khoa Hula         | Tammy M. Gardner                 |
| Delaney DeWeese           | Sebastian Andres Ortiz-Sepulveda |
| Riley Eugene Brown        | Vivian Mai Nguyen                |
| Chelsea Marie Duane       | Jean Kerby Auguste               |
| Elijah Crislyn Padagdag   | Cloey Marie Gardner              |
| Sheila Katherine Sorenson | Jackson Scott Howell             |
| Brett James Lewitzke      | Dillon Joseph Garner             |
| Anyssa Gabrielle Searcy   | Uriel Etonam Kuegah              |
| Jayden William PettyJohn  | William Thomas Gardner           |
| Ann Magdalene Simony      | Connor Jensen Olsen              |
| Aiden Demetrius Roberts   | Jake David Parenteau             |

## Deaths:



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

- Mary C Canning  
Charles Judson Davis  
Leila Margaret Cummings  
Raymond Durlacher  
Jane Marsell Morgan  
Ruth "Carolyn" Pickett  
Hermogenes A. Alamo

# Church As It Really Is

by Father Joseph Devlin  
Pastor of St. Brigid's in  
Philadelphia, PA

A Church bulletin announced, "Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 P.M. Prayer and medication to follow." That's medication as in medicine. Too funny, right... Prayer and *medication* to follow... They obviously meant "prayer and **meditation** to follow."

Cute, funny...but, after reading that little anecdote the more I thought about it, I thought that's a simple and innocent example of the Church as it really is. I think today's feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the Church's beginning is as good a time as any to reflect on the Church - the Church as it really is.

First, let me say this. The Church is divine in her message - her message and mission is the proclamation of the Gospel. That's of God, not of human origin. But the Church in her members is human. And because it is human, quite often the Church gets it wrong and makes mistakes because she is all too human. Sometimes those mistakes are simple, harmless, for example, like that church sign announcing the potluck supper. And sometimes the Church makes serious mistakes where people are deeply hurt and wounded by church leaders, church members, by certain church pronouncements and by certain church decisions. We are all too familiar with this fact today more so than we were not too long ago, aren't we?

For generations of Catholics, the Church was presented as the perfect society. Many experienced the Church as an institution of power, of pride, and of might. This is the Church of the first 75 years of the 20th century; this Church of "institutional might" has been slowly dying since then, dying a sometimes agonizing death since the 1970s.

That being said, the Church of "institutional might" was a source of many blessings and did incalculable good, of which we are justifiably proud. For example, her institutions were served by armies of priests and religious, providing education for children of immigrants and the immigrants' subsequent generation in her network of schools; caring for the sick and dying in hospitals, building big, beautiful churches and parishes - just a few of the positive accomplishments of the institutional Church.

However, let's also remember, as the headlines make so clear, there was an underbelly of this constructor of the "mighty Church." We now know so plainly that the "Church of power" proved

yet again, that the old saying is absolutely true in the hands of some - certainly not all church leaders: "absolute power -certainly does- corrupt absolutely." The good old days were only partly good. There is no lost golden age of the Church, if by that we mean a Church that was perfect or problem free.

What has also become obvious is that the Church of the perfect society, the model that insisted on uniformity and conformity, produced a Church lacking courageous leaders. Rather than decisive action to remove those who have no place in the priesthood, since core values were seeking to protect the good name of the institution, and to safeguard the notion of the Church as a perfect society; the result was that grave mistakes were made and many innocents were deeply hurt.

As I thought about all these things, I couldn't help but realize none of this sounds anything like the Church we hear about in our readings today, on this Pentecost Sunday, does it? There we hear about the Church as a diverse community of believers who found their unity in believing in Jesus. St. Paul of our second reading describes the various manifestations of the Holy Spirit as gifts given to be shared; gifts of God given for service - not to rule over anyone. In our Gospel, the Risen Christ seems more concerned with healing, with forgiveness, reconciliation, with bestowing peace and not with building an institution...in short, let's be frank, these readings sound nothing like the Church of the "mighty institution," the dominant expression of the Church of recent memory.

I liked what a scripture scholar, a priest by the last name of Karban said on this note. "Institutions run themselves, even institutions that deal in God's business. Besides, good institutions - unlike the Church of the Scriptures - seem to operate best with minimum diversity and maximum conformity. Thankfully, the early Church never thought of itself as an institution. Rather they thought of themselves as part of Jesus' body, a community of believers carrying on Jesus' work and ministry, daily participating in Jesus' death and resurrection."

"The first Christians conclude Father Karban didn't conceive of the Holy Spirit as someone who [helped only certain] members to articulate dogmas. Instead they realized the Holy Spirit as the [life] force; as an amazing power who helped them form a community [whose members continued] to maintain the mentality [of Christ]."

What does all this have to say to us today? First, I think it's

important to remember that the Holy Spirit is still with the Church; the Church is alive and well; the Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of each one of us. The Holy Spirit is still leading us - despite some members of the Church's resistance to the Spirit's promptings - in spite of our all too human tendency to get it wrong. Pentecost is now!

And, I think, one way to see the present crisis of the Church, is that the Holy Spirit is leading us away from what the Church experienced primarily as an institution of power, pride and might. Don't misunderstand me, I do not believe the Spirit willed crimes or sins be committed. No, crimes and sins are not of God. But the scriptures and our history both teach us that the Spirit always breathes something new from something old. The Holy Spirit always brings good out of evil. It always draws life from what is of death. (Think of Good Friday with God, it led to Easter Sunday. And the Holy Spirit always brings about rebirth in surprising ways.)

As Vatican II solemnly taught, the Church is the People of God, that is, a community of baptized believers. She is not a perfect society. Instead, the Church is a community of believers - divine in her mission, yes - but all too human in her members. But, the Church is a human community unlike other human groups *only because* God bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit, empowering her for the purpose of proclaiming the Lord's Gospel. But in 2010 we are still at "an in between time." Meaning we are in between what was and what the Church will be. Things are changing. But the Spirit has not fully given birth to the Church of the future. But I think we can now see signs of what the Church is becoming. That is, a humbler church much more conscious that Christian leadership is not about

power but is all about service. A more inclusive Church where diversity is seen not as a threat but as a sign of the Spirit's presence. A Church where God's word and the Sacraments are the essentials. A Church where the stress is on discipleship for all the baptized members and not just for those ordained or in vows. A Church where her reason for existence, as Blessed John XXIII said, is not to be "on earth to found a museum, *but* to cultivate a flourishing garden of life." This is the Church we're starting to see bloom even as the Church as mighty institution is dying.

But, it needs to be said, this transition time between "what was" and what is being born is not very comfortable; it is rather unsettling for all of us. The theologian Anthony Padovano, says this is how it has always been. Much like our own individual, physical births, whenever the Holy Spirit is giving birth to something new, we feel confused, disoriented, fearful. Being born, for the baby, is unsettling, disturbing, terrifying. Birth in the Church is the same. "The tranquility of the Spirit comes after the crucifixion, not before. The spirit is fire and flame, a restless wind, a turbulent sea, an upsetter, a supplanter," says Padovano.

As unsettling as our own individual, physical births were for each one of us, after being born it is then that we could "breathe the air of freedom for the first time." So it will be when the Spirit gives birth to a new expression of the Church, then the Church will "feel the grace in her lungs, she will see darkness pass from shadows to light. Yes, the Spirit forever gives us a rebirth and a new world [inviting us as] pilgrims to live by hope for the future."

## Widow and Widowers



**Come on and join the fun. We get together on the second Tuesday of every month for lunch or an early dinner to share food and fellowship. We enjoy various restaurants in the area. Watch the bulletin for our next gathering.**

## Shrine



by Mickey Kenny

Since 1992 the people of Christ the King have been welcomed by the soothing sound of water coming from the crucifixion fountain at our church doors reminding us of our baptism into Christ and showing us the way to Christ.

A brass plaque gave the names of those generous people who had contributed to the shrine. When we came to Mass the weekend of July 18 something was seriously missing! It had been decided that the crucifixion fountain had succumbed to the pressure of the weather over the years, and steps were about to be taken to repair it. Indeed a wrecker was scheduled to lift the cross and corpus on the very day of the happening. Instead the cross, which had deteriorated from

the inside out, broke and the corpus came down with it. Due to the weather damage the corpus had sustained, it broke into many, many pieces. There was no salvaging this treasure. The remains were disposed of in the proper and respectful manner according to canon law.

A commission is being formed to study proposals for the future development of this very special place. Perhaps after the two tries we have already made it has been proven that, while the wood cross and corpus have been beautiful, it may be necessary to make some change that will allow the same dignity and beauty but remain stable.

In the meantime we pray it will not be too long before we are again enriched by the sounds of water cascading forth from Christ and leading us once again back to Him.

## Songs of Praise



A fitting end to the Year for Priest was the concert *Songs of Praise*, honoring the priests of the diocese. It was presented by Lumen Entertainment on June 3 at University of North Florida and was well attended and completely enjoyed by a wonderful cross-section of diocesan parishioners.

Lumen Entertainment is a non-profit ministry, created in 2003 by Brian Shields, to create quality faith-based entertainment for families. The artists that he assembled for this event were Eric Genius, composer and pianist; Krista Adams Santilli, soprano; Shannon Hayden, cello; Alena Merimee, violin. The music was created by Genius and performed by the artists as a group and individually.

Two other sponsors of *Songs of Praise* were Anthony's Gourmet Catering—astonishingly delicious—and the *Word among us* magazine. Funds raised by this concert went to the Priest Retirement Fund, Diocese of St. Augustine.

## The Fifteen Promises of Mary to Christians Who Recite the Rosary

by Charm I. Saults

I recently discovered this article and found it to be enlightening and made me think about praying the rosary more often. How many of you know the fifteen promises?

- Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the rosary shall receive signal graces.
- I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary.
- The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
- It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
- The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the rosary shall not perish.
- Whoever shall have a true devotion for the rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
- I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the rosary.
- Whoever shall recite the rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of the sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice; he shall not perish by an un-provided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
- Those who are faithful to recite the rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plentitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in Paradise.
- The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
- You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the rosary.
- All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
- I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of their death.
- All who recite the rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
- Devotion of my rosary is a great sign of predestination.

Imprimatur Patrick J. Hayes D.D. Archbishop of New York

*MARK...  
YOUR...  
CALENDARS!!!*

As a special celebration of our feast of Christ the King (weekend of November 21), AND in honor of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Music (November 22) the Music Department of CTK will be offering its...



*FIRST  
ANNUAL  
CHRIST THE  
KING CHORAL  
CONCERT*

**Friday, November 19,  
7:00 p.m. in the Church.**

The music presented will span the incredible musical history of the Catholic Church from the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Creative medleys from the "memory lane" of pre-Vatican II through to pieces from contemporary Catholic, as well as other Christian traditions, will surprise and delight every musical taste.

Be watchful for further advertising about this event and bring family and friends to celebrate.

## Celebration of Adult Confirmation

by Darlene O'Neal

Confirmation of Adults was celebrated on the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on June 6, 2010. The ceremony took place at the Cathedral-Basilica in St. Augustine.

The Most Reverend Bishop Victor Galeone confirmed baptized Catholics from throughout the diocese of St. Augustine. There was a total of seventy-one confirmandi called forward and sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Representing Christ the King parish were the final three members of the RCIA class of

2010. Confirmed were Joseph P. Hartman, Nigel Armorer-Clarke, and Silvia Thomas.

The whole congregation was asked to pray to the Holy Spirit for those to be confirmed, to strengthen them in their faith and to anoint them to be more like Christ. Bishop Galeone extended his hands over the candidates and prayed that God would pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen them with His gifts. Each person was then called forward with their sponsor and anointed with Chrism on their foreheads. They were sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

RCIA Director James Scott, Coordinator George Barletta, team members Louie and Darlene O'Neal, and Mary Jo Hiers traveled to St. Augustine for the Confirmation. RCIA team members Berry and Norma Landers were sponsors for Nigel and Silvia, and Mark Buckelew was sponsor for Joe.

A small reception was held in the courtyard of the Cathedral while Bishop Galeone graciously posed for photographs with the newly confirmed.



**Congratulations!**

**Silvia**

**Nigel**

**and Joe**



# Roanoke Catholic High School 2010 Commencement Address



submitted by Sam Clements

Background: This is a partial story of my sister, Margaret Ann Osborne's grandson Zachary Osborne, who was injured in Afghanistan and is still in recovery. An important definition: according to Wikipedia, a Stryker is an eight-wheeled, 4x4, armored combat vehicle used by the U.S. Army. The vehicle is named for two American servicemen who posthumously received the Medal of Honor: Pfc. Stuart S. Stryker, who died in WW II and Spc.4 Robert F. Stryker, who died in Vietnam.

*On January 28 at 10:15 a.m. in Afghanistan, Zach's Alpha Co lead Stryker hit an IED while returning to the FOB from a successful 2 days' patrol. All 7 soldiers and their interpreter were injured with Zachary sustaining the worst injuries. Zach has suffered multiple fractures to the right leg, foot and also his left heel and foot. He was listed VSI (very serious injuries) and flown to Kandahar Air Force hospital for assessment, evaluation, initial surgeries and stabilization. Now, January 29, Zach is being flown to Baghram AFB hospital and is slated to go to Germany on January 30 at present. He is still at Walter Reed Hospital recovering from his wounds. Please pray for him and the other wounded warriors at Walter Reed and other hospitals.*

*On June 12, while on convalescence leave in Roanoke, VA, Zachary was the guest speaker at his old high school for the class of 2010. Many people have requested a copy of his speech. Hopefully, I will be able to copy it into this journal's text. These are Zach's own words and I am taking the liberty of placing them for public view. I figure if he was able to express himself to a church full of people, then it is okay to let everyone who has followed his journey of rehabilitation know his thoughts.*

## Roanoke Catholic High School 2010 Commencement Address

Thank you, Mr. Correia, for the warm introduction and for inviting me to speak on this exciting, and momentous occasion. Good morning students and faculty, family and friends of the class of 2010, and most importantly, good morning graduates. Congratulations. It feels good, I know. It is a pleasure to come back to my alma mater and it is an honor to address a room filled with bright, talented individuals.

It's hard not to think of my own commencement, back when I was sitting in those seats, listening to my graduation speaker and thinking: "When is this guy gonna finish? If I ever speak at graduation, I'm just going to get up there, say congratulations and leave..." Well, here we are, six years later and I've already proven myself wrong.

What you have earned here today is something that should make you very proud. Your diploma represents not only the hard work of the last 13 years, but is symbolic of your pursuit and commitment to learning. I hope that your time at Roanoke Catholic has been as invaluable as mine was. A time spent learning that success isn't defined by GPAs, acceptance letters, or afterschool activities, but instead by the character you've built, the examples you've followed and the incredible community we are privileged to have here.

Having Roanoke Catholic as a foundation, you will quickly come to see that you have been set apart from your peers. Your peers will respect you not only for your work ethic and past success, but for the integrity and grace that you will always carry.

This doesn't just set you apart from your neighbors and coworkers at home, but from the people you'll meet throughout your life, wherever you go. If you have the privilege of traveling the world, you will find that your education distinguishes you from the vast majority of the global population. But remember, the simple fact that you were lucky enough to have come through Roanoke Catholic, doesn't mean you'll do better work, or set a better example. There's no value in knowledge without embracing the responsibility and leadership to use it wisely. These are two things I've carried with me since my time as a student here, and they're two things which make all the difference.

In July 2009, I was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan and, seemingly overnight, I found myself responsible for the lives of 35 men.

When I arrived in Afghanistan, I learned that our mission during deployment was complicated. We were responsible for training Afghan Police, assisting with security, finding projects that would help the community, and building positive relationships among the local leaders. One of the favorite projects I led was working to open a school for the local Afghan children. It gave me the chance to kick around the soccer ball and play with children who, to my pleasant surprise, were no different from you or me at their age. They teased each other the way we would, laughed the way we do, and took the same joy in scoring a goal. For a brief moment, I forgot how far from home I really was.

As rewarding as all that was, the war itself was always present. There were constant reminders that our enemies were never far away. Weekly,

we were sent out into the field to find caches of explosives that could be used to fashion IEDs, or roadside bombs.

These uncertain times forced me to be a leader at all times. I had the eyes of 35 men watching how I handled situations and looking to me for answers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In those months, the small gold bars on my shoulder that distinguish me as a Second Lt. began to weigh heavily – especially when the time came to lead those men into battle.

On January 28, 2010, my men and I were heading back to base after 48 hours patrolling outside the wire in local towns in order to establish a consistent presence in the area. All of my Strykers were in line and home was in sight. Suddenly, I felt my Stryker pushing up as I was falling back into it. We had struck an IED dug into the desert sand. Shortly after the blast, I came to and tried to get to my driver, but the access to his seat had been destroyed. I then realized my legs were useless, so I crawled out the back of the vehicle.

The strongest memory I have from that episode, the one that changed my life, was lying on the ground outside of my destroyed Stryker, thinking how proud I was of my guys for handling the situation the way they did. How they were acting like the leaders I knew them to be, doing all the right things and immediately getting me onto the MEDEVAC helicopter. I knew that God was with us in that Stryker and He will be with you in your times of need.

The following weeks were full of discovery about the true nature of my injury – shattered heel bones and a tibia/fibula fracture on my right leg – and about the possibilities of my rehab. Walking, but never running again. I'll never know a challenge like those moments again, and I hope none of you ever have to face those fears the way I did. And yet here I am, approaching month five of my recovery, and what do I take away from it all? Struggle, met with success. And that success could not have existed without the three things we all need to achieve it: our family, our friends, and our faith. These are things which have taught me the true nature of leadership, determination, and support. I know that these three things have been instilled in you during your time at Roanoke Catholic. They will help you make the inevitable decisions that shape who you are, and they will help pick you up when you stumble on life's path.

You and I are no different — I'm only one person with the desire to serve and make the world a better place—a person with the desire to continue to pursue his dreams, no matter where they take me, or what obstacles I encounter along the way.

I have no doubt that, thanks to your years here, our hopes, dreams and ambitions mirror each other. And I want you to know that they are always within reach, no matter the challenges.

Our successes aren't measured by tangible achievements like medals, awards, or straight A's, but by the lessons we learn through our experiences. For me, my experiences both in Afghanistan and in my time at Walter Reed have earned me the kind of success no one can ever take away.

People will try to put limits on you from the very beginning, telling you what is possible and what is impossible. To survive, and to succeed, you must develop a passion for what you want and stop at nothing to get it. You must be willing to risk everything, lose it all, and then risk everything again.

Your journey will present you with dangerous temptations – the temptation to give up, or the temptation to lose faith in yourself and in God. They will be hidden amongst the everyday stream of life's questions. In my journey I've learned that the trick is to separate the meaningless questions of today's complex, ambiguous world from the all-important questions of morality. As Thomas Jefferson said, "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." If you live your life by principle, as Roanoke Catholic has taught you to do, not only will you stand like a rock, but you will also become the rock for others to hold on to.

My time at war, my injury and my recovery are only the experiences of one man. You will all face hardship. But if you keep in mind the lessons you've learned here, success is not only possible, it's probable.

And do not be afraid to lead. Do not let yourselves be content with anything less than your highest ideals. As the future rapidly approaches, keep your focus on a desire to help others. In doing so, you will steer clear of the mediocrity and conformity so widespread in today's culture. And I guarantee that you will become a real success—lighting the path for others to follow.

Ladies and gentlemen, my message this morning is simple:

Trust in God then follow your heart. It will make those difficult choices, the ones that can save your life and change the world, seem easy and obvious.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to everyone here for all you do to support America's men and women in uniform. On behalf of her wounded warriors, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

# Meet The Pastor



# Christ the King Super Size Country Store Sale

by Yolanda Cerqueira

Yes, all the rumors about this coming Country Store sale are true and even more so! This country store is probably the biggest and best that Christ the King has ever had. The purpose of this sale is to raise \$5,000.00 to renovate the playground on our campus. A daunting challenge, that we will hopefully meet and surpass with grace. All of this is under the careful direction of Mary Charm Lone Sauls who has the enthusiasm, tenacity, energy and skill to undertake an endeavor of such magnitude. Charm has been receiving donations since June 5, 2010. You will find her in the St. Mary's Room busily sorting, arranging, and cataloging five days a week. All of the donations are being stored there and it is no exaggeration to literally say that the goods are piled from floor to ceiling.

Whatever you are looking for, search no further, because it's all there under the Big Tent in the Christ the King Kingdom.

Okay, Drum Roll—Tatummm! Here's a sneak preview of what to expect. Three working freezers at very cool prices and a washer and dryer set all in excellent shape. How about some small appliances such as toasters, blenders, coffee pots and microwaves and there's no need to worry, as they're all in working order for you!



Are you in need of furniture? Come on down and feast your eyes on a complete queen bedroom suite with sheets and quilts plus two nightstands, dresser with mirror. And that's just the beginning of a long list of goods to furnish your house. Living room and dining room

chairs are a part of the mix with a massage chair thrown in to boot. Do you need a couch or maybe a sleeper chair, we have both and more. Then after you are comfortably seated on your new couch you'll probably need a floor lamp and we have three of them plus a big assortment of table lamps. Take your pick!

Are you looking for just the right picture, painting or plaque to go on your wall? Again you are going to run into a bonanza of objects to decorate your house. There is no end of objects d'art from which to choose.



It always seems that we're looking for items for the kitchen. You won't be disappointed when you learn there is a complete set of Blue Willow dishes in addition to silverware, glasses, cups, and kitchen items galore.

Let's move into the electronics department where we'll find televisions, radios, tape players, DVDs, records, and CD and VCR tapes. Do you need a place to store all this stuff? We have a solid oak entertainment center for sale at a modest price.

Here's an item you didn't expect and that would be a beautiful organ in excellent shape. The original price was a big \$1,500.00 and it is on special sale at our Country Store for \$900.00 or the best offer. We will even arrange a delivery direct to your house!

The holidays are just around the corner and here you'll find all your needs for Halloween, including costumes, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and even Easter if you're so inclined.

We haven't forgotten the children as there is a ton of toys, puzzles, and games and a carload of clothes with sizes from newborn to a size 14. The clothes have been washed and put in plastic bags according to size.

There's so much that could be said, but we want to save a few surprises for you, and we need room to list our vendors too. These folks will be all around to make the day more inviting for you. Such folks as Mary Kay Cosmetics, Arlington Flower Shop, Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, The Student Exchange, Global Satellite and Wireless, Vi's Creations and The Final Touch.

Will there be anything to eat? Of course, my friends, we tried to think of everything. The Fil-Am Ministry will be there with their sumptuous egg rolls dipped in sauce, and then there are the gallant Knights who'll be preparing hot dogs and hamburgers for your delight. The Coffee Ministry will be serving too and there's a Bake Sale by Circle Eight. The Vietnamese Community will be preparing a special food dish as well.

Now all of this wouldn't be possible without the help and care of the Country Store volunteers. We give a very big thank you to the following folks for their time and dedication in preparing the store. They are: Barbara DuPuis, Mindy Fisher, Paul Ghiotto, Alex Jowanna, Paul Rozak, and Paul and Jeanette. A special thanks also to our teen helpers who are Joshua and Matthew Johnson and Samantha Cruger.

We will be ready to greet you and hopefully serve your needs on Friday and Saturday, October 15th and 16th. You all come!

# SummerCare 2010

by Imogene T. Praxedes

*The child is God's gift to the family. Each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things; to love and to be loved.*

*How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.*  
~Mother Teresa



Throughout the years of being involved with the After School Extended Care program at Christ the King School I would hear from parents the dilemma they would have finding a caregiver for their children during the school's summer vacation. Last year saw the creation of the new Child Care Center on Arlington Road. This resulted in the old Child Care Center on Larkin Road becoming vacant.

My hope to find a permanent home for the After School Extended Care program became a possibility. When the members of the Parish Council were asked for ideas on what to do with the building I immediately suggested that it become the new home for the After School Extended Care Program. It would not only be a safe and healthy environment for the children but it would be a very convenient place for the parents to pick them up.

The National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc., has stressed the commitment of one's community to utilize every available means to protect God's children. I believe that by addressing the issue of personal safety of the children, we relieve the parents of worry and concerns about their children's well being. In July of 2009 the building became known as the After School Care Building.

The SummerCare 2010 program was suggested after several parents inquired about being open during the summer vacation. I am grateful to our principal, Stephanie Chinault, for having been receptive to the idea. She asked me to make a proposal in order to study the feasibility of the program. Mrs. Chinault gave her consent after reviewing my suggestion. Flyers were then printed up and I aggressively distributed and

e-mailed them to the neighboring Catholic schools.

By the start of the nine-week program we had about 25 families registered. From Monday to Friday we opened at 7:00 a.m. and the last child was picked up by 6:00 p.m. We averaged about 25 to 30 children a week. Mrs. Karin Abrams provided art activities every morning. We also worked with the children doing math and reading worksheets. We provided snacks that included bagels and doughnuts in the morning and popsicles or ice cream in the afternoon. They provided their own lunches.

For forty-four days we were a family. We had a pizza day, celebrated someone's birthday, and had an end of the year party. Some days we had "water wars" when the children squirted each other or just relaxed in the inflatable pools filled with water.

We were blessed to have fantastic students who were great mentors to the younger children. Christian, Yasmeen and Angel Chan were such wonderful volunteers. We are grateful for the time and assistance they freely offered. They became Big Brother and Big Sisters and were such a comforting presence to everyone.



What great luck for us also that the children were able to experience playing ping-pong. It was so much fun watching them play and making up their own rules along the way. There's nothing like the sound of children laughing and explaining how to play a game.

SummerCare 2010 was open only to the students of the Diocese. Most of the attendees were from Christ the King School and there were seven from Holy Spirit. Nine weeks seem like a long time but before we knew it the last week had crept up. It was a wonderful summer and we are grateful to Mrs. Chinault for giving us the opportunity to provide a safe envi-



ronment for the children. We are also thankful to the parents for allowing us the chance to care for their children.

# A New Year for Religious Education for Children

by Lucille Guzzone

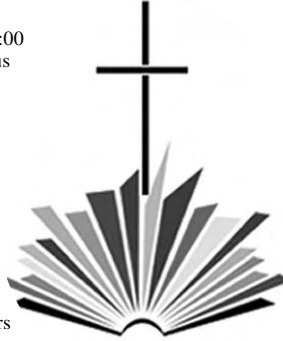
On September 1, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., parents of students of religious education will register their children for the 2010-2011 school year. This meeting serves as an orientation for new parents and a review for those who are returning. Father Thanh welcomes the parents, the staff distributes calendars, and teachers then accompany them to the school classrooms for further information.

Actual classes for the youngsters begin on September 8. Regular classes for those in grades 1-8 run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., on Wednesday evenings. A special "catch-up class" for those older children who missed receiving the sacraments of First Holy Communion and first reconciliation in the second grade begins at 6:30 p.m. In addition, Christ the King School students who are also in need of this class are welcomed to attend this special instruction. The school year ends with a closing Mass in May.

Religious education students use the same religion books as do the children in our parish school. This allows for smooth relationships and shared ideas among all catechists of the parish. Sacramental preparation for both the school children and the religious education children are identical as sacrament candidates and their parents attend the same meetings and retreats. The students prepare and complete the same requirements and projects.

This year religious education catechists will take part in the 9:00 a.m. children's liturgy every third week of the month.

Most teachers in the program are certified catechists. A few are working toward complete certification through Diocesan sponsored workshops and classes. All are devoted toward the goal of striving to encourage all youngsters in their care to become faithful and devout believers in God and in His Holy Church.



# For Whom Should I Pray?

by Jim Medley

First you need to pray for yourself. Pray something like this...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. In the name of Jesus and through Jesus please bless me. You have heard it said "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" On the other hand, what good does it do you if you save a thousand others and not yourself?

Be selfish and pray for yourself. If you don't pray for yourself you are telling God, "I don't need Your help but others do." Be humble enough to pray for yourself.

We should pray for others because we love them. It is said God is Love. But Love is a mystery. God and Love are mysterious and hard to understand. If you said I should pray for others because I care for them, or am concerned about them, or that I feel sorry for them, or have compassion for them, I can understand this. If you say that God cares about me I can understand this.

If someone is hungry, I can give him something to eat; if he is thirsty, I can give him a drink; if he needs clothes I can give him some clothes; if he is homeless, I can offer alms. If I were a doctor I might be able to cure his illness. However, there are a lot of things that can be wrong with people that I cannot change. For these things, I ask God to help.

Be selfish, pray for yourself and ask God to help others. Pray this way... "God, please bless me and please, bless those in need."

# JOJO The Seminarian



by Frank Becht

Joseph Patrick Kuhlman, the handsome young man recently introduced by Father Thanh, is better known as "JoJo." He is at Christ the King for his summer seminarian assignment after which he will be attending the North American College in Rome.

JoJo is a member of the Jacksonville community whose family resides in Ponte Vedra, Florida. His parents are Peter and Patricia Saelinger Kuhlman, his father being a cardiologist and his mother a nurse. Both parents were born and raised in the Covington, Kentucky, area. His father first came to Florida having earned athletic scholarships that enabled him to attend St. Leo College near Ocala, Florida. He later attended the University of Louisville Medical School. He served his residency at University Hospital, now Shands Hospital in Jacksonville, and currently has his practice near St. Luke's Hospital. JoJo's mother became a registered nurse following high school and nursing school in Covington, Kentucky.



The Kuhlman family consists of seven children who are all unique in the paths that their lives have taken: Peter Joseph, age 26, is engaged to be married; JoJo, age 24, is on his way to the priesthood; Patrick David, age 22, is following his father in the medical profession at Florida State University; John Paul, age 19, is a sophomore at Davidson College on a basketball scholarship; Justin John, age 17, is a senior at Episcopal High School; Mary Josephine "Josie," age 14 is being homeschooled and is an avid tennis player; Patricia Maria, age 11, is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at St Paul's at the Beach.

JoJo attended St. Paul's School at Jacksonville Beach from kindergarten through the 8th grade. For the first three years of high school he attended Nease High School but graduated from Providence High School on Hodges Boulevard, Jacksonville. JoJo was quite an athlete in high school where he played basketball all four years. He reached even greater heights at Rollins College where he played in the NCAA Division II league for four years. He graduated in May 2008.

As a result of his good looks and his popularity in sports, he had no lacking of female friends; in fact he had intended to marry a young lady and had applied and been accepted at the University of Florida Medical School.

He had completed his orientation when he met Father Remek Blazkowski. After a long moving conversation with Father Remek regarding his goal in life, he decided not to proceed in the University of Florida. Instead he decided to discern about this momentous decision for the next two years by attending Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, where he spent two years studying philosophy. JoJo indicates this was the most important and earthshaking decision of his life for he had to learn to let go of his own will so that he could seek God's will for his life in the call to the priesthood.

JoJo is a deeply religious person, totally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is this dedication that has brought him to his vocation and will carry him forward in his studies. JoJo's *Goodbye* on page 11 speaks in his own words of this devotion and commitment to Mary. JoJo is an extremely likeable person with a very caring attitude, which compels him to constantly seek his goal. Pray for his continued success so that we have **JoJo the Priest** in 2015.

# JoJo's Goodbye



by JoJo Kuhlman

Although I have been here at Christ the King for only six weeks, it did not take long for me to feel like Christ the King was my home. Upon arrival at Christ the King, I immediately experienced the kindness of the priests and parishioners of this wonderful parish. I would like to thank you all for your generosity of heart and your Christian charity toward me as I adjusted to living here during this first part of the summer. I want to offer my utmost gratitude toward Father Thanh, Father Steven, and Father Sal for their willingness to put up with a seminarian in their living quarters and for showing me so many invaluable lessons regarding the sacraments, prayer, and parish life. I would like to thank Tina Harrell and the choir; the Lifeteen choir; Mrs. Hicks and VBS volunteers, staff, and participants; Mrs. Chinault and school faculty and students; Walter Henderson, Eileen Geesey, Lloyd, Foxy and all extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and homebound; all the sacristans at the Sunday Masses; Helen Ramos and those who accommodated me as a lector during weekday Mass; those of the St. Vincent de Paul Society; all those of the Courier staff; Deacon Scott for his simple yet profoundly moving homilies; Mr. Do for his constant prayer and hard work along with other maintenance staff; Jackie, Jane, Frank, Susan, and all those who work and volunteer in the rectory; and thank you to all the parishioners of Christ the King who have truly made my brief stay a source of many blessings and graces. Everyone whom I have forgotten to mention, I thank you as well. Lastly, thanks be to God for such an inspiring and devout parish as that of Christ the King. Christ the King Catholic Parish and School is truly a blessed place.

As you probably already know, this is my last Sunday here. During the next few weeks I will have some much needed time with my family before I head off to Rome on July 18. Then I will not return to the states until the summer of 2012 for my pastoral year. Following my pastoral year, I will have two more years of theological studies at the North American College in Rome before, God willing, I am ordained in the summer of 2015. Though I am constantly trying to attune my life to the Holy Will of God, it is my firm belief that God and Our Blessed Mother are leading and calling me to answer the call to the priesthood. This is my vocation. Therefore, my life's purpose is to glorify God, to save souls, and to honor Our Blessed Mother. Since prayer is our lifeline with God, I ask you for your prayers. I will pray for you and I trust that you will pray for me. Please pray for the multiplication and the sanctification of all priests so that every priest may offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with pure hands and a pure heart. Pray through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for humble, holy, self-sacrificed priests who are intimately united in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the one eternal High Priest.

Since all of you here at Christ the King have blessed me so abundantly, I was thinking of how I could benefit you in some way. After prayerful reflection, I felt compelled to focus on the two greatest gifts that God has given to us: the Most Holy Eucharist and the Mother of the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary. My vocation and call to the priesthood have directed my spirituality to be entirely centered on the Holy Eucharist and Our Lady. The greatest gift that comes to us through the hands of the priest is the Most Holy Eucharist. Christ the King is greatly blessed to have Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament every day during the week from the morning Mass until the evening Mass. Each day I try to spend as much time as I can with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. In addition to participating in daily Mass, I at least spend an hour in His Presence daily. Since this Sacrament is the source and summit of the Christian life, Pope John Paul II says, "Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Jesus and ready to make reparation for the great evils of

the world. Let your adoration never cease." In my own life, I regret that it was not until I had my conversion that I really began to appreciate the Blessed Sacrament. I say with St. Augustine, "Late have I loved you, O Lord." Did you know that Jesus longs for your love? At Calvary, He says, "I thirst." Tell Him you love Him! He waits for us here and hides his glory so that we will approach Him with love and trust.

It is quite humorous for me to think about the direction my life was heading a short time ago. Less than two years ago, I had my whole life planned out and I thought I was in control of everything. However, it is God's will that matters, not mine. Proverbs 19:21 reads, "There are many thoughts in the heart of a man: but the will of the Lord shall stand firm." Also I am sure you have heard the line, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans." Nonetheless, in August 2008 I moved into a condo in Gainesville. I finished orientation at the University of Florida, College of Medicine on Thursday, August 14. On Friday, August 15, 2008-the Feast of the Assumption-I went to Mass in Gainesville and drove home to Jacksonville for the weekend. I drove home so I could meet with a priest. I wanted the priest to reassure me that I was not called. Why? I wanted to marry my best friend and high school sweetheart. I had been in a serious relationship with this lovely young Catholic woman throughout most of high school and college.

The Feast of the Assumption was the day prior. My meeting with the priest ended at the Hour of Divine Mercy-3:00 pm. Can there be a greater combination than Our Lady and Our Lord?! My will did not stand a chance in such a circumstance. After going to confession and while praying before the Blessed Sacrament, I experienced a profound peace in my soul that came from the One we adore in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Grace changed my heart, and in time Our Lady took it completely so that she could irrevocably give my heart to her Son. I am now consecrated to Mary. I became a slave of Jesus in Mary on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, 2009. On the day Jesus became dependent on Mary through the Incarnation, I became eternally dependent on Mary through a devotion described by St. Louis de Montfort called Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Jesus Himself tells us to honor and love Our Lady. At the Cross on Calvary, Jesus says, "Behold your Mother." Ever since I made my Consecration, my love for Our Lady has grown exponentially. I belong eternally and completely to Mary. My heart. My body. My soul. My blood, my sweat, my tears. They are all spiritually branded with the letter **M**. I will do anything for Our Mother. I have found a number of ways to tell Mary I love her. Preparing for and worthily receiving the Sacraments. Spending time with Our Lord at the foot of the Tabernacle. Making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by practicing the Five First Saturdays Devotion as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. Making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by practicing the Nine First Fridays Devotion as requested through St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Praying the Rosary everyday and offering Our Lady sacrifices of love. The important thing is to convert from our sins, live a sacramental life, and offer prayers and sacrifices from hearts filled with love for God, Our Lady, and our brothers and sisters.

I leave you with a quote that represents the aim and purpose of my life. It is from a book called *Mary Was Her Life*. This book describes the life of Venerable Maria Teresa Quevedo, a Spanish Carmelite nun who lived from 1930 to 1950 and who is on the path toward becoming a canonized saint. Venerable Maria Teresa says, "I love Our Lord with all my heart. But He wants me to love Our Lady in a special way and to go to Him with my hand in Mary's. My affection for her is like that of a tiny child for its mother. You know ... how a baby clings to his mother's skirt when he is learning to walk? Well, that is the way Our Lord wants me to cling to Our Lady's blue mantle."

Thank you for listening and for welcoming me into your parish. I love you all and will continue to pray for you. May God bless you and those you love, and may Our Blessed Mother protect you always in her Immaculate Heart. Thank you.





**October is the month of the Rosary.  
Come join the whole community of  
Christ the King,  
for the Holy Rosary Procession & Mass to honor  
the Blessed Mother.  
Saturday, October 2nd at 8:15 a.m. at the Grotto**

## The Why Catholic? “International” Group

by Vicki Schmitt

We call ourselves the “international” group because we represent many nationalities: German, Polish, Italian, Cuban and American. We have shared many interesting stories as we delved into our sessions. Some stories about the struggles of maintaining the faith in communist countries. Some stories about the

many challenges we face as Christians in a turbulent modern world. Not surprising, as we share our thoughts we manage to find God in so much around us and realize that sharing our experiences brings us closer to His peace. Our group has evolved into much more than a *Why Catholic?* group. These past weeks have been a meaningful reaffirmation of who we are as Catholic Christians and a memorable time with new friends.



Pictured from l to r, standing: Phil Schmitt, Paul Dodd, Maria Gregorio, Mark Gregorio, Nick Winiewicz, and George Hubert

Seated l to r, Rina Luaces, Audrey Dodd, Natalie Winiewicz, and Aleksandra Hubert

Not pictured: Vicki Schmitt, Jesse and Inge Morgan, Maria and John Randle

## Catholic Voter’s Guide

by Frank Becht

There are many issues involved in deciding for whom to vote. Many are purely political, but many can deal with our quality of life, our long-term well-being, like the war, immigration, the environment, education, health care and the like. We will concentrate on the moral issues involved.

If you take your Catholic faith seriously, then you need to know the position of the candidates on serious issues that are affecting our society. Most of the time it is not a case of adopting a “Catholic position,” for often it is not one that you can apply across the board. You as a responsible Catholic voter must become informed on the issues and moral non-negotiable ethical principles. This is not an easy task.

There are five basic moral issues of our faith that are non-negotiable moral values which can help you narrow down the acceptable candidates. In cases where all candidates take morally unacceptable positions on one or more issues, you must make some tough choices. In your role as a Catholic voter, you have a moral obligation to promote the common good through exercising your voting privilege. The five non-negotiable issues are as follows:

### Abortion

Abortion is the intentional and direct killing of an innocent human being, and is therefore a form of homicide. Remember life begins at conception. Where laws allow abortion, the Church teaches “It is never licit to obey it, or take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law or to vote for it.” Even when a child is conceived through rape or incest, the fault is not the child’s, who should not suffer for others’ sins.

### Euthanasia

Euthanasia (mercy killing) is also a form of homicide. No one has the right to take the life of any innocent person, nor does anyone have the right to take his or her own life. In euthanasia, the ill or elderly are killed by action or omission, out of a misplaced sense of compassion, but true compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil.

### Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Human embryos are human beings. It is the position of the Church that respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimental manipulation or exploitation of the human embryo.

The Catholic Church teaches that human life, in the form of an ovum and spermatozoon, becomes a human person at the time of fertilization. Thus, the killing of an embryo in order to extract its stem cells is a form

of homicide. Adult stem cell development has long been used, thus justifying use of embryonic cells.

### Human Cloning

Human cloning also involves abortion because “rejected” or “unsuccessful” embryonic clones are destroyed; yet each clone is a human being. Attempts for obtaining a human being without any connection with sexuality through “twin fusion,” cloning or parthenogenesis are contrary to moral law; they are in opposition to the dignity of human procreation and the conjugal union.

### Homosexual Marriage

True marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Recognition of any other union as “marriage” undermines true marriage. Legal recognition of homosexual unions only encourages them to persist in an immoral arrangement. Catholic lawmakers have a moral duty to express opposition and publicly vote against it.

The political offices we are concerned with in the upcoming November election are senators and legislators in state and federal offices. They will be guiding and influencing legislation in our country for the next four years and will determine the direction of important moral issues for years to come.

### Determine a Candidate’s Position

Very often it is difficult to determine a candidate’s position. In such cases many times contact with the candidate’s office or campaign headquarters can help determine a candidate’s position.

### How Not to Vote

Do not vote on your party affiliation.  
Do not vote based on candidates’ appearance, personality, or media savvy.  
Do not vote just because candidates declare themselves Catholic.  
Do not vote for what’s best for you. Vote for the common good.  
Do not vote for candidates who are right on lesser issues but vote wrongly on key moral issues. Health, home, work, family, and culture are false and illusory if right to life, euthanasia, or marriage is not defended.

### Become an informed voter!

Our marriage and family values are at stake.  
Remember issues involving right to life can be morally sinful.

## In The Spotlight...

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

Unconditionally giving their time to others...

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

by Charm Saults



Joshua J. Johnson is the son of Tim & Donna Johnson. Joshua will be in the eighth grade this year at Christ the King School. He has an older brother, Nicholas, who will be a sophomore at Bishop Kenny High School, where he plans on playing football. Joshua also has a younger brother, Matthew, who will be in the sixth grade at Christ the King School. Both boys play softball for the school team.

In the spring of 2009 Joshua had the chance to go to Cooperstown. Out of 104 teams that played, Joshua's team finished in seventh place. Joshua plays shortstop on the baseball team. He has a tremendous throwing arm and he was picked for the all stars baseball tournament in the spring of 2010. Joshua also loves football; his longest run was 75 yards. He belongs to the Jacksonville Express, Christ the King softball and Pablo Creek Saints. Even with all the sports, he was on the honor roll at school for the last three quarters. His favorite subject is math. Besides baseball and football he also water skis and snow skis. He loves being with his friends playing video games or swimming.

Yasmeen Chan is the daughter of Peter and Melissa Chan and will be in the eighth grade this year at Christ the King School. Yasmeen is an honor student, on the honor roll all four quarters last year. She plays volleyball for Christ the King and is also on the JJVA team. Yasmeen has had a busy summer as she helped with Vacation Bible School, Christ the King summer camp and volleyball summer camp. Her hobbies are drawing, playing the piano and singing. Yasmeen has an older brother, Christian, who will be a sophomore at Bishop Kenny High School. Christian wants to be on the track and field team at Bishop Kenny. He also loves baseball and swimming. Yasmeen has a younger sister, Angela, who attends Christ the King School and plays basketball and volleyball.



Rachel House, the daughter of Peter and Debbie House, is very active in Christ the King School, in the parish and with other outside activities. Rachel is going to graduate from Christ the King this year. She is on the tech crew for all the school plays at Christ the King. She is a cheerleader and an altar server. She also performs in talent shows and helps with the Fish Frys during Lent. Outside of school Rachel performs with a traveling dance team. She practices about two hours every day. Rachel's family hosted a boy from China last year and Rachel said he was neat. She said it was fun to have two big brothers. The Houses are going to host another student this year. Rachel said maybe in a year or two they will host a girl so she can have a sister from another country. Rachel has an older brother Peter who attends Bishop Kenny. He is going to be a sophomore this year. Peter is completing Eagle Scout, he is on a Frisbee league and is training for fall football and wrestling at Bishop Kenny. Rachel also has a younger sister Marissa age 9, who attends Christ the King and plays soccer.

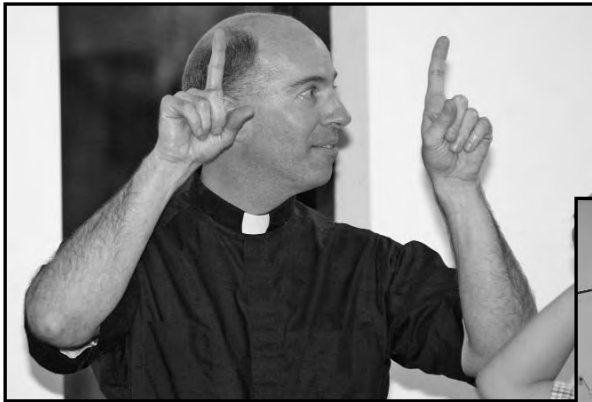
A nice lady named Charm Saults came up to me one day, and asked me to write about myself and the things I do. My name is Mike Pruitt. I am going into the seventh grade at CTKS. I like to participate in my church's community. I am in the adult choir, and hand bell choir. I am also an altar server. I participate in the Ministry of Hope, setting up and cleaning up funeral receptions. I play piano and organ at Sunday and school Mass. I just finished volunteering a week at "Camp Promise" in Marywood. I thank Our Lord Jesus for all the wonderful things I have done. If it wasn't for the great people he put on this earth I would never have had any of these opportunities. My mom, Mrs. Tina and Ray Christian are the people I have to thank. God blesses all of you for these wonderful opportunities.



# Ministry Dinner 2010



Tim McClellan - School Volunteer of the Year



Doris & John Faustini - Service to the Parish Award



# Ministry Dinner 2010



Yolanda Cerqueira - Parish Volunteer of the Year



Patrice Pruitt & Staci Duncan - Ministry of Hope  
Ministry of the Year Award



# Who Is Your Neighbor?

by Chris Bodin and Yolanda Cerqueira

By the time this article goes to print we will be closing in on the end of summer and looking straight down the road into the fall season. This signals the start of all those wonderful parish and social activities that go along with this time of the year. One of those events that encompasses the entire parish community is the annual St. Vincent de Paul food collection which takes place toward the end of September. The members of the Society look forward to this event as much as you all do. The need to help our less fortunate neighbors never goes away.

There is no doubt that you parishioners will be as generous this year as you have in the past. Whenever there was a need, whether it be for food or financial aid, you have always risen to the occasion and answered the call.

When we reached out to you this summer for volunteers to help us in our work, again you were there! We receive new members with open arms. You help us to bring the Good News of Jesus along with aid and comfort.

Have you ever been curious as to how we go about helping an individual or a family? The first requirement is that the individual must ask for assistance and that really isn't easy. It wouldn't be easy for me and probably not for you either to call and say, "I do not have enough money to feed the family or my lights are going to be turned off in a few days if we do not come up with the payment." These people are hurting and need the type of support that we are able to provide. We do not judge but we listen to the need, and if we can, we try to satisfy that need. Another thing you should know is that we take very seriously the trust you have given us with food and financial aid. If an individual needs money for JEA or for rent we always try to see that they try to get some of the money themselves and also to seek what they can from other agencies, as we must put a limit of what we can give so that the most people can be served.

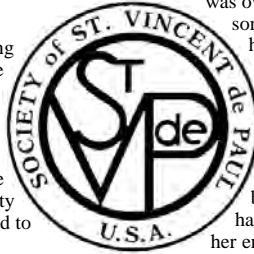
Below are a few stories of individuals or families that we have helped recently. The names, of course, are fictitious but the facts are basically true.

Theresa Tomlinson is a divorced mother of three children with the oldest being eight and two younger children under six years of age. Theresa had a good paying job at a collection agency but for some reason the firm closed down and she was without work for some period of time. The father of these children is in prison and the three children were staying with Theresa's mother as she was, at this point, in a very bad emotional state and couldn't afford to keep them. Her mother lived on a modest income and her contribution was guarding the children until Theresa's circumstances improved. She called St. Vincent de Paul for rental assistance as she owed nearly \$700.00 in rent. After the initial visit in which we listened and prayed with her, we gave her a list of agencies to contact. When we called the second time her spirits had lifted as she had called City Welfare, who helped her with a great part of the rent and she herself was able to come up with \$100.00. St. Vincent de Paul was able to give her \$153.00 and so the rent was paid. But that wasn't the end of the story because as her outlook improved she was also able to find a good paying job, which meant that she and her three kids would soon all be together again. The last time we spoke Theresa was optimistic about the future.



Here is another story about a single mom trying to make it in today's rough economy. This girl we will call Sally Jo Winters. This young woman was living in subsidized housing with her two children, five and three years of age. Sally really impressed us not only because of her determination but because she helped many of the older residents in this apartment complex by checking up on them and seeing that their needs were met.

Sally Jo also received food stamps but she was asking for help with her rent, which was an amount less than \$130.00. That does not seem much to most of us but for this girl it



was over her head. Sally had had a good job in a clothing store for some good length of time; however, with the poor economy her hours were cut from 25 hours a week down to 10 hours. This made the difference in being able to pay the rent. Now you also need to know that Sally is going to school full time studying to be a pharmacy technician. One of the people in the apartment complex told us that she was making straight A's and wanted to improve her lot for her children and herself. She only needed assistance for this one month because in this subsidized housing the apartment manager has the authority to decrease her rent to almost nothing until her employment picks up again.

We prayed together and made the decision in this case that we would help her. Sally was overwhelmed with the news and couldn't thank us enough. And you parishioners were a part of this by your support and your prayers.

This next call was another single woman who needed help with her JEA bill. Her name was Cecile Fontain and she lived in the rear of an apartment complex. Many of our clients seem to always be located in the rear and it makes us wonder if the managers/landlords tend to place the more desperate in those units!!!

Cecile said that she had lost her job but was looking for another one. She had been employed as a receptionist for over two years at a computer supply company. The company had recently been bought out and the new owners systematically began cutting the staff, which included the manager of 15 years. Cecile said she was one of the last to go and that she had never been without a job in her life before this happened. She remarked, "I like customer service, sales, and waitressing, but owners seem to look for younger women." Cecile is an attractive woman and presents a very pleasing appearance. She struck us as a worker and really missed not being able to work. It wasn't only the lack of money coming in but also a sense of frustration of not being a contributing member of society.

Cecile introduced us to her son who was a young man of 17 or 18 years of age. He appeared very good-natured and showed respect and love for his mother by his remarks. Cecile has filed for unemployment and is expecting her first check in about two weeks. She also goes to the Job Source office every day and has applied for work elsewhere.

We helped her with a portion of her JEA bill so she could avoid a cut off of service. The last but most important thing that we did was to pray together, asking the Lord to help Cecile find a good job and to watch over her and her son. As we continue, there is a sense of peace within the room and we are overcome by His presence. We hug each other and wish God's blessing to each other.

Some clients leave you with a lasting memory.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

by Darlene O'Neal

A Nuptial Mass uniting Amanda Michelle Sharp and Jonathan Ryan O'Neal in marriage was celebrated July 31, 2010. The wedding took place at Christ the King Church in an afternoon ceremony. Father Steven Zehler came from his new assignment as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church to celebrate the Mass.

Amanda is the daughter of Michael Sharp and is originally from Hoxie, Arkansas. She attended local schools in Hoxie before moving to Jacksonville. Amanda graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in accounting and is employed with EOLA Capitol, LLC as an accountant. She is a recent graduate of the 2010 RCIA class and converted to Catholicism at the Easter Vigil. She plans to join the RCIA team when the group begins a new class in September.

Ryan is the son of Luann O'Neal (Christ the King graduate), and grandson of Louie and Darlene O'Neal. He graduated from Christ the King School and Bishop Kenny High School with honors, then attended the University of North Florida where he earned a degree in criminology. He is employed as a police officer with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Welcome, Ryan and Amanda, to the Christian community of Christ the King Church. May God bless and keep you as you begin your new life as Mr. and Mrs. Ryan O'Neal.



# Tim Talks

In the past, I have often used this column to encourage people to get involved in some manner within our parish in order to help us to continue the rich tradition of stewardship we have at Christ the King.

These gentle nudges are intended to get parishioners to consider becoming more active in the community, which is important in continuing our parish vision. I have always painted with broad strokes, with an emphasis on offering your time and talent to one of our many parish ministries or affiliated organizations. With these offerings, there is ample opportunity for just about every parishioner to find somewhere they can dedicate their time or talents to give back to the parish and live their faith. Through this process, you help to improve our entire community.

The entire parish community is preparing for a special event revolving around our school. On October 9, following the 5:00 p.m. Mass, Christ the King will celebrate as our school is recognized for achieving the national designation of a Blue Ribbon School. This is something all of us in the parish community should be extremely proud of.

To those of us who graduated from, or have children in the school, this is a wonderful testament to the quality education provided by our teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and volunteers. It is also recognition of the support provided by our entire parish community for five decades. It is something we should be proud of as a parish.

This recognition reflects upon all of us here at Christ the King.

For more than fifty years, our school has been focused on providing a faith-based, high quality education for young minds. Many of our alumni have gone on to do wonderful things with their lives and many have seen fit to come back to their home parish to continue the tradition.

I am an alumnus (1980) who has come home to Christ the King. My daughter, Caroline, is a seventh grader who will graduate with the class of 2012. We are just one of the many families at Christ the King who share the heritage of being second or even third generation alumni. The lifelong bonds we have built and the loyalty to our parish and school community are strong.

As part of this celebration of academic excellence for Christ the King School, we are inviting all alumni, whether you graduated fifty years ago or as a member of the class of 2010, and the entire parish community to come out and share in the family fun on October 2, 2010. This is a celebration of what each one of us has accomplished as we helped to build a rich tradition here on our Arlington campus.

Through this celebration, we can help to maintain and nurture our rich history, and kick off what we hope will become an annual event bringing our alumni back to Christ the King. We must remember where we have come from in order to create the vision that will lead Christ the King School well into the future.

Our goal is to create a formal alumni network so people can remain connected to Christ the King regardless of geography, or the passage of time. This will serve as the inaugural event.

This is a celebration recognizing not only the dedication of our students, teachers, parents, volunteers, and administrators, but also the support of the whole parish community over the past half century. We all stand together because of the bond we have as part of the fabric of Christ the King.

On October 2, we are all Christ the King Alumni, whether we attended the school or not. This is an event open to everyone. Come out and celebrate with parish family and friends, enjoy good food and live entertainment. You will be partaking in the family-oriented fun, and perhaps catch up with others on a stroll down memory lane.

All of this is free of charge, and open to everyone. If you know of alumni who would like to attend, or other parishioners who enjoy our community coming together, spread the word! This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a parish-wide reunion.

If you are willing to volunteer to assist in planning, preparing food, setting up or cleaning up afterward, please contact me (tim.mcclellan@comcast.net or 725-6913) for more information.



## Welcome to the Kids Page

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# Vacation Bible School 2010

## Saints in the Making

by Deidre Hicks

During the week of June 14-18, close to 100 children studied the lives of prominent saints and angels in order to help them become Saints in the Making. Students from PK-4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade learned about St. Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena, and angels Michael, Gabriel and Rafael. Each day's activities were designed to relate to these saints' special talents and teachings.

Our mornings began in the church with a brief saint overview by Tina Harrell. She also gave a preview of the song the kids would be learning during that day's music class. I was so proud of how well-behaved all the kids were. The students then headed to four different areas; bible lessons taught by seminarian JoJo Kuhlman and Suzie Wrubluski, arts and crafts headed by Kelli Moneyhan, music with Tina Harrell and PE/snacks in the gym with Patrice Pruitt, Lesa Vila, LeeAnne Pesnell and Bridget Judge.

During Bible Lessons, JoJo told about each saint's life and the kids were then able to complete worksheets and coloring pages specific to that saint. All of the information about the saints came from Tina Harrell who had written this VBS curriculum several years ago. She is truly a Saint in the Making!

In arts and crafts, the kids made birdhouses in honor of St. Francis, footprint and handprint angels and decorated picture frames that included their picture from the week. They also made saint medal necklaces and were able to decorate shields. A nice treat was when Father Sal came and blessed many of the medals.

Good thing Tina has a lot of energy. She sang songs with the kids for almost three hours every day. The kids then performed many of the songs for parents and other guests on Friday. Tina and her husband also made copies of music CDs of the songs the kids learned and many more, so that each family could have one. I know my kids still listen to the CD every night.

A welcome opportunity for the kids to burn off some energy was during the PE/snacks part of the morning. Just like last year, Patrice Pruitt played along with the kids during kick ball, scooter ball and many other games. Again, we were so blessed to have so many generous donors who provided snacks for all the VBS kids as well as all the volunteers. Some of our donors included Dana Eason, Raine Araya, Dianna Eaves, Leila Williams and Shea Hopely. Our volunteer snack crew of Lesa Vila, Lee



Anne Pesnell and Bridget Judge was a big help.

Each class needed a leader to corral everyone to the right location and to be responsible for the kids. Our class leaders this year were Ada Urbizu, Stephanie Joost, Sheryl Davis, and Sonya Yates. They did a great job helping the kids in each of the classes and just being there.

Also, there were many student volunteers. From 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, our volunteers were an integral part of the smooth sailing for

the week. Debi Ethridge made sure the kids knew where they needed to be and that we had enough volunteers. Ada Urbizu requested one of the same student volunteers from last year because she was so helpful. And that proved to be true again this year. On one day, the kids were supposed to bring in stuffed animals. This volunteer brought some too knowing that the smaller kids would forget. She saved the day for several kids in the PK-4 and Kindergarten class.

There was also a nursery staffed by Kerry Flanagan and a group of student volunteers. The nursery was for the babies and toddlers of some of our adult volunteers. Without the nursery, many of our teachers would not have been able to help. Kerry's team provided an invaluable service.

We wrapped the week up with a Friday Fun Day that included a quiz show, musical performance, water activities and a pizza lunch. The kids got to prove how well they were paying attention during their bible studies when Tina challenged them to a Brain Brawl on Friday morning. First grader Brian Flanagan and several other students knew all the answers to the questions that Tina and JoJo threw their way. Each grade group and then all of the students sang various songs to the delight of many parents and audience members. It is so heartwarming to see the kids singing their hearts out and having such a good time praising God.

The kids were then able to play on the water activities and were treated to a pizza lunch. During lunch, we watched a slide show of pictures that were taken during the week by Josh Urbizu. Many thanks go to the Urbizu family for creating the slide show. It's always fun to look back on such great memories.

And that's what Vacation Bible School is all about. Kids from throughout the parish coming together to learn about Jesus and making great memories. It's been an honor to be able to help make that happen.

*Note: The VBS logo was designed by David Sian, a CTKS parent.*



## CKCCW - 2010/2011

by Carol-Ann Black

The Twenty-Ten Season for Christ the King Council of Catholic Women will begin with its first general meeting on September 30 after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the chapel. We'll socialize for a while and catch up on activities of the summer gone by. Then comes some supper, a bit of business, and a very interesting speaker. I certainly hope that members and friends of CKCCW will be able to attend.

As you know some of the leadership positions changed on June 12 at our Olive Garden luncheon. Monica Crisp was finally able to retire after three years on the job, and I will serve for a year. Daisy McDonald is our vice-president and I thank God for all of her CCW experience that will help to get us through the next year. Staci Duncan remains in her position of treasurer and Lisa Joost remains as secretary. Dolores Bianco will serve as our parliamentarian. In addition since that meeting I have been able to fill the commission seats. Willie Blaquiere will take care of the spiritual side of our council activities and Barbara Crane will take on the community activities. It amazes me how willing these ladies are to take on these responsibilities. Be sure that when they call for some assistance that all the circles respond.

Speaking of circles—one of them has disbanded. Circle Five, St. Patrick's, will no longer meet together. Some members will go into members-at-large status and others have moved into other circles. Also speaking of circles, I want you to know that our members' roster will come out first in the less-than-perfect form from last year, just updated. Shortly thereafter a whole new book will be available with the corrected by-laws and the additional useful lists that I didn't include last year.

Our activities in the coming year will be in many ways similar to previous years, but I am hoping to add a few things, too. In the early autumn we will have an early morning brunch meeting to include the school moms so that we can get to know each other a bit better. In addition, I would like to do a day trip like we did last year, but in the spring. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Over the summer CKCCW was not at rest. Mother's Day and Father's Day cards were sold and the proceeds distributed to our Born Free activity with National CCW and to Emergency Pregnancy Service on Merrill Road. Staci Duncan headed up the lunch prep team for Camp I Am Special on July 1 and as is her habit all went smoothly and the kids enjoyed their meatball sandwiches. Our year-end project of improvements in the Shirley David Hall proceeds. By the time you read this, the ceiling will have been torn out and replaced (can you think of a more yucky job?) and new paint should be on the walls. Work beyond that will be determined by how much cash remains at our disposal. Blessedly, the Eucharistic Adoration ministry is able to contribute to this project and we should have a more attractive and up-to-date meeting space for all of our ministries.

Finally, on a slightly personal note, I will say that Daisy and I attended the diocesan CCW convention in April down in Gainesville. This was a major eye-opener for me. Not only was it a great treat to get to know some of the ladies from other parishes in the diocese, but there was a tremendous amount of information offered in regard to the activities of the NCCW. Most memorable was the speaker from Catholic Relief Services. She outlined the many services that CRS provides around the world and thanked all councils for their contributions. We had a wonderful speaker from our own South Jax deanery, from Blessed Trinity parish, who explained to us her personal mission to encourage organ donation. One of the final activities was a presentation of a one-woman show, *Women of the Gospel*. Linda Gray Kelley brought us to tears and set us laughing as well. Keep an eye out for her presentations in the next year or two. She and her husband are planning a move to Florida. Definitely our gain when it happens. I was not prepared to get so much out of this convention, and I hope that I can integrate some of my enthusiasm into our CKCCW activities.

***Why Catholic?***  
**Have you joined yet?**  
**Learn more about being a**  
**Catholic and become a bigger**  
**part of your faith community.**

## The Belles of St. Patrick's



by Dolores Bianco

Once upon a time there was within the Women's Guild of Christ the King Church a group of frisky ladies comprising one of many circles. This particular group they called St. Patrick's Circle. Some of the early members included: Marge Broome, Patty Wrigley, Margaret Armstrong, Kay Matthews, Dale Clifton, Marian Mann, Marge Baer, and Eleanor Conlin. Others included: Mary Lou Coyle, Polly Morris, June Costello, Eleanor Elser, Marge Yarborough, Belle Vogl, LaVerne Japour, Anne Olinto, Pat Deckert, Julie Franciscato, Dolores Bianco, Lucy Hollum, Marlene Robertson, and Shannon Coffey.

Meetings were held monthly, originally in the evening, but in later years, on Saturdays at 1:00pm because it became dangerous to drive at night. The Circle met with the entire Guild for a general meeting monthly, and shared the pleasure of an annual Card Party and, often, a Fashion Show as well as the Living Nativity in December. They planned a project each year to make money to add to the Guild's contribution to the church for various needs. St. Patrick's Circle was known for selling two-year appointment calendars – great stocking stuffers at Christmastime as well as ideal purse necessities. Of course this was "B.C." – Before Cells, (cell phones and newer versions of keeping up with dates, etc.!)

In recent years, the group dwindled down to seven active members. Even some of these ended up in care facilities. It was no longer feasible to carry out our project to support the church fiscally. It was necessary to disband, and this we did following one final meeting in April of 2010 at the home of LaVerne Japour. Here we allocated from our mere treasury an assessment check to the main Guild, (now called the CKCCW – Christ the King Council of Catholic Women). We met in May for a farewell luncheon at Rose's Tea Room at the beach – a beautiful ending. Of the few current members left, Shannon Coffey and Dolores Bianco will be transferring to St. Robert's Circle. All other "Belles of St. Patrick's" will become Members at Large.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

by Mickey Kenny

The first Sunday after Labor Day (this year September 12) Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin again. This is a small group (we surely wish it were a little larger) of faithful students who come together to become even more knowledgeable about and therefore more friendly with the scriptures.

We have in the past studied various books of the Bible and various gospels individually. This time we are doing something a bit different. The study this time is Praying with the Scriptures. It will follow the same format of taking just one section and reading it and meditating on it during the week, discussing it for one or two weeks, and then viewing an excellent and well-researched tape on the section. We only move on when each of us thinks we have made the material as relevant in each of our lives as possible.

Scripture as learned from the readings at all our Masses is, of course valuable. We at Christ the King are blessed with homilists who know the scripture and have a gift for making it available for us. When we ask the Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance what the Lord has said, we ought to remember that we have to put what the Lord has said into our minds so the Holy Spirit can bring it forth!

Please, come and be a part of this group. All you have to do to join is to go to the side entrance of the rectory between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. any Sunday and ring the doorbell. You will be so welcome!

# Musical Musings

by Tina Caiñas Harrell

In the Mass, we hear the priest inviting us with, "and joining with the angels in their unending hymn..." to sing out the "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord!" At that wondrously mysterious moment, heaven and earth are united in song before the throne of God because of the sacrifice made once for all by Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. We are drawn into heaven itself to then receive the "bread of angels" (*Panis Angelicus*), the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I begin this article with this amazing moment in the Mass: "singing with the angels," because this happens so many times in my personal experience that I wish to share with you a window into this world of music.

I had the privilege of recently attending the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Convention in Detroit, Michigan. There were an estimated 5,000 people present involved in Liturgical Music (Pastors, Directors of Music, choir members -- children's, youth, adult, handbells, bands -- composers, organists, etc.). There were a myriad of workshops, special sessions, keynote speakers, and my favorite: the presentation of new music and new choral arrangements by the three top Catholic companies (our hymnal here at CTK is through OCP-Oregon Catholic Press). In these sessions, we were given a packet of music, and here's where the angels come in: the 2-3,000 musicians who can instantly sight-read music in all 4-6 part harmony would sing, accompanied by piano, organ, other instruments and a choir up front. You cannot imagine this glorious sound made even more magnificent because of the presence of all our guardian angels, which I am convinced, were singing right along with us! The mechanics of sight-reading the music gave way to a groundswell of praise when the Holy Spirit would grab ahold of all of us through certain very moving and beautifully arranged pieces with powerful text from Holy Scripture. Kleenex time!

More on angels...then if this were not enough, a volunteer choir made up of about 85 Directors of Music from all over the U.S., rehearsed for three days during the Convention and presented a concert in Old St. Mary's in Greektown. An exquisitely performed variety of music (classical cantatas, spirituals, contemporary pieces, and specially arranged hymns) by expert musicians, seemed to call down the heavenly chorus into their midst! Both Mitzi and I (fortunate to be sitting in the first row) were spellbound, mesmerized, and "blown-away" by the beauty, precision, and glory of the music that floated into our hearts. But then, during this concert, I leaned over and whispered into her ear, "This is what I hear at Christ the King."

Do you wonder from whom? Let me explain.

Flying home from Detroit, I found my heart exploding with joy at the thought of returning to my 35-voice King's Choir. This is what I mean by: "This is what I hear at Christ the King". With the seemingly perfect concert presented by an 85-voice choir of professional directors of music, I would rather work with this incredible group here at Christ the King because they are a "family," not just a choir. They love each other. They love their Lord. They love their parish. They sing with all their heart. They welcome new members like they've known them all their life. They are sacrificially devoted to this music ministry. Many of them arrive on Wednesday nights for rehearsal straight from work: frazzled, tired, and sometimes without dinner. You can watch the cobwebs slowly melt away as the singing turns from the mechanics of getting the harmony parts and the timing right, into beautiful praise and the sheer joy of being together with each other and the Holy Spirit and the angels' presence in our midst.

On Sunday mornings, there are moments when I can hear angels singing in the midst of our choir. At the piano especially, the choir's glorious, harmonious, heartfelt music blankets me with holy warmth while behind me, the groundswell of praise rising from the "pew-people" makes it hard to fight back the tears of joy. The enormity of the blessing through the very special, anointed music that comes from a small group of sincerely dedicated volunteers and the powerful heartfelt sung praise that comes from those of you that sing your love of God with enthusiasm, is more than I can adequately describe. We in the music ministry of Christ the King might not always get the notes right, or our timing, or our harmony, but I believe that God, and His angels, and His saints, are pleased with the joyful song we make. "This is what I hear at Christ the King," and I'm grateful to be right here!



# 2010 NPM Convention: Adventure in Detroit

by Mitzi Vergenz

I don't know how I got suckered into this, but I was persuaded to attend the 2010 National Pastoral Musicians' (NPM) conference held in Detroit in mid-July. I'm usually more of an engineer than a musician-type, and worried that I would not fit in with all the composers, directors, organists, pianists, and singers that I expected would be in attendance. But it turned out to be an eye-opening experience, and a whole lot of fun.

When I was first invited to attend in the spring, I thought, no way, I can't afford it. But I was encouraged to apply for a scholarship, and Father Thanh said some nice things about me on the application form. I received a full scholarship from NPM for the registration fees, which I took as a sign that the good Lord wanted me to go.

Tina and I dashed out of church to make a 1:55 p.m. flight to Detroit. We had a little help from our choir friends who packed up all the sound equipment after 11 a.m. Mass. When we finally got to our hotel room on the 55<sup>th</sup> floor of the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, overlooking the Detroit River, I had to call home to Florida to tell the boys, "I can see Canada!"

The next morning, when we got to the convention center, Tina had spotted a handwritten note which said that David Kauffman and GoodForTheSoul Music would be having a session in a conference room from 10-11:30 a.m. This was a publisher that she had made contact with at a previous convention, and she really wanted to go see him. We had arrived late, but able to catch some of his new music. Kauffman was explaining something about one of the music pieces, and then we actually sang it while the accompanist (William Gokelman) played the piano. There were maybe 30-40 people in the room, and it sounded pretty good to my untrained ears, especially since I was sight-reading the music from the packet, just like everyone else. The final selection was one I was familiar with, entitled "Behold" (a modern arrangement of the *Magnificat*). It was beautiful to hear it in four-part harmony with that many voices.

Tina and I waited to speak to David Kauffman after the presentation. When we were the last ones there, she asked if she could play one of her original compositions and get his input on it. He agreed, and she whipped out the music for her song, "No Matter What." I could see this was an act of courage. She was stepping out here, putting her dreams on top of the piano. I could feel the Spirit in the room, telling me to pray for Tina, pray that David and Bill would hear the passion in her music, pray that somehow she could get published. I couldn't help but sing along with her, "Search my heart, Lord, through and through...no matter what may happen, I will always have Your love." I could hear her putting the dynamics into it, going loud and soft at the right times, making that song speak to the heart.

When she was through playing, they said that they liked it, and started talking "music tech-talk." Bill sat down and played the song again, but made it sound like an Irish ballad. They played some more, and discussed the balance of the accompaniment and the melody, and other technical sorts of music theory things that went over my head. Come to find out, Bill is a college-level music professor in San Antonio, TX, and knew all kinds of things to suggest to make it sound better. I thought about taking notes, and then I thought about just handing a pen to Tina. But with one look at her face, I could see she was approaching ecstasy, just soaking up all the music theory, so I held on to my pen. They graciously gave us 45 minutes, going over her music and offering practical advice on how to "get a foot into the door" of the publishing world. We exchanged contact information, and she gave them a copy of her Under His Wings CD (which is available in our CK Religious Articles store). David promised to listen to it, and get back to us with his comments.

Good thing Tina had me there to hang onto her, because she was floating off the ground on the way out. I had to grab her arm and march her down the hall to keep her in the real world. She was so happy to have made contact with this composer. She has been writing songs since she was ten years old, and paid good money to have some of them recorded a number of years ago, only a lot of the CDs were defective. I, Mitzi, have been really touched by her music, and want to share what it has meant to me (next edition of the Courier - be on the lookout). Anyway, she was almost crying, she was so happy, and I was impressed that this friend and composer had spent so much time with her. This seemed like fulfillment of a dream for her, and I was thrilled to share it, awestruck to witness the hand of God reaching down to His silly daughters.

And this was only the beginning of the convention!

We attended daily Mass at a beautiful little church down the street, St. Aloysius. There were half-hour pipe organ concerts at the church after Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, which were awesome to watch and awesome to listen to, surrounded by all of the beautiful images and architecture in that church. Tina and I would climb way up high in the balcony so we could see the organist playing the hymns and sonatas and

continue on next page

# Finding Room for Thought

by Hannes Svedburg

*Hannes Svedberg will return to Sweden in late August after sharing life in the Greatfull House for one year. Hannes served on the community's Spiritual Life Committee, helping to organize our retreat and community night celebrations. He shared his gifts of spirit, reflection and music. Blessings of peace!*

What is community life about? After four months in L'Arche Harbor House, for me it means first of all, a re-evaluation of my own often romanticized and narrow ideas of what it is to live together. It can be difficult to see the reality through the veils of big and charged words that inevitably emerge when trying to articulate and communicate great experiences often sprung from seemingly small everyday occurrences. "Come and see!" Jesus says.

Those of you familiar with the L'Arche community probably know Jo Marie. Jo is difficult to wake up, she likes to organize gigantic piles of papers and newspaper clippings, and to drink her Coke. Jo is herself, all the time, every second; and if something or someone is not pleasing to her, she will let them know. One of my first few days here, we went for a walk, the two of us, around the houses. I, who have a tendency to go through life as if it were a series of things to get over with, am finding it hard to stand the – at times – less-than-brisk pace (life here can be slow), and I keep trying to speed things up. "Sit down, please!" Jo says firmly. I obey and succeed this time in taking in my first lesson from a core member. My breathing slows down and deepens, and thoughts get a chance to settle. This is one of the benefits of a 14-hour day: room for thought. It is indeed difficult not to think things over. The days often contain teachings like this from core members. How often do I miss them?

Although I've only been living here for four months, and without using too many, too big words, I would like to try and say that there is a combination of security, responsibility and spirituality here that provides a very rich soil for personal growth. It seems to be a place to be weak and perhaps to overcome some resignation and weariness.

*"The longer we journey on the road to inner healing and wholeness, the more the sense of belonging grows and deepens. The sense is not just one of belonging to others and to a community. It is a sense of belonging to the universe, to the earth, to the air, to the water, to everything that lives, to all humanity. If the community gives a sense of belonging, it also helps us to accept our aloneness in a personal meeting with God. Through this, the community is open to the universe and to human kind."*

(Jean Vanier, "Community & Growth" p. 17)



## 2010 NPM Convention: Adventure in Detroit

Each piece. Sometimes the organist's hands would be a blur, they were moving so fast on certain parts of a song. To think that a lot of this music was written in the Middle Ages for the glory of God, to hear the incredible beauty and feel the touch of the angels and saints before the throne, was a transcendent experience. I felt the weight of the Catholic Church's history, coming down through the sound of the pipe organ.

This was a music convention, after all, so I got to hear a lot of music. Monday evening I attended "An Evening of Song from the Black Catholic Community," and I still keep singing "Every time I turn around, the Lord is blessing me." I love good Gospel music.

Every afternoon we attended a music industry showcase by one of the major publishers. At the door we would receive a packet or book of music that the publishers wanted to promote. During the session, a cantor, choir, and instrumentalists would actually lead us in singing the pieces, at least a verse or two. I think the idea was that the music directors could hear the pieces, could test-drive them (to use a left-brain analogy), and then note the ones they might want for their choirs. My criteria were pretty simple: is it singable, and is it pretty? Tina was a little more discriminating, and gave me a running commentary on the tempo, musical range, whether she thought the King's Choir could handle this one, and did it have words that were meaningful and orthodox in its doctrine. I had no idea that building good liturgy was as complex as building a water treatment plant (I guess we are building a soul treatment plant.)

Each day at the convention there was a major address to the entire group. I liked one presented by Steven Janco on Wednesday. He pointed out that liturgy has consequences, and spoke against what he called "beige" Catholicism, which is a bland version of liturgy that denies all the colorful, dynamic, life-giving call to holiness where we are transformed by the body of Christ. He noted that liturgy is prepared, not planned. The basic structure is set by the lectionary, the prescribed prayers, and the liturgical calendar. We, the musicians, the lectors, the other liturgical ministers, we are putting flesh on those bones, preparing a banquet, making the liturgy come alive for the pew person.

Another address that spoke to me was presented by John Witvliet, titled "The Passion-Driven Life." He noted that the word "passion" has taken on non-Christian overtones, like in sports, and while it may call up energy from within us, it leaves us spiritually exhausted. He pointed out that it is a lie that the energy comes from within us. It is the Passion of Jesus that is the source of our energy, and we should seek to be connected to it via the Eucharist. The Protestants have passion; we Catholics also have liturgy, and the two are not mutually exclusive. He used Psalm 92 to illustrate that the just man shall be vigorous and sturdy, bearing fruit even in old age, like a tree that is full of sap. (I looked over at Tina and thought, "full of sap!"). He pointed out that passion needs the context of ritual to happen, needs an existing relationship to be present. He then used 1 Thessalonians 5 as an example of ministry, but points out that the agent changes from us (v16: rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks) to the Almighty God (v23: May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness...preserve you whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body...). He then presented the closing zinger: Lord, free us from the gospel of self-help!

The grand finale of this musicians' conference was a concert on Thursday night by an eighty-something voice choir composed entirely of music directors, held in Old St. Mary's in Greektown, another beautiful church. Tina and I got there early enough to get front-pew seats, and the place was packed by the time the concert started. The opening song, which all were invited to sing, was "Now Thank We All Our God." I could see the professionals in front of me, but it brought me goosebumps to hear the groundswell of four-part harmony behind me in addition to the sound in front of me. I was standing in the middle of live surround-sound, and my heart was in awe of the beauty of the praise lifting itself to God. Then there were readings, a traditional spiritual, a song in memory of a deceased member, Richard Proulx, other songs, and, finally, a performance of *Jesus, Meine Freude*, by J.S. Bach. The choir sang the whole thing in German, though we had an English translation in our programs. Again, it was beautiful. Afterwards, Tina told me that my experience was the same thing that happens to her in our church, in Christ the King, that she is often overwhelmed by the congregation singing behind her and the choir in front of her. She says that angels must sing with us, because a lot of times we sound like eighty voices when there's only twenty in the choir loft. As we were talking, I could just see God looking down at us there in the church and smiling, telling me, see how beautiful my people are! I love you all!

The meetings were not all entirely devoted to music. I attended a breakout session about sound systems, like the technical details from microphones to mixers. As a good engineer, I took down pages of notes and got the Powerpoint file from the presenter. I will be happy to share this with any of you who need to know how it all works.

My favorite experience of the convention occurred in the exhibit hall. I was talking with a pipe organ vendor, asking him how does a pipe organ work? Is there a fan, or a blower, or a compressor, or what makes the air move through the pipe? He explained to me about the wind chest, and even had a little tabletop demonstration model to show me how it worked. I did not know that every pipe organ is individually crafted to fit the space, that they are not mass-produced. The pipes sit on top of the wind chest, on a wooden rack that has holes drilled and countersunk to fit the tip of the pipe. They are not screwed or glued in place, they only rest on the wooden top. Another thing I did not know—that pipe organs must be tuned. There is a little sleeve on the top of the pipe that can slide up and down to change the pitch of the pipe. The pitch changes with the air temperature, so some organs have to be tuned seasonally. Tina observed that I had found another geek who could talk my language, as we discussed pitch and frequency and air pressure requirements for the wind chest (1-3 inches water gauge). But the coolest thing was that he gave me a one foot principle pipe from his demo model to take home as a souvenir. And it really works! I can blow into the end of it and make it sound, though it makes me dizzy to blow that hard. I am tickled to pieces to have a real, working, pipe organ pipe. I keep it with my choir books, so if you see me at 11:00 a.m. Mass, ask me to show you my pipe.

Next year, the NPM convention is scheduled for July 18-22 in Louisville, KY. I must start making plans now to step through a window to another world.

# Knightly News

by Frank Becht

### Brotherly Care

Father Zehler, who has been the Pastoral Associate for the past three years at Christ the King was transferred to Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ponte Vedra, Florida effective June 6, 2010. Father Zehler was most instrumental in helping to establish the Brotherly Care program in Council 4727. It has been very successful and has grown in the total members participating and the number of visitations made monthly under the guidance of Brother John Porter.

Father Zehler's going away party was on Saturday, May 29. He made his exit using his well-established identity as "ELVIS" on a bicycle given him as a going away gift. We wish him well at his new assignment.



### Corporate Communion

Council 4727 held a Corporate Communion on July 27 at the 9:00 a.m. High Mass at Christ the King Church, which was followed by breakfast at the Hall on the Arlington Expressway for members and families. The Honor Guard was in attendance and very special remarks were made by Father Thanh at the Mass closing regarding the involvement of Knights in parish functions in Christ the King and Resurrection. A very appetizing breakfast was prepared under the direction of PGK Tom Guggisberg. The meal was served by two very active members- Tom and Gerry- Tom Heusinger and Gerry Kiska, long active in publishing the Knightly News Letter. There was a good turnout to the Mass and breakfast.

### Election of Officers

On June 8, 2010, Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council 4727 elected the following slate of Officers for the year of 2010-2011:

- Grand Knight-Michael Warwin
- Deputy Grand Knight-John Klinkenberg
- Chancellor-John Morrissey
- Warden- Peter Harding
- Treasurer- Netito Espejo
- Recorder- Ron Laseman PGK
- Inside Guard- Louie O'Neal
- Outside Guard-Troy Cumbee
- Advocate-Bill Smith
- Three Year Trustee- Ralph Mosley PGK



### Installation of Officers

Installation of Officers was held at the Christ the King Church Pope John XVIII Hall on August 14, 2010. Cocktails began at 6:30 pm and dinner was served at 7:00 pm: Installation of officers followed.



### Coffee and Donuts

Service of coffee and donuts after the 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. Masses at Christ the King is handled on the first Sunday of the month by Knight and K'Cee volunteers. This is under the direction of Brother Robert Roche.

### Election of K'Cee Officers

The following officers were elected for the year of 2010 -2011:

- President- Carol Warwin
- Vice President- Shirley Mosley
- Secretary- Dolores Bianco
- Treasurer- Darlene O'Neal

### Columbian Squires

On June 23, 2010, Stephan Yip, accompanied by his father Daniel

Yip, received his first degree into Knighthood at Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council. Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council is proud to have this source for Knights. The Arlington Columbian Squires were recently reinstated under the guidance of SK Al Martin. Young men from 10 years to 18 are encouraged to join this character building program in preparation to full knighthood.

### Road Cleanup

Monthly road cleanup occurs on Lone Star Road from Townsend Blvd. to Arlington Road. This is a community improvement project currently under the direction of Past Grand Knight Dennis Scobie.



### Camp I am Special

Deputy Grand Knight John Klinkenberg conducted a full week of fun and activities for 31 children with disabilities between the ages of 6-13 the week of June 14-19 at Camp St. John. Camp I am Special is associated with Dosa Camps, which is sponsored by the Diocese of St. Augustine.

John was assisted by Sue Pastorini, Camp Nurse, 31 high school and college students as children buddies and 6 other group leaders. What is outstanding about

this is the fact that John took a so-called week of vacation and closed his business for the full week. He has done this for 23 years.

On July 5, Camp Promise at the Marywood Retreat Center Council 4727 sponsored a cookout for those from age 14 and above. Again John Klinkenberg, with the help of several council members from Council 4727, served a meal to those with disabilities.

John, we honor and thank you for your dedication to people in need!



# Grand Knight



by Darlene O'Neal

Congratulations to Christ the King's own Michael Warwin on his election to lead Council #4727 as the new Grand Knight.

Michael has been a member of Christ the King parish since 2006 when he and his wife, Carol, went through the RCIA process and converted to the Catholic faith. It's impossible to write about Michael without including Carol. Usually, when you see one of them, the other is close by.

They have been active at Christ the King as RCIA team members for a number of years as well as heading the Coffee and Donut Ministry when they were asked by Father Thanh. They also served this ministry for several years. They

were part of a new group "Just Faith" and are members of Band 5 of Nocturnal Adoration every First Friday of the month.

Michael joined the Knights of Columbus shortly after becoming Catholic and moved up the chairs to the present time, to accept the office of Grand Knight. He is also a

new 4th Degree Knight with Holy Trinity Assembly #2368. Carol will assume the office of president of the K'Ceas after serving as treasurer for three years. Michael and Carol serve as Eucharist Ministers at Mass and are part of Visitation of the Sick ministry, as well as the Brotherly Care ministry with the Knights. They participated in a new bible study group *Why Catholic?* that was recently initiated at Christ the King parish.

Michael and Carol have been happily married 41 years and are the parents of two children and grandparents to three. They are dedicated to God, their country and their family.

Congratulations and God bless you, Michael and Carol Warwin.

# Knights of Columbus All in the Family



by Jose Praxedes

The Knights of Columbus has always been recognized as a fraternity consisting of faith-filled men devoted to serving God, Church, community and family. Since its formation in 1882 by Father Michael McGivney the organization has devotedly committed itself to strengthen family life.

It is without question that the Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council 4727 intends to pursue that same dedication. In 2007 the Arlington Columbian Circle 2121 was reinstated by then Grand Knight Jose R. Praxedes. He believed there was a need to recruit young men who will be the future of the Council. They will become the next leaders who will continue to strengthen the parish and make a difference.

At a time when the family is under assault, it is inspiring to real-

ize that there are close-knit families who are devoted in giving of their time, talent and treasure. The Father-and-Son tandem of Daniel and Stephen Yip is case in point. Stephen became the first Chief Squire of the Columbian Circle. He is pursuing a law degree at the University of Miami and recently took his Second Degree exemplification.

Last Easter Daniel completed his conversion to the Catholic Church. In spite of his busy schedule as a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic, Daniel attended his RCIA classes. Along with Stephen he had his First Degree exemplification on June 23, 2010.

It is not surprising that Daniel and Stephen will bring passion and enthusiasm to the Council. They have been committed volunteers with the Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) for a number of years now. It is an organization that also believes in improving the community through cooperation, respect, conviction, and peace.

We wish only the best for Daniel and Stephen. We are proud that they are members of the Bishop W. Thomas Larkin Council 4727. God Bless them.

# Prayer Blanket



Several articles have been written about the Prayer Blanket Ministry since its inception. However, comments and cards from recipients of these blankets is something we have not read, until now.

Some cards date back to 2007, while others are more recent. The following comments were submitted by Jean to be shared:

"Thank you for the prayer blanket. The warmth of the blanket was only exceeded by the warmth of the prayers. Sincerely, Jim"

"Thank you very much for the lovely blanket for our mother, Klara Schlinkmann. Thank you also for the rosary beads and beautiful prayer. We are grateful to God to be blessed with such wonderful and caring people such as yourself. And we pray that God continues to bless you and the ministry."

"Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer blanket. Wow! That was so nice of you to think of me. I love it! I've only got one chemo treatment left and then I can say a great Amen! God has been so

good to me during this journey so I really can't complain. Thanks again, Nancy"

"Thank you to all who work so diligently on the prayer blankets. I love mine and we all know - nothing works better than prayers. Claretta"

"God bless you and keep you for your ministry to the sick! I love my prayer blanket including the beautiful prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the rosary beads. I will remember you in my prayers as I wrap myself up in the love of Jesus provided by your blanket. God bless, Cathy"

"Thank you so much for thinking of me and giving me such a thoughtful gift! I really appreciate all the time and effort it took to make such a beautiful blanket. My grandmother told me how thoughtful you have been in asking about how I'm doing and that is just so nice of you. I thank God every day for blessing me and helping me get through this. Morgan - Chesterfield, Virginia"

The last card came from a little girl who was having reconstructive surgery on her ear. She drew a picture of a flower on the card and wrote: "Thank you for the blanket and rosary. I want to also thank you for all your prayers and love, God bless you! Love, Dahlia "

There have been requests, from Alabama to Indiana, for information on how to start a Prayer Blanket Ministry. God bless all the ladies who give of their time to provide these special blankets.

# Run, Betty! The Mob's Coming! Or More Tales From The Archives

by Paul Ghiotto

Everyone who is anyone knows that Betty Becht volunteers at the Christ the King rectory. One of her principal duties is to faithfully record baptisms, confirmations, first communions, marriages, and deaths in the church archival ledgers. If someone receives a sacrament for the first time Betty knows it. She records the name of the sacrament recipient, the names of sponsors, the names of parents, and the names of best men and maids of honor. She also lists the name of the priest conferring the sacrament and the date. So far she has not had either the Mob or the U.S. Marshal Service try to seize her or her handiwork!

Such was not the case in a Baltimore parish over 35 years ago. It seems that a certain monsignor testified at a trial in Providence, Rhode Island, that a personal friend - a notorious mobster - and he were at the graveside of the mobster's late wife on the date state prosecutors accused him of being at the scene of a heinous crime elsewhere in the state. The prosecutor discovered that the monsignor was attached to a parish in Maryland and called the rectory there to see if the monsignor was anywhere near the church on the date in question. The woman assigned to the same job as Betty Becht reported back that the monsignor officiated at a

baptism that very day thereby making it physically impossible for the monsignor to be in Rhode Island at the same time.

The mobster's associates got wind of the prosecutor's Maryland probe and promptly sent some men south to break into the rectory and seize the incriminating evidence of the monsignor's perjury. The prosecutor heard of the mob heading to Maryland and had the local U. S. Marshal Service get some of its men to the rectory before the mobsters. Not only did the marshals get there first, they also took the baptism ledger book and the woman scribe to an Alexandria, Virginia, hotel room for safekeeping the night before flying both back to Providence from Washington's National Airport the next morning! Marshals were also stationed overnight at the rectory.

The next day in Providence Betty's compatriot, with ledger in hand, testified at the trial about the monsignor's true whereabouts. Unfortunately, despite the monsignor's lapse of "memory", not only was the mobster acquitted but he also ran off with the church secretary! (OK, so I made up the "running away" part)

Having been told this true story by yours truly, Betty realizes more than ever what an important and fun job she has!

Warning to mobsters: Betty packs "heat." She carries a thermal wrap in her purse.

# “Big Al” Stepped Up! Have You?

by Paul Ghiotto

Christ the King parish has indeed seen its share over the years of parishioners who have “stepped up” when the need was there. A quick check of the Sunday bulletin reveals the names of all kinds of people who are involved with the many ministries here. What do all of these people have in common with one another? Each one “stepped up!” (OK, so I gave away the answer in the opening sentence.) Sure, some did so a little tentatively while others jumped in with both feet without first checking the pool for alligators. But the fact is, each and every one answered the call to serve. Have you done so yet?



Case in point – did you know that 49 years ago the current CK Baseball/Softball field was a wooded lot? Volunteer fathers and sons cleared the lot in late 1960 and the CKS boys’ softball team, with a svelte Frank Becht as coach, played its first game on the field the following spring. The original field’s backstop was where center field is now; the field had no lights or fence, and the field even went slightly uphill.

But, compared to a lot of other fields in the league at the time it was a pretty grand place! Teams who traveled to Loretto (Mandarin) to play the St. Joseph Academy boarding school guys first had to walk the whole field to check for cow “pies” because the field doubled as a pasture for the

Sisters of Saint Joseph’s herd!

Now fast forward to April, 1963. That’s when Al and Emily Rucci arrived in town. Al, the oldest of seven children, was born in New Kensington, PA, in July 1928. Emily, considerably younger (!) than Al and the seventh of 10 children, hails from Tarentum, PA.

Al and Emily met each other when she came to visit her sister whose husband was part owner of a produce company where Al worked. Drafted into the Army in 1950, Al thought he had it made because reveille wasn’t until 0600. Working for the produce company required him to be at work at 0400! He was enjoying the scenic sights of Fort Bragg, NC, when the two youngsters married there in January 1951. Shortly thereafter the Army shipped Supply Specialist Rucci to Korea to meet General MacArthur and help with the war effort.

Discharged from the Army in December, 1952, Al, an accomplished Big Band singer in his pre-military days, got a job with PPG Industries in Pittsburgh before passing the exam for entry into the U.S. Postal Service. As a postal clerk he rode mail trains throughout the Midwest and East sorting the mail along the way.

Desiring warmer weather, the Ruccis, with daughters Bridgett and Kimberly and son Tim, headed south to a postal clerk’s position in sunny Florida (the Rucci clan was later increased to six with the birth of son John in Jacksonville). Once in town, Al rode mail trains between JAX and Miami and over to Tallahassee and Pensacola. Eventually he settled down in the main post office downtown. And this is when “Big Al stepped up.”

In the September 17, 1974, issue of the Jacksonville TREND community newspaper, Al stated that when his son got old enough to play baseball at CK in 1965 the school’s baseball program was on the verge of disbanding and volunteer coaches were badly needed. Wanting his son to have a chance to play, Al, with some prodding by wife Emily, agreed to “assist” the program’s head, Gene Davis (a fellow Post Office worker). Since Gene was already busy heading the athletic program part time at CK School, Al suddenly found himself head coach of the separate baseball program!

“It ended up that I was stuck with the whole deal. There were about 85 kids to pick from and I could only pick 20 kids for each of the two Tadpole teams. You don’t know what a job it was to chop those kids off.”

With no other coaches to assist her husband, Emily Rucci filled in. “She used to hit fly balls to the outfield while I was taking care of the infield,” Al recalled.

Al’s Tadpole team was put in the four-team Arlington Catholic League and won the league crown, the first CK team to reach the finals.

Al was really proud of his first CK team’s accomplishment. “One thing about those kids: they obeyed me, listened to me, and did what I told them. They were well behaved and worked together as a team.”



Coaching was just part of the job as Al soon became “commissioner” of the school’s baseball program. He began begging and borrowing to improve both the program and the playing field. “I never kept still. I was always on the go. I bothered people, I pestered people – scraped, scrounged. I got uniforms, bats and balls, money for team sponsorships, trophies, you name it, I got it! Shorty Long, owner of Arlington Athletic Company, really helped me a lot. Mr. Pitts at Florida National Bank and his club, Arlington Optimist, were also big time contributors.”

When the field was being revamped with lighting, Al asked for and got the best. Learning that 1000 watt light bulbs were adequate to light the field, he got 1500 watt bulbs instead. “I told them, ‘Man, I want it to look like daylight. I don’t want it to look like some of those other ball fields.’”

After retiring from coaching and commissioning in 1972, Al went on the program’s board of directors so he could stay active with the program. He also began umpiring in the Catholic Grade School softball league.

That same year the playing field, now featuring lights, scoreboard, fencing all around – have to keep those cows out! – dugouts, and a concession stand, was renamed “Al Rucci Field.” Being the humble man he is, Al greatly appreciated the honor but requested that the board not put his name on any of the structures.

On August 29, 1974, at an end of the season banquet held at the Southside Woman’s Club, Al was presented with a large trophy in recognition of his “long and dedicated service and exceptional achievement.”

By this time the baseball program had increased from two teams in 1965 to five Tadpole teams, four Midget teams, and three Junior teams in addition to a commissioner and board of directors! It also had four girls’ softball teams, up from two when first introduced in 1973. Tom Millsaps took over as the new commissioner.

Al retired from the Post Office after 40 years of service in 1997. Emily retired from Publix after 16 years in 2000. They have two grandchildren,

John and Benjamin, who live with daughter Kimberley and her husband, John Clemens, in Victor, NY.

Al and Emily usually attend the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Occasionally Al serves as an usher and helps with the collection. Emily also continues to volunteer at CK as the need arises.

Al is well known in his Arlington neighborhood off Merrill Road for his prize lemon and orange trees. He can also be seen regularly walking four miles daily from his home down to 9A and back. At age 82, Al is still umpiring high school fast pitch softball and adult slow pitch softball!

Next time you see Al tell him, “Hey, Big Al, thanks for stepping up!” Have you stepped up yet? C’mon! You can do it!





# Recipe Corner

## “Likker Pudding”

submitted by Carol-Ann Black

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 ½ cups milk       | 3 eggs               |
| 3 medium sized yams | ¼ stick butter       |
| 2 cups sugar        | ½ cup whiskey or rum |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon     |                      |

Put milk into 2-quart casserole. Grate yams, adding to milk as you grate to prevent potatoes from turning dark. Beat eggs well and add sugar gradually. Add cinnamon and mix well with potatoes. Dot generously with butter and bake in a 300 degree oven for two hours, or until fairly well firmed up. Before serving, pour the whiskey or rum over the pudding. Great with turkey. Serves 6. May be used without “likker.”

*Taken from Charleston Receipts, Collected by The Junior League of Charleston, 1950*

My notes.

I use a shallow, rather than a deep casserole. I use a box grater. It is hard work, but I prefer it to the food processor. This is a great favorite in my family; kids love it too.

“Likker”— use bourbon or rum, but not too sweet. Southern Comfort doesn’t shine through for flavor here.

If you are cooking for Thanksgiving, do your Likker Pudding the day or two before because it sometimes takes longer to set than planned. Just cover it and stash in the fridge until you reheat before dinner.

## An Active Priest Retiree

By Frank Becht

Father Joseph H. Voor, better known as “Father Joe,” is unknown to many of you but he has been in Jacksonville and at Christ the King on numerous occasions in the past. Father Joe is a relative of one of our long time parishioners, Bernie Voor. In fact, Father Joe and Bernie are first cousins who grew up together in Louisville, Kentucky. Father Joe lived his young life with Bernie’s family as a result of his mother’s death in giving birth to Father Joe in 1925. His father was killed in an automobile accident when he was 18 years of age.

Father Joe has served the priesthood ministry for six decades but still is going strong in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky. He has many accomplishments, filled many positions and served many ministries in his 60 years of priesthood.

After his ordination at St. Meinrad Seminary, Father Joe was a professor of psychology at Bellarmine University in Louisville and also served many other positions with a full load of classes. He’s been chaplain of the following organizations over the years: The Serra Club of Louisville, Roederer Correctional Institute, and Knights of St. John. He has served as president of the National Organization for Continuing Education of the Roman Catholic Clergy, Inc. He

has also served in several parishes in various positions over the years, currently serving as senior associate Pastor of St. James and St. Bridget churches. He has served on numerous other boards and has membership in many other organizations.

Shortly after joining Bellarmine University staff, he was sent to Catholic University of America where he received his doctorate in psychology for the purpose of starting a psychology program at Bellarmine.

Father Joe is 84 and retired in 1995 but continues to be active as a priest who has always focused on the Eucharist. He has stated, “The Eucharist has been the center of my ministry all through, and my family was solid in their Catholic support of me. I always had extended family to fall back on when things became overwhelming.”

One of those whom Father Joe could always seek for support was Bernie Voor and his wife, Joan, deceased. Joan was a school teacher at St. Patrick’s School on the Northside for several years. Bernie often called him his brother. Bernie and Joan were very active parishioners serving on the Small Group committee for the Renew Program in the 1980’s helping to form and organize small groups for discussion. This was no easy task with over 1000 participants resulting in 94 small groups.

We need more Father Joes!

## Volunteers Needed for the Fall Country Store October 14 - 16

Help in any or all of these:  
**Setup - Sales - Breakdown**

### Clean-up



Please call  
**Charm Saults 721-9827 or 377-1299**

## Kids Page Answers Sheet

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*The original contents of this page is copyrighted and cannot be placed on the internet.*

# Epic Valediction

by Royce Reyes

Good evening, parents, teachers, faculty, staff, and fellow graduates. Tonight, we 8<sup>th</sup> graders officially graduate from Christ the King Catholic School. We have all come really far and accomplished so much here. As we prepare to say farewell to this school which has developed each of us for several years, we must all thank a few very important people. First, thank you, parents, for making the sacrifice of paying our tuition. Thank you, Mrs. Chinault, for your loving guidance. Thank you, teachers, for trying to be patient with us, and doing your best to help us learn over the past few years.



Thank you, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Farrah, for helping us whenever we came into the office. Thank you, Praxedes family, for watching over those of us who were in After School Care. And lastly, thank you, God, for all the blessings You have given us and for helping us in school. Please continue to guard and guide us in our lives.

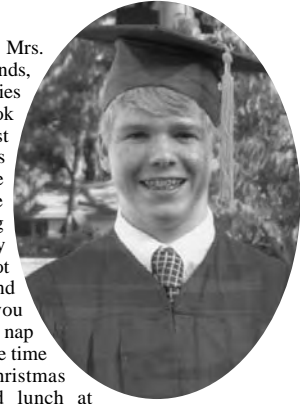
Right now, we are all standing at an important part of our lives, where we are getting ready to enter high school. A lot of us will go to the same high school, but some of us won't. No matter where we go, we must do our best to succeed in life and in the future. We must always try our hardest and never give up on our hopes and dreams... Listen close, everyone. Never forget. Believe in yourselves. Kick logic to the curb and do the impossible!

Now, finally, it is time for all of us to say goodbye to our middle school, to our friends in the lower grades, to our teachers, faculty and staff, to Mrs. Chinault, and to the school itself. From the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduating class of 2010, goodbye, Christ the King Catholic School.

# Graduation Speech

by David Yarborough

Good evening, Father Thanh, Mrs. Chinault, faculty, staff, family, friends, and my fellow graduates. Memories are like pictures that you can look back upon to reminisce about past experiences. We create memories each day, and these "pictures" are our remembrances of our lives. Here at Christ the King, the graduating class of 2010 has created many memories that will remain with not only us, but also with the teachers and students of this school. Do you remember having story time and nap time in kindergarten? What about the time our Kindergarten class went Christmas



caroling at the Atrium and had lunch at Carrabba's afterwards? Who will ever forget going to Reconciliation and receiving the Eucharist for the first time in second grade? Who could forget the excitement in 4th grade before the first Olympiad? Though Safety Patrol was tiring and sometimes blazing hot or freezing cold, going to Washington, D. C. was worth the work. The memory of this year's boys' softball team being seeded 6th overall and then going on to place second in the entire tournament will be in our minds forever. Victor and I tried to create memories while doing the morning announcements by using different adjectives to describe each day such as, "Have a magical day," or even, "Have an adjective day," because we couldn't think of any other adjectives. We will carry these memories of our days at Christ the King School in our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives. And now as we move on to high school and beyond, we hope to create everlasting memories of great times wherever our lives may take us. Thank you.

## BKHS Honor Roll

JohnArmon Antolin  
Austin Asher  
Brooke Asher  
Haley Bowles  
Sara Bowles  
Austin Boyd  
Kaylee Burke  
Christian Mikel Chan  
Brandon Chin  
Crystal Claxton  
Autumn Cummings  
Jan Edward Dela Cruz

Christina Diaz  
Andrew Dinh  
Patrick Paul Flores  
Palmer Frye  
Christina Gagnon  
Stephanie Grochmal  
Peter House  
Jason Infante  
Scott Jeffas  
Nicholas Johnson  
Stephanie Joost  
Jordan Kierce

Sarah Koch  
Ji Lee  
Paul Longenecker  
Clayton Ludwig  
Miranda McCown  
Erin Mikell  
Melissa Mitchell  
Jason Mollenhour  
Hansy Monrose  
Samantha Nagel  
Andy Nguyen  
Amanda Niesen  
Ryan Pollett  
Andrew Raesemann  
Lauren Reynolds

Christopher Saliba  
Kaitlyn Tackett  
Albert Tine, III  
Joshua Urbizu  
JohnLuke Vega  
Timothy Vergenz  
Danielle Wheeler  
Tyler Wides  
Richard Williamson  
Mark Wnuk  
Emily Wolfe  
Robert Yarborough  
Dena Yazji  
Xioatian Zhang

## Box Tops for Education Easy Way to Help Our School

by Sue Pietrusza

Are you looking for a great way to contribute to Christ the King School? There is a way that you can contribute that requires very little time or money. It takes little time because all you have to do is remove a label, and little money because these are products that you purchase anyway. Check your regular groceries for items that comply with the following programs: Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Labels for Education, and Tyson Project A+ labels.

Our school participates in these three programs. Last year we collected \$1,675.00 in box tops, 13,900 points in Campbell's soup labels, and \$29.00 in Tyson Project A+ labels. The money that we collect is deposited into the FSA account where it is used for a variety of school projects. In the 2009-2010 school year we cashed in some of our Campbell's points and were able to buy microscopes, zip drives, and new playground balls for PE.

A collection bin is always located in the gathering area of the church. Although the bin says Campbell's

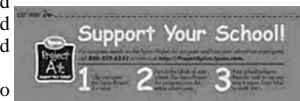
Soup Labels, feel free to drop off your box tops and Tyson Project A+ labels in the bin as well. Box tops and labels can also always be delivered to homerooms and the school office.

The school conducts a homeroom competition to see which homeroom collects the most labels and box tops. If you would like to designate your donation to a certain homeroom, place your labels in a bag that is labeled with the homeroom number...e.g. 5A. The winning homeroom receives a party at the end of the school year. Congratulations to the winning class for the 2009-2010 school year, Mrs. Fowler's homeroom, 3A. With the generosity and donations of Bridget Judge, 3A was able to enjoy a pizza and playground party for collecting the most. Thanks Mrs. Judge!!!

So, as we approach the 2010-2011 school year, remember to look for the labels shown on the right.

Find them, cut them, and turn them in! It is that simple!

More information about these programs, coupons, recipes, and a list of participating products can be found at [www.labelforeducation.com](http://www.labelforeducation.com), [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com), and [www.tyson.com](http://www.tyson.com).



# S.P.L.U.N.G.E. Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences



by Kathy Yoakley – SPLUNGE coordinator  
Youth Minister – Sacred Heart –Fleming Island

SPLUNGE is an inner city social justice service initiative for high school and college age youth of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. For one week, we explore the many aspects of poverty, homelessness and the marginalized of Jacksonville. We visit faith-based, secular, private, and government-founded agencies and organizations discovering the many services and safety nets in place for the people of our community. We also discover the lack of services available. Our skills and talents are used for various service projects throughout the week, introducing our youth to future opportunities of service and applications of what they have learned this week.

Our group, youth and adults alike, choose for one week, to “*Live Simply, So Others May Simply Live,*” While other teens may be vacationing in the Keys or strolling the malls, these young people surrender their iPods, cell phones, comfy beds, car keys, and comfort zones for a “uniquely nourishing experience.” Relational ministry is shared with the hardworking advocates of local neighborhoods, advocates such as Celia Miller, Gadson Burgess, Willie Mae Shiggs, Diane Kerr, in the hopes that an understanding of dedication and determination is brought to an awareness in our youth.

## School Enrollment on the Rise



by Chris Hildreth, President CTKS School Board

For the past ten years, Christ the King School realized a significant drop-off in enrollment every year; until this year. For varying reasons, enrollment declined about 10% per year for the entire decade. As of the date of this writing, CTKS has slightly grown its population and we still have about 4 weeks left!

Marketing efforts have reversed the declining enrollment, and hopefully we have seen the bottom of this very concerning trend. This time last year, the CTKS School Board was looking at targeted ways to slowly right the ship and really focus on specific areas. Due in no small part to the tireless efforts of the board along with many key volunteers and ministries, we are heading in the right direction. Theresa Little of the Child Care Center helped the marketing team survey her VPK parents, hand out materials and market to her group. The same goes for our Religious Education group led by Lucille Guzzone and the Vietnamese Community with special help from Peter Nguyen and Miss Wendy Le.

While we are very proud of everything that we accomplished, both with the enrollment as well as all of the other accomplishments of the school, we realize that this is not a destination, rather a journey and we are only beginning. The School Board was very busy last year, and will be even more so this year. We will not be content with breaking even, rather increasing enrollment and introducing more new wonderful families to our church community. While very important, enrollment is not our only focus. The School Board is working on many new and exciting things with the hope of continuing to help families feel a sense of value and community, both in the school and in the parish. Stay tuned for some really exciting things and breaking news from the school.

## I Remember When I was in High School

by Charm Saults

*Everyone knows the prayer they learned as a child before going to sleep: “Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep.” Well here is one I wrote for students.*

Now I lay me down to study,  
And pray tomorrow I’ll pass my test  
I pray the Lord I will not flunk.

If I should die before I wake  
Don’t pity me at all,  
Just lay my bones down in study hall.

Tell my teacher I did my best,  
Then pile my books upon my chest.

Now I lay me down to rest,  
Words and numbers swim in my head.

I know I have to go to bed.  
If I should die before I wake,  
That’s one less test I’ll have to take.

# Father Sal

by Mickey Kenny

Salviero Di Fazio grew up on Ponza, an island in Italy close to the well-known isle of Capri, and was less than happy to come to the United States at the age of 16 leaving behind his friends Mario and Ada. Mario and Ada were brother and sister, and where you would see one of these children you would see all three. But ... that is what life had for him at that time and so he settled in, worked hard, and made his home in the Bronx, one of the five boroughs of New York City.



Sal graduated from high school and went to work in furniture manufacturing. Sal was a hard worker, saw what had to be done, and was willing to do what was needed. As the furniture company grew Sal's job grew with it because Sal was a hard worker, a good learner, and totally dependable. One day in the hustle and bustle of a busy day in New York, Sal was crossing the street and was being persistently honked at by a driver. When he looked to see who was crass enough to honk this way he found the driver was Mario, the

said that a coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.)

What a happy reunion that must have been. Sal's old friend had multiple pizza restaurants in Connecticut and he asked Sal to come and work for him. Sal had a job and his home in the Bronx and asked where he would sleep in Connecticut. Of course, Mario and his wife agreed to have this old friend stay at his home on the weekends while they worked together in the shops. For the next seven years Sal worked in New York at the furniture company and took the train on Friday night to his next job at the pizza shop and back to the Bronx by Monday morning.

While the "ball was falling" on the New Year of 1966 in New York City, Sal was snow plowing the parking lot of the pizza shop in Connecticut. He remembers that night well. The parking lot was icy under the snow and, as he slipped and fell, the snow blower turned over and ended up eating two of Sal's fingers.

September 5, 1970, Michelle and Sal were married and on April 17, 1974, they were blessed with their daughter, Karen. They moved to Florida in 1991 and in 1992 they moved to Flagler Beach where they lived until his Michelle died in 2005 and he moved to Palm Coast. Father Sal had sustained severe injuries in an automobile accident which kept him from performing the hard work and extensive travel of the furniture company. Michelle was not well but it was a total surprise when they discovered after all her testing that she had cancer. The Lord was merciful, and she lived only a few weeks.

Anyone can see from Sal's story that he was able, intelligent, hardworking, and loyal. We have a glimpse into the rest of this faithful servant when we see that our old friend Father Tetlow was with Michelle and Sal at the hospital when she asked him what he was going to do with the rest of his life. As Father Sal says,

friend he had grown up with. "What a coincidence to have us both at that corner at the same time in this busy city!" (I've heard it

"My life was in total shambles and I had no idea what to do with the rest of my life." Prayer and acceptance were his tools. Sal

thought he would become a deacon, but that idea came to nothing because one had to actually be a deacon by their sixtieth birthday, and that was not possible. Prayer.

When prayer brought to him his call to the priesthood, Sal went about actualizing this gift with the same characteristics shown in the success of his earlier life. Sal was determined and he had faith that he would, in fact, become a priest, a belief he shared rather vehemently with Bishop Galeone when they met to discuss his call. It is never easy to become a priest, and think of the obstacles in Sal's path: his age, and he had never gone to college.

school does not accept all those who apply and students at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary



benefit from the low student/teacher ratio. The school offers classes to 56 students (73 full-time equivalent). Forty-something-year-old students won't feel out of place at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary.

I guess we all know that God prepares us for where we are by being where we were, and I am

equally sure one particular parishioner is grateful for Father Sal's eleven years as a volunteer fireman and first responder. This parishioner had a serious fall from our choir loft pews and Father Sal was there. We are blessed to have Father Sal here with us and we know his time with Father Thanh will be a blessing to Father Sal. We surely hope that we, as parishioners, will be a blessing to him as well.



Through talking with Father Sal a short time it is easy to see that his warmth and caring about others would give Sal as a priest the ability to be a fisher of men. But he also must have shown Bishop Galeone that he was also gifted intellectually. He would surely need this in order to enter a seminary with no college education. Typically, he was accepted and entered the Blessed John XXIII Seminary. What a challenge! Father Sal's entire life was a story of rising to every challenge, making it his own, performing the job extraordinarily well, and being a blessing to those around him.

In the *St Augustine Catholic* of July/August, 2010, there appeared



a beautiful picture of Sal Di Fazio with a large and, we are sure, loving family including his mother who, at the age of 87, was able to be at the ordination of her son who had already blessed her with his wife, Michelle, and her granddaughter, Karen, and her two children. A living testament to the kind of husband he has been is his sister-in-law coming from Italy to participate in the blessed event

What a beautiful life Father Sal Di Fazio has given to God.



Can you guess which child is Father Sal?



Can you find Father Sal in the picture to the left? He's the guy holding the American Flag in Medjugorje.