

November 1, 2011 –  
January 31, 2012



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

As the weather changes and we prepare for the holidays, it's that time when many of us ask, "Where has the year gone?" Now is a good time to reflect on the many ways that God has touched your life.

In this issue of the *St. Vincent Voice*, you will learn about some changes to the Mass—why they are happening and what they will mean for you. Don't miss the wonderful recap from our youth on their trip to Spain for World Youth Day. Their article will inspire you as they take you along for their journey. Read about the strides our parish is taking to eliminate child labor in Africa. You will also learn about light as a

symbol of faith, the 2012 Marriage Amendment, and cremation. Parishioner David Whatmuff enlightens us about the Knights of Columbus and the Leadership Commissions provide an update.

As you know, our parish is a busy one and we are blessed to have so many people help us with the *St. Vincent Voice*. Our little parish newsletter committee is undergoing a big change as our dear friend and editor Tammy Peterburs is stepping down. We wish her the best of luck with her new commitments and we welcome Kim Lyngen to the newsletter in the new editor role. Happy Holidays! —Lisa Price, Parishioner

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### About Changes to the Mass

#### *Hear the Mass is changing. Is that true?*

No, the way we celebrate Mass and the structure of the Mass itself are not changing. What will be different are some of the prayers and responses during Mass for both the priest and the liturgical assembly. There will be some text changes for priests in the prayers they use at Mass, and priests also will notice a different cadence or rhythm, to a few prayers.

#### *What is going to be different?*

The change people will notice will be in the response we make several times during the course of the Mass. We currently say or sing *And also with you* in response to the priest's prompt, *The Lord be with you*. Instead of *And also with you*, we will say or sing *And with your spirit*. When the Mass first changed from Latin to English in the mid 1960s, for a while *And with your spirit* was the wording of our response. When the final version of the *Sacramentary* came out in 1974, the official English version became *And also with you*, which is what we now use. The wording of many of the other prayers we sing or say together during Mass also will slightly change.

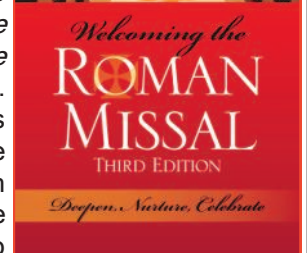
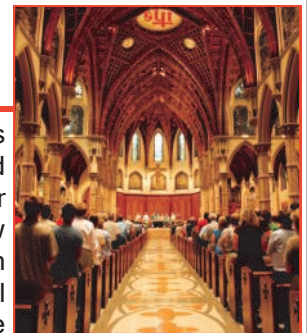
#### *Why these changes?*

All the words we say or sing and the prayers the priest says, come from the *Sacramentary*. This book is the English version of the *Roman Missal*, the book used for Mass by Catholics throughout the world. After the Second Vatican Council,

when the Mass was reformed and took the familiar shape we know today, the Vatican issued the official Latin book for the new Mass, *Missale Romanum* (*The Roman Missal*). This Latin book is the original text the bishops of each country have translated into their local language or languages. The *Sacramentary* we use today is a translation from 1985 of the second edition of the *Latin Missal* that came out in 1975. In 2000, Pope John Paul II approved a third edition of the *Missale Romanum*. This Latin text is the version from which the new English translation is being done.

#### *Who does the translation?*

Because so many countries are English-speaking, the process of translating the Latin into English is more complicated than for other languages. Several groups are involved: the Bishops' Conferences of the English speaking countries, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and *Vox Clara*, a group that acts as advisor to the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments. ICEL does the (Continued on page 3) **Page 1**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **November 1**  
All Saint's Day
- **November 2**  
All Soul's Day
- **November 24**  
Thanksgiving
- **November 27**  
First Sunday  
of Advent
- **December 3 & 4**  
Christmas Bazaar
- **December 8**  
Immaculate  
Conception  
(Holy Day of Obligation)
- **December 10**  
Breakfast with Santa
- **December 25**  
Christmas
- **January 1, 2012**  
Mary Mother of God
- **January 29**  
Catholic Schools  
Week Begins

### The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

- **Okey Anyanwu,**  
*Staff Member*
- **Marie Henrichs,**  
*Parishioner*
- **Rebecca Keran,**  
*Parishioner*
- **Lisa Price,**  
*Parishioner*
- **Molly Schorr,**  
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- **Marci Siers,** *Outreach  
Commission Member*
- **Tammy Peterburs,**  
*Outgoing Editor/  
Designer, Parishioner*
- **Kim Lyngen**  
*Incoming Editor/  
Designer, Parishioner*



## ASK FATHER

Fr. Bennet Answers Parishioner Questions

**Q. What is the Church's stance on cremation?**  
- submitted by Tammy Peterburs

Strictly speaking, the 1983 Code of Canon Law stipulates, "The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the dead be observed; it does not, however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching" (Can. 1176.3). Therefore, one may choose to be cremated if one has the right intention. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in their publication, *Reflection on the Body, Cremation and the Catholic Funeral Rites* states, "Although cremation is now permitted, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. Catholic teaching continues to stress the preference for burial or entombment of the body of the deceased."

The entire Catholic funeral liturgy—the vigil service, the Mass of Christian Burial and the Final Committal and Burial—offers us a great reminder of our faith and helps in our healing. The death of a loved one is always hard to face; however, there is something good and comforting when we gather as a faith community in the presence of our Lord and the body of the deceased. In doing so, we pray for the deceased and offer them back to God. The Church recommendation for those who want to be cremated or want to have their deceased loved one cremated is that they do so after the funeral Mass. However, the cremated remains must be treated with respect and should be interred in a grave or columbarium.

Why does the Catholic Church prefer bodily burial over cremation?

In the early Church, Christians retained the Jewish practice of bodily burial and rejected the common pagan Roman practice of cremation. The basis for this custom is grounded in the life of Jesus. Since Jesus was buried in the tomb and then rose again in glory on Easter, Christians buried their dead both out of respect for the body and in anticipation of the resurrection. The Church's stance against cremation was a reaction against those who mocked the belief in the resurrection of the body as evidenced by the treatment of many of the early martyrs. These martyrs were often burned at the stake and then their persecutors scattered their ashes as a sign of contempt for the Christian belief of the resurrection.

The custom of bodily burial dates back to the early Church. However, it was not until 1886 that the Church officially condemned the practice of cremation. This condemnation was in response to the Freemasonry movement and the rationalistic philosophy which denied any notion of the supernatural or spiritual. From the time of the French Revolution, these movements promote cremation to deny the resurrection of the body.

In summary, the Church permits cremation, provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2301).

## 2012 MN MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

Find Out More Information & Make Your Voice Heard

In May 2011, the Minnesota House and Senate passed SF 1308. The bill proposes an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that states that marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Recently, a bi-partisan majority of the legislature voted to place the Minnesota Marriage Amendment on the 2012 state-wide ballot

to ensure that the people of Minnesota have a voice on this important issue. For more information about what this bill is and what it might mean check out these websites:

[www.minnesotiformarriage.com](http://www.minnesotiformarriage.com)

[www.ruthinstitute.org](http://www.ruthinstitute.org)

### Submit Your Question!

If you have a question for Fr. Jack or Fr. Bennet, please mail it to:  
**The St. Vincent  
Voice Editor** at the church, or e-mail it to:  
[editor@saintvdp.org](mailto:editor@saintvdp.org).

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## About Changes to the Mass *(Continued from page 1)*

preliminary translation; their work is reviewed and voted upon by the various Bishops' Conferences and then sent to Rome for final approval. The process of translation, underway since 2002, is now in its final stages, with the new edition of the English-language *Roman Missal* likely to be published in 2011 or 2012.

### *Why will this translation be so different?*

For centuries Catholics prayed the Mass only in Latin. After the Second Vatican Council the liturgical texts were translated for the first time into the vernacular or language of the local people. The groups involved in the translation process worked under pressure to complete their job quickly. They translated using the principles of **dynamic equivalence**. This approach to translation attempts to convey the overall meaning of the original text (Latin) rather than giving a word-for-word translation, an approach known as **formal equivalence**. Now that we have had more than 40 years experience of using these texts in worship, we are able to see where the texts might be improved. The new English version, based on the translation principles of formal equivalence, is meant to be a better translation of the original Latin source texts.

### *How should we speak to God?*

In translating from one language to another, there is more than one way of saying the same thing. "Hey, pass the salt!" or "Would you pass me the salt, please?" are basically saying the same thing and will likely result in you getting the salt shaker. But some ways of speaking are more appropriate for one context than another. We speak differently sitting with family around the kitchen table than we would at a formal dinner. Our current English translation has been criticized for being at times too "conversational." The new translation is meant to provide a more courteous, reverential way of praying the liturgy. It is God to whom we are speaking, not someone sitting at the table next to us at a fast food restaurant.

### *Where do the prayers come from?*

Another reason for the changes in wording is to make more obvious the biblical origin

of many of the prayers we use during Mass.

A good example is found in the change from *And also with you* to *And with your spirit* in response to the priest's *The Lord be with you*. The wording *And with your spirit*, more directly translates the original Latin *Et cum spiritu tuo*, but also it brings out that the Holy Spirit is at work in both priest and people (though in different ways) as we gather to celebrate Eucharist. This expression recurs in various combinations throughout St. Paul's letters to the early Christian communities he founded.

Another example where the new wording brings out the biblical background more clearly is in the response to the invitation to Communion. We currently say *Lord I am not worthy to receive you; but only say the word and I shall be healed*. The new version will be *Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed*. The new wording is a more direct translation of the original Latin and also makes a more obvious reference to the episode in the Gospel where this prayer originates. Luke 7:1-11 narrates the episode of Jesus' healing of a Roman centurion's slave. While Jesus is on the way to the slave, the centurion sends friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof ... but say the word and let my servant be healed." Jesus marvels at the faith of one who is a pagan and not one of the chosen people. This is the faith we express as we prepare to receive the Lord in holy Communion.

— *Freely adapted from Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions*

## A SAMPLE OF CHANGES

CURRENT:	CHANGES:
<b>Greeting</b> Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.	<b>Greeting</b> Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And with your spirit.
<b>Gloria</b> All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.	<b>Gloria</b> All: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.
<b>Nicene Creed</b> All: We believe.	<b>Nicene Creed</b> All: I believe.
<b>Sanctus</b> All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.	<b>Sanctus</b> All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts.
<b>Invitation to Communion</b> Priest: This is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper. People: Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.	<b>Invitation to Communion</b> Priest: Behold, the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## REMEMBERING...

### SVDP's Marathon for Education



# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

## Reflections on the Pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain



Thank you so much for all of your support and love for the teens and adults that attended the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain. There were so many amazing moments that we all experienced. I wanted to have the teens and adults share those moments with you. Of course as anyone who has traveled in a group knows, after long days, not enough sleep and close sleeping quarters, most people get a little loopy. I also asked the teens to share their funny memories with you as well. I hope you will enjoy reading these as much as I have. Also, make sure you check out the St. Vincent website at [www.saintvdp.org](http://www.saintvdp.org) to watch the World Youth Day video.

—Molly Schorr, Director of Youth Ministry

My favorite God moment was during Adoration with the Pope. Two million people joined together and knelt before our Lord and were so quiet you could hear a pin drop. It sent chills all over. —Suzanne Maes-Toay

My favorite God moment was at the Love and Life Center - A Home for the English Speaking Pilgrims. There were 12,000 people in the center and people kept piling in. We got so full that organizers were forced to turn people away. On the second day, the gospel was about when Jesus taught to and fed a crowd of 5,000 not including women and children. I looked around the center at the 12,000 attendants and realized that Jesus probably spoke to a crowd the same size. He didn't have a fancy amplification system, tiered seating or air conditioning. People still gathered and heard Jesus' message and were transformed. It was a moment of amazement of how awesome Jesus' life was. —Nicole Casebolt

This pilgrimage meant so much to me. There are so many moments that I have taken with me. One phrase has stuck with me from the moment I first heard it. This phrase is, "We are not made for comfort, we are made for greatness". We live in a world that constantly tries to make us comfortable, but we are made for so much more. I tried to remind myself of this throughout the trip every time I was tired, hot, or my feet hurt. I still think about it every day. Even if we can't see this greatness yet, we have to remember God has a plan for us and we need to trust that He will bring us to His greatness. —Emily Doran

My funny moment was one night we were invited to play a game with a group of people from Colorado. We ended up galloping around a circle and dancing with people we've never met. —Alex Gray

One of my favorite God moments was when we were in Fatima and we prayed the rosary with people from all over the world. It was amazing to hear all those people speaking different languages, but knowing they were praying with the same intentions and faith that we were. After the rosary there was a candlelight procession that followed a statue of the Virgin Mary. I didn't have a candle, but an old man who didn't speak English came up to me and insisted that I take his. He was so happy

to see how many young Catholics were in our group. One of my favorite funny moments was using the showers at our host parish in Madrid. The water was so cold that you couldn't stand it for more than a couple seconds, which made trying to get clean really difficult, but really hilarious. We all stood in weird positions trying to get our hair clean without getting too close to the water, and we had to shush each other from squealing too loud. —Kaitlin Kasprick

My God moment was by far the night we slept outside at the airfield. We had adoration with the Pope. Right before he came out the wind picked up and the rain started to fall. At this point everyone started cheering because it had been so hot. Pope Benedict told us all to start praying that we had gotten the drink we'd asked for and that he wanted to be able to stay out with us. Two million people started to pray and after five minutes the rain just stopped. I couldn't believe it. Out of nowhere came a break in the clouds. Sure enough, right after we finished adoration and Pope Benedict left, the rain came back. This moment really was an eye opener for me. I've always known the power of prayer, but nothing like that before. —Adam Hammer

My God moment was when we were in the airfield and it started to storm during adoration. I looked around and noticed Kaitlin meditating/praying. It honestly sent chills knowing that you can be so in your faith even as a teenager and knowing all those people were there for one reason and I was part of it. My funny moment was probably when we were in the airport in Amsterdam and the guy checking passports assumed I

(Continued on page 5)



### St. Vincent de Paul World Youth Day Group

Bottom Row (left to right): Bill Goers, Adam Hammer, Gaby Castillo-Cowart, Alicia Newman; Middle Row (left to right): Kaitlin Kasprick, Emily Doran, Molly Schorr, Emily Dourney, Lisa Korus, Nicole Casebolt; Top Row (left to right): Haylee Schumacher, Alex Gray, Sam Gray, Suzanne Maes-Toay, Kristin Carman, Nicole Toay, Grant Bauer

# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

(Continued from page 4)

knew Spanish since I was born in Honduras. When I said I didn't he looked confused and said, "No speaky Spanish?" —*Gaby Castillo-Cowart*

My God moment happened in the middle of a confusing mix up. We had been on our way to adoration and had gotten split up on the metro, resulting in us getting off at the wrong spot. As we were wandering around, trying to figure out the way to go, we got a call from Molly. She told us to stay where we were. Within the next few minutes, the Pope was driving by right in front of us. I'm never going to get upset about being lost again! One

funny, yet incredibly useful thing we did was link up together when roaming through crowds. One of our group leaders would yell, "autobots assemble," and we would instantly run together into a giant chain. Once we got through the crowded area, someone would shout, "autobots disengage," and we would let go and walk on just as before. We got some weird looks from other groups, but we never lost anyone! —*Haylee Schumacher*

My favorite God moment was seeing how strong the faith was in Portugal when we saw the people walking on their knees around the Marian altar. —*Kristin Carman*

## SVDP EMBRACES A NEW INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

### The Elimination of Child Labor in a Target African Community



Our Parish has joined a coalition of other parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese to advocate for the elimination of "Child Labor" in target African communities. This new program, which will be championed by our parish youth, has been established in collaboration with a local nonprofit organization called Basic Institute for Zonal

African Advancement - (BIZAA). This organization will serve as our parish liaison to the target community.

BIZAA is a faith-based initiative focused on fighting the tragedy of child labor in target African countries - starting with Nigeria. According to current United Nation's statistics, Nigeria has the highest rate of Child Labor activities in Africa. Working children have been a fact of life for years in Nigeria, but over time the impetus has migrated from working in the family business to improve profits to working outside the family unit to generate new income. In some cases, the child is placed in a domestic servitude situation with another family so as to lessen the drain on the original family's resources. The inevitable first casualty of such poverty is the perceived luxury of education.

BIZAA seeks to address this challenge from the grassroots by identifying and returning child laborers to their families, enrolling and funding these children in existing parish schools, and awarding subsistence-based grants to their families to replace the income lost from their discontinued street activities.

St. Vincent's youth are seen as vital components of the overall plan through their involvement in a locally designed BIZAA program called "Children Serving Children." Through this local program, BIZAA will share a solidarity-based curriculum with SVDP schools and youth ministry. This curriculum is meant to educate our local children on the immensity of the problem and equally inspire them to use their youthful



energy and hope for the vindication of their fellow children in Africa.

St. Vincent's 2011 Vacation Bible School featured a "crazy craft" on BIZAA beautifully put together by our parish kids. The frontline drivers of this initiative are all from our parish:

Kathleen O'Hara, Board Chair; Russ Brown, Director of Communications; Laurie Murphy, International Mission Coordinator; Kim Lyngen, Director of Development; Jonathan Cran, Legal Counsel; Molly Schorr, Curriculum Adviser; and, Dorothy Malone, After School Program Director.

Our gratitude goes to the following BIZAA sponsors: Nikelle and David Morris - for donating their resources towards designing and maintenance of BIZAA website to date; Archdiocesan Center for Mission - for continued assistance with the publicity of BIZAA mission trips; and Murray Institute, University of St. Thomas, MN - for sponsoring BIZAA curriculum and upcoming Spring workshop.

The Pastor of our target community (Holy Trinity Parish, Omuma in Imo State, Nigeria), Fr. Chike Dike arrived on October 10th for a three-week familiarization visit to our community. BIZAA board members are planning a trip to Nigeria, which will be led by Okey Anyanwu in January of 2012 to initiate activities. We are excited for this great opportunity to step out of our comfort zones to reach out to the youngest citizens of our world in the spirit of faith-inspired solidarity. Adult volunteers are needed for this new ministry. For more information contact: Okey Anyanwu at the parish office—email: [okey@saintvdp.org](mailto:okey@saintvdp.org) and/or visit [www.bizaa.net](http://www.bizaa.net).



~Some Pray, Some Go, Some Give and Some Do All for Children~



\*\*\*Welcome Aboard\*\*\*

—*Okey Anyanwu, Director of Pastoral & Social Outreach*

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meeting the Needs of Their Neighbors



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

The Order of the Knights of Columbus was founded on March 29, 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGivney, a young priest at the Church of St. Mary in New Haven, Connecticut. It began as a fraternal benefit society which would provide for families whose breadwinner was lost and act as a source of strength to Catholics tempted to turn from their faith.

From these small beginnings the Knights has grown into the world's largest lay Catholic organization, with more than 1.8 million members throughout North and Central America, the Philippines, the Caribbean islands, and Poland, with \$80 billion of member insurance in force.

At the recent Supreme Convention in Denver, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced the results of the 2010 Fraternal Survey: total charitable contributions reached \$154,651,852, exceeding the previous year's total by more than \$3 million; the quantity of volunteer service hours to charitable causes by Knights grew to 70,049,433, an increase of 797,507 hours compared to the 2009 total. Cumulative figures show that during the past decade, the Knights of Columbus has donated \$1.406 billion to charity and provided more than 653 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives. In conclusion he stated, "Despite the fact that



the economy has also created hardship for many of our own members, Knights have stepped up as never before to meet the needs of their neighbors. We have taken very seriously the fact that we are our brother's keeper."

In the State of Minnesota, we have been very active in raising funds to supply Ultrasound machines to various Pro-Life offices around the state. It is a well-known fact that young women who have seen living, moving images of their baby are much less likely to make the terrible mis-

take of abortion. In the past year we have provided eight such machines. We are the title sponsor of the Special Olympics Fall Classic, the largest Special Olympics event in the state, with close to 2,000 athletes competing each year. In support of Vocations, we donate over \$60,000 annually to the Bishops for Seminarians and continuing education for clergy and we offer low-cost student loans to members' families attending further education, over \$8 million in the last 50 years.



At a local level, you've probably been to one of our breakfasts to benefit our local WomenSource or Sharing and Caring Hands, or put a donation in the bucket during our "Tootsie-Roll" drive for the developmentally-disabled. Your son or daughter may have benefitted from one of our scholarships at St. Vincent de Paul School, participated in the basketball free-throw competition, or the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. You may have been in church when the Knights led the Stations of the Cross or at one of the many rosaries we say for deceased Knights and on Tuesdays during Lent. There are many other activities which happen "behind the scenes" without a lot of fanfare in support of our priests, our church, our school, and our community.



I encourage all men of the parish, 18 years or older, to contact us to find out how you can be a part of this great Order. Contact numbers can be found in the parish bulletin or obtained from the parish office, and you can look on the Supreme website at KofC.org, or the State website at MNKnights.org for more information.

— David Whatmuff, Parishioner



## Come to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas



**DECEMBER 3: 9 AM—5 PM**  
**DECEMBER 4: 8:15 AM—12:30 PM**



### Featuring...

- Over 60 Crafters
- Lunch on Saturday
- Coffee, Juice & Rolls on Sunday
- Raffle

- A Slice of Heaven Bakery – cookies, bars, breads, lefse, rosettes & more.
- Gourmet Coffee at Java Joe's
- Live Musical Performances
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Parish Fellowship



# LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONS UPDATE

## Communication & Active Involvement

St. Vincent De Paul  
Mission Statement

*Know and celebrate  
our Catholic faith,  
Love God and our neighbor,  
Serve as disciples of  
Jesus Christ.*

St. Vincent de Paul's Annual Discernment Process finished with a success of 11 members discerning into our commissions and Pastoral Council. Each year we will continue to have a Discernment Night where interested candidates are able to discern onto one of our commissions and/or the Pastoral Council.

We began by committing our first year to transition where we have implemented the commission structure that will continuously improve/adjust as we move forward. It is a learning process!

As part of our parish Vision Statement, we are working on the Overarching Goal of Communication and the sub-goal of Active Involvement. The commissions have established an annual plan with these goals in mind. There have been some recent changes which are outlined in our commission plans on the church website. Examples of these changes include the following:

- ✓ The Parish Life commission has changed Donut Sunday to "Coffee and Company" and this gathering after mass will happen as often as the schedule allows.
- ✓ This fall, Worship is rolling out the English translation of the new Roman Missal.
- ✓ Finance & Administration is in the early phase of launching a Stewardship Committee.
- ✓ Formation & Education has plans to launch a pilot program around Stewardship directed specifically towards first and second graders.

- ✓ Outreach has plans to host a "Ministry Fair" allowing parishioners to learn about the ministries in our parish.

For more information on the individual commission's annual plans, go to the parish website at [www.saintvdp.org](http://www.saintvdp.org). Click on "Our Parish." Find and click on "Leadership Discernment." Then scroll down to the commission you choose and click on "Annual Plan."

The Pastoral Council, in collaboration with the commissions, will evaluate progress on each annual plan toward our Overarching goals. To contact any of the commissions with questions or ideas, please e-mail: [pastoral-council@saintvdp.org](mailto:pastoral-council@saintvdp.org) or call the Pastoral Council Voice-mail at (763) 425-2210 ext. 677.

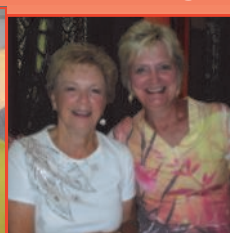
Commission members are as follows: **Finance & Administration:** Mark Novak, Mike Foster, Julie Wong, Doug Tigner, Peter Thoresen\* and Terry Stofferahn; **Formation & Education:** Cindy Pikovsky, Sarah Hambrook\*, Barb Wenner, Rebecca Mercadante, Elaine Szepesi; **Parish Life:** Donna Crimmins, Deb Edstrom, Michelle Gooley, Kris Hanson\* and Linda Newman; **Worship:** Tom McMullen, Larry Phenow, Jeanette Rem\*, Cindy Scott and Bidy Waletzko; **Outreach:** Roxanne Harri, Bonnie Lindenfelser, Jean Thoresen, Marci Siers, Marci Wills and Carol Wenner; **Pastoral Council:** Mark Curwick, Ryan Kaplan, Andrew Rem plus one member from each of the five commissions (represented with \*).

— Andrew Rem, Pastoral Council Member

## REMEMBERING...



Thanks to all who attended the Harvest Festival and the Faster than the Pastor 5K. A special thanks to the 388 volunteers (from 247 families) and our countless sponsors and donors that made for another successful Harvest Festival. We were able to achieve a net income of \$82,488! We hope to see everyone at the Harvest Festival in August 2012!





## The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
9100 93rd Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55455  
(763) 425-2210  
www.saintvdp.org

The mission of our newsletter is to provide all registered parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with an interesting and engaging publication that includes detailed articles about the people and events of our parish, education about our Catholic faith, and inspiration to deepen their relationship with God and the Church.

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# SYMBOLS OF FAITH

## Light and Christ

Light has been significant in acknowledging the presence of Christ since the great star that shone over his place of birth all those years ago.

Candles are a way to celebrate and symbolize the illumination that Christ brought to the world. They are used throughout the year to symbolize our relationship with Christ. They are commonly used in Advent celebrations as a way to prepare for the coming of Christ. Many celebrate the beginning of the new liturgical year with the Advent wreath. The candles in the unending Advent wreath symbolize the light of truth that has come to eliminate sin and the promise that Christ will come again.

Legends tell us that candles were placed in homes to represent the welcoming of Christ into homes. They are a way of letting Mary and Joseph know that there is room for them. In Ireland, the action of placing a candle in the window was said to assist in spreading the good word of Christ. At a time when Catholics were plagued by religious war, a candle in the window was a sign to welcome priests to a home with shared beliefs.

Other efforts to bring the light of Christ into homes came with the illumination of the Christmas tree. A combination of historical traditions, trees were illuminated with candles and stars. As things do, technology brought change to

those symbols. Electric and battery operated lights now replace many candles. Although the illumination method has changed, the meaning is still present.



The ability to acknowledge change in symbolism may help us to accept other change. Symbols, traditions and the Church may make changes, but our communal faith in Christ is ever present. In a 2011 Homily celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Pope Benedict XVI said it best:

"...let us allow ourselves to be guided by the star that is the word of God, let us follow it in our lives, walking with the Church in which the Word has pitched his tent. Our road will always be illumined by a light that no other sign can give us. And we too shall become stars for others, a reflection of that light which Christ caused to shine upon us..."

— Marie Heinrichs, Parishioner