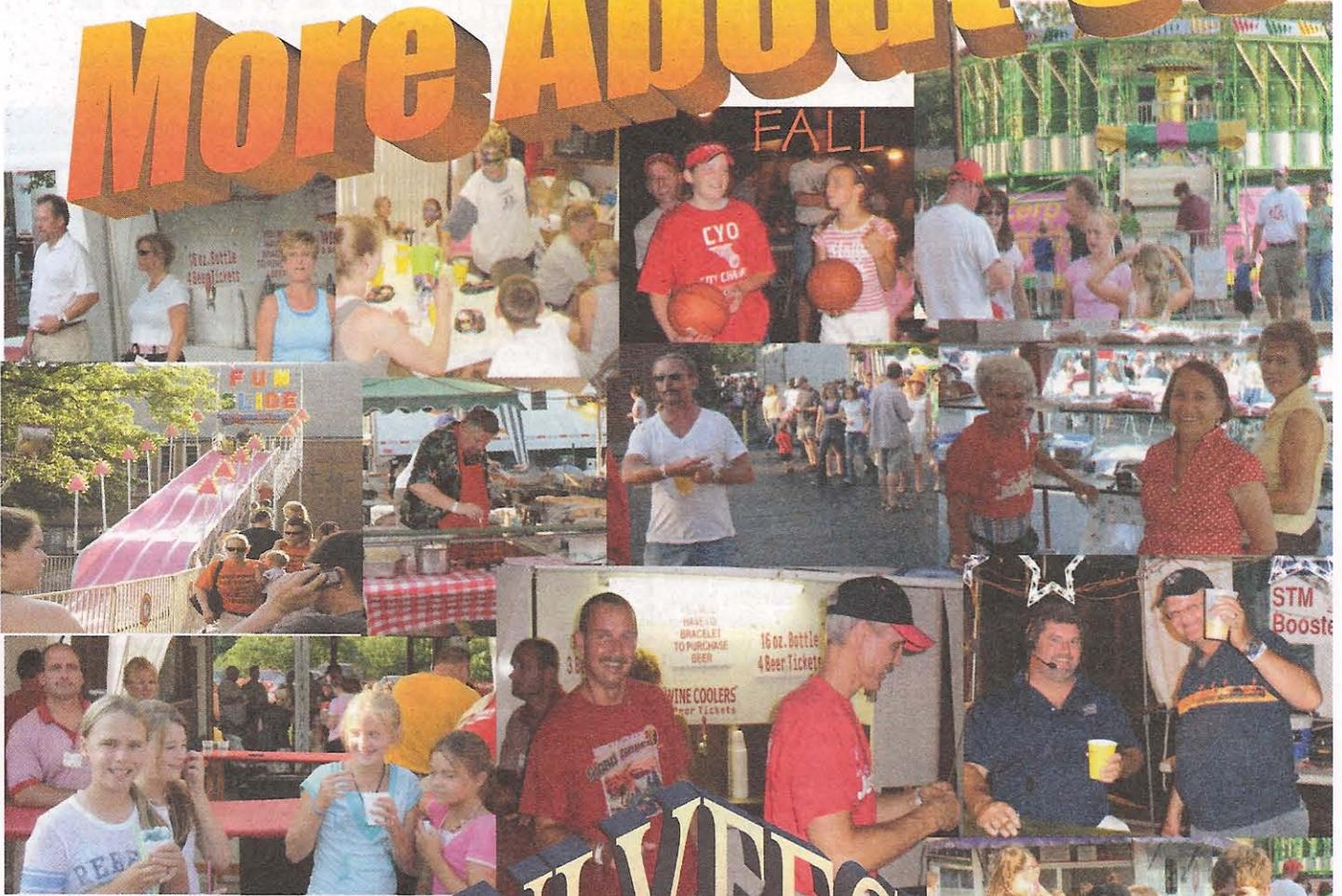


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Robin Lacy & DeZydeco Band

# JULYFEST



2007



## Making Pancakes

By Deacon Jerry Cain

Six year old Brandon decided on Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the

bowl with his hands, mixed in most of the cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove and he didn't know how the stove worked! Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

And just then he saw Dad standing at

the door. Big tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him.

Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process!

That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can't stand our job or our health goes sour.

Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives

us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes" for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried...

I was thinking and I wondered if I had any wounds needing to be healed, friendships that need rekindling or three words needing to be said, sometimes, "I love you" can heal & bless.

Remind every one of your friends that you love them.

Even if you think they don't love you back, you will be amazed at what those three little words, a smile



## The Chief Precepts of the Church

Submitted by Fr. William Wagner

Being Catholic brings responsibilities to the whole community of God's church. Ever since the Church was founded, leaders have issued rules, laws and guidelines not only to clearly define who we are as Jesus' disciples but to bring order and discipline to God's people. In the Acts of the Apostles we see the Apostles themselves deciding whether or not it was lawful for the newly converted Gentiles to ignore Jewish laws such as circumcision. The answer was not immediately clear but an answer had to be found. When the decision was made, Peter and the others announced it as authoritative for the whole Church. Our leaders, the Pope and Bishops have responded with authority to various issues throughout our two thousand year history.

The Precepts of the Church are a thumbnail summary of our duties as Catholics. They are taught with the authority of Christ Himself acting through the Holy Father and Bishops. I have decided to print them here since it has become apparent that many Catholics seem to have forgotten they even exist. **THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO THE HEALTHY AND HOLY LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**

1.) To keep holy the day of the Lord's Resurrection: to worship God by participating in Mass every Sunday and holy days of obligation; to avoid those activities that would hinder renewal of soul and body, e.g., needless work and business activities, unnecessary shopping and so on.

2.) To lead a sacramental life: to receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly - minimally, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year (annual confession is obligatory only if serious sin is involved) minimally also, to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

3.) To study Catholic teaching in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.

4.) To observe the marriage laws of the Church: to give religious training, by example and word, to one's children; to use parish schools and catechetical programs.

5.) To strengthen and support the Church: one's own parish community and Parish Priests, the worldwide Church and the Pope.

6.) To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.

7.) To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.



## Summer Maintenance

Summer is one of the busiest times of the year in a parish. Besides the festival, a lot of maintenance takes place. Our maintenance staff and contractors are very busy during the summer months. Just this year alone: new windows, shades and gutters were installed in Heider Hall and all the trim was painted, all the floors in all our school buildings were stripped and waxed, all the school walls were painted or touched up, the Parish Hall was painted and the floors were stripped and waxed, our modular classroom buildings were painted on the outside, the gym was painted on the outside and the lobby and bathrooms were painted on the inside, the gym floor was sanded and varnished, all the carpeting in all our buildings was professionally cleaned, plus our youth groups painted the inside of More Martyr Hall. This did not include removing all the dead trim from our trees and keeping the lawn mowed plus the flowers watered. And don't forget all the weeding that has to be done. A big thanks needs to go to our maintenance staff: John Osterling and Dave McCarthy plus all those professional contractors who help us with their expertise. And all of this could not be done without our Youth Group helping on 8 days this year! All of this is accomplished around the Festival in less than 8 weeks as we attempt to accommodate everyone who needs meeting space. All of this is an investment in our parish's future and is a challenge we meet every year!



Labor Day is a [United States federal holiday](#) that takes place on the first Monday in September. The holiday began in 1882, originating from a desire by the [Central Labor Union](#) to create a day off for the "working man". It is still celebrated mainly as a day of rest and marks the symbolic end of summer for many.



# 2007-2008 School Year

By Peg Fischer, STM School Principal

The 2007-08 school year begins on August 22, with more than 310 students registered to attend St. Thomas More School. The summer break provided the chance to make a few major improvements to the facility (and some less noticeable ones as well) including beautiful new windows in the Heider Hall building. Besides providing a much more attractive appearance, the new windows, with fully functioning screens, will provide improved comfort for our younger students. Our PTO recently completed stage 1 of their fundraising efforts to build a new playground for the students. Watch for developments in the very near future!

Other improvements include a significant upgrade to the computer lab—with Pentium 4 computers installed. A mobile laptop lab and laptops for all teachers will surely be a welcome addition to the facility. We've also upgraded our E-Lunchroom program to allow us to send emails out and easier family access to account information. New reading texts are ready to roll in kindergarten through grade five. The kindergarten class will be using "Read Well," which is designed to accommodate students who read at a wide variety of levels within a single classroom. Students in grades one through five will be working with the new Scott Foresman program "Reading Street."

STM will begin a "Morning Prayer" program this year with all students assembling in the gym to start the day as a praying school community. "Morning Prayer" is a powerful method for building a sense of family, reverence and passing on our Catholic traditions. You'll be hearing more about this in the next issue.

STM will welcome several new teachers this year. More than 70 resumes were received for the three positions which were posted over the summer. Our dedicated teachers helped with the interviewing process, and have been busy orienting our newcomers. Please join me in welcoming the following teachers to STM:

Kindergarten-Full Day Mrs. Tami Miller

Our other kindergarten teacher, Julia Mulvey, will be teaching the morning kindergarten program and helping in the junior high language arts department. Mrs. Miller completed her student teaching at Indian Hill primary and is enthusiastic about having her very own classroom.

Grade 4 Mrs. Leigh Lyons

We bade a sad farewell to Linda Eggleton and wished her well as she relocated to Lima, where she'll be teaching religion at Lima Central Catholic. Leigh Lyons comes to us from the west-side, where she's been an active member of St. James-White Oak parish.

Grade 5 Miss Tracy Gilliland

Miss Gilliland (who will become Mrs. Waters in November) comes to us with eighth years of teaching experience, which she shared with STM teachers Sharon Fryman and Trish Cordes. She's excited to be joining Theresa Rein in grade 5.



Please keep these teachers and all of our school community in your prayers as we grow "in grace and wisdom" together.



## HOW WELL ARE WE PASSING ON THE FAITH TO OUR YOUTH?

By Becky Ready

In an effort to better understand how we are doing in passing on our faith, Dr. Christian Smith and colleagues from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill conducted a National Study of Youth and Religion between the years 2001 to 2005. This project included interviews with 3,370 youth between the ages of 13-17 who lived within 45 different states in the U.S. The research is contained in a new book titled, *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*.

The data generated by this project was enormous. One image resulting from this data shows that American youth actually share much more in common with adults than they do not share and most American youth faithfully mirror the aspirations, lifestyles, practices and problems of the adult world into which they are being socialized. Adolescents may actually serve as a very accurate *barometer* of the condition of the culture and institutions of our larger society. American teenagers actually well reflect back to us the best and worst of our own adult condition and culture.

There is a second underlying image also very important for understanding the findings. Smith describes teenagers' basic approach to religion as a

benign "Whatever-ism." The findings demonstrate that most youth call themselves Christians and attend worship ---as well as Christian education and youth ministry programs---regularly. However, most youth do not have a religious language to prove it, nor do they understand the central doctrines of historically orthodox Christianity. While it is apparent that most youth have participated in many Christian education classes, it is also apparent that they have not learned much in the way of Christian doctrine. There is a serious gap between how important your people say that religion is in their lives and their actual knowledge of the teachings of their denominations. This is very true for Catholic young people as well.

Most apparent to many scholars is the need for basic catechesis. Youth need content. The results depict not mass apostasy but the fruits of simple ignorance. However flawed, the statistics still cannot be explained away. A critical problem area is parental involvement in the spiritual lives of their children. For many Catholic teens, there isn't any, but there should be. Whatever facades teens put up, they listen to their parents. "We will get what we are," encapsulated Smith. What parents model in the home, their children will practice in their own lives.

Catholic teens scored five to 25 percentage points lower than their conservative, mainline, and black Protestant peers on a variety of religious beliefs, practices, experiences, commitments and

evaluations. According to Dr. Smith, "...U.S. Catholic youth are faring rather badly. On most measures of religious faith, beliefs and practices, Catholic teens as a whole show up fairly weak. We think this can be attributed to a number of causes...Catholic teenagers today merely reflect the leading edge of a larger trend. Catholic teenagers were more likely to be playing basketball in the parish gym than they were to attend Lenten liturgies."

So what are we to make of all this? How well are we passing on our Catholic faith? We have wonderful volunteer catechists in PSR and dedicated teachers in our school who continually give of their time and talents to help youth know our faith and develop a deeper and more personal relationship with Christ. But it can't stop there. We need all adults, and most especially parents, to help us in our mission to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, work and mission of the faith community. We need to be committed to following a comprehensive vision and developing more opportunities for spiritual practices. We need to connect all families with the life of the faith community and encourage adults to continue their own catechesis. We need to emphasize the challenging and life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. We need to make faith a priority. When we do all these things well and together, then we can be assured that our attempts to pass on our faith will please God and begin to bear fruit.

## ADMINISTERING TO THE SICK

By Deacon Michael Thomas – Pastoral Associate

Through the apostle James, he has commanded us: "Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the priests of the Church, and let the priests pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord:" (from *The Rite of the Anointing of the sick*).

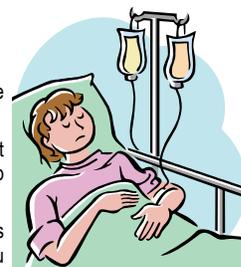
Sooner or later we or a loved one, all come face to face with serious illness or injury, which require us to be in the hospital, confined at home or possibly be placed in a Care Facility. It is very important that we as a community of faith care for and support those among us who are sick. Three ways in which we do this are through the Sacrament of the Sick, Holy Communion and Visitation of the Sick.

The first way is through the Sacrament of the Sick. This sacrament can only be administered by a priest. When surgery, for example, is pre-scheduled, this can take place before, during or after a weekday Mass. Please call the parish office to let Father know what day you would like to receive the sacrament. If this is not possible you can phone the parish office to set an appointment to be anointed. What we all need to remember is that it is best to do this before you go to the hospital. **By law the hospitals can no longer tell us you are there unless you give the specific permission to do so. Often times they do not call us.**

Second is Holy Communion. The members of our parish family who are sick or confined to their homes need to know that we are in communion with them. This is why it is very important that these people receive Holy Communion from our weekend liturgies. We are all very grateful to all those who each weekend leave Mass with Holy Communion for those among us who are sick.

Third, there are a number of persons who throughout the week take Holy Communion to those confined to their homes or care facilities. In doing this they also take time to visit with the person. Naturally for this to happen we need to know who is sick where they are and if they would like a visit. It is very unfortunate that some persons spend months in nursing homes with no visit from anyone from the parish.

To some this may seem like the same old stuff, in any event to care for and minister to the sick we need to know who and where they are. Feel free to call me 753-2549 or the parish office, 752-2080 ext 110, to let us know someone who is sick and needs us to come and minister to them.



### ROC Youth Ministry from Mrs. Brennan

What a fast summer- so much has been going on in the youth office! Super 8, Rosarymakers and Sewing ministries were all very busy this summer and Bible Camp promises to be quite an exciting endeavor for us! Julyfest saw a record number of our youth volunteering! We took four of our youth to Franciscan University on two separate occasions and others have been involved in Tackle and TCL. Practices for sports, band, dance, conditioning and other camp and school activities have kept our youth very busy this past summer. I think everyone I speak with is looking to the fall to be the return to routine we seek in the changing leaves and shortening of days. We have a busy quarter planned and we start back to regular youth ministry meetings on August 19<sup>th</sup> so bring your friends and join us!

**August 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Scallywag Tag Lock-in from midnight -7 am.** Attendance is by reservations only by

calling or emailing Mrs. Brennan and cost is \$20.00 first come, first serve.

#### Mark your fall calendar with our regular ROC Youth Ministry Schedule

All meeting times are from 6-8 in MMH:

**August 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> ~ No meeting Sept. 2 due to Labor Day ~September 9, 16, 23, 30**

*October 7 is Respect Life Sunday and we hope to have a special event that weekend and not a regular meeting.*

**October 14, 21, 28 - We will meet November 4, 18 No meeting November 11 due to NCEA conference or November 25 for Thanksgiving**

Sewing Ministry will meet from 6-8 in MMH:  
**August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Rosarymakers will meet from 6-8 in MMH:  
**August 16<sup>th</sup>, September 20<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup> and**

### November 15<sup>th</sup>

A special note: Our first STM Kairos Retreat is set for December 27-30 for all public high school youth in grades 10-12 or for any youth in catholic school that does not offer the Kairos experience. All registrations forms and monies are due to the youth office by November 16<sup>th</sup>. Call us and get more information!

Everyone working in our youth ministry teams wish you a safe and blessed start to your 2007-08 school year and ask our youth to get involved in something here in your parish! Grownups we need you to pray for our youth and get involved in supporting youth ministry!



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