



MORE About Us

2nd Quarter, 2004

St. Thomas More Parish
Newsletter

Enjoy Summer!

Inside this issue:

JulyFest	1-2
Boosters	2
From the Pastor	3
Sister Marie Cecile	3
CRHP	3
SEM	4
From the Principal	4
Child Protection	4
Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths	4
From the Deacon	4

JulyFest 2004 Reigns above the Rain

by Rhonda Roberts

JulyFest 2004 was once again very successful, despite the rain!! Several changes were introduced this year, Bid-N-Buy found a new home in the picnic shelter and offered evening close-outs. We had not one but two beer areas!!! We increased the size of the “Big White Tent” and we added a larger outside gambling tent. The Midway games were located in front & behind Heider Hall. We even added more Port-O-Lets!!!

Pete Delkus, Chief Meteorologist from Channel 9 came for the Friday Festival Forecast, and brought the rain with him. Despite the gloomy weather, Pete highlighted St. Thomas More and JulyFest 2004 to the Tri-State area. He sampled the food and checked out the Children’s area. Special thanks to Mary Kay Thomas for arranging this event and to Verizon

Yellow Pages for sponsoring this event. The Red’s Rover rolled in, and handed out Reds memorabilia which was enjoyed by all on Friday evening. St. Thomas More’s own Rocky Lockard and Chris McCormick along with **Loose Shoes** provided the evening’s entertainment—and entertain they did!! We had a first for STM, “Flying Pork Wings” and Italian Beef were on the menu in the specialty food area—if you didn’t get a chance to sample both you missed some good eating!!

Saturday, St. Thomas More hosted the 1st Annual JulyFest Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament. The tournament began on Saturday evening with the first qualifying round, 134 players entered. The top 25 moved onto the finals which were held Sunday evening. The rain came early and then left us with

a beautiful night. As evening fell, the lights from the amusement rides provided by Happy H Amusements lit up the STM grounds—what a spectacular sight! **Saffire Express** played the night away with songs from the 50’s to the 90’s!!! This was their 2nd year to perform at JulyFest and they are a crowd favorite.

Sunday, we were blessed with sunny skies and warm weather!! The second qualifying round of the Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament began at 2 pm with 90 in attendance. The finals began Sunday evening and concluded at midnight with Scott Uhl taking home the 1st place prize. Karen Mersman and crew provided the Sunday Dinner which this year featured Fried Chicken and Jambalaya!! Jaime Morales and his Latin

Continued on Page 2

Upcoming Events:

- 8/20 CRHP Picnic
- 8/21 Boosters Golf Outing
- 8/22 Youth Ministry Begins
- 8/24 First Day of School
- 9/6 Labor Day—Parish Office/School Closed
- 9/12 PSR and Children’s Liturgy Begins
- 9/19 Pre-School PSR Begins
- 10/8-10 Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament
- 10/23-24 Women’s CRHP Renewal Weekend



Rick Rettinger keeps the corn rollin’—a favorite at JulyFest.

From the New Boosters President



The Boosters organization is a parish youth ministry. By definition, we are here to serve all children of the parish, assisting them in development of their God given talent while holding true to our Christian identity and our Catholic values. We are also here to help with all aspects of support for the sports programs, from finding and developing coaches to fundraising for maintenance and upkeep of the gym. Membership is open to every family of the parish. You become a Booster member automatically when you register your child to participate in one of our programs.

One of the biggest issues facing youth sports today is the culture our kids are finding themselves navigating. It's become commonplace in some parts of the country, including some of our neighboring communities, for spectators to verbally or physically abuse the officials, players, coaches and even one another. There are instances where coaches and players have verbally or physically went over the line in the heat of competition.

Our programs are held to a higher standard. We are blessed with coaches and families who keep things in perspective. This year, you will see more public reminders of our code of conduct and an emphasis on all the positives that come with participation in sports. We emphasize self-confidence, respect for the rules, our opponents and ourselves, as well as mastery of our skills and learning from our mistakes. Winning is important, but it's a goal we share with mastery of those character building qualities mentioned above.

We are currently preparing for our largest fundraiser, the annual Booster's Golf Outing to be held on August 21, 2004. All proceeds go towards program expenses for the coming year. We are still in need of golfers and hole sponsors. Holes can be sponsored by businesses or individual families. Nick Robinson and Jeff Roberts are coordinating. If you can golf, sponsor holes, donate prizes or help solicit sponsors/prizes, please contact Nick (752-4868) or Jeff (943-9835) as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to an exciting year. If you have a child eligible for participa-

tion in one of our programs, please contact our Athletic Director, Tim Allen, at 753-1471.

Most of our programs are open to girls and boys in grades 3-8. The Spirit Squad is open to 2nd graders as well. Our programs include: Baseball, Basketball, Spirit Squad, Volleyball (girls only), and if there is enough interest this year, we'll be developing a youth golf club.

◆ **Board of Directors:** President – Laura Allen; Vice President – Pete Bouley ; Secretary–Karen Mersman; Treasurer–Darlene Grieco.

◆ **Web access-** School families can access Booster information via Edline. Parish families will also be able to access Booster information via the parish website.

◆ **Monthly meetings** are at 7:30 PM on the first Monday of every month. We move to the 2nd Monday in the event of a holiday.

Please join us!



JulyFest (cont'd.)

band provided Salsa music beginning at 3pm. Robin Lacy & DeZydeco took the **Beechmont Ford** stage on Sunday evening and had the crowd dancing and catching all the beads that Robin could throw. Juggler Dave and friends entertained the crowd with their juggling antics and stilt-walking. Mr. Fehn once again provided the balloon animals which are always a JulyFest favorite.

Our Grand Raffle was won by Hedwig Lambert; 2nd Place in the Grand Raffle was won by Eugene Daly; PTO Tuition Raffle was won by Nancy Bokenkotter; Corn Hole Raffle was won by Regina Herbolt; Children's Raffle: Justin McCall—Mini Bike; David Bell—Remote Control Harley.

JulyFest is successful because of our area chairs, these volunteers spend countless hours planning and working to make the festival one of the largest and best on the Eastside and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize them: Sponsorship: Kim Robinson; Bid-N-Buy: Terri McCarty; Children's: Jenny Arbino and Lori Knight; Food: Karen Mersman and Lynn Austin; Electrical: Gary Farwick, Don Farwick, Chris Simpson and Nick Robinson; Beer Sales: Tim Ruhe; Beer Ticket Sales: Gene & Kathy Johnson and Jay & Tracie Martella; Merchandise: Lisa Miller and

Melissa Kellerman; Finance: Linda Young ; Midway: Darline Foltz and Sandy Grau; Volunteers: Gwen Farwick; Youth Ministry: Diane Brennan, and "Our Fifth Co-Chair" Dave McCarthy whose invaluable experience and hard work are the backbone of JulyFest. A very special thank-you to Rich Adams, Larry Bush, Mike Roberts and Neil Desrosiers for their help during set-up!! A thank you to all who came and helped with clean-up on Monday and especially to the "Super 8 Tuesday" youth who assisted — May God bless each of the

volunteers!!

We would also like to recognize Darline Foltz, and Gene & Kathy Johnson for their many years of service as JulyFest area chairs—JulyFest 2004 was their last in that capacity!! They will be missed, but they have handed their areas over to the very capable hands of Sandy Grau and Jay & Tracie Martella, respectively. **THANK YOU!!**

We have already begun planning for JulyFest 2005 which will be held July 8-10th, 2005!! See you there!



Bernice Sutter did a great job of keeping the dessert booth full of a delicious array of sweets.

A special note of thanks to Rhonda & Jeff Roberts and Michelle & Gail Stultz for their endless hours of hard work and dedication to ensure a successful JulyFest. We are so fortunate to have such great chairs for our festival!

From the Pastor



To: All Parishioners

Last winter, our parish Finance Commission implemented a program to increase our Sunday collections to offset a slowly growing deficit in our annual budget. I am happy to report that our collections have now increased on an average of about \$1300.00 per week. This enables us to continue all of our parish ministries and programs. This successful program was a giant step in the right direction.

The entire staff and I thank all of you who responded to this challenge. It was a real boost to our morale. It's great to know that the parish is supporting our efforts to build an active faith community.

Of course, the "elephant in the living room" is our large debt. We have not yet made a decision as to how to tackle that difficult issue. The debt hinders our ability to grow and to provide all the things we need for a complete parish program. We might possibly not have enough classrooms in a few years if the school continues to grow. This will be the most significant issue the Finance Commission will have to address in the next couple of years. It will be the toughest issue the entire parish will eventually have to face. Please pray that we can come to a decision that will be acceptable to most parishioners.

Again, thank you for the wonderful show of support for our parish.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Bill Wagner, Pastor



Sister Marie Cecile of the Trinity, O.C.W. (formerly Erin Franner of St. Thomas More) with her grandmother, Rose Buettner, on May 2nd when she made her first profession of vows as a Carmelite Nun. Sister stated that "St. Thomas More and its people will have a special place in her heart and prayers." Congratulations Sister Marie Cecile!

Confederate Soldier's Prayer

(shared by Fr. Bill in his recent homily)

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;
 I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
 I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
 I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
 I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
 I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
 I was given weakness, that I might feel the need for God.
 I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life;
 I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
 I got nothing I asked for,
 But everything I had hoped for.
 Almost, despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
 I am, among all men, truly blessed.

CRHP RENEWAL WEEKEND



Women of STM—give yourself a special gift—join us for the CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) Renewal Weekend to be held at STM on October 23rd & 24th. The weekend provides a relaxed atmosphere for socializing and sharing, prayer, music, reflection and small group discussions that will make you feel spiritually renewed and better acquainted with women in the parish. See the brochures in the back of church for more information and to read what past participants have said about their experiences with CRHP. To register or to ask questions, call Leslie Molitor at 752-2080 Ext. 110.

Congratulations to...

Brittany Perry (1996 STM grad) graduated from the University Dayton this year Magna Cum Laude. Brittany will be attending the University of Cincinnati in the fall to work towards her Masters Degree in Social Work. Thanks to everyone at STM who helped Brittany be where she is today!

STM & SEM

Did you know that St. Thomas More Parish was been a member of the Southeastern Ecumenical Ministry (SEM) since 1967? We were among the first churches to join SEM, and have been active supporters ever since. SEM is an ecumenical organization of 26 churches in the Mt. Washington-Anderson Township-western Clermont County area that has served the elderly and the needy for more than 38 years! One of SEM's early missions was to provide housing to senior citizens, and they constructed SEM Manor in Forestville, and SEM Villa, SEM Terrace, SEM Laurels, and SEM Haven nursing facility on the Milford Campus.

The more than 600 seniors who live in these facilities offer us great opportunities to become involved on a personal level in making their lives brighter. We are looking for friendly visitors, readers, letter writers, errand-runners, gardeners, room tidy-uppers, bingo-helpers, and other volunteers who will make regular visits to those seniors. For more details about volunteer opportunities, see the bulletin board at the right entrance of the church or contact Jody Bridges (our delegate to SEM) at 752-6569.

Child Protection Update

The NEW Archdiocese Decree on Child Protection is now in effect. In order to volunteer with children in any capacity, you must receive certification in the program AND successfully pass a background fingerprinting check. Nearly 400 parishioners have participated in the program and are approved to volunteer—thank you for your time!

For those who have yet to comply with the program, you need to do so if you plan to work with children. If you have been recently fingerprinted and certified, you cannot volunteer until we are notified of the results by the diocese. This could take an unspecified amount of time based upon each individual's circumstances. Fingerprinting can be completed at IHM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 6 pm or at the Archdiocese offices on the 8th floor, 100 E. 8th Street, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Certification classes take place at our parish. Watch the bulletin for scheduled times.

*The deadline for the next issue of More About Us is **September 22nd**. Please send submissions to the attention of Leslie Molitor in the Parish Office or via e-mail to lmolitor@sttm.org.*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

No doubt about it...2003-04 was a banner year for STM. 286 students enjoyed our annual traditions: musicals, field trips, Accelerated Reader, Penny Party, Everybody Counts, the Mass of Passage and on and on! But this was also a year of FIRSTS: we had our first Lego Robotics teams, our first year of afternoon latchkey, first year with Band provided by the Music Staff, first year of monthly prayer services to include kindergarten students. The common strand that flows through all of these programs and events is the golden thread of parent support and teacher involvement. Working together, we create a haven where students can learn and a sense of community is fostered. A very sincere THANKS to all of the parents, teachers, students, classroom coordinators, "Friends of STM" and our very devoted Education Committee that contributed to the success of this past year.

Now that summer is here, it's time to take a break and recharge our batteries with some time with family and friends. School will be opening before you know it! I'm looking forward to seeing you then!

Peg Fischer, Principal

We welcome our newest little parishioners through Baptism:

Joseph Riley Haugh, son of Joseph & Kelly—**Tyler Holton Butsch**, son of Ronald & Shannon—**Gabriel Keene Sine**, daughter of Mark & Kathleen—**Keenan Michael Norton**, son of Michael & Esther—**Jaimie Lynn Marie Wolfe**, daughter of James & Shannon—**Jenna Lee Mulloney**, daughter of Kevin & Jean—**Lauryn Elizabeth Balwanz**, daughter of Chad & Heather—**Kyle Anthony Rees**, son of Anthony & Tracy—**Michael David Bader**, son of Richard & Linda—**Jason Michael Heiny II**, son of Jason & Kimberly—**Allison Celeste Rivas**, daughter of Joel & Mary—**Catherine Marie Asher**, daughter of Jill—**Brandon Scott Asher**, son of Paul & Jill—**Ashley Susan Frye**, daughter of Christopher & Lisa—**Andrea Nicole Spurck**, daughter of Nick & Michelle—**Quinlan Carter Bose**, son of Craig & Sarah—**Ashley Elizabeth Carlin**, daughter of Stephen & Katie—**Ethan Robert Eil**, son of Robert & Angel—**Maxwell Thomas Poynter**, son of Mark & Sue—**Paige Louise Scales**, daughter of William & Amanda—**Tatum Louise Scanlon**, daughter of Thomas & Joann—**Jordan Olivia Copenhaver**, daughter of Vance & Heather—**Corey Christian Hurlburt**, son of James & Jill—**Madison Kate McMath**, daughter of James & Amy.

We congratulate the following couples on their recent Marriages:

Justin & Meghan Larbes, Steven & Jean Horne, Roger & Devon Schoumacher, Craig Hornschemeier & Connie Kolita, Justin & Lisa Ross.

We mourn the loss of the following parishioners:

Peter Krimmer, Dolores Nienaber, Bernice Lytle, Donald Ruehl, Daniel Rauch, Julius "Tuck" Buening, Catherine Jackson, and Wilma King.

Words from Deacon Jerry

David Letterman has nothing on us: For those who tire of excuses why people don't go to church these are the reasons why I never wash. **1)** I was forced to wash as a child. **2)** People who wash are hypocrites—they think they're cleaner than others. **3)** There are so many kinds of soap I could never decide which was right. **4)** I used to wash, but it got boring. **5)** I only wash on Christmas and Easter. **6)** None of my friends wash. **7)** I'll start washing when I'm older. **8)** I really don't have the time. **9)** The bathroom isn't warm enough. **10)** People who make soap are only after your money.