

MORE About Us St. Thomas More Parish

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

January 1, 2006

Peace Pledge

Just For Today

*TODAY...*I will live in peace with God, my neighbor and myself.

*TODAY...*I will believe that world peace is possible.

*TODAY...*I will not be a party to pessimism or join the ranks of the indifferent.

*TODAY...*I will love my enemies. I will pray for them. I will try to see our indifferences from their point of view.

*TODAY...*I will disarm myself of rage by extending my hand in help and forgiveness.

*TODAY...*I will know that peace is the child of justice - that peace is more than the absence of war.

*TODAY...*I will plant the seed of justice in this global village, in my city, in my neighborhood, in my family and in my heart.

*TODAY...*I will test my love of peace by doing one act for peace.

*TODAY...*I will stand with Christ the Peacemaker, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

- Author Unknown



This prayer was brought back from the World Peace Mass on Jan. 1, 2006 which was represented by the St. Thomas More Social Justice Committee. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Deacon Jerry Cain @ 752-2080 ext. 125.

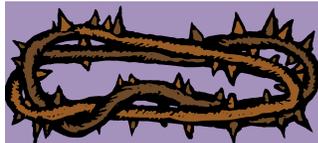
From the desk of Fr. Bill Wagner, Pastor

I recently met with our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults participants and came away thinking about how much, I can sometimes, take for granted. Their questions were both enthusiastic and basic. What is a Cathedral? What is a Basilica? Can a non-Catholic receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick? Do Deacons take a vow of celibacy? One person commented that it would take a lifetime to learn everything about the Catholic faith. The task seems almost impossible.

Actually, strengthening our faith by study, prayer, action and formation does take a lifetime. Perhaps, it would be helpful to think of faith formation as part of a way of life rather than another objective to complete. The reason is that we are always growing and changing; my faith today is very, very different from the faith I had as a youth. There was a time when learning the ten commandments, the sacraments, the fundamentals of the Mass consumed all my attention; but now, learning how to appreciate the Beatitudes in daily life, finding the deeper, and not always so obvious, interpretation of Bible passages, and exploring the challenges modern life brings to our faith are the things that consume my energy. It's the same faith, but we surely cannot be stuck in the past.

Jesus understood this when He complimented Peter and the Apostles for the faith they had, but at the same time, indicated that it simply was not enough. They would have to follow Him and learn much, much more. Their faith would have to continue to grow. The disciples really did not understand very much until after Jesus had risen from the dead; and even then, they were engaged in debates with each other over the correct expression the faith should take.

Lent will soon be upon us. This is a good time to do some soul searching and challenge ourselves to learn more, to pray and meditate more, and to live what we believe by all we say and all we do. Our parish will publish the usual Lenten schedule of events and opportunities to strengthen our faith. But, don't just stop there, look also through the Catholic Telegraph and learn about all the opportunities for faith formation that are available in our Archdiocese. God has given us this great gift of faith, now it's up to us to keep it strong.



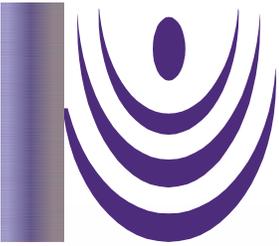
Visits to the Sick by: Paul Turner

When a member of our church falls ill, our thoughts often turn to the priest. He alone can administer the sacrament of the sick with blessed oil. He alone grants forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation.

But anyone can visit the sick. Even you. You probably do already, but you may not realize that you may act as a minister of the church while you're there.

All the church's official prayers for the sick come from a book called *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*. It has chapters describing how the priest anoints. But it opens with a chapter on visits to the sick. A priest may visit the sick, but so may any lay person. "Those who visit the sick should help them to pray, sharing with them the word of God proclaimed in the assembly from which their sickness has separated them" (PCS46).

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DRAWING POWER

by: Becky Ready, DRE

There is something mysterious here in the world, in the church, in all of us. We don't see it. We don't smell it. We can't touch it. We can't hear it. It escapes our taste. It does not leave a physical trace.

It is there. That is what Jesus said in John 6:41-51.

There are many more of those mysterious powers and energies all around even through and within us. When you're all alone in a quiet place, just listen. What do you hear? Nothing. Silence. Yet, you know that all this space around us is full of waves, energies and powers. Were you to switch on a radio, music would burst forth: hard rock, country music, monks singing chant, a symphony orchestra from Montreal and voices from all over the world. That power is there, those vibrations are present, and all that energy is hovering around.

The gospel tells us about another type of mysterious energy: a divine one, a terrific one, a mighty powerful, all-explaining, all-unifying one. It is here, even if it does not seem to be here at all. Jesus calls it a **drawing power**. It is a power, an energy coming from God, attracting all of us, the whole of creation, through Jesus to God.

This power also draws all of us to him and at the same time to one another. Protestants and Catholics, Christians and Hindus, Muslims and Jews, Americans and Russians, Asians and Europeans - aren't we all communicating and dialoging more than ever before? There is a power all around us, and it is changing the face of the earth. Jesus not only revealed its nature, but even what its outcome would be. It is the **drawing power** of our origin, our Father attracting us to his home, to his table. We are surrounded by that power. It explains why we all have that deep, deep feeling that the world in which we live is not all there is.

We come to learn that all our relationships do not fulfill all our desires and hope. The love we meet here on earth is a mere beginning, giving us an inkling of the time when God's **drawing power** will have brought us together, feasting and celebrating the Kingdom of God, the fullness of life, the power and the glory given to us. Jesus gave the lead, so let us plug in, becoming all we really are. I'll see you in church where we can celebrate this great gift and **drawing power!**

The Chancellors Club - Senior News

By: Michael Thomas, Pastoral Associate



We were all saddened by the death of our former leader Jackie Krammer. Jackie's love and dedication to all of us will never be forgotten. Because of her vision, we are now able to grow into new areas in our service to the parish and each other. We extend our deepest sympathy to Dick and his children at this most difficult time. We assure them of our prayers and join them in thanking God for the wonderful gift Jackie was to them and all of us.

On March 7th the Chancellors Club will be sponsoring a *Day of Reflection* at the Comboni Mission Center located at 1381 Nagel Road from 10am – 3pm. This will include Mass, reflection/talks and lunch and will cost \$15 paid in advance to the STM parish office. Please call Michael Thomas at 752-2080 ext. 127 for reservations by March 1st or for additional information.

SCOUTING WARDS



Boy Scouts who received their **Ad Altare Dei Emblem** on January 22, 2006 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral (these were also presented by Fr. William Wagner on Scout Sunday.)

STM Troop #452 Ad Altare Dei

Travis Gallivan, Cody Neff, Neil Liza-kowski (St. Veronica Parish) Robbie Kuhlmann and Brian Burke.

Tiger Cubs - Light of Christ Emblem

Luke Anno, Blaise Harpring, Max Harpring, Will Kamphaus, Tyler McDaniel, Sam Meisman, Auston Miller, Adam Neltner, Jack Schoose, Brad Shepherd and Jarrett Yates.

Cub Scouts - Parvuli Dei Emblem

William Jossart, Trevor Lynd, Sean McNamara, John Meisman, Steven Schimpf, Adam Stevens, Matthew Welage, John Wenk, Brian Keefe (member of Troop from Mt. Moriah) and Nick Robinson (member of Troop at Mt. Carmel Church of Christ).

Girl Scouts

The following second grade **Brownies** received their **Family of God Medal** from Fr. Wagner at our Annual Scout Mass on Saturday, February 4th: Lauren Bishop, Sydney Blaha, Alissa Burns, Sydney Evans, Madison Gentile, Haleigh Haugh, Abby Johnson, Emily Lundrigan, Julia Nelson, Brittany Taylor, Emily Tekulve and Katie Whitley.

Memorial.... At the Scout Celebration Dinner, Mrs. Marjorie Lamping presented Boy Scout Troop #452 with a generous donation made in memory of her husband, Robert Lamping, who served as Scoutmaster for almost 10 years. Dee Archer, Mike Neff and the scouts expressed their gratitude to the Lamping family.

A Scoutmaster plaque will be displayed in More Martyr Hall in honor of Bob's memory.





From Peg Fischer, STM School Principal

New teachers, structures and activities have helped make the school year both successful and enjoyable. With the largest number of junior high students in recent years, additional staff was brought on board to allow smaller classes in math, reading and language arts. The two large conference rooms (B and C) were converted into classroom space, with smaller tables that can be arranged as needed for a variety of purposes. A weekly activity period was added to the junior high schedule to allow students to choose from a selection of classes, such as photography, journalism, yearbook, stock-market, drama and chess club. Support from the PTO allowed improvements at the primary level including a redesign of the storage and work areas in Heider Hall, and sound amplification systems for the first through third grade classrooms. At this time, we're still installing and learning to use interactive white boards for instruction.

Honesty, caring, trustworthiness, tolerance, leadership, respect, responsibility, fairness and attitude are Catholic values selected for study this year. Each month classroom and home activities are provided to help students grow in their understanding and practice of these values as a part of our school improvement plan.

Catholic Schools Week, January 29-February 4, is an annual celebration of the accomplishments of our students, as well as the benefits Catholic schools bring to local communities. This year's celebration is particularly meaningful at STM, since we recently learned that two of our eighth graders were awarded scholarships to McNicholas High School based on their performance on the high school entrance test. Joey Schoettelkotte earned the top score of all students taking the test, and was awarded a full scholarship. Emily Bradley earned a 75% for placing in the 99th percentile. This is the second consecutive year that a STM student has won top honors on the entrance exam!

Recently released Terra Nova scores show STM students performing significantly above the national average, as well, in all areas in grades 2, 4, and 8.

Registration for the 2006-07 school year begins in February. Registration packets are available in the back of church and on the website. Priority in admission is given to parishioners until March 1; at that time out-of-parish families may apply for openings. For more information, or a personal tour, call the school office at 753-2540.

PSR - PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION REGISTRATION 2006-07



Registration for Fall Religious Education classes for students – Preschool (ages 3-5 years old) and grades 1-8 will begin Sunday, March 26, 2006. Forms for returning students will be given to the students in their classrooms. Registration forms for new students will be available in the back of church, the parish office, in the Faith Formation Room and can be accessed through the parish website at www.stm.org and go to the Children's Faith Formation link. The forms can be run off and sent into the parish office.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call Becky Ready, DRE at 752-2080 ext. 154 or email bready@stm.org, or call Diane McMullin at 752-2080 ext. 114.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

by Bob Guenther (SVDP)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that helps the poor and those in temporary need. Recently, I have been asked exactly what does your organization do and who do we serve? There is a need right here in our own Parish area. Some of the people we help are elderly and living on fixed incomes. Some are young families without enough money for rent, or utilities or clothes for their children. Some are suffering illness or injury and don't have enough money left at the end of the month to buy food or pay rent or utilities. Some have lost jobs and are in need of temporary help. We are a face to face ministry and visit clients in their homes or apartments to assess their needs. We currently serve the area with only fourteen active members.

In support of our ministry, we rely on the donations of our parishioners, for which we are forever thankful. However, for our parish size fourteen people is not a good representation. We invite you to serve and put into action your Catholic faith to serve those who are in need of your help. If interested in joining our SVDP ministry, please call our number at 752-2080 ext. 111 and leave a message indicating your interest and we will return your call.

May God Bless you abundantly.



Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17th

Visits to the Sick by: Paul Turner continued.....

The liturgy is very simple. The minister may invite everyone to observe silence. Then someone reads a passage from the Bible. You may choose Acts 3:1-10 or Matthew 8:14-17, or one of the Scriptures from Sunday, or any other passage of significance to the household. This is followed by a responsorial psalm, such as Psalm 102 or 27. The minister may then give an explanation of the readings and apply them to the needs of the sick and the caregivers. All pray the Lord's Prayer. The minister concludes with a prayer and blessing, perhaps tracing the sign of the cross on the forehead of the sick person.

In these ways you can bring the liturgy of the church to those who are separated from the assembly of believers.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in Ministry & Liturgy, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your parish as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2006. Resource Publications, 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St., Munchin Parish in Cameron, Mo., holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. Comment online at www.rpinet.com/wwwboard/forum8/.

STM MINISTRIES IN NEED

MARTHA MINISTRY - provides social and fellowship needs for the parish at various functions throughout the year.

WELCOME MINISTRY - contacts the new parishioners by phone and visits their home with a packet of information about the parish community.

BEREAVEMENT - serves the grieving people of our parish with words of faith, food for the family after the funeral and help preparing the funeral liturgy.

If you are looking for a way to become more involved with your church, we could really use your skills. Brochures are available at the side entrances to the church, or call the parish office for additional information.

2006 Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Couples celebrating their 50th, 60th, 70th, and 75th Wedding Anniversary a Mass will be held on Saturday, May 6th at 2:00pm at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. Please call Diane McMullin (752-2080 ext. 114) by March 6th for reservations to attend this Mass. If you are celebrating your 25th Anniversary also advise Diane in the parish office as the Archdiocese will send out a special acknowledgment to those celebrating their 25th & 50th Anniversaries.



OPERATION RICE BOWL

This is a program of the Catholic Relief Services to reach out to the poor of the world through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. All parishioners along with children in PSR and School will be participating in this program. Beginning Ash Wednesday and going through April 23rd, a container will be available in the Church to receive your donations.

We ask each person to be generous in their prayers, fasting, and giving. For additional information please visit the Catholic Relief website at: www.catholicrelief.org.

WWW.STTM.ORG

Stay in touch with your parish community and visit the St. Thomas More website. You can register online, check out the facility schedule, read the bulletin and newsletters and access PSR and School information.

The Power of Healing Prayer



Join us as we discover the mystery of God's love through the power of healing prayer.

We will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month for seven consecutive months in the Faith Formation Room at 1:30 pm beginning March 15th. For additional information please contact Becky Ready at 752-2080 ext. 154 or email at bready@sttm.org or Diane McMullin at 752-2080 ext. 114 to register.

MOMS - Ministry of Mothers Sharing

Join us for an opportunity for mothers of all ages to develop self-respect, relationship skills, and personal and spiritual growth. We will meet the following days at 7 pm in the Library:

Tue - 3/7	Wed - 4/5
Wed - 3/15	Tue - 4/25
Tue - 3/21	Wed - 5/3 (Dinner)
Wed - 3/29	

Please call Becky Ready @ 752-2080 ext. 154 or Diane McMullin @ 752-2080 ext. 114 for more information or to register for this next session. Brochures are available at the side entrance of church.

Effective Father's Ministry

All fathers and grandfathers are invited to join us as we begin our 9 week program develop a better understanding of God's purpose for fathers, while providing help developing parenting skills.

The program will begin on Thursday, March 9th from 7:30-9:00pm in the Faith Formation Room under the church and continue every Thursday through May 4th.

Brochures are available in the side entrances to church or if you need additional information please contact : Jerry Harpring at Home: 474-5441 , Work: 872-5036 or email at jharpring@cinci.rr.com Deacon Jerry Cain at 752-2080 ext. 125 or email at jcain@sttm.org.

