



# MORE About Us

1st Quarter, 2005

St. Thomas More Parish  
Newsletter

## Pope John Paul II

May 18, 1920—April 2, 2005

*Almighty God, we thank you for your servant Pope John Paul II and pray that through the Holy Spirit we may enjoy forever his prayers and patronage. May we remember in our prayers our new Holy Father, **Pope Benedict XVI**, as he embarks on his ministry of leading God's Church.*

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### Important Q2 Dates:

- May 8—1st Communion
- May 12—Marian Event
- May 14—Confirmation Retreat
- May 15—Ministry Fair
- May 15—PSR Registrations Due
- May 19—Confirmation
- May 21—Boosters Banquet
- June 1—Graduation
- June 3—Last day of School

## New Parish Photo Directory

St. Thomas More Parish will prepare a new parish photo directory beginning this May. This is our first parish photo directory since 1990. The directory will establish a lasting record during the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of our parish. A lot of changes have taken place in the past fifteen years not only in our parish but in our surrounding area. St. Thomas More Parish was founded in November of 1940. When the directory is released later this year, everyone will be able to put a name with a face!

Every member of our parish is welcome to partici-

pate! There is **NO COST OR OBLIGATION**. For those who do, they will receive a complimentary copy of our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary parish directory and an 8 X 10 portrait. You will also have an opportunity to order additional pictures if you wish.

The pictures will be taken in our school Library beginning Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesdays thru Saturdays. Weekday hours are from 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM and Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Portraits can be of you and your family including your pets! If you include your

pet, you are responsible to have them leashed or caged and be in your control at all times.

To sign up for your portrait, you can do so after all weekend Masses in the back of church or on our web site, [www.sttm.org](http://www.sttm.org), Monday thru Fridays, by clicking on "Parish Directory". Just follow the directions to book your appointment! The web site is closed weekends so we don't book duplicate appointment times. The web site is updated every Monday.

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## STM Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

One tradition of Catholic Schools Week is the presentation of the NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award. This year's recipient, Kathy McCabe Bollmer, was recognized for her ministry to youth through her work at McNicholas High School, where she serves as Media Specialist. Mrs. McCabe was introduced to the parish by her fellow classmate, Dick Schuler who is on the St. Thomas More Education Committee. (continued on Page 3)



Kathy McCabe Bollmer receives the 2005 NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award. Left to right: Dick Schuler, Fr. Bill, Kathy McCabe Bollmer and her mother, Mary McCabe.

## Photo Directory (continued)

Ralph & Sandy Bedel have graciously volunteered to chair the directory project. However, we need lots of volunteers to assist them. The work includes acting as hosts and hostesses during the actual photo sessions, doing follow up telephone calls, and assisting with the appointment setting times after



***Schedule your family photo appointment now!***

weekend Masses. If you can help in any way, please call the Parish Office or send an email to [volunteer@sttm.org](mailto:volunteer@sttm.org).

“A parish photo directory is something that I have wanted to do for some time,” Fr. Bill Wagner, St. Thomas More Pastor said. “We are using LifeTouch to prepare our book. I spoke with a number of pastors who

had nothing but praise for this company. Their expertise and success rate is just outstanding. I urge you to participate so we can come together as a reflection in God’s love as a community of care,” said Fr. Bill.

LifeTouch is the same company who has successfully done our school yearbook for years. They have been in the business for over 65 years.

## Elizabeth Ministry

You’ve probably seen the bulletin announcements and easel boards this spring calling for volunteers for the St. Thomas More Elizabeth Ministry. Perhaps you’ve been curious to find out more, but just haven’t had the time to make it to one of the meetings. Or maybe you’ve experienced a childbearing-related issue and could use some help or support, but you aren’t exactly sure how we can help. So, what is the Elizabeth Ministry anyway?

**The Elizabeth Ministry** is an outreach program for women in special times of motherhood. This is an opportunity to minister to moms during the joys and complications of the childbearing years. The ministry’s name comes from the Gospel of Luke, where the Blessed Mother visits Elizabeth near the end of her pregnancy. Here they are, two women in “impossible” situations, sharing their experiences and supporting one another, woman-to-woman.

The St. Thomas More Elizabeth Ministry officially started in 2002 with three volunteers. We have blossomed into a group of ten and have served our parish in a number of ways. To date we have helped three parish families in need. We have also provided material support to those outside St. Thomas More through the

donation of baby items to our St. Vincent de Paul Society and A Caring Place Pregnancy Center.

Our plans this year are to implement the Blessing Bouquet program, which identifies those in need of prayers during special times of motherhood; to host the Marian and Epiphany events; to create a lending library of childbearing-related books and videos; to plan a memorial service for those who have suffered a pregnancy or early infant loss; and to build our presence on our website.

*Following the example of Mary and Elizabeth, we visit and share the sacredness of our lives.*

We also welcome volunteers who can offer sporadic help with craft items, assisting with the lending library, or attending to computer details and mail. We meet regularly on the second Thursday of each month with a break during the summer. Meetings are not mandatory, but they are a wonderful time for planning and fellowship. The time commitment is up to you, as little or as much as you like.

You can call Valerie Malott (753-8147) or Maria Pour (943-7263) for more information or e-mail us at [elizabethministry@sttm.org](mailto:elizabethministry@sttm.org)

### In Sympathy for the Loss of Pope John Paul

**The following letter was sent to us from Anderson Hills Christian Church:**

*Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:*

*On behalf of the members of Anderson Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), I write to let you know that you have been lifted up in prayer upon the death of Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. I am sure that this is both a sad and joyful time for Catholics around the world, sad because of the loss, but joyful because the Holy Father has entered into the blessed rest of the Lord.*

*Please know that you will continue to be lifted up in prayer during this time of transition as Pope John Paul II is laid to rest and as the College of Cardinals gather in conclave to select a new Pope and spiritual leader for you.*

*We join you in your prayers and in your loss as we offer our sympathy to you.*

*Your Brothers in Christ,  
Nik Donges, Pastor  
Greg Van Dierendonck, Moderator  
of Congregation*

## From the Principal's Desk

The first quarter of 2005 has been an exciting time at St. Thomas More, beginning with the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, January 30 through February 6. Students reflected on their Catholic heritage and the many gifts they receive through benefit of a Catholic education. Particularly in the Year of the Eucharist, as declared by our late Holy Father, John Paul II, those of us who are blessed to work in Catholic Schools are mindful of the privilege of witnessing and sharing our faith with the young people of this parish.

The STMEC (St. Thomas More Education Committee) has been diligently working on developing the school budget so as to have the 2005-06 tuition set ahead of registration. In addition to overseeing school finances, the STMEC helps with development of policies, and other needs as requested by the principal. This year the STMEC is targeting improvements in school safety and health. With the support and assistance of

the West Clermont Schools and the Union Township Police Department, a Crisis Response Packet has been developed. The packets, which will be posted in each classroom and office, include maps of the facilities and specific directions to follow in the event of an emergency. STMEC is also working on a marketing strategy for the next school year. Any parishioners interested in helping with the marketing efforts or other STMEC activity is encouraged to contact STMEC chair Joan Cardone through the school office (753-2540) or via email [stmec@sttm.org](mailto:stmec@sttm.org).

As a part of our School Improvement Plan, required as part of accreditation, teachers have been learning new techniques for identifying student needs and measuring student progress. This is the first full year that STM is using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) with students in grades K-3. DIBELS is a quickly administered tool that measures mastery of begin-

ning reading skills and reading fluency. Administered three times a year, this assessment helps direct interventions and measure progress to get students back on track with development of reading skills. Teachers have attended training at the SERRC (Southwest Ohio Special Education Regional Resource Center) to learn how to administer and use this new reading assessment program.



Plans for 2005-06 are well underway. The next few weeks will see the school finalize enrollment and teacher contracts for the next year. The 2004-05 school year ends on June 3. At that point, the school office will start summer hours (9:00 am till noon) so that preparation for a new year can begin! In the meantime, the last few weeks of instruction will, we hope, see sunny skies and pleasant temperatures! With Penny Party, Olympic Day, and field trips approaching, we're crossing our fingers for good weather!

## Catholic Schools Week (continued)

The school had various events throughout the week to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The week started with an assembly. Tuesday was Teacher Appreciation Day. The next day was U.S.A. Appreciation Day and the students were decked out in red, white and blue, and attended a prayer service to honor and pray for our soldiers. Thursday was Spirit Day so all the students were dressed in red and white and could wear a crazy hat. There was quite an array of hats—some were even handmade. Even Deacon Jerry was spotted heading into school sporting a crazy hat to join in the fun. On one day the students wrote letters to their parents thanking them for sending them to a

Catholic school. Jena (2nd grade) wrote, "Thank you for sending me to a Catholic School. I don't like wearing a uniform but it is worth it for God." A school wide collage was made in the main hall of school which was comprised of small crosses with a picture of each student and what they liked about attending St. Thomas More School. This gave the students an opportunity to think about how they are blessed to attend our school. The week ended with the traditional volleyball game between the 8th graders and the faculty—a victory for the faculty, but good game 8th graders! The other students were spectators and cheered on their favorite team. A fun week was had by all the students.

### SEM UPDATE:

For those of you not familiar, SEM is made up of 26 churches in the Mt. Washington-Anderson Township area. These churches are able to do together more than they could ever do separately. The SEM Food Pantry is a major player in serving the food and emergency funding needs of the needy in the eastern Hamilton and western Clermont area. Every third Sunday here at STM we have a food collection for the Food Pantry and we appreciate your contributions. SEM's current effort is to provide volunteer services through our member churches to the SEM housing facilities, such as friendly visitors, transportation assistants and entertainment. If you would like more information on how you can help, call Bob Bridges at 752-6569.

# Congratulations

## STM Graduates

**Dominic Randolph** (son of Rose & Charlie Randolph), St. Xavier, signed a letter of commitment to play quarterback for the College of the Holy Cross (Division 1-AA) in Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Ryan Molitor** (son of Leslie & Bill Molitor), Summit Country Day, received a scholarship to attend Kettering University in Flint, Michigan to study mechanical engineering.

**Nina Randolph** for her poem being selected from Creative Communication Poetry contest to be published in *A Celebration of Young Poets*, a hardbound anthology.

**St. Ursula Academy 1st Honors:** Kelly Smyth, Katherine Carns, Lauren Geiger. **Second Honors:** Christy Carns, Abby Terranova, Lindsay Imbus.

**Ursuline Academy:** Sarah Kraemer

**St. Xavier: 1st Honors**—Nick Schneider; **2nd Honors**—George Gumbert, Christopher Mersman, Dominic Randolph.

**McNicholas 1st Honors:** Ashley Barndollar, Sarah Casnellie, Courtney Fangman, Andrew Lohbeck, Katie O'Hara, Michael Robinson, Andrea Rutherford, Fritz Schoolfield. **Dean's List:** Sean Meagher, Ashley Neltner **Honor Roll:** Alexandra Bailey, Anthony Bruno, Matthew Buchheit, Joseph Conrady, Brady Denton, Kathleen Doogan, Kayce Farwick, Paige Farwick, Lauren Farwick, Margaret Fehn, Jeffrey Foltz, Benjamin Hansbauer, Daniel Leuhrmann, Michelle McCarthy, Shannon McCarthy, Julia Noschang, Jon O'Hara, Jacob Oester, Amanda Piening, Rachel Piening, Jessica Powers, Nina Randolph, Alexis Rhinehart, Joseph Ritter, Nicholas Rutherford, Pamela Strassel, Linda Stricker, Erica Suer, Laura Sutter, Jessica Thompson, Christopher Westendorf.

## JulyFest Volunteers

JulyFest is almost two months away! Have you signed up to be one of the 500+ volunteers who make JulyFest a success each year? If you answered YES, then thank you. If your answer is NO, then now is the time to do so. By signing up now you will be able to choose your area, booth and shift. JulyFest is a great way to meet new people, see your neighbors, family and friends...but most importantly, it is the best way to help YOUR PARISH with its largest fundraiser. To volunteer in any area, call Gwen Farwick on our Volunteer Hotline at **752-2080 Ext. 142**.



## Thomas More House Giving Tree

St. Vincent de Paul has placed a giving tree in the vestibule of church for the **Thomas More House** which is located next to Fr. Bill's house. This home will be run and maintained by the St. Vincent de Paul Society through our parish. Our scouts, youth and youth ministry as well as several dedicated parishioners have helped get this project off the ground. We now need all of you to help us make the house a home. Please take a tag and as an individual or with a group, help meet the needs for the home. You can drop off your item(s) at the **Thomas More House** after all the masses on May 15<sup>th</sup> and no later than 2:00 pm.

### STM's Ministry Fair May 15<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendar for May 14<sup>th</sup> & May 15<sup>th</sup>! In celebration of Pentecost Sunday we will hold our Ministry Fair after all Masses. The Parish Dining Hall will be decked in red, and there will be food and drinks. There will also be a raffle for those in attendance. You can socialize while you check out all the different ministries St. Thomas More has to offer. Tables will be set up with representatives from the various ministries so that you can ask questions or sign up for a particular ministry. Our ministries have grown over the last couple of years so there is plenty of areas that need your help. *How can you best serve your parish with the gifts and talents that you've been given?*

We hope to see you at the Ministry Fair!

### Religious Education Class Registrations Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>

If you have not already done so, please turn in your registration forms for your children to enroll in PSR (formerly CCD) classes next year. There is no registration in the fall so this is very important. For new students you will find registration forms in the back of church, in the Faith Formation Room, or you can print the form off of our website at [sttm.org](http://sttm.org) under Children's Faith Formation. For returning students, you should have a copy of last year's registration form. To make it easy, all you need to do is make changes to this form, sign and date the form. Completed forms should be turned in to your PSR teacher or to Diane McMullin in the Parish Office.

Thank you for honoring this deadline as it helps us immensely with our planning.