



Fall 2005

**Evangelization Corner**  
**By: Deacon Jerry Cain**

As Catholic Christians, we are all called to spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ. With that in mind "Evangelization has been chosen as our parish vision theme for the coming year. Catholic evangelization, says Fr. Frank Desiano, former President of the Paulist Fathers and author of extensive writings on the subject, has three fundamental pastoral elements.

*"The first is ongoing renewal of one's own faith, because no one is totally evangelized. We all need to hear the Good News again and again."*

Some opportunities at St. Thomas More for renewal are: Christ Renews His Parish, Bible Studies, Small Faith Communities, MOMS, Effective Fathers, and Our Parish Mission coming in November.

*"The second is to foster a spirit of welcoming, sharing, and invitation, particularly to those who have no faith and to those who have ceased being involved in the practice of their faith."*

Opportunities at St. Thomas More would be: RCIA, Inviting Catholics Home, Welcome Ministry, and Greeter Ministry.

*"The third is to help our faith have its proper impact on the word, the good of people, the strength of families, the demands of justice, and the pursuit of peace."*

Opportunities at St. Thomas More: Feed The Hungry, Bereavement Ministry, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Elizabeth Ministry, and the Social Justice Committee.

So, there are many ways we can be an Evangelizing Parish. The opportunities are there, now it's up to you and I to spread the Good News.

# MORE About Us

## St. Thomas More Parish Newsletter

### EVANGELIZATION

by: Fr. William C. Wagner, Pastor

A theme we would like to emphasize this year is EVANGELIZATION. This simply means we all have the responsibility to be Christ in all we say and all we do. It means bringing other people, as well as ourselves, closer to the Lord. Basically, if we call ourselves "Christians," it means being genuine.

For a parish to be an evangelizing community of faith means that we understand that everything we do in a parish promotes, somehow, the mission of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. We improve the Kingdom of God by improving the condition of humanity in general, by seeing our activities as being supportive of each other.

So whether it is liturgy and prayer, sacramental celebrations and preparation, school and sports, festivals and social groups, it all must be done in the spirit of promoting or supporting the Gospel of Jesus.



**Through my hands,  
Lord, let me share  
Your love and peace.**

### DOES YOUR BAPTISM CHALLENGE YOU TO EVANGELIZATION?

By: Becky Ready, Director of Religious Education

This year our pastor, Fr. Bill Wagner, has encouraged us to focus on the theme of evangelization. What exactly is evangelization?

For help, we can turn to our new *National Directory of Catechesis*. There we are directed to first go back to the early church. Christ commissioned his apostles to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." (Mk 16:15) As a result, they "went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs." (Mk 16:20)

Today Christ calls all the faithful to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world and to hand his message on to successive generations by professing, living and celebrating the faith in Liturgy and prayer. This is the work of evangelization. Catechesis and evangelization are among the principal means by which the Church hands on the faith.

No believer baptized in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty to proclaim Christ to all peoples, The good News of Jesus Christ must be carried forth to every person and every nation so that it may penetrate the heart of every person and renew the human race. So how are you doing?

Obviously, there are challenges and opportunities faced by all of us baptized people in today's church. The struggle is: to what are we called when we are called to evangelize? We often have it in our minds going to missions in foreign countries, coming to them and saying here is the word of God.

Today's "new evangelization" stresses the need to proclaim the uniqueness of the revelation of Jesus Christ to those who haven't heard right in our midst and equally important to proclaim again to those who have become indifferent. Who me, you ask? Yes, all of us. How can we accomplish this? By staying close to Christ and his Church. We need to stay in community praying together, working together, and worshipping together.

When Jesus Christ came into the world, it was not a particularly holy age.

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## ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH MISSION

*Dare To Live The Gospel*

conducted by  
John Schweisthal,  
Roman Catholic Lay Evangelist  
Good News Ministries

November 13th through 16th  
Sunday—Wednesday Evenings  
7 pm in Church

Bring your Bible and a friend!  
A free offering will be taken.  
Refreshments to follow in the  
Dining Hall

## Prayer Circle *By Debbie Fiest*

The St. Thomas More Prayer Circle was formed many years ago and consists of about 50 parishioners. You do not have to pray the rosary to be in the Prayer Circle. Prayer has many forms; praying at Mass, during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, or the Liturgy of the Hours and/or personal prayers. Let us lift our hearts and minds in prayer for our parishioners and the whole Body of Christ. We have seen many blessings as a result of our prayers.

If you have someone you would like to add to our prayer list, you may do so at any time of day by calling **752-2080 Ext. 133**. This puts you directly into a voicemail box so you can leave a message that is retrieved daily. If you have an urgent prayer request, or are interested in joining this ministry, please call Karen Klysz at **752-2186** or Kathy Brannen at **752-2196**.



## Chancellor's Club Hits the Road

*By: Michael Thomas*

In honor of our parish feast day (the Feast of Saints



Thomas More and John Fisher) on June 22nd, the Chancellor's Club was invited by Fr. Paul Donohue, MCCJ, to join with the Comboni Auxiliary to take a trip to the Franklin Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio to view the Chupungu Exhibit.

Chupungu is a style of African Sculpture. There were over one hundred different pieces placed throughout the conservatory. We all had a great time and are very grateful to Fr. Paul and the Comboni Auxiliary for inviting us to go along with them. We are looking forward to Fr. Paul's next trip.

On October 10th the Chancellor's Club will visit The Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky and the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown.

If you are interested in joining the club, please call Michael Thomas @ 752-2080 ext. 127 for the next monthly luncheon meeting.

## JulyFest 2005 ...A great turnout!

Large crowds visited JulyFest 2005. The weather was beautiful! Thank you to all who helped to make JulyFest a huge success... from our corporate sponsors, co-chairs, the many volunteers, and to all those that came and spread the word to family and friends. We really appreciate your support! The final numbers should be available soon. Congratulations to the raffle winners:

Joe Frazier - 2005 Ford  
Sergio Servantes - \$1,000  
Sharon Treinen - Tuition



## Communal Anointing of the Sick *By: Michael Thomas, Pastoral Assoc.* Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 2pm

### 2nd Sunday of Advent Mass with Communal Anointing of the Sick

The anointing of the sick is a sacrament of the Church in which the priest prays, lays hands, and anoints the sick person with blessed oil. Anyone who is dangerously ill due to sickness, injury or old age may be anointed. The sacrament is for serious mental or emotional illness as well. The rite states clearly that a person should be anointed at the beginning of the illness, or before surgery whenever a serious condition is the reason for the surgery. The anointing may be repeated if the same illness or condition becomes more serious.

Please call the parish office to register to be anointed. Your family is most welcome to come with you. Let us know if you might need to have someone pick you up. Should you have any questions, please call Michael Thomas at 752-2080 ext. 127.

## NEW HYMNALS

The new hymnals are now in use in the church. If you are interested in donating a hymnal as a memorial or as a gift from your family to the church (this would also make a wonderful Christmas gift), please complete the form which is available in the back of church or in the parish office. The completed forms can be returned to the parish office with the \$15.00 payment.

If you have any questions, please call Leslie at 752-2080 ext. 110.



## Thomas More House *by Bob Guenther (SVDP)*

Months ago the parish community had the opportunity to purchase the residence referred to as the "Little Pink House" at 804 Ohio Pike, adjacent to the rectory. Upon purchase, with approval from the archdiocese the intent was to convert the house to a transitional residence for homeless families who were working toward a permanent solution to their housing problem. It is not an emergency shelter. The goal was to supply people, without permanent housing, with a shelter unburdened with rent or mortgage payments for a period of time in which they might accumulate savings toward a rent deposit or a down payment, thus advancing them toward self sufficiency in the housing need.

Tenants must be a viable family unit. Singles will not be accepted. Tenants will be screened to determine their desire to own or rent permanent housing. Tenants will be required to sign a tenancy agreement that spells out the Thomas More House rules. Breaking the rules is grounds for eviction. Maximum stay in the house will be six weeks. Any extension of the stay would be on a week to week basis, for serious reasons only.

All utilities, including heat, water and electricity are furnished by St. Thomas More's SVDP at no cost to the tenants. This ministry, with the assistance of the parish community, will maintain the premises in safe and sanitary condition with all utilities in working order. The house may be inspected at any time by the St. Thomas More SVDP to review housekeeping and maintenance. Failure of tenants to maintain good housekeeping and report needed repairs will result in immediate eviction.

The St. Thomas More St. Vincent de Paul Society is most appreciative of all the work done by our Youth Ministry, under the direction of Diane Brennan and the donations of household items and money by our parishioners. We are most appreciative of the continued generosity of our parishioners in supporting the work of this ministry. Additional expenses will be incurred with the operation of the Thomas More House, so please be generous with your monetary donations through our fifth Sunday collections and the SVDP boxes located at the church entrances. May God bless all of you abundantly.

**Does Your Baptism cont'd. .... It doesn't take rocket science to see that this age is far from holy also. Blessed Josemaria Escriva once said, "These world crises are crises of saints." In order to evangelize, we must have an eye out for the kingdom of God., working in our midst. We must ourselves experience a profound change of mind and heart, a change of life. Such a change can only arise from deep within the interior of one's being where one faces the truly important questions about human life. Such a change will show itself in the transformation of your life. Such a change is engendered by the action of the Holy Spirit where God teaches us that grace is a sheer gift. Our sincere response is necessary. God is calling you to be a saint. How are you responding?**

**GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES...** Religious upbringing means to grow in understanding the truths of human existence – who God is, who we are, where we are headed, what we must do and avoid in this life to win life eternal.

In his final words to his apostles, Christ said: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20). Down through the ages, our Church has done just this, taught everything that Christ taught, all that he commanded. In one age or another, some of Christ's teachings have been unpopular. Some of his church's doctrines have met with opposition. Regardless of "public opinion" or people's desire to believe selectively, the Church has been faithful to Christ's clear command. It is a curious thing, in fact, how picking and choosing what to believe leads, eventually, to a tattering of one's faith. As parents, we want the best for our children. We should take serious interest in our children's catechetical instruction. No study of theirs is more important to them or to you. The destiny of their soul depends on it. With this in mind, you are encouraged to discuss with your child the importance of our Catholic sacraments. Beginning this October, we will be offering confirmation preparation sessions. Confirmation is the sacrament that deepens the grace of Baptism, increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit and helps each of us evangelize and bear witness to our Christian faith in words and deeds. If you have an 8th grader or know a young/older adult interested in being confirmed this coming May, please call Becky Ready at 752-2080 ext. 154.

**Interested in Becoming Catholic???** Christ is the unique Teacher because his teaching is not merely a collection of abstract truths, but the Truth itself, the communication of the living mystery of God. In fact, Christ is the one teacher whose message is identical with himself. After he washed the feet of his apostles, he said to them, "You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am." This unique teacher pledged to be with his

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## From Peg Fischer, STM School Principal

While the halls are relatively quiet during the summer months, don't be fooled! The upcoming school year will bring some exciting improvements to our classrooms and facilities including...

- Wireless computer network
- Computer lab upgrade
- Smartboards in five classrooms
- New Software being installed
- Student photo id's with barcodes for the newly automated library.
- PTO funded the modular PA system, 4 additional sound-field units, and new storage facilities in Heider Hall.
- New science books for the junior high students and new social study books for the 4th graders.

STM has much to offer the families of the parish. Among private schools, our student:teacher ration of less than 20:1 is the lowest in the area. Additional certified instructors complement the instructional program, providing classes in art, music, computer, and physical education. Instructional music (band) and Spanish are provided as educational options after school. Remedial reading and math instruction, as well as speech therapy, help students meet their full educational potential. These enrichment programs and special support services culminate in an atmosphere that promotes academic excellence, spiritual growth and the development of social skills. Our teachers take a personal interest in each individual child and make great effort to meet specific learning needs.

Enrollment is still open in several of our grades. If you're looking for MORE for you child, and want a Catholic education, please call the school office @ 753-2540 or email [principal@sttm.org](mailto:principal@sttm.org).



## Interested In Becoming Catholic??

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Church until the end of the age. Together with his Father, Christ sent his Spirit to usher in the Kingdom of God. The mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit is brought to completion in the Church, which is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Would you or someone you know like to join this Body?

Our weekly catechetical sessions have begun for all those people desiring to enter the Catholic Church this coming Easter Vigil. If you or someone you know are interested in becoming Catholic, call Becky @ 752-2080 ext. 154.

## CALENDAR EVENTS

- 11/1 All Saints Day—Parish Office Closed
- 11/6 All Souls Mass 12PM
- 11/11 Veterans Day—Parish Office Closed
- 11/13-16 Parish Mission "Dare To Live The Gospel" 7-9PM refreshments following in the PDH.
- 11/19 Pick up contribution envelopes after every Mass & 20 in the Parish Hall.
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Day—Mass 10AM Parish Office Closed
- 11/25 No Mass - Parish Office Closed
- 12/4 Anointing of the Sick—2:00PM in Church
- 12/5 Parish Reconciliation - 7PM
- 12/8 Immaculate Conception—Parish Office Closed

## BINGO'S BACK !

BINGO is held on Thursday nights. Doors open @ 5pm and games begin @ 7 pm in the Dining Hall. Volunteers are needed...call Rhonda @ 257-9261 or Katrina @ 943-9440.



## BIBLE STUDY

A **New Bible Study Group**, directed by Fr. Bill, meets on Wednesday night in the Library at 7:30pm. We continue to hold our Wednesday morning study group in the Faith Formation Room at 9am. If you would like to participate, simply show up for the gathering.



## All Souls Memorial Mass November 6th—12pm

Parishioners whose relatives died since November 2004 are invited for a memorial gathering at St. Thomas More Church. Those whose funeral was held at STM will receive an invitation and all others are asked to complete the Memorial Mass form available in the back of church or in the parish office and return by October 28th. A candle will be provided in memory of each person at this Mass.



Gentiana citriata

We ask that you be present to carry it into Church. A reception will follow in the dining hall.

All parishioners are invited to add the names of any deceased person in the Book of Life. This book will be placed at the main entrance of Church in October for entries and displayed through November.

## Automatic Contributions and Envelope Pick Up

For your convenience, Sunday contributions can be automatically debited to your checking or savings account, or charged to your credit card. If you are interested in either method, please complete the appropriate side of the enclosed green form and return it to the Finance Office. You can mail it or drop it in the Sunday collection basket. This method ensures your contribution is made as requested and meets the criteria of the new Federal Check 21 law. It is easy to start, change, or stop upon your authorization and allows for the security of your account number. There is no fee for either service! The use of traditional checks will be used less and less as time goes forward. FYI...contribution envelopes can be picked up after all the Masses the weekend of November 19th & 20th in the Parish Dining Hall. Refreshments will be available.

## World Marriage Celebration

If you celebrated your 25th, 40th or 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2005, please call Diane McMullin @ 752-2080 ext. 114 in the parish office.



## BAPTISM CLASS

Baptism classes will now be held on the second Sunday of the month at 1:15pm in Conference Room C. Registration for this class is required. Please call Diane McMullin @ 752-2080 ext. 114 to register or if you have any questions.