



MORE About Us

4th Quarter, 2004

St. Thomas More Parish
Newsletter

RCL Chooses St. Thomas More to Film

By Becky Ready

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DON'T MISS THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS ISSUE:

- Lenten Schedule
- "One & Done" Form
- Capital Improvement Form
- Catholic Telegraph Form

The religion textbook series that we use at St. Thomas More is Faith First published by Resources in Christian Living (RCL). For over 40 years, RCL has produced catechetical materials for Catholic parishes and schools in the United States, Canada and other parts of the world. Their philosophy is simple—to create innovative, high-quality materials that meet the needs of their customers. Their fine resources have helped us in our important work of sharing our Catholic faith with

our children, young people, and adults. This year RCL has created a new textbook series currently just for parish programs. They are calling it the new Legacy Series. To promote this new series around the country and elsewhere, they decided to produce a new video. And guess who was chosen to be the official site for this promotional video? That's right! **St. Thomas More!** This past November a film crew along with RCL's vice president and others in their corporate staff came to us and guided us in the

process. The DRE, the Youth Minister, a family from Parish Council and several catechists were interviewed on camera. And then for two nights they filmed two catechists lead an intermediate group of children and a junior high group in a sample lesson from the new series. All in all, everyone had a great time. We feel truly honored to be a part of this new video. And now we await its initial showing around the country!



Important Dates:

- 2/3—New Parent Breakfast School Registration Begins
- 2/4—Ladies Night Out
- 2/5—Scout Mass
- 2/6—School Open House
- 2/9—Simple Supper
- 2/12—Marriage Dinner
- 2/13—RCIA Rite of Sending/Election
- 2/16—MOMS Begins
- 2/16, 2/23, 3/2, 3/16—Evensongs
- 2/18—Fish Fry's/Stations Begin
- 2/21—Lenten Day of Recollection
- 2/24, 3/17, 4/21—Confirmation Prep
- 3/3—First Communion Prep
- 3/5—Catechists Day of Retreat
- 3/7—Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Veronica
- 3/18—Youth Ministry Lock-In
- 4/23-24—Women's CRHP Renewal Weekend



RCL films Diane Brennan and Matt Malott with some of the junior high students as they go over a sample lesson from the new series.

Church Decked out for Christmas

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of Rosemary Weimer, the house of God was decorated beautifully for the Christmas season. Unfortunately, the day of the decorating was the day the snow storm began. Rosemary had help from volunteers that braved the bad weather and staff members to get the job done and get home before the roads got really bad. The outcome was not at all affected by the weather—it was gorgeous. Thank you Rosemary!

If you have an interest in helping to decorate the church, please call Rosemary Weimer at 528-5894. She can always use an extra set of hands and this can be a very fulfilling ministry.



Operation Rice Bowl to Kick Off on Ash Wednesday



This Lenten season, St. Thomas More will participate in *Operation Rice Bowl*, a program of Catholic Relief Services. This program calls Catholics in the United States to reach out in solidarity with the poor around the world through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. More than 14,600 parishes, schools, and faith communities participate in *Operation Rice Bowl* raising \$8.3 million in 2002 supporting projects of agriculture, water sanitation, maternal/child health, microfinance and job training in 40 countries around the world, with 75% of the contributions funding programs around the world and 25% funding those locally. Helping the victims of the recent Tsunami disaster is one of their current relief projects.

All parishioners, along with the Parish School of Religion and the STM school children, will be participating in this service project. Beginning Ash Wednesday, a receptacle will be available in the Church to receive your donations and will remain there throughout the Lenten Season. The PSR students will receive their *Operation Rice Bowl* packages in class and the STM School students will have a receptacle in each classroom. The students will also discover how *Operation Rice Bowl* helps us to learn about the members of our global family who suffer from poverty each day and encourage us to find Christ in each of our neighbors and those living in need. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, April 3, 2005. We ask each person to be generous in their prayers, fasting, and giving and to learn more about how you can make a difference. For additional information please visit the Catholic Relief website: www.catholicrelief.org.



TV Mass

The Archdiocese's Sunday TV Mass has moved from 5:30 am on WLWT/Ch. 5, to **9:00 am on WBQC/Ch. 38**. This new station is an affiliate of UPN network and the broadcast power has been greatly increased.

Confirmation Preparation Sessions

Sessions are just beginning for our 8th graders. If you are a young or older adult who has never been confirmed and would like to join this year's preparation sessions, call Becky Ready at 752-2080 Ext. 128 or e-mail bready@stm.org.

Have you been away from the Church for a while? Are you searching for answers for life's purpose? The Church has changed and you may not know it and be acting on misinformation. If you have questions or would like to discuss your concerns, please call Becky Ready at 752-2080 Ext. 128.

SEM Update *By Jody Bridges*

Thanks to everyone for your donations of food and toys for our Christmas Collection. God bless all of you for your generosity. For those of you not familiar, the Food Pantry in Mt. Washington operates all year long, helping needy in eastern Hamilton and western Clermont counties with food, utility bills, prescriptions, and other emergency needs. During the months of September and October combined, nearly 1,400 individuals were assisted. Money donated to the SEM Food Pantry is expanded seven-fold. For every \$1.00 donation the USDA states that the Pantry will be able to purchase \$7.00 worth of food/supplies so your dollar donation goes

a long distance. Our third Sunday of the month collection helps by reducing what must come from the Free Store/Food Bank. Please continue to be generous with our monthly collection. Call Jody Bridges at 752-6569 with any questions.



Give the Gift of Sight

We will again run our collection of used adult and children's eyeglasses during the months of February and March. The Southeastern Ecumenical Ministry (SEM), of which our parish is a member, is asking member churches to help the "Give the Gift of Sight"

program, which was started by Lenscrafters Corp. in 1988 with the help of Lyons Clubs around the world. Used eyeglasses are collected, cleaned, repaired and classified by prescription at recycling centers around the U.S. They are then hand delivered to developing countries by Lenscrafters associated doctors during international mission trips, and fitted to people needing these prescriptions.

Please bring your old glasses to church or school and place them in the boxes provided in the vestibule or library. In previous collections over 400 pairs of glasses were donated by St. Thomas More. We thank you for your continued support.

Breakfast with Baby Jesus

by Valerie Malott

On January 2nd we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with our annual "Breakfast with Baby Jesus" party. This was the second year the party has been hosted by our Elizabeth Ministry. Led by pre-school PSR coordinator, Kristyn Jossart, the children from our pre-school PSR program dressed as kings and gave spiritual gifts to the baby Jesus. During the children's procession, attendees sang "We Three Kings." The children then treated us to hearty renditions of "Joy to the World" and "Jingle Bells." We topped off the celebration by serving birthday cake in honor of our Lord.

The parishioners in attendance were overwhelming in their generosity. Wrapped baby gifts were brought and have been donated to help families through A Caring Place pregnancy center and our parish's Elizabeth Ministry. What is Elizabeth



Ministry? This ministry is based on the Scripture story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Elizabeth Ministry is an international movement within the Catholic Church designed to support women and their families during the joys, challenges and sorrows of the childbearing years and beyond. This outreach includes pregnancy and

pregnancy complications; birth, infant or child crisis, fertility and infertility concerns; adoption; miscarriage stillbirth, and infant or child death; and grand parenting issues. The Elizabeth Ministry responds to these needs by offering personal visits, meals, small remembrance gifts and prayers.

WHAT'S NEW AND COMING UP AT STM



Simple Supper Ash Wednesday, February 9th

Join us as we come together as a faith community and begin the Lenten season with a *Simple Supper* at 6:00 pm in the Parish Dining Hall. A meal of soup, salad and bread will be served. There is no charge for this meal, but please call Diane in the Parish Office (752-2080 Ext. 114) to RSVP by February 4th with the number of persons planning on attending.



“Year of the Eucharist” Series of Talks Tuesday Evenings, April 5th—26th, 7:30 pm

We will be offering a series of lectures during the month of April. Please join us in church at 7:30 pm to celebrate the “Year of the Eucharist.” A reception will follow each evening in the Parish Dining Hall.

- 4/5 The Eucharist & Justice—Deacon Bill Krumm
- 4/12 The Eucharist & Morality—Fr. Mike Seger
- 4/19 The Eucharist & Spirituality—Fr. Terry Smith
- 4/26 The Eucharist & The Word—Fr. Del Staigers



MOMS (Ministry of Moms Sharing) Wednesday Evenings Feb. 16th—April 6th, 7:00 pm

MOMS meetings will begin on Wednesday, February 16th and run for seven weeks every Wednesday (except March 30th) through April 6th in the library. This is a great opportunity to share with mothers of all ages experiences that have influenced your personal growth. Come and experience the support of other women while discovering the depth of your own spirituality.

To register or to ask questions, please call Becky Ready 752-2080 Ext. 128 or Diane McMullin Ext. 114.



Youth Ministry Update

Lock-In: Mark your calendars for March 18th

New Meeting Time: Beginning in February, the new meeting times for Youth Ministry are:

- 6:00—7:15 High School
- 7:15—9:00 Jr. High and High School

Monthly Potluck Dinners: Instead of the usual meetings on the last Sunday of each month, we will have a Family Potluck Dinner which will begin at 6:00 pm in the Parish Dining Hall. All family members are welcome!

Singles Group

As of mid-January, there is no longer a Singles ministry at STM. If you are interested in a 30+ Catholic singles Group through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, they meet every 3rd Friday of the month at alternating locations. You can get additional information by contacting Tony @ 859/431-1915 or Sue @ 859/331-1144 or visit www.thirtypluscs.catholicweb.com.

Other Single Organizations:

Eastside New Visions (for separated, divorced, widowed)
Contact: Joyce Ewers—753-1345

River (21 & over)
Contact: Scott Dover—478-8851



Introducing STM's New “One and Done” Program

Don't miss the red sheet enclosed with this issue! If you would like to contribute to the parish by using your skills and talents, but are unable to commit on a regular or long-term basis, we have just the answer...THE “ONE AND DONE” PROGRAM. It is exactly what it's name says. You tell us your skills and what you are able to do and as projects come up where these skills are required, we may give you a call. At that point it is up to you to accept the project, once it is completed—you are DONE! It's just that simple! STM is very fortunate to have so many giving parishioners and we are hoping that this is just one other possibility. **You can turn in your form at the Parish Office, drop it off in the “ONE AND DONE” box at the doors of the church or put it in the mail if that's more convenient.**



SCHOOL REGISTRATION & OPEN HOUSE:

Registration for the 2005-2006 school year at St. Thomas More School will begin on Thursday, February 3rd with our *New Parent Breakfast* which begins at 8:30 am in Conference Room B. The breakfast will feature a tour of the school and a question/answer session with the Principal. Registrations will be accepted beginning on that date. Registration packets may be picked up in the vestibule of the church, at the School Office, or at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Please call the school at **753-2540** to register for the breakfast. The open house will be held on Sunday, February 6th from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Tours will be provided. “Meet the Principal” sessions will be held at 1:30, 2:00 & 2:30 pm.