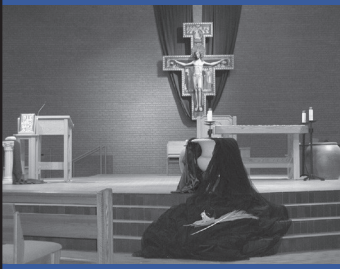


First Quarter  
2006



# The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## JOIN IN ST. VINCENT'S 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMING UP ON FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2006!

For the last one hundred fifty years or so, St. Vincent DePaul Parish has been expanding—our census rose steadily; we have had nearly continuous building programs and site development projects. Even now, demographic studies characterize our area as a zone of growth. This is good. We look forward to the challenge. But we had a beginning here and while we are on the cusp of new things, remembering where we came from is very important.

This little corner of Minnesota was blessed with faith-filled people; courageous, generous laypersons and dedicated, selfless clergy who set down strong foundations so that a steady beam of faith could shine from the point of the steeple. We need to hold on to the memories of our beginnings; this is really a very effective way to ensure that we have a future. Let us be clear, buildings and programs are essential to a growing and vital parish; but what really gives a parish (or any other institution) meaning and substance are the people. If buildings are the bones of a parish, the people are its lifeblood.

**And so we invite all parishioners to share their mementos of the faith, the faith of their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents on February 25 and February 26 at a "History Fair."**

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE STILL NEEDED!

We are still looking for some more parishioners to join the committee that puts together this newsletter. Now that we have two issues "under our belts," we can provide some more specifics on what it would entail: **The time commitment is relatively small—about 6-10 hours per issue.** (We plan on putting out 4 issues per year.) We generally meet in the early evenings at the church and also share ideas and articles via e-mail.

There are several ways to do this:

- **Bring in** the photos, sacramental certificates, and other documents that you have collected as part of your family memorabilia to the parish office.

For example: Grandma's First Communion picture, family photos taken in the vicinity of the old church, your great grandfather's baptismal certificate. Maybe some of your pictures are with the clergy who served here or the sisters who taught at the school. These items will be accepted until February 10, 2005. Please be assured that we will handle all your treasures with respect; we will duplicate whenever it is possible and return the precious originals to you in a timely fashion.

- **Volunteer** to help with duplicating the collected materials and returning them to the donors or to help with display set-up and hosting at the fair.
- **Show up!** Especially those of you who have had long-term family connections to our church. Share your memories at the history fair.

#### Interested in learning more?

Contact Paul Beckfeld ([pkbuild@aol.com](mailto:pkbuild@aol.com)) or call Sister Nora at the parish office—763-424-9833.

— Sr. Nora Klewicki, Staff Member

We would love to have a committee that is representative of the parish—one that includes people with a variety of interests and experiences. Once again, we extend to you, the members of our parish community, an invitation to discern if you have the time, talent and interest to be part of our volunteer editorial team. **If so, please call Sr. Nora at (763) 425-2210 for more information about this opportunity!**

## WE HAVE A WINNER!

Hopefully you noticed the new name of the newsletter on the front page. We are very grateful to all of you who submitted names — we received over 40 different suggestions! We were very impressed by the creativity and thought that went in to your ideas, and are grateful to everyone who participated.

After much deliberation, we chose the name “The St. Vincent Voice” which was submitted by Matt Reising. We chose the name because we hope that this newsletter will become the “voice” of the parishioners of St. Vincent’s.

Matt will be the recipient of a \$25 Gift Certificate to Northwestern Book Store—a local Christian store that carries many of the books mentioned in articles in our previous issue.

For more Catholic books as well as other Catholic items, remember to visit St. Vincent’s Gift Shop, which is open before and after all the weekend Masses.

Also, check out the sidebar article on pg. 3 for some guidance on how to sift through the many books available to find one that is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

## ASK FATHER

Fr. Jack or Fr. Williams Answer Parishioner’s Questions



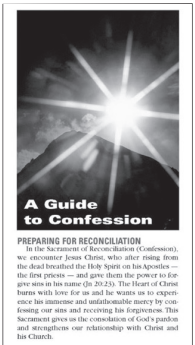
### Q. Since God knows I'm sorry, why confess to priest?

**A.** This is a good question. Catholics must realize that when they are confessing their sins they are confessing to God in the person of the priest. The priest through the sacrament of Holy Orders becomes the persona of Christ. That puts a lot of responsibility on the priest and the penitent. The priest needs to pray and prepare to listen to the penitent. And the penitent needs to prepare and examine their conscience so that they are able to confess.

**Confession is the external sign of internal sorrow. Through it we meet the person of Christ in the person of the priest and face our own sinful condition in the eyes of God. Confessing to a priest also places sin out into the open, thus emphasizing the social dimension.** One of our spiritual problems is that we don't consider how our sins affect the community. We should always confess while keeping in mind God's loving mercy.

The Church requires us to confess the serious sins once a year. The sacrament of Reconciliation is the sole, ordinary means for Catholics conscious of mortal sin to be reconciled with God and the church. In this sacrament, Christ tells each person through the priest, "I forgive you, go in peace."

*Editor's Note: There are several copies of an excellent pamphlet called "A Guide to Confession" located in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at the back of the Church. It address both the preparation and the procedure for Reconciliation.*



**Q. I attended Mass twice in Mexico. Both parishes refused to give communion in the hand. One time the host was dipped in the wine before it was given to us. Why is the custom different? Is there a problem with dipping the host in the wine before receiving it? I understood we do not allow dipping the host in the wine in our parish.**

**A.** First of all I want to correct your question. We need to carefully consider our language when it comes to the Eucharist. You stated that at one parish the host was “dipped in the wine”. Remember—we must refer to it as the "Precious Blood," since distribution of Communion happens after the Eucharistic prayer.

**Now to your question: The Vatican delegates this issue to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.** I'm willing to bet that the bishop of the diocese in Mexico doesn't allow communion in the hand. Here we have been given that privilege by the National Conference. The proper way of receiving the Precious Blood is drinking from a cup. Dipping the host is called intinction. The Bishops of the United States have told us not to do that. I don't believe that the people at the Last Supper took their "bread" at the time and dipped it into the cup. Rather, the practice was to drink from a cup. When we provide Communion under both species, we offer the Cup from which to drink. But as I said, the conference of bishops in Mexico probably legislated it that way. When in Rome.... do as the Romans.

### Submit Your Questions!

If you have a question for Fr. Jack or Fr. Williams, please mail it to  
**Attn: St. Vincent Voice Editor** at the church, or e-mail it to [editor@saintvdp.org](mailto:editor@saintvdp.org).  
Please title it, "Ask Father."

Although we cannot accept anonymous questions, you can request that your name not be published in the newsletter.

# PREPARING FOR LENT

Deacon Sean Curtan Shares Some Ideas for this Important Season

The first part of the liturgical year opened with a warning that time is short. But now the season of Lent, with its ancient penitential associations, suggests that time can be long. **Whether time feels long or short depends on whom we spend it with. Forty days can move swiftly when every day promises some time with someone who loves us.** Commitment to a daily appointment with Love itself could have a dramatic impact on the rest of our schedules.

Lent is spring cleaning for the soul and spirit as well as the body. Lent is spring training, a practice session for the rest of our lives. We must remember the original meaning of Lent, as the Church's "Holy Spring," in which the catechumens were prepared for their baptism and public penitents were made ready by penance for their restoration to the sacramental life in a communion with the rest of the Church.

**Lent is not a season of punishment so much as one of healing.** There is joy in the fasting and abstinence of the Christian who eats and drinks less in order that their minds may become more clear and receptive to receive the sacred nourishment of God's word, which the whole Church announces and meditates upon in each day's liturgy throughout Lent.

The whole life teachings of Christ pass before us, and Lent is a season of special reflection and prayer, a forty-day retreat in which each Christian, to the extent that they are able, tries to follow Christ into the desert by prayer and fasting. The truth that Ash Wednesday will not let us forget is that our lives will someday end. So as we begin Lent, let us answer Christ's invitation to a life of union with Him and recognize your value in God's sight.

Lent is a special time to recognize Christ's love in the Eucharist. As the Eucharist makes Christ ever present, we are united with Christ and we are given strength on our spiritual growth journey. The Eucharist repairs and heals us but also challenges us, so we should receive Communion frequently. As Jesus said, "I am the Living

Bread, which came down from Heaven. He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in Me and I in them." **Make that appointment of love with Jesus by spending time in Adoration. Bring the whole family as you sit and look at Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and He looks at you.** It is an appointment that will change your lives.

Take the time during Lent to let Christ dwell within you and let Christ's life grow within you as you find union with Jesus in your vocation. Bring Jesus into your daily routine in your thoughts, word and actions. Live and show the gospel of love to those you meet during the day. As we begin Lent, let us rest in Jesus by sharing our sorrows, allowing Him to heal our sinfulness. Let our imperfections draw us closer to Jesus this Lenten Season. **Our Lent might well begin with an honest assessment of our daily schedules to find one activity from which we could "fast" to make room for an appointment with the One who loves us most...God.**

Please remember during the Lenten Season the many opportunities available at St. Vincent's to enhance your time with God:

- **Perpetual Adoration:** available in the Chapel, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Lenten Suppers:** every Friday in Lent just before the Stations of the Cross
- **The Stations of the Cross:** available every Friday in Lent, beginning at 7:00 pm. Spend an hour remembering Jesus' journey to the cross.
- **Daily Mass:** every morning at 8:00 am in either the chapel or main church.

— Deacon Sean Curtan, Staff Member

## Some Catholic Book Resources Recommended by our Committee:

- Bread of Life Bookstore (Elk River, MN)
- Apostle Books & Gifts (Minnetonka, MN)
- St. Patrick's Guild, the Leaflet Missal Company, or Luther Seminary's Catholic Section (all are located in St. Paul, MN)
- On the Internet: [www.EWTN.com/catalogue](http://www.EWTN.com/catalogue)

## HOW TO FIND A GOOD CATHOLIC BOOK

Due to the sheer volume of "Catholic" books available at both local and online book stores, we thought it would be helpful to discuss one factor that helps to determine the faithfulness of the book to the teachings of the Church—the presence of the **Imprimatur** (usually located within the first few pages of the book).

The procedure works like this: when a Catholic writes a book on faith, morals, theology, liturgy, etc., he or she will submit the manuscript to the diocese's Censor. If the Censor finds no problem with it, he will give it his stamp, which reads "Nihil Obstat," or "nothing stands in the way." He then sends it to the Bishop for his review. If the Bishop finds nothing objectionable, he gives the book his "Imprimatur" which means, "let it be printed."

Please know that the presence of an Imprimatur does not mean that a book is an official text of the Church. It doesn't even mean that everything in the book is accurate, only that there is nothing in it that contradicts Catholic dogma. Also, the *absence* of the Imprimatur does not necessarily negate the value of the work—not all authors will seek the Imprimatur.

Overall, however, while occasionally a book is approved and its Imprimatur is later recalled, this procedure is an important way for Catholics to increase their chances of staying error-free with regard to doctrine.

# REMEMBERING... The

# Christmas Bazaar



The Resound music group sang Christmas carols at the Bazaar in the gym after 7:30 Mass (notice Tess Eiden's cup of coffee!) Continuing from left to right after Tess are Marilyn Webber and Kayla, Kathy & John Ryan.



One of the 54 crafters who displayed & sold their wares.



The success of the Bazaar would not be possible each year without our many dedicated volunteers.



Joyce & Polly Deane are long-time helpers with the Christmas Bazaar. It's the commitment and creativity of our parishioners that allow our parish to host such wonderful events.

**We hosted 54 crafters who purchased 76.5 spaces. They used 39 tables.**



Annette Schnabel & Pat Stender posed with Santa.



Looks like parishioner Russ Funk is still a kid at heart!

**The Christmas Bazaar is a fundraiser for Religious Education at St. Vincent's.**

**The Craft Fair at the Bazaar brought in \$3,225.00!**



Pam Minger served gourmet coffees, hot chocolate and more at Java Joe's.



The Slice of Heaven Bakery provided lots of "heavenly" treats for attendees—and all the baking was done by parish volunteers.



The Christmas Bazaar offered many great activities for the children of the parish, including the chance for pictures with Santa! Here's Natalie Richards giving a big hug to the big guy!



It's the Claus...errr...Watson family! Thanks to Shawn & Jennifer and their children Joseph & Michael.

# SEPARATED & DIVORCED MINISTRY

A New Ministry at St. Vincent's Offers Support and Education

The pain of divorce is something that can never be fully understood by someone who has not walked the road. Divorces involve so many emotions - fear, betrayal, anger, loneliness - we can easily become exhausted to the point of complete despair. Having taken the journey myself, I now appreciate how the gift of a church community is so vital to the healing and growth process during and after a divorce.

St. Vincent de Paul offers a divorce support group for anyone separated or encountering divorce. Each group meets one night a week for two months. The next group will begin meeting in February. This is an opportunity for individuals to work through the experience and feelings associated with separation and divorce by talking with others who face similar challenges. I don't believe that divorce is sim-

Dates for the next series of meetings:

Mondays from  
6:30 to 8:00 pm,  
Feb. 13 to Apr. 3  
(inclusive)

ply the division of a married couple. With so many family and friends involved, in a real sense, divorce is the destruction of a small community. But it's not something you need to go through alone.

I truly believe the attendees of this group greatly benefit from the time spent sharing their feelings in one of the most difficult periods of their life. It's a tremendous opportunity to be with others in a safe and confidential environment where feelings and experiences can be exchanged. I strongly encourage anyone facing a divorce to take advantage of groups like this one knowing that there are people who are there to walk with you during this difficult time.

— *Chip English, Parishioner*

For more info, call Sr. Nora at 425-2210.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Feb. 11: Cana Marriage Retreat, Dinner and Dance
- Feb. 12: Grief Support Group (1st Meeting)
- Feb. 13: Divorced & Separated Support Group (1st Meeting)
- Feb. 14: Guest Speaker on Prophecy (1st Meeting)
- Feb. 25 & 26: Parish History Fair
- March 1: Ash Wednesday
- March 11: Auction for Education
- April 2: Daylight Savings Time
- April 9: Palm Sunday
- April 14: Good Friday
- April 16: Easter Sunday

### The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

- Sr. Nora Klewicki, Staff Member
- Janice Gabrick, Parish Council Member
- Rose Kahnke, Parish Council Member
- Marci Siers, Parish Council Member
- Nikelle Morris, Editor/Designer, Parishioner

For info on joining the committee, contact Sr. Nora at 763-425-2210.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Here's another local opportunity to volunteer your time to offer aid to those in need: Feed My Starving Children is a local organization with sites in Brooklyn Park and Eagan where volunteers package food to send around the world.



In 2004 more than 23,000 volunteers, the majority under the age of 18, visited the FMSC facilities to manually assemble meal packages for hungry children. Each package contains six nutritionally rich meals consisting of several components:

1. Rice, the most widely accepted grain around the world.
2. Extruded soy nuggets, providing maximum protein at lowest cost.
3. Vitamins, minerals and a vegetarian chicken flavoring to give growing children the critical nutritional elements they need.
4. Dehydrated vegetables for flavor and nutrition.

In 2004 more than 5.8 million meals were packaged by volunteers and shipped to hungry children in orphanages, schools and clinics around the world.

You can make group reservations to package food, or take advantage of walk-in nights for individuals or very small groups. For more information, visit their website at [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org), or call the Brooklyn Park location at 763-504-2919.

## Do YOU have an article idea or pictures to share?

If so, please send them to: Attn. St. Vincent Voice Editor, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 9100 93rd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445 (All photos will be returned.)

## Cana Day Retreat & Dinner Dance



The Cana Day Retreat and Dinner Dance gives married couples an opportunity to reflect on their vocation during the day retreat portion of the event.

Where did we start, where are we going, where do we want to be? Do we see ourselves as living a sacramental life, the plan that God intended for us? Do we want more for our marriage? We also have an opportunity to pray together during the evening prayer service, and to recommit ourselves to our marriages. We conclude with a real celebration of the sanctity of marriage, with a delicious dinner in Regan Hall followed by a "wedding dance."

Please consider spending some dedicated, quality time together as a couple, and join us for this celebration. Check your bulletin for further information.

The Cana Day Retreat and Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2006, with the day retreat from 11:00 to 2:00 with lunch and daycare provided, prayer service at 6:30 and dinner dance from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

## FAMILY CORNER

Make "Resurrection Eggs" with Your Children to Teach them the Passion

First, purchase 12 plastic Easter eggs, the kind that you can open and fill. (We recommend the size that can fit in a Styrofoam or cardboard egg carton. You can reuse one from the grocery store.) This makes for easy storage so that you can use these many times without losing any of the bits and pieces.

If possible, try and have each of the 12 eggs a different color. This makes it easier as well. If having 12 different colors isn't an option, use a permanent marker to write the number 1 through 12 on each egg and then put them in the egg carton. Into each egg place the item and scripture reference written on a small piece of paper.

Open one egg each day, starting 12 days before Easter. Read the message aloud to



the family and look up the Scripture in the Bible. Pray together, thanking the Lord for that particular aspect of the crucifixion and resurrection.

1. **A piece of palm branch (Another option for those of you with extra Lego parts would be to place a small plastic leaf in the egg):** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches. (Matthew 21:1-11)
2. **Small perfume sample or cloth with perfume:** Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. (John 12:2-8)
3. **Chex cereal, or take clay and make a small bread-like shape:** Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples. (Matthew 26:17-19)
4. **3 dimes or plastic "silver" money:** Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. (Matthew 27:3)
5. **Toothpicks or popsicle sticks cut and glued in a cross form; or, a small plastic cross from a Christmas ornament or necklace:** Jesus carried His own cross. (John 19:17)
6. **Small thorny branch, or a large thorn all by itself:** Soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)
7. **Swatch of burlap and/or miniature dice:** Soldiers parted Jesus' garments and cast lots for His coat. (John 19:23)
8. **A nail:** Jesus was nailed to a cross and pierced in His side. (John 19:18,37 & John 20:25-29)
9. **A small sponge:** They gave Jesus vinegar mixed with gall on a sponge to drink. (Matthew 27:34)
10. **Whole cloves:** Spices to prepare Jesus for burial. (John 19:40)
11. **A small rock:** The stone covering Jesus' tomb was rolled away. (John 20:1)
12. **A scrap of linen-type fabric:** The cloth around Jesus' head was lying separately from His linen clothes. He was not there. He has risen! (John 20:6-7)

## THE GIFTS OF MASS

*(continued from page 8)*

started to view the Mass as an opportunity to receive it. Now I understand that weekly Mass is an opportunity to receive Grace in many forms: the grace to be a better mother to my two toddlers, the grace to look at my husband with loving eyes even though we might have quarreled earlier (usually about something that seems trivial in the presence of the body of Jesus Christ up there on the altar); the grace of the Holy Spirit to aid me when I am faced with difficulties in life both large and small, and in countless other ways.

This article was difficult to write because I regret the time in my life when I made so many poor decisions. However, I hope that by writing this article I might be able to reach out to your heart, if you are one of the many people who do not attend weekly Mass. **I promise that the gifts of Mass are waiting for you, too, if you will make the choice to come and to participate in the prayers and singing.** Look for opportunities to make the Church and the Mass a priority in your life, and you will be repaid a hundred times more than you give. I know I have been.

# MORE ABOUT THE PASTORAL MINISTRIES

St. Vincent's Offers a Wide Variety of Help to Those in Need—Perhaps including You!

“The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World” is a Second Vatican Council document that puts a good perspective on what pastoral ministry should be.

The use of the preposition “in” as it is used in the title is important. It indicates that the Church is not separate from the world, but is “in” the world. It stresses that the church exists not in domination but as servant. The Constitution states, “the Church seeks but a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ Himself under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not sit in judgment, to serve and not to be served.”

The Pastoral Ministry Department at St. Vincent's is always striving to grow in service, not only to our parishioners, but also to our local community and beyond.

**Our pastoral care team is concerned with the aged, the sick and the bereaved.** We have programs to visit people in their homes; the hospital and long term care centers. We do communion/word services at senior residences each week. We have a newly formed Grief Support Group. We offer assistance in funeral planning and preside at vigil services. Each year a memorial service is held to honor the loved ones of parishioners and the community who have died within the past year. We provide transportation to individuals no longer able to drive to Mass. We host a once monthly senior luncheon for 200 plus seniors from the area.

**We have multiple programs to assist families during times of crisis.** We administer charitable assistance, distribute Christmas baskets, and make professional referrals when needed. The BeFriender Ministry Program consists of trained lay ministers who provide friendship

and support to individuals in crisis. This year we created a support group for the separated and divorced. We initiated a very successful program to serve a meal at Sharing and Caring Hands once a month, and hope to expand on such ministries.

A group of trained lay ministers mentor engaged couples, guiding them in discussion based on the use of the Prepare Program. We have an annual Cana Dinner and Retreat once a year for our married couples.

**Our goal, along with the rest of the staff, is to expand ministry to include programs that support our faith family in all stages of life.** We are truly striving to carry out the work of Jesus Christ with the help of the befriending Spirit “in” in the world of today.

— Judi Strega, Staff Member

**Editor's Note:** If you think you might benefit from the services of our pastoral ministries, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Judi or Sr. Nora at the Parish Office at 763-425-2210.



## ANOTHER BOOK RECOMMENDATION FROM OUR NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

### 2006 At Home with the Word

by James Chukwuma Okoye, Anne Elizabeth Sweet, and Mary Ellen Hynes

At Home with the Word invites everyone to be at home with God's Word. It contains scriptures & reflections, readings for Trinitium, suggestions for practice of faith, hope, & charity, psalms, prayers and the Mass. Paperback 8 X 10 inches, 160 pages.

Available at many Catholic book stores and web sites for about \$8.

**Please give us some feedback on The St. Vincent Voice. We want to create a publication that will serve the needs of our parishioners.**

What topics would you like to see addressed in this newsletter?

How can this newsletter most benefit you as a parishioner?

What questions do you have about the Catholic faith that we might address?

**Please cut out and return this form to:** Attn. St. Vincent Voice Editor,  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 9100 93rd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

**Or e-mail your feedback to:** editor@saintvdp.org

Other comments:

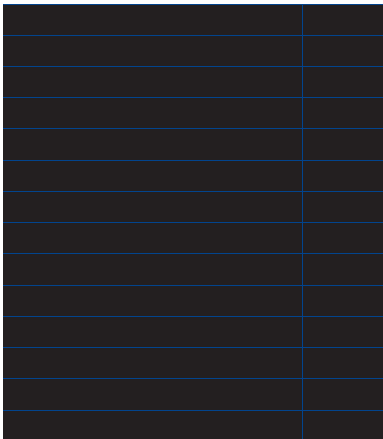


## The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

9100 93rd Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55455

### Inside this issue:



# THE GIFTS OF WEEKLY MASS

## One Parishioner Shares Why Her Reasons for Attending Weekly Mass Have Changed Over Time

"When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things."

— I Cor. 13:11

**This quote might be more accurate for me if it said, "When I was a twenty-something..."** That's because I can now look back and know that during my mid-20's I acted childish in many ways—not the least of which was my drifting away from the practice of weekly Mass attendance. Of course, I felt I had good "reasons" for it:

1. I worked late as a waitress and none of the Mass times fit into my schedule. (Of course, I never looked outside my local parish for alternative times to attend.)
2. I didn't want to be a hypocrite by attending Mass when I wasn't following all the teachings of the Church. (Thus ensuring that I wouldn't be exposed to the nudges to my conscience that might make me feel guilty for the poor choices I was making in my life.)
3. I didn't think I should be forced to spend an hour at church when I could talk to God any time I wanted at home. (Forgetting about the 4th Commandment and

the importance of the Eucharist & communal prayer.)

The list could go on, but it's enough to say that at the time I thought that the benefits of Mass could never outweigh the trouble it took to get there every week. Of course, I never did manage to stamp out the voice of God in my heart that kept calling me back—and for that I am more grateful than I can express.

Luckily, God was gracious enough to bring a wonderful man into my life when I was 27 years old. I knew pretty quickly that I wanted to marry him, and that I wanted to cleanse my life and return to faithfulness in the Catholic Church. At first, it wasn't easy to get back in the habit of weekly attendance—I **came more out of a sense of obligation than a sense of anticipation**. I came because it was required, but it took time for my appreciation of the Mass to grow. Now, eight years later, I see it as a weekly gift from God to me: for me, Mass is about GRACE.

I remember my Mom talking about Grace when I was young, and I learned the definition in Catholic grade school. Still, I never really understood Grace until I

*(Continued on page 6)*