

WHAT IS THE PASTORAL COUNCIL? ...AND WHAT DOES IT DO?



The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

The purpose of the Pastoral Council of St. Vincent de Paul is to demonstrate leadership for all spiritual matters relating to the parish, provide an open forum for input and represent views of parish members, promote participation of laity in activities of the parish, create and continue to evaluate the mission and vision of the parish and to serve as a consultative body for the pastor.

The council consists of 9 parishioners in addition to our Pastor, our Parochial Vicar and our Business Manager. In lieu of elections this year, parishioner members will be chosen through a discernment process. The discernment process began in March, with informational meetings for interested parishioners that were advertised in the bulletin. Terms begin in June. Parishioner terms are for 3 years and have a limit of 2 terms. The council meets monthly for 1 1/2 to 2 hours except during the months of December and July when no meeting is scheduled. There is a yearly day retreat in September to foster growth as a group. Members are expected to be active participants in various ways including sub-groups and parish events. Recently council



Pictured from left to right: Earl Sheppard, Fr. Peter Williams, Rose Kahnke, Janice Gabrick, Tom McMullen, Judy Randall, Marci Siers, Norm Olafson, Fr. Jack Long, Paul Beckfeld, & Betty Bartos (Jim Merickel not pictured)

members have begun wearing name tags when they attend church so that they can be more easily identified by other parishioners — so please don't hesitate to approach one of them with your input.

Current council members are Tom McMullen - Council Chair, Jim Merickel - Co-Chair, Judy Randall, Earl Sheppard, Janice Gabrick, Rose Kahnke, Marci Siers, Paul Beckfeld, and Betty Bartos. Father Jack, Father Peter, and our Business Manager Norm Olafson attend all Pastoral Council meetings in their capacity as administrators. As a council we would like to hear and represent your concerns:

- **Tom McMullen:** (763) 425-0227 or e-mail: tpm1175@aol.com
- **Marci Siers:** (763) 420-9460
- **Janice Gabrick:** (763) 493-4645

— Marci Siers, Pastoral Council Member

NEW PARISH TRUSTEE Trustees Serve as Layperson Representatives

What is the role of a Parish Trustee? There are two Trustees in each of the separately incorporated 220 parishes of the Archdiocese. Trustees are volunteer laypersons appointed by the Pastor and approved by the Archbishop. They hold the positions of Treasurer and Secretary of the Parish Corporation, and together with the Archbishop, Vicar General, and Pastor, serve as members of the

Board of Directors.

As members of the Board, the Trustees help the Pastor



Jason Coffel (left) is congratulated as Treasurer and Trustee of St. Vincent de Paul Church by Mark Scherer.

(Continued on page 5)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The **Make-A-Wish Foundation® of MN** is dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

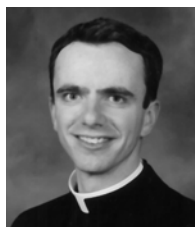
Some types of help you could offer: General Office; Help from home – Mailings, updating scrap-books and phone calls; Speakers; Meeters and Greeters; Fundraising and Special events, etc. To contact them, call 612-767-9474 or visit: www.wishmn.org.

Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that offers services to help their clients enter the workforce and stay employed. Each client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a week's worth of separates when she gets the job. The **Dress for Success Professional Women's Group** then provides ongoing support to help the client build a successful career.

Volunteer opportunities include: Monetary Donations; Donate your Suits; Personal Shopper; Sorting; Office work; Professional services; Organize a fundraising event; Tell your friends about Dress for Success! To Contact this foundation or to learn more about how you can help, call (877) 977-3224 or visit: www.dressforsuccess.org

ASK FATHER

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



Q. Why do we need to attend Mass weekly?

A. The obligation to attend Mass each week derives from our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospels tell us that Jesus rose from the dead "on the first day of the week."

The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and His Eucharist has, therefore, been at the heart of the Church's life from the very beginning. In a letter to the Roman Emperor in the year 151 AD, St. Justin Martyr explains: "We [Christians] all gather on the day of the sun, for it is the first day when God, separating matter from darkness, made the world; and on this same day Jesus Christ our Savior rose from the dead."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it this way: "The celebration of Sunday observes the moral commandment inscribed in nature in the human heart to render to God an outward, visible, public, and regular worship 'as a sign of His universal beneficence to all.' Sunday worship fulfills the moral command of the Old Covenant ['Keep holy the Sabbath'], taking up its rhythm and spirit in the weekly celebration of the Creator and Redeemer of his people" (CCC 2176).

If we really think about the great mystery that we are invited to participate in each and every week, we wouldn't even think about missing Mass. On the one hand, it is not so much that we "need" to attend Mass, but rather that we have the unspeakable privilege of attending Mass. And in doing so we make room for the powerful presence of God in our lives. On the other hand, if the truth be told, we really do need to attend Mass! Men and women cannot live rightly without giving thanks to God; men and women cannot live spiritually without worshiping God; and men and women cannot live authentically joyful lives in Christ Jesus without eating His flesh and drinking His blood.

Q. I've wondered about this since my husband and I attended the Eucharistic Congress--why is the Eucharist not specifically mentioned in either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed? (submitted by parishioner Deb Edstrom)

A. Each Sunday after the homily we recite the Nicene Creed as a community. The Nicene Creed draws its great authority from the fact that it stems from the first two ecumenical Councils (in 325 and 381). And as you rightly observe, there is no explicit mention of our belief in the Eucharist in this brief summary of our Catholic faith (or the Apostles' Creed for that matter).

The reason for this is actually easier to account for than you might initially think: the Church only clarified particular teachings when they were opposed or challenged. The Creed developed, in fact, as the fruit of mistaken or false teachings. In other words, professing our belief in the Divinity of Jesus in the words "eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one Being with the Father" only occurred as a result of being called into question.

The fact that our belief in the Eucharist never made it into the Creed is because our belief in the Eucharist as the true and living Presence of Jesus Christ (Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity) was never seriously in doubt or questioned until much later in the history of the Church. That in itself should tell us something — namely, that the Eucharist has always been the accepted source and summit of the Church's life.

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. Please title it, "Ask Father."

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

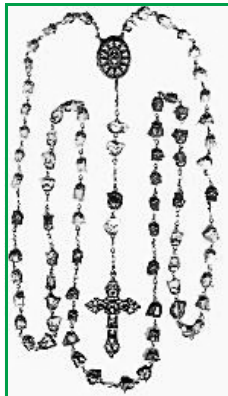
THE WAYS WE PRAY

One Parishioner Shares How the Rosary Has Played a Role in Her Prayer Life

We were one of those large Catholic families that said the rosary during May. Mom would try to have flowers from the garden, but sometimes we just used the wild grass plumes collected the previous summer to decorate our little altar on top of the buffet. We always lit a candle, and only once did the candle and the dried plumes get too close together. We knelt using our kitchen chairs as pews, and for 15 minutes there would be a calm in our home of 15 that was not usual. The littlest children sat on the chairs while we older ones knelt in front of them making a game out of keeping them entertained while we prayed. We learned the mechanics before we understood why we said the rosary.

As a first grader I came to notice the seven decade rosaries worn by the Sisters of St. Francis. We also were introduced to the mission rosaries with 5 different colors representing the areas of the world in need of prayer. When I visited Medjugorje, I became aware of the small rosary of seven triplets (an "Our Father," a "Hail Mary," and a "Glory Be"), that was popular in the area. I discovered that the history and development of reciting the rosary is as long and involved as the history of formal prayers in the Church. By the 13th century, Catholics were reciting a rosary of 50 Hail Mary's. This devotion was developed during medieval times as a substitute for the Liturgy of the Hours according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

When I consulted the Catechism to see what the Church says about honoring Mary with devotions, I found that the Church believes "devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship". Also, "This very special devotion ... differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration." The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and



7 Decade Rosary

Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary." (CCC 971)

Fr. John Corapi, a well known lecturer appearing on EWTN and elsewhere, tells the story of his salvation from a life on the streets. He believes it began with a holy card his mother gave him with a picture of the Blessed Virgin and the Hail Mary. He said when he reached his lowest point he remembered his mother saying that he had tried everything else, now he should try prayer. He tells how one Hail Mary a day was all he could do, but it was the beginning of his way back to God and eventually to the seminary.

Reciting the rosary can be a thoughtless act of habit or it can become an aid to deepen our understanding and love of God. Quoting again from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, section 2708, "Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in ... the rosary. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further: to the knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him." Saying the rosary as a child with my family was not my first choice of how to spend leisure time, however, it provided me with one model of how to pray that has grown into a daily devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

— Rose Kahake. Parishioner

www.mgardens.org: "[The Garden Way of the Rosary](#)"

www.Catholicculture.org: "[Rosary In History: From The Beginning To The Consolidation Of Its Actual Structure, The](#)".

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BOOK CLUB "REPORT"

— Mrs. Sandy Sager,
Parishioner

After learning about the St. Vincent de Paul Book Club in the weekly bulletin, I decided to take the organizers up on their invitation to come to the next meeting and just observe. I was introduced to the members and made to feel completely comfortable. Members are from a wide variety of age groups, and this diversity adds significantly to the richness of the group, as a broad range of views are expressed. It's also an advantage when it comes time to suggest future works to discuss.

A recent book selection was [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini. A compelling fictional account about the people of Afghanistan, Hosseini's book explores the struggles of their country, their culture, politics and the Muslim religion. I enjoyed [The Kite Runner](#) very much, although at times it was difficult to read due to its content. I found that I had to stop reading just to digest and try to envision what it would be like to live under the conditions outlined in the story.

I have especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet the people of the parish who, like me, love to read and share their ideas, insights and opinions.

Editor's Note: the Book Club usually meets once a month on a Thursday morning, and childcare is provided free of charge. Watch the bulletin for upcoming meeting dates!

REMEMBERING...

The Cana Retreat & Dinner



Three lovely ladies... Karen Wegerson, Kari Lanz, and Suzanne Maez-Toay

"It's great just to have this day for the two of us."

NOTE: These quotes are taken from evaluations filled out by the participating couples after the retreat.

"This was a good reminder that we can't do it alone. We need God!"

"The retreat helped us refocus our love for each other and our faith in God."



The DJ at the dance went table by table and made each group "dance for their supper!" This group did a great job acting as "The Village People," and their antics really got the crowd going!



The honor of cutting the wedding cake was shared by the couple who had celebrated the least anniversaries (Staff Member Matt Reiswig and wife Jill) and the most anniversaries (parishioners Fred & Anna Glynn).

"It was great to see all the couples who are interested in growing together in faith."

"It is helpful to understand that marriage is an important vocation."

"Praying together is POWERFUL!"



Biddy & Don Waletzko shared a table and great memories with their son David and his wife Diana.



Parishioner Jim Witters and his company "A Sound Escape" provided the music and many fun activities for the dinner dance.



Now there's a man who's comfortable with his masculinity!

"Put God first and foremost in your marriage and you can overcome anything."

"Marriage is a gift you have to work on all the time."



Soon the dance floor was filled with couples sharing the gift of renewed commitment to each other and to the vocation of marriage.

"Every year the Cana celebration has been a very insightful regrouping of our love for each other."

THE CANA RETREAT & DINNER

Our Annual February Marriage Event Offers Renewal and Fun!

The annual Cana Retreat and Dinner Dance was held on February 11 this year. Forty-seven couples attended the retreat, led by Fr. Williams, Deacon Curtan, and Warren and Jackie Hildreth. The morning began with Fr. Williams eloquently speaking about the vocation of married life, and what sacramental love calls



How low can you go???
(this group really had to work for their supper!)

us to be. Warren and Jackie Hildreth shared their personal experience of praying as a couple, and gave us some good practical ideas on how to do this. After a brief time to share personal prayer with our spouse, we took a break for lunch. The lunchroom was abuzz with lots of talk and laughter as we got acquainted and shared our faith with one another.

Following lunch, Deacon Sean spoke about marriage as a covenant, not just a contract, and how we live out our lives with that in mind. **One couple said how wonderful it was to think of their marriage as a vocation and to know that the love they share is through God and with God.** They thought looking at marriage as a covenant that is forever binding really reaffirmed what marriage should be.

Many couples expressed a desire and commitment to begin a prayer life with each other. **Parishioners Dave and Mary Sieffert summed it all up by saying, "When God speaks to you through the words of those around you, it's powerful. We felt like that at the Cana retreat. The opportunity to sit down in the midst of our busy schedule is one that we cherish!"**

This retreat allowed us to refocus our love in each other and our faith in God. We appreciated the insight and challenges that were presented to us, but mostly just loved the peaceful time devoted to one another."

Our evening began with a beautiful prayer service in the church with Fr. Williams pre-

siding. His words made us all realize that our vocation as married couples was truly holy, and gave us a renewed appreciation and excitement about our lives. As we recommitted ourselves to one another and renewed our vows, there were many tears shed, as the power of love filled the church. The tears quickly dried however as we went to Regan Hall and found we had to "dance" for our supper. We had a wonderful dinner, complete with wedding cake and ice cream. Our DJ got us into the mood to celebrate, and celebrate we did!

We couldn't get Fr. Williams to dance for his supper, but we let him eat anyway! At 11:00 the party broke up as a tired, happy, and renewed group of married couples left to continue their covenant journey.

— Judi Stroege, Staff Member

NEW TRUSTEE

(continued from page 1)

ensure proper governance, and protect the assets and fiscal stability of the parish. The Trustee serves in adopting or amending By-Laws, authorizing contracts, indebtedness and large purchases, and consulting with Parish Committees, such as Pastoral Council, Finance and Cemetery Committees. Trustees are not members of these committees, but may attend any meetings they feel they need to keep informed.

Although the official term of the Trustee is two years, the term can be extended. **The Trustees at St. Vincent de Paul Church are Jim Volp (Secretary) and Jason Coffel (Treasurer).** Jim has served since 1997. On March 1, 2006 Jason replaced Mark Scherer who served with a high degree of skill and commitment since July of 2001.

— Norm Olafson, Staff Member

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- April 13: Holy Thursday (Mass at 7 pm)
- April 14: Good Friday (Service at 7 pm)
- April 15: Holy Saturday (Vigil Mass at 8 pm)
- April 16: Easter Sunday
- April 17: Final Virtus Session
- April 22: CCW Spring Tea
- May 2: Friends of the Orphans Mini-Fiesta (see article on pg. 7)
- May 14: Mother's Day
- May 29: Memorial Day
- June 12-16: Vacation Bible School
- June 18: Father's Day

The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

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

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

WE NEED A MAN!

Yes... We are still looking for some more parishioners to join the committee that puts together this newsletter! (Although we are thrilled to report that we have already gained at least one new member!) However, since the committee has been formed, we have only had interest from female parishioners. As much as we enjoy the current group, we believe it is important that we have a least one man on the committee to offer the male perspective on the Catholic faith and our parish.

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. We want our committee to represent the parish. Do 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!

Of course, interested female parishioners are still welcome and encouraged, too!

FAMILY CORNER

Create a Garden Together for Fun and Spiritual Lessons

It's springtime in Minnesota and in a few months the children will be out of school. You're looking for something fun to do this summer that will let you spend time together and perhaps offer the opportunity to talk with your child about God...**How about helping your child plan and plant a garden?** From preparing the soil, selecting the plants, planting seeds or transplants, watching them grow to finally harvesting, gardening is great family entertainment and offers many lessons on faith, love, and sacrifice.



Looking for an easy way to create a garden for the kids? Use a plastic or inflatable kiddie pool! You can even drag it around in your yard to take advantage of the best sunlight! (Remember to poke holes in the bottom for water drainage.)

Here are a few ideas to discuss with your children while you garden...

- **Faith:** We believe that the seeds will turn into plants, although we haven't seen it yet. How is this like faith in God?
- **Nourishment:** What do plants need to grow? How are they like people? How does God provide nourishment to us? How can we nourish our souls as well as our bodies?
- **Creation:** Why did God create plants? What role do they play in the lives of animals and people?
- **The Parables of Jesus:** Jesus often used the sowing of seeds and other gardening metaphors in his parables.
- **Sacrifice:** If we want our garden to grow, we need to perform the tasks of weeding and pruning. Why are these "sacrifices" important to the growth of the plants? Why are we willing to spend time weeding even though it's not always fun?
- **Accomplishment:** Do you feel pride and love when you see your garden growing? Do you think God feels that way when He looks at us?
- **Love:** What plant do you love the most in your garden? What things about you do you think that God loves the most?

So...here are some tips for getting started: Keep two questions in mind - how much space is available? And what is the age of the child? For a 2 - 4 year old, planting 1/2 packets of seeds and 1 to 2 plants each of tomato and pepper creates a big garden world even though it seems like a small space to you. It's wise to intensively care for a small space rather than overwhelming both you and the child with the weeds that

will grow in a big area. Miniature vegetable varieties also may be more accessible and understandable to small children.

You can help children 5 to 8 years old grow a larger garden with a greater variety of full-sized plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, lettuce or other greens, radishes, carrots, squash and herbs. And don't forget sunflowers and multi-colored flowering kale, always favorites with children of any age. Choose plants that appeal to sight, feel and smell. Give children ownership of their garden. Mark off a section of your big garden just for your child.

Select items you like to eat. Experiment with growing something new. Look for disease-and-pest-resistant plants for a child's garden. Children love to touch, and fingers often end up in their mouths, so organic and pesticide-free plants are safest. Vegetables that are fairly problem-free include beets, carrots, cucumbers, onions, peas, radishes, spinach and rhubarb.

Here are some websites you can visit for more gardening advice or products:

- www.kidsgardening.com
- www.gardening-with-kids.com
- www.northerngardener.org/kids
- www.statue.com/catholic-statues.html

Have fun playing in the dirt!

— *Nikelle Morris, Editor*

FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Meet Fellow Parishioner Katie Phenow

"Faces of St. Vincent de Paul" is a new series we're launching in the newsletter to introduce some of the people you might meet around the parish. Keep an eye out in future issues for other fellow parishioners - and feel free to "nominate" someone to be interviewed by sending an e-mail to: editor@saintvdp.org.

When you've attended Mass in the last few years, chances are that you've been treated to the lovely voice of Katie Phenow. In addition to her participation in the music ministry, she's also an active member of our Parents' Morning Out group, and is the cantor for many of the funerals conducted at St. Vincent's. Katie was kind enough to answer a few questions for The St. Vincent Voice about her experiences at our church:

How did you get started singing at St. Vincent's?

My first participation at St. Vincent's came when the former director of Freedom (the youth choir) asked me to take her place. She had heard I was a music major and better yet, a new member of the Phenow family! This position then introduced me to Jacquie Okoh, the music coordinator. Because of Jacquie's generosity and mentorship, my opportunities to sing at St. Vincent's have flourished ever since. I've been so grateful to participate in music ministry as much as I do.

When did you become a parishioner? I became a parishioner in the summer of 2002 when my husband and I moved from Monticello to Brooklyn Park. My husband, Adam, has of course been a member his entire life so it was natural for us to join St. Vincent's once we were in the area.

Tell us about your music groups. I'm in my fourth year directing Freedom, which is the choir offered for all 7-12 grade youth at our church. In fact, students from outside our parish are welcome to join as well. We re-

hearse on Wednesday nights and sing for 9:00 Mass, usually on the third weekend of the month. Since this group spans a broad age range and brings together kids from different schools in the area, it's been really fun watching the core group of committed students sing and worship together.



Katie with her husband Adam

(Continued on page 8)



Charity Event at St. Vincent's

Mass and Mini-Fiesta on May 2

On Tuesday, May 2, St. Vincent de Paul Parish will host the orphans of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) for a Mini-Fiesta. All proceeds of this event will go to the mission work of Fr. Wasson. Accompanying the children will be Fr. Ron Hicks with stories of his personal calling to help children who had nothing.

Sponsor a child! Make a difference in the life of a very special child with your financial and emotional support! This program helps provide food and education for an orphaned child.

Reservations for the Mini-Fiesta will be taken before and after all Masses the weekends of April 8/9 and 22/23. If you have any questions, please call Mary Conger at (763) 494-3976.



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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:

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The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of
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MEET KATIE PHENOW

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Exaltation is a group of 20-something (post-college) age friends of whom many are former Freedom members. My husband, his brothers, and friends wanted to start singing at church again so they asked if I would "direct" them. Fortunately, I can direct our Thursday night rehearsals but am able to sing WITH them during 11:00 am Mass the third Sunday of every month. This group is not only fun because we are friends outside of church, but because it's a special gift to sing with friends in ministry. (And we are desperately seeking tenors and would welcome any tenor to try out a rehearsal with us!)

Can you think of a favorite memory at St. Vincent's? This is a tough question because I enjoy the things I do at SVDP for different reasons. My favorite family memory would have to be the Harvest Fest, because my boys enjoy playing the games and my husband enjoys being on the planning committee, as well as working the festival and meeting up with family! For myself, I enjoy directing Christmas Eve Mass. Both Freedom and Exaltation come together to sing for the same Mass on Christmas Eve. I love the music, the spirit of the season, and feeling like I'm using the gifts God gave me to serve Him best I can.

Are you and Adam involved at St. Vincent's in any other ways besides your music ministries? Besides Parents' Morning Out, I used to be regularly scheduled

for an hour of adoration each week. This became too difficult for my schedule, but was an important part of my commitment to my faith. Those things keep me busy. Along with singing in Exaltation, Adam recently became a Knight of Columbus and will be co-chairing the committee planning this fall's Harvest Festival.

What has been the biggest key to feeling "at home" at St. Vincent's? Thank you for asking this question. Marrying into such a large and active family with its own well-known history at St. Vincent's, it was important for me to find my own identity in this parish. I knew that meant getting involved in the parish community so that people would learn to know me whether or not my last name was Phenow.

Because I've been active in music ministry my entire life, no matter what church I was in, I knew God's plan for me was to use music to serve him here too. I believe anyone who uses any amount of their talents to participate in the parish community will find it a welcoming way to identify with St. Vincent's. On a different level, I also found it important to do Adoration for the time that I did. **Nothing makes you more comfortable with God and with the physical surroundings of the church than to be there when no one else is, and in quiet reflection. Then it truly becomes your space, where you can find and worship your God.**