



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CATHOLIC?

One Parishioner Answers the Question from Her Perspective

I have always been a Catholic. I was born and raised a Catholic. My parents and grandparents were all Catholic. I attended Mass frequently while growing up, as well as CCD (now known as Faith Formation) through my senior year. Overall, my Catholic faith was something I did because it was what I had learned and therefore, it felt comfortable to me. Yet, there always seemed to be more for me to know. Now in my middle-aged years, it is interesting and fun to see how my Catholic faith has shaped my life.

I believe that to be a Catholic means to embrace Catholic beliefs, practices and prayers in your life. One only needs to read the Apostle's Creed to be reminded of our Catholic beliefs: we believe that God is the creator of Heaven and Earth, that Jesus is His only Son who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered, died

and was buried, and on the third day was resurrected for all of our salvation. We believe in the Trinity, in Judgment Day, and in Heaven and Hell. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. We believe in Original Sin and its consequences. We believe in the Seven Sacraments. Our Catholic beliefs define what is important to consider in our relationship with God.

Our practices include obedience to God's commandments. "You shall love the Lord your God, with all you heart, with all your soul and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37,39) They also include the Ten Commandments given to Moses at Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 20:1-17) Our practices include holy days of obligation, regulations for fasting and abstinence, communion, corporal and spiritual works

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"The Catholic faith teaches us that we are on a lifelong journey towards God, so that one day we will hopefully be in complete union with Him in heaven. Knowing this adds meaning, hope and joy to our lives."

CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF ST. VDP

A Summary of a Few of our Parish Practices and their Explanations

Several of the questions received for the "Ask Father" section of our newsletter relate to the practice (or absence) of gestures and signs that are sometimes seen at other Catholic parishes, or those observed at our own parish. This article summarizes a few of the most visible local customs of the Mass often seen in the U.S.



The Tabernacle of ancient Israel

"tent or hut," the tabernacle is the place in church where the Blessed Sacrament is kept). Instead, it is located in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel near the church entrance—where it is appropriate to genuflect before the Body of Christ. Therefore, a profound bow to the altar is a respectful way to show honor to a sacred ob-

ject and to greet the Lord as you arrive at church.

Why is the tabernacle located in the Chapel, rather than on the altar? The basic provision made for the placement of the tabernacle in the 2003 English Trans-

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Genuflecting and Bowing: Newcomers to our parish are sometimes surprised to see parishioners bow to the altar, rather than genuflect. A close look at the altar, however, reveals that the tabernacle is not located on the main altar of the church (from the word *tabernaculum*, meaning

FAMILY CORNER

How connected do you feel to your family?

Do you ever wish that you spent more time together with your family members—and not with all eyes glued to the television? With the many demands of work, school, sports, and so on—have you become more like a group of roommates, instead of a family unit? How do you take the first steps back to reclaiming your family unity? Here are a few ideas to try:

- Put it on the calendar, like any other appointment. That way, you'll remember & plan for it.
- Eat together as often as possible, but pick one meal each week as "sacred". That's the meal that is only missed in an emergency. Make it special if you can—eat by candlelight, or use your good china. Even if you eat frozen pizza on your good china, it still makes it feel like a special time for the family. The most important thing isn't what food you eat, it's the family you eat it with.
- Turn off all radios in the car and just talk.
- Turn chores into family time—everyone works together for 15 minutes, then you reward yourselves with 15 minutes of fun—maybe everyone eats ice cream together!
- Make "dates"—not only with your spouse, but also with your children—for that one-on-one connection.

ASK FATHER

Fr. Jack Answers a Parishioner Question



Q. Why are priests sent from parish to parish, rather than left in the same place?

A. Over my 30 years of priestly life, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Archdiocesan Priest Personnel Board for two terms—one term under Archbishop Roach, and another under Archbishop Flynn. The duty of the board is to assist the Archbishop in placing priests at parishes, whether as pastors or parochial vicars. According to Canon Law, a pastor is assigned for no more than 12 years at a particular parish. There is no limit set for a parochial vicar. They usually stay at a parish for about 2-3 years, and then move on to become a pastor. During their time as parochial vicar, they are to serve the parish and learn from the pastor so that they can eventually become pastors themselves. Although the norm for a pastor is 12 years, we serve at the pleasure of the Archbishop. For instance, a parochial vicar who has served a particular parish might be asked to pastor another parish. The parish might be a small one, so that the new pastor might learn the skills of leading a parish. After 5 years of leadership, he might be asked to move to a larger parish. We have 222 parishes in the Archdiocese. We have mega-parishes, with a membership of over 3,000 families, and smaller ones that have less than 1,000 families. What the board tries to do is to align the personality of the priest with the personality of the parish. When that happens, it becomes a success story. When it does not, it can be painful for the priest as well as the parish. A lot of energy goes into placing priests in parishes. A lot of prayer goes into the process as well.

When a parish opens up, a letter is sent out to all priests serving the Archdiocese to inform them of the opening. Priests can then request information on that parish, such as the size of the parish, the staff, financial data, etc. If the priest likes what he sees, he then can apply. If no one else applies, then chances are he will be assigned to that parish. If several priests apply, then each is interviewed and one name is sent to the Archbishop for his approval. This purpose of this process is to help the priest become a better priest, and the parish to look at itself and become a better parish.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CATHOLIC?

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of mercy, liturgical seasons of the year, and the precepts of the church. Our Catholic practices further define what is important to consider in our relationship with God.

Our Catholic faith is rich with prayer. We have formal and informal prayers. We have community prayers and private prayers. We believe that prayer is very powerful. We pray because Jesus did. Our Catholic faith teaches us that prayer is an important aspect of our relationship with God. We also know as Catholics that God loves us, and that as we are seeking God, He is also seeking us. The Catholic faith teaches us that we are on a lifelong journey towards God, so that one day we will hopefully be in complete union with Him in Heaven. Knowing this adds meaning, hope and joy to our lives.

So, I am glad I am Catholic. I can now appreciate the growing room it has afforded me from childhood to now. Being Catholic has shaped my morality and values. Being Catholic has taught me strength during times of temptation. Being Catholic has taught me strength during times of trial. Being Catholic has taught me the value of human life and of all creation, for that matter. I have developed a deep appreciation for our Catholic ancestors who have been persecuted and martyred for their faith, and for all of those who have passed on the Catholic faith through the generations. I think most of all, being Catholic has given me a conscience. Being Catholic has taught me how to be human—in God's terms. I thank God for this.

— *Marci Siers, Pastoral Council Member*

Submit Your Question!

If you have a question, mail it to: **The St. Vincent Voice Editor** at the church, or e-mail it to: editor@saintvdp.org

CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF ST. VDP

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lation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) is: *"In accordance with the structure of each church and legitimate local customs, the Most Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the church that is truly noble, prominent, readily visible, beautifully decorated, and suitable for prayer... it is preferable that the tabernacle be located, according to the judgment of the diocesan bishop, (a) either in the sanctuary, apart from the altar of celebration, in a form and place more appropriate, not excluding on an old altar no longer used for celebration; (b) or even in some chapel suitable for the faithful private adoration and prayer and that is organically connected to the church and readily visible to the Christian faithful"* (314–315). Our tabernacle's placement in our Chapel allows for quiet reflection and reverence in the presence of the Sacred Body of Christ.



The Tabernacle at St. Vincent de Paul

Holding Hands (or not) during the Our Father:

This practice has developed in many parishes across the U.S., and no one is sure exactly how it began. At some churches, you will see the entire congregation linking hands. At many other parishes, including St. Vincent's, you will see some families and small groups holding hands during the Our Father, but there are many who do not. So... what is correct? Although there has been some discussion on this subject at the United States Bishops Conference, a universal posture for the Our Father has not been mandated in the GIRM (see sidebar for definition). So, while there is nothing wrong with holding hands, participation should not be enforced by anyone. Keep in mind that some people are unable or uncomfortable holding hands, and be sensitive to their body language.

Silence Before and After Mass in the Nave (the main body of the church, where the members of the congregation are seated): Some of you may recall a let-

ter in the bulletin a couple of years ago encouraging silence before and after Mass in the Nave—so that parishioners could prepare for, and then reflect on, the Holy Sacrifice. The General Instruction recommends that *"Even before the celebration itself, it is praiseworthy for silence to be observed in church, in the sacristy and adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves for the sacred rites which are to be enacted in a devout and fitting manner"* (GIRM 45). When visiting other parishes, you may hear a number of loud conversations occurring in the pews prior to, or after, the Mass. St. Vincent's parishioners traditionally seek quiet in the Nave, and chat in the Gathering Area at the entrance of the Church instead.

Bells During the Consecration: Although some parishes still ring bells at the time of the consecration, we no longer do so at St. Vincent's. This practice is optional for parishes, according to the GIRM: *"A little before the consecration, when appropriate, a server rings a bell as a signal to the faithful."* (2003 GIRM 150).

Bowing Before Receiving Communion: This sign of reverence before receiving Holy Communion is a revision in the 2002 edition of the GIRM. It's important to note that this is a bow of the head, not a bow from the waist. It is also important that it be a reverent bow and not a quick nod of the head. Additionally, the sign is meant to be connected with each person's reception of Holy Communion: *the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament*, that is while the Eucharistic Bread or the chalice is held before the individual communicant. Therefore, we are not meant to bow while the person in front of us is receiving Communion, but only as we stand before the minister.

Editor's Note: If you have questions about customs we haven't discussed here, please e-mail your inquiry to editor@saintvdp.org for possible inclusion in a future issue!

WHAT IS THE GIRM?

GIRM stands for the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The Roman Missal is made up of two parts: The Lectionary for Mass and what we currently call the Sacramentary, the book with prayers and directions (rubrics) for celebrating Mass. The first edition of the GIRM was published in 1969. It provides the theological perspective and liturgical laws governing how we celebrate the Mass of the Roman Rite throughout the world.

Because our Church believes in inculturating the liturgy into the various cultures "for the life of the world," bishops of each country have been given permission by the Holy See to adapt certain parts of the GIRM so that the celebration of Mass may be more fittingly celebrated in each land. The United States bishops have adapted some of the norms for dioceses of the United States. One of the adaptations developed by the US bishops is the Norms for the Celebration and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds.

The most recent edition was released in 2002, and may be found at the USCCB website: www.usccb.org/liturgy/current/revmissalisromanien.shtml

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Aug. 10-12:**
Harvest Festival
- **Aug. 15:**
Feast of the Assumption of Mary — Masses at 8 am & 7 pm
- **Aug. 29:**
Shareholders Meeting for the Honduras Mission Trip
- **Aug. 30:**
School Ice Cream Social & Open House
- **Sept. 3:**
Labor Day
- **Sept. 4:**
First Day of School
- **Sept. 23:**
Preschool and Jr./Sr. High Faith Formation Begins
- **Sept. 25/26:**
Elementary Faith Formation Begins
- **Sept. 25:**
Parent Session for First Reconciliation
- **Oct. 3:**
Parent Session for First Reconciliation
- **Oct. 6:**
Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Pastoral Council (see article on pg. 8)
- **Nov. 1:**
All Saints' Day — Masses at 8 am, 5 pm & 7 pm
- **Nov. 4:**
Daylight Savings Time Ends

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

We are looking forward to another exciting and educational year for our Children's Faith Formation program, including several improvements we will implement in the 2007-08 school year:

- Our program will feature an improved five-year-old Sunday School curriculum with more emphasis on Catholic prayers, Bible stories, and saints.
- On the elementary level, we will be bringing back Jude Fournier from Albuquerque, NM, to facilitate our parent/child night as part of our First Communion preparation and we will be evaluating new textbook series so as to offer the highest quality resources for our children.
- After a busy summer, with many new programs, our parish youth ministers, Tara and Matt, look forward to another exciting year of Jr. J-Zone for junior high

youth on Wednesdays at 5 pm and J-Zone for high school youth on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

- The Jr./Sr. high program will begin with a new and improved Orientation Night on **Sept. 23**. The night will begin with a brief but important informational meeting for students and parents, followed by fun and live music, outdoors.

Registration forms for our parish Faith Formation program for children/youth, pre-school through high school, are mailed out in late July.

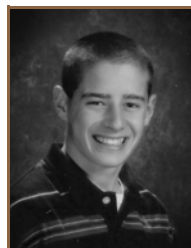
Please note the early bird fee and registration deadline information on the registration form. Get your forms in early.

We are always in need of volunteers to serve our children/youth as catechists/teachers. Please consider serving God and God's children as a catechist/teacher.

— *Chuck Pratt, Staff Member*

FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

An Interview with our Sacristan, Jacob Schauer



Please start us out with a few of the basics – your age, grade, & the school you attend. My name is Jacob Schauer and I am 14 years old. I graduated from St. Vincent de Paul this past June, and will be attending Totino-Grace High School in the fall.

Can you tell us about your job as a Sacristan here at St. Vincent de Paul?

I work every other weekend for all the Masses both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday I arrive at 4:00 pm and usually leave around 6:20 pm. On Sunday I need to be at church by 6:45 am and I am finished at 12:20 pm. I am responsible for unlocking all the doors before the Masses and locking up after everyone has gone. I turn on the lights and the sound system, I prepare the gifts, and make sure I have calculated the host count for each Mass. I make sure that the Lectionary, Sacramentary, Lectors' book, Presider's book, and Gospel are all marked and ready to go. Next I put out the Chalice with the purificator, the gifts, and the Eucharistic plates

for distribution. I also need to make sure that the Presider's microphone has a new battery, and that all Eucharistic Ministers are signed in and all Altar servers and Lectors are present. After all Masses I purify the Eucharistic plates and Chalice. This entails taking water and rinsing each of the plates and the chalice and emptying the water into a drain that goes straight to the ground. I then dry the plates and chalice with a purificator. At the end of Mass on Saturday and the last Mass on Sunday, I make sure that the sound system and lights are off, and all doors are locked.

Are you the only Sacristan? There are two Sacristans. Zach Zaldivar and I alternate weekends. Sometimes the schedule can change and one of us could work 2-3 weekends in a row.

How long have you been in this role? I have been a Sacristan for one year.

Tell us about your experiences as an altar server at St. Vincent's. I began altar serving when I was a 5th grader. I began to learn about all the special names for the Sacred vessels, and how every-

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FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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thing operated. I was often asked to serve during the school day for Funerals and other Masses. I felt like I was part of the Mass in a special way when I was serving.

How did your time as a server prepare you for the job as Sacristan? As a server I became very familiar with preparing for Mass. It helped me because I could play the Mass over in my head and knew what would happen next. I was also familiar with where everything went and what was needed for each Mass, like the Sacred Vessels and the books that were used.

What made you decide to apply? Fr. Jack asked me if I would be interested in working as a Sacristan during

the summer before my 8th grade year. I felt like it was an honor to be asked and I felt like I was doing a great ministry for the church. I like being involved in this ministry because I feel like I have gotten to know a lot of people in the church community over the past year, and I feel like I have learned a lot about all the details that go into preparing for Masses.

What's the hardest part of the job? The hardest part of the job is trying to do too much at one time. You have to take it step by step and develop a routine.

What's the best part of the job? The best part of the job is knowing that I am doing a Ministry for God and the church, and the honor that comes with it.

REMEMBERING... Vacation Bible School



This year's VBS offered lots of fun for our youngest parishioners with a western theme and tons of exciting activities. There were over 300 children in attendance, and many volunteers who helped to make the week a success.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Did you know that you can make a difference in the lives of some local senior citizens?

You can donate items to Berkshire Nursing Home (located at 501 Second Street SE in Osseo) to help the residents get some affordable clothing and entertainment. Berkshire accepts these donations and periodically holds a "sale" in their activity room. The residents really enjoy this opportunity to go shopping without the need to leave their home. (Please note: except for greeting cards, the items may be used, but please make sure that they are in good condition.)

Some needed items:

- Gently used clothing (need for sizes 16 and up...some need for 9, 12, 14)
- Sweaters
- Shoes—both male and female
- Coats
- Videos & DVD's
- Greeting cards (greatly needed)
- Note cards
- Jewelry
- Hats
- Purses
- Wallets
- Socks

View previous issues online:

To view past issues of The St. Vincent Voice, visit our parish web site at: www.saintvdp.org/parish/parish_newsletters

LEARNING ISN'T JUST FOR CHILDREN

Our Parish Offers Learning Opportunities for All Ages

One of the important attributes of a mature Catholic is continued growth in faith throughout life. Part of this growth in faith is continuing to learn and experience new things about our multi-faceted Catholic faith.

Often we mistakenly think that we finished learning about our Catholic faith when we graduated from Catholic school... that we have experienced the totality of our faith by the time we received the Sacrament of Confirmation as a teenager. I remember, a number of years ago, having a conversation with an adult that no longer participated in Mass because they found little meaning in the Eucharist. I asked when was the last time they had done anything to try to discover meaning in the Eucharist.

They responded that they had done nothing since second grade at the time of First Communion. **No wonder they were struggling to find meaning in the Mass! This person was an adult, trying to make sense of it through the eyes of a seven year old!**

As adults, we need to strive to have a living faith on an adult level and not simply rely on what we were taught when we were children. We never outgrow the need to discover new insights into the many aspects of our Catholic faith at an age appropriate level, including the stages of adulthood. As our intellectual abilities develop and as we learn from life, we need to let the ever-changing person we are interact with our faith.

To aid the adults of our parish in their faith formation, the following programs are being planned for the upcoming year. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details and final dates.

- Some top-notch guest speakers will again join us on Thursday nights to share their expertise on topics such as: morality, church, spirituality, the Bible, and Catholic social teachings.

- A five-part series will be offered on the Creed, based on the new United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.
- A daytime, four-week movie discussion series on the portrayal of the lives of two different saints will be held in January.
- Two Jeff Cavins DVD Bible Studies—Revelations and the Bible Timeline-- will be offered this year.

"Often we mistakenly think that we finished learning about our Catholic faith when we graduated from Catholic school... that we have experienced the totality of our faith by the time we received the Sacrament of Confirmation as a teenager."

- A half-day retreat for women entitled, "Spirit-filled Women in Our Church," will occur on October 27.

- The "Living in Christ" Adult Lenten retreat will again be held on a Saturday in March. A retreat is a proven way to deepen one's faith.

- The monthly Book Club and our Ministry Of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) groups will continue.
- A few family events where parents and children can learn, pray and celebrate faith together are also in the planning stages as this article is being written.
- A big event for adults at St. Vincent's will be a parish mission in February. A special guest preacher will be with us for four days to renew and enliven our faith. Please mark your calendar for Feb. 10-13th for this important event in our parish's spiritual and community life.

— Chuck Pratt, Staff Member

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?

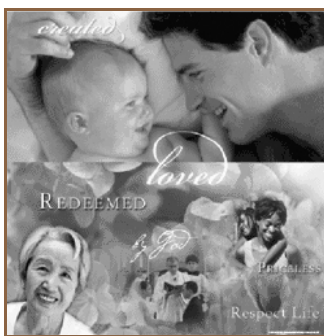
Thank you! Please send your opinions to:

Attn. St. Vincent Voice Editor, St. Vincent de Paul, 9100 93rd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

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

“RESPECT LIFE” OR “RIGHT TO LIFE”?

We can play semantic games with this concept. The simple fact is—life is a gift from the Creator to the created. Every gift that comes from the hand of God should be received with gratitude, and gratitude is best expressed by caring for the gift received. This was a lesson that I was taught early on



in my life—that a gift from a grandmother or favorite aunt was to be well cared for. Misusing or destroying a keepsake speaks not just a failure to appreciate a gift, but a lack of respect for the giver.

How do we express respect for life?

Most Catholics go immediately to the abortion issue. This is a valid and understandable response; protection of a human life during the vulnerable stretch of time between conception and birth is a given in our faith tradition. **But we also need to develop a broader understanding of the concept “respect life.” All human life is intrinsically sacred; the vessel may be flawed by illness, debilitated by age, or most regrettably, corrupted by serious sin as in the case of a convicted criminal; nonetheless in each circumstance the same level of compassion and protection must be afforded to the living human person.**

Respect for life also includes the concept that St. Thomas Aquinas calls “human flourishing.” We have an obligation to cre-

ate and sustain circumstances that allow human persons not to just live, but to live in conditions that promote a good life—one that is healthy and conducive to healthy moral and spiritual development. An environment that places people at risk—such as a contaminated water supply or a workplace so stressful that a person’s mental and emotional well-being is threatened—are not the milieu for human flourishing. It begs the question to say that war and violence in their many forms are detrimental to human flourishing and disrespectful of God’s gift of life. Catholic people must stand for peace as well as for political systems that enable people to realize their full potential as children of God.

We all need to understand that respecting life is a broad concept and includes multiple issues, some of which are fairly straightforward and some of which may push us beyond our level of comfort. The abortion issue, capital punishment, safe work conditions, a healthy environment, a civil society at peace within itself and its neighbors—all of these are bound up in the circle of life. Our responses to each of these and others are not to be predicated on emotional reactions, but should be rooted in our faith in and love for the good Creator God.

— *Sr. Nora Klewicki, Staff Member*

PROTECT YOUR OWN RIGHT TO LIFE WITH A HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE

What is a Health Care Directive? It is a written document that informs others of your wishes about your health care. It allows you to name a person (“agent”) to decide for you, if you are unable to decide or unable to communicate your health care choices (because of physical or mental incapacity). You must be at least 18 years old to make a health care directive. In some circumstances, your directive may state that you want someone other than an attending physician to decide when you cannot make your own decisions.

To assist Catholics of the state who wish to have an advance directive, the Minnesota Catholic Conference has prepared a Minnesota Catholic Health Care Directive that meets the state’s legal requirements and reflects the Church’s teaching. The Minnesota Catholic Health Directive Guide answers some basic questions about the law, Church teaching and completing a health care directive. It can be downloaded at www.mncc.org. Look for the “Health Care Directive” button. You are encouraged to download and print out both the guide & directive.

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN HAS ARRIVED AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

All aboard for an exciting all-day curriculum next year! The kindergarten class is on track with many fun-filled activities such as the parent volunteer “Stop, Drop, and Read” program. This is a free choice time to read, be read to, or write with new classmate friends and parents. We’ll also enjoy journal writing and science exploration with real butterflies. We will even walk to a local toy store to learn about trains! All day Kindergarten school hours are 7:25 am—1:45 pm. During the school day, students will experience our delicious lunch, religion program, computer lab, and more!

The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

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PASTORAL COUNCIL WANTS YOUR INPUT

The Members of Our Pastoral Council Want to Hear from Parishioners

Did you know that the Pastoral Council at St. Vincent's is a good way for your parish-related concerns to be heard? The council functions as representatives of our parish to our pastor. We want to hear your thoughts and concerns. The Council's current main discussion topic has been strategic planning for our parish, which is something that you will be hearing more about over the next several months.

Council members wear maroon-colored nametags at Mass and other church functions, so we are easily identifiable to others. If you have concerns or questions, please feel free to stop a council member at any time when we are wearing a nametag. You can also call the following council members with questions and concerns: Tom McMullen at 763-425-0227 or Marci Siers at 763-420-9460. Our council is also currently developing our page of the St. Vincent de Paul website (www.saintvdp.org) and should have this completed within the next few months. We are planning to have information on the web site that will also allow you to easily contact a council member. Each parishioner's question or concern will be given thoughtful consideration, and you will receive a response in a timely manner.

The Council meets at 7 PM every 3rd Tuesday of each month for 1 1/2 hours (excluding the months of December and July). The Council consists of nine parishioner-voting members and three non-voting members, which are our pastor, our parochial vicar, and our busi-

ness manager. Each member serves a term of three years and may serve up to a limit of two full terms. The current parishioner members are: Tom McMullen, Jim Merickel, Marci Siers, Rose Kahnke, Judy Randall, Janice Gabrick, Jeff Bjstrom, Nancy Moorman, and Betty Bartos.

New members may join in the springtime. Every March, we offer two evening Pastoral Council Information Nights. Any parishioner may attend, and learn more about the Council. Start thinking about joining the council now, and plan to attend an Information Night. After the first of the year, check the church bulletin for details about the dates and times for the Information Nights. Final decisions about new members are made in May, as the terms for current members expire in June. Every year approximately 1-3 terms expire for current council members.

Last year the Pastoral Council made a decision to host an event at St. Vincent's, just for fun. We had our first ever Spaghetti Dinner and Dance. It was a lot of fun, so we've decided to make this an annual event. **Our next Spaghetti Dinner and Dance will be on Saturday, October 6th in Regan Hall.** More details about this will be available in the church bulletin in September. Please consider joining us. We plan to have all the council members there, and it is a great way to socialize and meet with other parishioners. We'd love to see you there!!

— Marci Siers, Pastoral Council Member



These maroon nametags identify Pastoral Council Members.