



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

LOOKING FOR JESUS THIS ADVENT SEASON

I have a confession to make; I haven't really looked for Jesus in years. Therefore, when I was asked to write this article, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity for me to take some time and begin my quest – again.

When I was a child, finding Jesus was always easy. During Advent, I could find him lying in the manger at the front of the church. And, after putting my offering in the plate next to the Nativity and saying a prayer, I'd turn to my mother and say, "Look, Mommy, I see baby Jesus!" At other times, I could find him on the altar at church, or on my bedroom wall hanging from the cross. But as an adult, I have learned that looking for Jesus means more than finding him in the manger or on the cross. People kept saying he was all around me every day and that I had to stop and look for him. Early on in this way of thinking, I thought that meant I'd see a statue of him at just the right time—and sometimes I did—but eventually I came to realize that the search was going to require a bit more effort and depth from me.

Now that I've renewed my mission to look for Jesus, I'd like to share with you where I've found him...

✚ I found him this morning in prayer as I was thanking him for giving me another day on earth.

✚ I found him on my bus ride into work, as a gentleman got up to give his seat to an elderly passenger.

"...as an adult, I have learned that looking for Jesus means more than finding him in the manger or on the cross."

✚ He was there when I kissed my wife goodbye this morning and he was there again when I came home and saw her.

✚ I saw him sitting next to both of my kids as they pulled out of the driveway for the first time after getting their licenses. I also saw him again when they came

home. That was to let me know that he was in control and everything was all right.

✚ I found him sitting on the edge of my friend's hospital bed after I checked my friend in for a nervous breakdown. I also saw him give my friend a hug, assuring me that my friend was going to be OK.

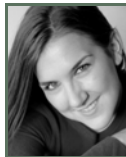
✚ I've found him in my parents' 50-year marriage and how he has blessed them every day.

During this Advent season, when you need a break from all that's going on in your life, take some time to look for Jesus. I think you'll find him more easily than you expect, if you begin to think about it as I did. And you won't even need to look in the manger to say, truthfully, **"I saw Jesus today!"**

— *Tim Huston, Parishioner*

OUR MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS

St. Vincent's High School Students Making a Difference in the World



Kristen Anderson and 25 others represented our parish in Honduras on this Mission trip

"Hard work" is a loosely used term in the suburbs, but in Honduras, 20 St. Vincent de Paul high school students and 6 chaperones discovered an entirely new meaning for this phrase. Hard work is what happens after you spend a day completing a project that would take months; hard work is what happens when you help

feed hundreds; hard work is what happens when you return home a changed person.

The trip to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) was never intended to be a vacation and we all knew from the start what kind of work ethic and dedication we would need to maintain. However, at the end of each day, we loved having the bone-tiredness, the satisfaction of know-

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Nov. 1: All Saints Day Masses at 8 am & 7 pm
- Nov. 4: Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9 am
- Nov. 22: Fr. Jack's Birthday
- Dec. 1-2: Christmas Bazaar
- Dec. 7: Eve of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 7 pm
- Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception Mass at 9 am
- Dec. 15: Breakfast with Santa in Regan Hall
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Masses at 4, 6, & 10 pm
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 7:30 am, 9 am & 11 am
- Dec. 31: Eve of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 6 pm
- Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 9 am
- Jan. 27: Catholic Schools Week Begins
- Feb. 6: Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 10-13: Parish Mission

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



ASK FATHER

Fr. Tom Answers a Parishioner Question

Q. On a cruise early this year while attending Sunday Mass, I noticed that some people—when offered the cup from a server—took the cup and elevated it, then said "Amen". Then they returned the cup to the server without tasting the contents. Is this acceptable with the GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman Missal)? I would think this is better than just passing by the server. By elevating the cup you are still honoring Jesus. Also, some parishioners believe that just wiping the cup with a cloth does not prevent germs or viruses being passed from person to person, and therefore they just bypass the cup.

— Submitted by R.V. Erickson, Parishioner

A. It is a special privilege and honor for us Catholics to come forward and receive the Eucharist at Mass. The Precious Blood is also offered at St. Vincent's during weekend Masses once a month, and at every daily Mass. The Real Presence of Jesus is in the bread and wine, which has now become the Body and Blood.

So, when we come forward to receive Jesus in the Consecrated Host and Consecrated Wine, the GIRM asks us all to bow in worship to our God before receiving Him. We have the choice of receiving the Precious Blood. If we do not want to drink of the Cup, we can respectfully walk past the Eucharistic Minister. We really should not take the Cup and raise it up in honor of Jesus. Certainly, it is important to always give glory and honor to God no matter what we are doing. But in the Liturgy itself, it seems like we might be calling attention to ourselves or maybe creating a distraction for others. We come forward publicly to receive and do not want to call attention away from Our Lord by anything we might want to do. However, this desire could also come from a heart that just wants to give thanks and glory to God, which is not a bad thing—but still inappropriate for publicly receiving our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

As for the prevention of germs passed to us through the receiving of the Blood by the Cup—it should not be an issue. I have never heard of a cold or other disease being passed around by receiving from the Cup. However, if we have a cold or are sick, it is important that we use our common sense and pass by the Cup for that particular day. Better safe than sorry. What is important is that we receive the Host, the Body of Christ. The Precious Blood is an important aspect of our faith, but we do not have to receive it.

CONSIDER ATTENDING AN ADVENT RETREAT

At the Guesthouse at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN (approx. 1 hour away) from November 30 - December 2: The Advent Retreat will be led by Abbot John Klassen. His topic will be "The Parables of Jesus and the Reign of God." Reserve a place online at www.saintjohnsabbey.org/retreats/retreats.html or call 320-363-2011.

At Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN from December 7-9, 2007: ADVENT: Preparing to Say 'Let It Be Done'. Presenter: Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ. During this Advent weekend we will reflect upon the beautiful and dramatic interruption of the Incarnation and the Nativity in human awareness and relationships. Since we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) during this time, we will look more closely at what it means for Mary and for us to "Let It Be Done" in our lives. The silence of these days will assist us in hearing the noise of life and the invitations of a gracious and loving God. For more information, call (763) 682-1394 or visit their web site at www.kingshouse.com.

At St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul, MN on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9-11:30 am: Word Made Flesh: A Meditation on the Incarnation. Fr. Michael Byron—\$25. What does it mean that God's very being came into our world and remains present to us still? God is closer to us than we sometimes dare to imagine, walking with us through the joys and messiness of our journey through history. This is the great assurance of Advent: that our God is named Emmanuel which means "to be with us." What better way to gain perspective on the madness surrounding holiday preparation than to reflect upon that astonishing fact? Register online at www.stpaulsmonastery.org or call 651-777-8181.

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

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

(continued from page 1)

ing we were doing great things, and the gratitude that God had chosen us to make this journey. If our parents could have seen just how willing we were to shovel sand, peel potatoes, or weed gardens, they probably wouldn't believe we were actually their kids!



Every night we held praise and worship, where along with praying and singing, our group would reflect upon the things we saw and accomplished throughout our mission trip. A favorite part of this nightly ritual was our recounting of the "God Moments" we saw during the day. It never ceased to



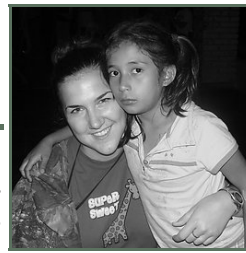
amaze me how vast the spectrum of God's presence really is. We saw Him in the smallest vestiges and in the largest gestures. A common place where we saw God was in the children. Witnessing their love of life and utter happiness was one of the most pleasurable experiences of the entire trip.

We saw special, more uncommon, God moments, as well, such as the trip to the Casa Abuelos where we attended daily mass with the "grandparents" of the ranch. A favorite God moment of mine was our blood-pumping trip up the side of the mountain where the water filtration system was located. Although getting up to there was very physically demanding, the view was spectacular, and I truly felt God's miracles of life, beauty, and love surrounding me.



An especially touching day for everyone in our group was our trip into the capitol, Tegucigalpa. On the outskirts of the city, we

visited a special NPH home called Casa Angeles—House of Angels—where we witnessed God's love for all of His children.



These kids may not have been able to tell us in words, but when the 26 of us sang praise to Jesus, their eyes lit up and their hands grasped around our fingers. Tears ran down my cheeks as I held the sweetest little girl, telling her over and over, "Te amamos tan mucho" (we love you so much).



I wasn't prepared for the change that occurred in those ten short days of our mission trip, but as we stood together on our last morning, embracing our new Honduran friends, it seemed that all of us would leave a piece of us there, at NPH, but also, take some-



thing new with us. This ultimate feeling of glory for God and deep gratefulness for being a part of the mission is not easy to express in words; rather, it's more of a feeling I carry within my heart and will continue to carry, perpetually thanking God for the trip of a lifetime.

— *Kristen Anderson,*
Parishioner

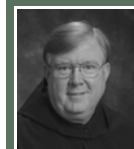
To learn more about NPH,
you can visit their web site at:

www.friendsoftheorphans.org
or call (847) 690-1700.

PARISH MISSION COMING IN FEBRUARY

If you've never been to a parish mission, or it's been awhile, you are in for a real treat for your soul. A mission, especially during Lent, is a proven and wonderful way to enliven and renew one's faith. Wherever you consider yourself to be on your spiritual journey, this mission will strengthen your faith.

St. Vincent de Paul will be hosting a four day Lenten mission from February 10-13, 2008.



Fr. Robert Pierson

Fr. Robert Pierson OSB, from St. John's, Collegetown, will be our guest preacher on the theme: "The

Return of the Prodigal Son." Fr. Pierson is currently serving as Guestmaster and Director of the Spiritual Life Program at the St. John's Abbey Guesthouse. The plan is for him to preach at all the Masses on Feb. 9 & 10, and then he will present a talk on Sunday evening and a daytime and evening talk on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Fr. Bob will reflect on the meaning of Reconciliation in our lives today, and how we ritualize forgiveness and healing in our lives through the sacraments. Many aspects of our parish mission are still in the planning stages, but the proposal is to offer some meals, childcare and a follow-up three part discussion of the book: The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen.

Find your 2008 calendar, mark these dates, and plan to attend this mission!

A HISTORY OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

St. Luke tells us in his gospel that, "Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged."

"The earliest representation of the Nativity can be seen in a fresco found in the catacombs of St. Pricilla, 2nd century AD, portraying the Mother and Child, the Three Wise Men and Saint Joseph or perhaps the prophet Isaiah, and above a star with eight points.

In later centuries, until about the 5th century, more frescoes of the Epiphany were painted in different catacombs. A fresco found in the catacomb of St. Sebastian shows a sort of manger with the ass and the ox, but Mary and Joseph are not seen. Later in the 4th and 5th century in bas-relief work on marble sarcophagi, the figures of shepherds began to appear and gradually the Presepio (Nativity Scene) came to present day form with all the figures, the Child, Mary and Joseph, the ass and the ox, the Three Wise Men and the shepherds. This was only bas-relief work, and later painted windows, miniatures, mosaics, not yet the three dimensional representation we know as the Presepio today."

"Tradition attributes to Saint Francis the merit of

OUR "HIDDEN" TREASURE

Stop in to Visit Jesus in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel



We are so blessed to be Catholic—we don't have to wait until death to sit at the feet of Jesus! He is present to us in the Blessed Sacrament, exposed in our chapel continually every day of every week (for the past 9 years). With the business of life, it seems difficult to keep our priorities in the proper order: God, Family, Work, Recreation. But the more I take time for Jesus, the more time I seem to have.

I have enjoyed visiting the chapel and being in Christ's presence as often as I can, and I have definitely noticed a difference in prayer when I take the time to visit Jesus in Perpetual Adoration. Sometimes I like to meditate on the lives of the saints, sometimes on scripture, sometimes I like to just sit and be in His presence, sometimes I ask "Why me?", and some days I'm filled with petitions...But no matter how I pray in front of Jesus, I always leave with a greater sense of peace, wisdom and/or inspiration—and always leave with more than I had when I came.

One tradition in our family is to stop at the chapel on the way home from the hospital

after each baby is born, and present our baby to God. We ask for blessings to be good parents to this new child of God, and we offer our praises and thanksgiving for this new life in our family. My husband and I will occasionally stop in the chapel on our date night and try to integrate Christ into all we do. If someone asks for prayers and is in great need, I often offer up time of adoration for them.

I believe it is a great way to holiness to come into Christ's true presence and spend time with Him. He waits for all of us to make a sacrifice of time to be with Him, and He can't wait to pour out His lavish blessings on us for the sacrifices we make. He is so incredible! If only everyone realized the Hidden Treasure we have...I imagine the chapel would be standing room only!

Please take some time during the busy holidays to drop into the chapel and spend a few minutes in the presence of Christ—you will be refreshed, blessed, and comforted.

— Jean McGinty, Perpetual Adoration Coord.

"Some writers trace the first beginnings of perpetual adoration to the late fourth century, when converts to the faith in some dioceses were to adore the Blessed Sacrament exposed for eight days after their baptism. It is certain, however, that even before the institution of the feast of Corpus Christi, not only religious in convents and monasteries but the laity practiced Eucharistic adoration. After his victory over the Albigenses, King Louis VII of France asked the Bishop of Avignon to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Chapel of the Holy Cross (September 14, 1226). The throng of adorers was so great that the bishop decided to have the adoration continue day and night. This was later ratified by the Holy See and continued uninterrupted until 1792 during the French Revolution. It was resumed in 1829. It was not until after the Council of Trent, however, that perpetual adoration began to develop on a world-wide scale..."

What has become increasingly clear, however, is that Christ in the Eucharist is not only adorable but entreatable. He is not only to be adored, like Thomas did, by addressing Him as, 'My Lord and my God.' He is also to be asked for what we need, like the blind man who begged, 'Lord, that I may see,' or approached like the woman who said to herself, 'If I can even touch His clothes, I shall be well again.' By now countless believers have begged the Savior in the Eucharist for what they needed, and have come close to Him in the tabernacle or on the altar. Their resulting experience has profoundly deepened the Church's realization of how literally Christ spoke when He promised to be with us until the end of time. The experience has been mainly spiritual: In giving light to the mind and strength to the will, in providing graces for oneself and others, in enabling weak human nature to suffer superhuman trials, in giving ordinary people supernatural power to accomplish extraordinary deeds."

— from *The History of Eucharistic Adoration Development of Doctrine in the Catholic Church* by John A. Hardon, S.J.

ADVENT READING RECOMMENDATIONS

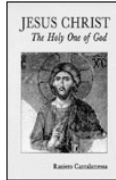
Prepare for the Coming of Christmas with These Insightful Meditations

Advent is coming...how do we prepare? No one prepares better for the coming of Christmas than the commercial world. The sheer noise of the season can be one of the greatest challenges of Advent. Fortunately, our own customs can soften the commercial onslaught—our liturgies speak the truth of the season, regardless of all the world's noise. So, let us gentle the season of Advent by retiring a bit. Embrace silence and be still. Step away from the Christmas season noises and step into the silence of Advent by praying and reading. We must prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts, so I would like to recommend two books that I always re-read during the Advent season.



The first book is Vol. 1 of the series In Conversation with God, by Fr. Francis Fernandez. This volume of the series is for Advent, and this book helps the reader to pray with piety and with confidence. It is aimed not at the "expert", but is for the ordinary person—the homemaker, the teacher, the secre-

tary, or the clergy member. The book follows the thread of the daily Liturgy, and has open suggestions for daily meditations on every aspect of Christian life. There are seven volumes that go from Advent to Lent, and also include Ordinary time and Special feasts.



Another recommendation is the book Jesus Christ: the Holy One of God by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap., who serves as the preacher to the papal household. The book is a series of meditations on Christ: two are devoted to the humanity of Christ, two to his divinity, and two to his unity of person. The book is a good read, and has 157 pages.

So, as we start Advent we say, "God, you continue to send your Risen Son into our lives, provided that we are open and prepared to receive him." So let us begin the process of renewal that we may be open to Christ's coming, with prayer and spiritual reading.

— Deacon Sean Curtan

LIVING THE COMMANDMENTS

A Continuing Series on Living the Commandments in Modern Life

This new series in The St. Vincent Voice will review the 10 Commandments revealed to the Israelites (as well as the 2 Great Commandments given to us by Jesus) in the context of the life of a modern-day Catholic. We recognize that there are many different interpretations of these commandments, and many great books have been written about them, which may provide deeper insights. With this series, we simply want to provide a few basic ideas and challenges in hopes of inspiring readers to reflect anew on God's Commandments—and how to live in a way that honors them.

The 10 Commandments, also known as the Decalogue, can be found in two pas-

sages in the Bible—Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. They were given directly by God to the people of Israel at Mount Sinai after He had delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

"The Ten Commandments are engraved by God in the human heart." (CCC 2072)

The Catholic Catechism tells us, "In fidelity to Scripture and in conformity with the example of Jesus, the tradition of the Church has acknowledged the primordial importance and significance of the Decalogue. Ever since St. Augustine, the Ten Commandments have occupied a predominant place in the catechesis of baptismal candidates and the faithful...The catechisms of the Church have often expounded Christian morality by following the order of the Ten Commandments." (CCC 2064-2065)

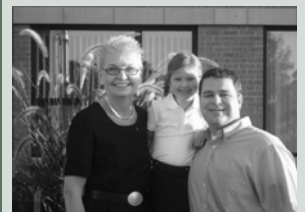
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A HISTORY OF THE NATIVITY SCENE (CONTINUED)

introducing the Presepio to the vast cycle of Christmas customs, when, at Christmas 1223 in the village of Greccio near Assisi, as we are told by Saint Bonaventure, he took a manger and filled it with hay, tied an ass and an ox near it and with a crowd of people from all over the neighboring countryside attended the celebration of Mass in front of the crib...rather than a Presepio, the crib built at Greccio can be seen as a development of Christmas liturgical ceremonies, which reconnect with the mysteries...From the 14th century onwards these religious representations became ever more lavish, with the addition of mobile puppets, that some consider the forefathers of our present day crib-figures."

To learn more, please see the full article online at www.friendsofthecreche.org

ST. VINCENT'S SCHOOL FUN



Claire Salzer poses with her dad, Joel Salzer and Miss O'Hara, on her first day of Kindergarten. Miss O'Hara was her dad Joel's Kindergarten teacher at St. Margaret Mary School.

FAMILY CORNER

Some recommended Christmas books for children

Picture Books

- 📖 *The Animals' Christmas* by Catharine Gardam
- 📖 *The Christmas Angel* by Pirkko Vainio
- 📖 *A Christmas Guest* by David LaRochele
- 📖 *The Christmas Star* by Marcus Pfister
- 📖 *The Christmas Story from the King James Bible*, by Isabelle Brent
- 📖 *The Christmas Visitor* by Anneliese Lussert
- 📖 *The Farolitos of Christmas* by Rudolfo Anaya
- 📖 *The First Night* by B.G. Hennessy
- 📖 *The Legend of the Poinsettia*, by Tomie dePaola
- 📖 *The Christmas Promise* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- 📖 *Silent Night*, by Susan Jeffers
- 📖 *The Crippled Lamb* by Max Lucado
- 📖 *When It Snowed That Night* by Norma Farber
- 📖 *St. Francis Celebrates Christmas*, by Mary Caswell Walsh

Chapter Books

- 📖 *A Cup of Christmas Tea* by Tom Hegg
- 📖 *Mary's Little Donkey and the Flight to Egypt* by Gunhild Sehlin
- 📖 *Michael Hague's Family Christmas Treasury*
- 📖 *A Midnight Clear* by Katherine Paterson
- 📖 *A Newberry Christmas: stories of Newberry Winners* by Martin H. Greenberg
- 📖 *A Treasury of Christmas Stories* by Sian Hardy
- 📖 *The Trees Kneel at Christmas* by Maud Hart Lovelace

LIVING THE COMMANDMENTS

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The Catechism also reminds us of our continuing obligation to obey these commandments: "Since they express man's fundamental duties towards God and towards his neighbor, the Ten Commandments reveal, in their primordial content, *grave* obligations. They are fundamentally immutable, and they oblige always and everywhere. No one can dispense from them. The Ten Commandments are engraved by God in the human heart." (CCC 2072)

In reading either of the passages in Exodus or Deuteronomy, one will find that there are actually 14 or 15 imperative statements. However, the Bible assigns the count of "10" in various passages (such as Exodus 34:28), using the Hebrew phrase *aseret had'varim*—translated as *the 10 words, statements or things*. Although the Bible tells us that there are 10 Com-

mandments, it does not tell us how they are numbered. Various religions divide the commandments differently—as demonstrated in the chart below. In the Roman Catholic Church, "The division and numbering of the Commandments have varied in the course of history. The present catechism follows the division of the Commandments established by St. Augustine, which has become traditional in the Catholic Church." (CCC 2066)

In this series, we will use the traditional Roman Catholic division, but what is important is that we follow all of what is written in Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. We encourage you to re-read these bible passages, and look for a discussion of the first 2 Commandments in our next issue.

—*Nikelle Morris, Parishioner & Editor*

Division of the Ten Commandments by religion/denomination				
Commandment	Jewish	Orthodox	Roman Catholic*, Lutheran**	Anglican, Reformed, and Other Protestant
I am the Lord thy God	1	1	1	preface
Thou shalt have no other gods before me	2			1
Thou shalt not make for thyself an idol		2		2
Thou shalt not make wrongful use of the name of thy God	3	3	2	3
Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy	4	4	3	4
Honor thy Father and Mother	5	5	4	5
Thou shalt not murder	6	6	5	6
Thou shalt not commit adultery	7	7	6	7
Thou shalt not steal	8	8	7	8
Thou shalt not bear false witness	9	9	8	9
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.	10	10	9	10
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife			10	

Notes: *Roman Catholics use 'You shall not Kill' instead of 'You shall not murder' ** Some Lutheran churches use a slightly different division of the ninth and tenth commandments: 9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his workers, or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Chart & Notes found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Commandments

FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We Welcome Two New Members to Our Parish Staff



My name is Kym Chase and I am the new Director of School Dining Services and the Director of Catering for Regan Hall. It is my pleasure to introduce myself to all of you. I grew up in Wahpeton, North Dakota. I graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics in a Coordinated Undergraduate Program in Dietetics, and a sec-

ond BS in Corporate and Community Fitness. I minored in Business, Psychology, and Wellness. I have 10 years of critical care nutrition support experience, 5 years of long term care experience, and most recently, 10 years of school food service and catering experience in a private school setting, where I was the Director of School Dining Services and Catering for The Blake School here in the Twin Cities. I have a 15

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FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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year-old son, Tanner Chase, who attends The Blake School. Food is such an important part of life for most everyone, from celebrations of important milestones such as weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays, to holiday gatherings with family and friends, and finally honoring our loved ones who have passed away. It is truly a gift to be a part of those moments. I feel very blessed to be able to do what I love every day with such a talented staff of food service professionals, and in such a wonderful, welcoming community. I look forward to meeting the members of this great parish. I also look forward to working with some of you, and to serving those of you who require our expertise.

—With warm regards, *Kym Chase*



Okey Anyanwu

Greetings, beloved sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ!

Whenever I have an opportunity to introduce myself, I get a little bit excited because of the humorous confusion that my first name ("Okey", pronounced "OK") creates for people, and it might interest you to know that it is perfectly OK with me. It is also an OK feeling to realize that my life and adventures—in retrospect—have always forecast a career in ministry or better still, a vocation to serve God in and through his Church.

I was born and raised in Nigeria, West Africa, as the third of eight children. My parents insisted and worked hard to give each of us the best Catholic education they could afford with their meager income. My personal journey with the Church assumed a new dimension when I went off to college seminary to study in my local diocese in Nigeria, and eventually graduated with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome. Afterwards, I believed I needed a break from seminary formation in order to explore the "outside world". I was blessed with opportunities to study in many locations around the world, including Yugoslavia, Malaysia, and the Netherlands (Holland). It was while in Holland that the craving for ministry revisited me, but this time with a desire to work in a place with

a great appreciation of diversity, especially across ethnic and socioeconomic lines. This was how I began to consider my eventual migration to the US. The emotional struggle of missing my family back in Nigeria, and the frustration of having to part with my very good friends in Asia and Europe, made it a difficult decision. However, I found some peace about my decision after a while and therefore arrived in the US in Nov. 2001 to begin the discernment of my vocation in pastoral ministry.

My 5 years of discernment included a pastoral internship year at St. Olaf's Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis, two years of graduate study in Theology at St. Paul Seminary, two years of pastoral internship at the Church of St. Stephen in Anoka, and two years of internship at the Office for Social Justice in our Archdiocese, which ran concurrently with the completion of my Master of Divinity program at St. John's University-Collegeville.

So, here I am—your "new" Pastoral Minister and Coordinator of Social Justice Ministry, an American in the making, a "black missionary" in the "white land" and by the grace of God a happy member of St. Vincent's faith community. I have already realized that I am among a group of extraordinarily warm and gifted people in a well-organized and motivated parish. My vision is to uphold a ministry of Christ's love and healing presence to the sick and challenged members of our community. I am ready to provide leadership that will fulfill the Church's social mission of love, justice, freedom, peace, and respect for the dignity of human life by encouraging a communal response in organized ways to societal and individual human needs.

Besides doing ministry, I am a big fan of soccer (the king of all sports) and volleyball; and I consider traveling more of an addiction than a mere hobby. I am also a great "outdoor party animal" as often as Minnesota weather permits. Friends and family are a big part of my spirituality. Thank you once again for your warm welcome and remarkable hospitality. May the good Lord in whom "we live, move and have our being", bless and keep you all.

— Okey Anyanwu, Pastoral Minister

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

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WE WOULD LOVE TO ADD A FEW MORE MEMBERS!



The St. Vincent Voice

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ST. VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR—DEC. 1 & 2

Offering Holiday Family Fun and Stewardship Opportunities for Volunteers

The Christmas Bazaar would not be successful without the support of the parish family. It is an event with a great mission—to fund the religious education of the children at St. Vincent's. **This year's Bazaar is Dec. 1 from 9:00 to 5:00 and Dec. 2 from 8:15 to 12:30.** In addition to attending, consider volunteering for this parish event. It is a great way to offer your gifts in one of the three components of Stewardship:

TIME: Volunteers make the Bazaar possible. There are many things to do: organize more than sixty crafters, schedule live musical entertainment, prepare raffle items, purchase supplies, and the list goes on. One of the more popular tasks is preparing for the Slice of Heaven Bakery. Volunteers join the food service staff in the school's kitchen to produce a variety of baked goods, both savory and sweet. The kitchen quickly fills with wonderful aromas, bringing back many Christmas memories. It becomes a noisy whirlwind of sprinkles and icing as everybody shares their family traditions. The baking day guarantees great conversation and laughter. But, the need for volunteers doesn't end with the preparations. On the weekend of the Bazaar, volunteers are needed to set up, serve food, cashier, serve coffee, restock the bakery, sell raffle tickets, and clean up. There are opportunities for everyone. Sign up in the gathering space on the weekends of November 10-11 and November 17-18.

This year's baking day is November 17.

TALENTS: Many talented people already make the Christmas Bazaar an exciting event, but more talented people

are always welcome. **Are you a "people per-**

son"? Outgoing, and sometimes loud (didn't know that was a talent, did you)? You could walk around the Bazaar selling tickets for the hourly raffle, greet people at the front door, or dress up in red suit and hat and hand out candy canes. **Do you have a way with numbers?** You could cashier in the cafeteria, the Slice of Heaven Bakery, or work at the CCW or raffle tables. **Are you creative?** You could donate some of your handmade items or create a theme basket for the CCW table or the raffle. **Are you good with kids?** You could assist with the children's crafts on Saturday. **Do you have so many talents that you just can't decide which one to use?** You would make the perfect "utility volunteer", filling in wherever needed.

TREASURE: I mentioned that serving on the committee is a great way to offer time and talents. Well, attending the Bazaar is a great way to offer treasure, which I seem to do very well. But who could resist? There are so many gift options among the unique baked goods and the crafter's items, plus the lunch on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, gourmet coffee, and the children's crafts. Treasure, in the form of donations, is also accepted and greatly appreciated. Some items to consider donating are: services from your business, event tickets, theme baskets, and new merchandise, such as, toys, electronics, jewelry, and home décor.

Please consider lending your time, talents or treasure to the Christmas Bazaar, and mark your calendar so that you can attend this wonderful event!

— Dana DeBoer, Parishioner