

# THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

On May 11, we will celebrate Pentecost. This commemorates the “birthday” of the church, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles as Jesus had promised. It is an occasion to remind us of the gifts and grace of the Holy Spirit. In this issue, we have several articles that demonstrate the presence of the Holy Spirit at St. VDP.

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults is a wonderful resource for learning more about the Holy Spirit. It tells us, “The Holy Spirit comes to us as a teacher of the meaning and depth of Revelation. He also fills us with power, the grace to understand the Church’s teachings and the wisdom to see how they apply to our lives.

Finally, the Spirit puts courage into our hearts so that we can witness what we believe to believer and unbeliever alike... The Holy Spirit is essentially Love.”

It also tells us, “The fact that the Holy Spirit is God—equal in being with the Father and the Son, of the same divine natures as they are (consubstantial with them), the Third Person of the Holy Trinity—took time to be recognized and proclaimed...Even though the Holy Spirit is the last Person of the Trinity to be revealed, we must understand that, from the beginning, he is a part of the loving plan of our salvation from sin and of the offer of divine life.”

## THE WAYS WE PRAY

### Finding Moments for Prayer in a Busy Life

There are probably many parishioners reading this newsletter that would love to find time for more prayer in their lives... but can’t seem to make it happen. Following are a few ideas from an essay by Christian author & speaker Barbara Bartocci entitled, “How to Pray a Minute”:

- **Observe a growing, green thing.** Whether it’s a tree, flower, or indoor potted plant, look at the veins in the leaves, or count the petals in a flower. For a minute, look at God’s living creation, be aware, and be thankful.
- **The one-minute fast.** Tempted to eat something you shouldn’t? Wait for one minute. Offer the minute to God and ask the Holy Spirit to help you control the desire. Indeed, you may no longer be tempted when the minute is up.
- **Affirm yourself.** We’re often overly critical of ourselves. At night, take a minute to look in the mirror. Make eye contact with yourself. “God loves you,” you might say, “and I love you.”
- **The count-to-60, stop-a-fight prayer.** Ever burst out in anger and regretted your words later? Next time, count to 60 this way: one-for-God, two-for-God...
- **Take a minute to listen to someone.**

Maybe you can listen to a child, instead of absently saying, “Uh-huh.” Or maybe you can listen to a spouse, instead of responding, “That’s nice.”

- **The one-minute changeover for God.** Do you forget to replace the toothpaste cap? Or forget to leave the mail where your spouse can see it? Pick a habit that bothers you or someone else and dedicate one minute a day to correct it. Do it in God’s name.
- **The TV minute.** Use the next commercial to focus on the Christian call to love simply. Notice how few products advertised relate to what we need, and how many are designed to make us want what isn’t necessary. Talk back to commercials.
- **Make a red-light act of contrition.** At every red light, tell God you’re sorry for all the times you stopped living God’s will to pursue your own desires.
- **The gas-pump minute.** As you pump gas into your car, ask God’s spirit to flow into you, filling you with holy energy.

If you appreciated these ideas, you may want to purchase the author’s recent book, Grace on the Go: 101 Quick Ways to Pray, or one of the many other good books available on this subject.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

■ Mar. 23:  
Easter Masses at 7:30,  
9 and 11 am

## The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

- **Tim Huston,**  
*Parishioner*
- **Eric O'Link,**  
*Parishioner*
- **Melanie Otto,**  
*Parishioner*
- **Renee Paske,**  
*Staff Member*
- **Marci Siers,**  
*Pastoral Council Member*
- **Nikelle Morris,**  
*Editor/Designer,  
Parishioner*

For information on joining the committee, contact Renee Paske at 763-425-2210.

**WE WOULD LOVE TO ADD A FEW MORE MEMBERS!**



## ASK FATHER

Fr. Tom Answers a Parishioner Question

**Q. Jesus died for us and for our sins giving us full communication access with God. So, why do I have to confess to a priest instead of going direct to God?**

**A.** Great question! The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession has always been part of our developing Tradition of the Catholic Church. We can see it developing in the first centuries after Jesus was crucified and actually stems from sacred scripture (from Jesus in the New Testament). Our belief in Confession actually comes from scripture. Jesus says to Simon Peter "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**Only God forgives sins and can zap us clean (forgive us) if He wants to.** However, because we are disciples, adopted brothers and sisters in faith, a community of believers, extended family, God normally wants us to help each other into a deeper conversion of heart. God wants us to develop a deeper friendship with Jesus and each other. We are to help each other in this conversion process. Psychologically, I think it is very healthy to unload our worst moments of being mean, selfish, self-centered, dishonest, unchaste, unfaithful etc... to the priest who stands in as God's representative.

**A deeper accountability exists when we admit our failings to another, and most often a deeper healing.** If the priest is unconditionally loving in Confession, how much more so is an infinitely loving God? If we have been open and honest, authentic and sincere in our Confession, we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit to flow in us and through us. We can receive deep inner healing and strengthening. This is the foundation for a strong spiritual life and can allow us to grow into a stronger trust and confidence in a kind, loving, gentle, compassionate God who loves us unconditionally and wants us to share eternal life with Him in heaven. The purpose of life is to go to heaven when we die. Moreover, to help as many other people as possible to go there as well, is authentic love. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, when properly understood and celebrated, creates conversion and friendship with God. We become more and more saintly.

**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

## REMEMBERING ... The Auction for Education



*SVDP School Principal Kathleen O'Hara poses with a member of the "Blue Man Group"*



This annual event is a night of fun and fellowship that includes a silent auction, a live auction, and delicious dinner to raise money for Religious Education in our parish. This year's theme (if you didn't already guess from the pictures!) was "Viva, Las Vegas!"

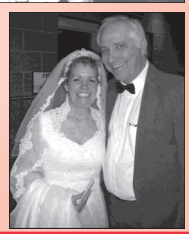


Staff members and parishioners all joined in the fun—we had Elvis impersonators, entertainers, CSI's, cocktails waitresses, wedding couples... it was a great party for a great cause!



**The Auction for Education was a huge success, bringing in \$94,575.00!**

**The Auction for Education is a major fundraiser for SVDP Faith Formation (Religious Ed.) programs, and for our school.**



# LIVING THE COMMANDMENTS

A Continuing Series on Living the Commandments in Modern Life

*This continuing series reviews 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. With this series, we seek 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.*

## #3: Remember the Lord's Day and keep it holy.

When discussing the third commandment, it is helpful to begin with a discussion of how the meaning has changed over time. When this commandment was given to the Jewish people in the time of Moses, they were instructed to "Remember the Sabbath..." At that time, they celebrated the Sabbath on Saturday, the 7th day of the week. (As it is still celebrated by the Jewish people today.) It was a day to commemorate how God rested on the 7th day of creation. They ceased work to imitate God, and the time the Lord spent in contemplation of creation. There were many laws governing the observance of Sabbath for devout Jews.

However, with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the meaning of Sabbath—and the day on which it is celebrated—has changed for Christians. Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday—the 1st day of the week. With Jesus' resurrection, the New Covenant was realized. That New Covenant superseded the old covenant, so Christians began to observe Sunday as the day to sanctify and elevate their relationship with God. The Saturday Sabbath was observed during the time of waiting for the Savior. Now that the Savior has come, the Lord's Day is a time for celebration, joy, and thankfulness for the New Covenant fulfilled by Jesus. That is why, today, you will often see this commandment expressed as, "Remember the Lord's Day, and keep it holy." This form (instead of using the word "Sabbath") more clearly states the new meaning for this commandment in the life of a Christian.

## So... how is one to live in a way that honors this commandment?

Try to think of each Sunday as an opportunity to create a "taste of heaven" in your current life. After all, is there any one of us who is not hoping to reach heaven when we end our lives on this earth? How do you imagine your time in heaven?

**For most if us, a picture of heaven involves our soul existing in a state of perfect communion with God and with other souls, especially those of our loved ones. We imagine a place of comfort and peace, where everyone exists in harmony and service to one another and to God.**

*So... how is one to live in a way that honors this commandment? Try to think of each Sunday as an opportunity to create a "taste of heaven" in your current life.*

This is what God desires for each of us, and the reason he sent Jesus to open heaven for us and to show us the way. Following are a few ideas to consider as you strive to make your Sundays into celebrations of the Resurrection, and a preview of time in heaven...

**Perfect Communion with God and One Another.** The Mass is the highest form of

prayer in the Catholic Church. It is a direct reenactment of the Last Supper, when Jesus Christ first allowed us to share in his divine person through the Eucharist, and Calvary. At what other time can a human be in greater communion with God than to be allowed to actually ingest his divine presence, and take Jesus into one's physical being? Mass is a celebration—take the opportunity to praise God with your voice in the prayers and music. Contemplate the Word of God in the readings and how they apply to your life. Look around at the faces of the congregation—where else in your daily life are you surrounded by hundreds of people who are sharing your celebration of the life and resurrection of someone you all love, and believe in?

**Surrounded by Loved Ones.** This is another aspect of heaven that we can live out today. Designate Sunday as a day to appreciate and honor the people you love in your life. Instead of doing laundry, take time to call a friend or family member, or to play a game with a child or a neighbor.

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## WHY WAS FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATED DURING REGULAR MASSES THIS YEAR?

First communion, also referred to as First Eucharist, is usually celebrated in the spring at St. Vincent de Paul. In the past, it was celebrated on two Sunday afternoons at special 1 PM Masses. This was due to the large number of communicants.

Since the number of communicants was slightly down this year, we celebrated 1st Communion during multiple regular April weekend masses. There was only one large 1 PM group mass.

It is appropriate for First Communion to be celebrated within the general parish assembly. The children are being initiated more fully into the community.

In Eucharist, we become one with the community by taking in the very life of Christ. First Communion is liturgically considered a parish event. It is not a special family event, but rather a special *parish family* event. Perhaps in the future, all First Communion will be celebrated during regular Sunday masses.

— *Renee Paske,*  
*Staff Member, Elementary*  
*Religious Education*

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH ST. VINCENT'S SINGLES MINISTRY

Hello from Singles with Heart! We are a new singles ministry here at St. Vincent de Paul, established this past November by Sandee Heltemes and Kay Squiers, two single women from the St. Vincent de Paul parish who felt a need to reach out to other singles.

When we first met with Pastoral Minister Okey Anyanwu this past November, our original idea was to provide a social meeting place for singles of all ages. Since then, our group has developed into much more.

Our goal is to affirm and welcome all single Christian adults—to encourage personal growth and spiritual enrichment of single life through friendship and stewardship.

Singles with Heart meets twice a month for social events, service projects and spiritual gatherings.

Our first meeting was January 19. Since then, we have gathered several times for social events, potluck dinners, game nights, and service projects.

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## LIVING THE COMMANDMENTS

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Put off mowing the lawn until Tuesday night—instead, throw the football around in the backyard with the kids. Instead of cleaning your apartment, invite a friend over for dinner. We are no longer restricted from doing any work on the Lord's Day—however; we are encouraged to ensure that whatever work we perform is done in the spirit of service to the Lord. When the Lord "rested" on the 7th day, it was in order to contemplate and appreciate all that he had created in the first six days. Imitate his example by taking one day a week to contemplate and find joy in your *own* creations—your family, your work, your friendships, your hobbies.

### **In Service to God and One Another.**

Quite simply, this idea encourages us to use the Lord's Day as an opportunity to contemplate our families, our community, and our world—and to discover how we might serve God by serving them.

### **#4: Honor your Father and your Mother.**

A reading of the Catechism confirms that this commandment applies not only to the duties of children to their parents, but among all members of a Christian family: "The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of

the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called **'the domestic church,' a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.**" (CCC, no. 1666) All family members are called to act in a manner that creates the kind of graceful, virtuous community described in that statement.

Children owe their parents, "respect, gratitude, just obedience, and assistance." As children may eventually become the caretakers of aging parents, they are asked to "care for them with a generous heart" and do what they can to help them. At the same time, parents owe their children "education in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children." (CCC, nos. 2251 & 2252) These obligations among family members are life-long, and when fulfilled, they create a family unit that serves as a living example of God's love at work in the world.

Of course, all families will face difficult times. However, we are reminded in the Catechism that, "a family is holy not because it is perfect, but because God's grace is at work in it."

*—Nikelle Morris, Parishioner & Editor*

## CONFIRMED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Two Parishioners Share their Confirmation Stories



*Lynette Sawicky* Growing up, I was raised in a home with a strong Lutheran faith. When I married my husband, I knew that it was a strong possibility that we would send our kids to Catholic school, but I wasn't really interested in becoming Catholic. Years after attending Catholic Mass together, I found myself yearning to be a part of all of it, and it was perfect timing for me this year to attend RCIA, as our daughter will be attending Kindergarten at St. Vincent's next fall.

I thought I knew a lot about the Catholic faith (and so did my husband), and I also had a lot of hesitations with it...Why would you pray to Mary and the Saints when you

can just pray to God himself? Why do I have to confess to a priest? Does the Eucharist really turn into the body and blood of Christ? If Christ came back today, wouldn't he give communion to all of us? Why is there so much tradition? Why fast? Why are there so many rules, and which are we really supposed to follow? Then the great words of wisdom from one of my fabulous sponsors (yes, I had two because each offered something vastly different for me), she said, "When you submit, you will find peace."

She couldn't have been more right! My attitude completely changed and the Holy Spirit continued His work in me.

I thought that RCIA was going to be a

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# CONFIRMED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

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huge commitment that was going to get in the way of our lives, but it was completely the opposite! It became the day that I looked most forward to during the week (and not just because we were leaving our three young children at home.) It was phenomenal! Absolutely wonderful! We learned so much about the Catholic faith, and yes, even my husband who went to Catholic school learned something! We studied the sacraments, the bible, the traditions, and the beliefs of the Catholic Church. In all honesty, it was an experience I would love to do over again!

Chuck Pratt has really put together a fabulous program here at St. Vincent's, and Father Jack, Father Tom, and Deacon Sean were supportive and encouraging along the way!

The Easter Vigil was amazing! To be able to renew my baptismal vows, to become a confirmed Catholic and to receive my very first Holy Eucharist was a beautiful experience. I am so excited to continue on this faith journey! The prayers, smiles, and congratulatory words of the parishioners have been wonderful! Thank you for making me feel so welcome into the family here at St. Vincent's! A long time ago, a girlfriend told me that "being Catholic is the coolest!" and at the time I thought she was crazy! Now, I finally understand what she was talking about! It is *so* awesome!

—*Lynette Sawicky, Parishioner*

Picture

Confirmation is completely necessary for a young Catholic, and provides another stepping-stone to aid us on our spiritual journey. After graduating St. Vincent de Paul in 2006, I started high school at

*Nick Wanner will be confirmed on May 5, 2008*

Totino-Grace. Coming into the St. Vincent de Paul confirmation program as a freshman, I had no idea what to expect. I decided that it would probably be like any other religion class that I have taken: we would probably read from a book the entire period, learning about the power that God has in our lives. As I stepped into my first class, my belief started to change rapidly. The encounters and experiences that I have been a part of in the past two years have been incredibly spiritual and extraordinary.

The confirmation process is not something to belittle. Over the two year confirmation preparation program, I have played bingo with the residents at Berkshire Nursing Home, packaged meals at Feed My Starving Children, attended retreats held by various youth ministers, listened to Pam Stenzel speak to various Confirmation students at Epiphany, and attended the weekly confirmation classes. It seemed, at times, that this preparation process was never going to end, but I have learned to look at Confirmation as a gift rather than a burden. The biggest highlight of my confirmation preparation was the weekend retreat held at St. Vincent's this past October. The weekend culminated in a very powerful and emotional prayer service that was held in the church nursery. With candles lighting the room, and the soft strumming of a guitar in the corner, many of us, including myself, were brought immensely closer to God and each other. To me, that small prayer service represented the power of God inside all of us, and the power that is still yet to be bestowed on us through Confirmation. This preparation has aided me greatly and I feel fully prepared to experience God's gift of Confirmation.

—*Nick Wanner, Parishioner*

## Share Your Story with Us!

We love it when parishioners are willing to write about their experiences for us—would you be willing to be a newsletter contributor, too? Right now, we are specifically looking for stories from parishioners who attended the Parish Mission and/or the Fr. Livingston retreat. We'd like to hear your experiences, and how the retreat has affected your spiritual life. If you have a story to share, please e-mail it to [editor@saintvdp.org](mailto:editor@saintvdp.org), or send it to the parish office to Attn: St. Vincent Voice Editor. We hope to hear from you!

## SINGLES WITH HEART

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

### Upcoming events include:

- In May, we will attend 11 a.m. mass as a group, followed by brunch. Our service project will be a spring cemetery clean-up.
- In June, we will take an outing to the Omnitheater. For a service project, we will serve a meal at the People Serving People organization.
- July's schedule includes a St. Paul Saints baseball game.
- In September, we are planning a mini spiritual retreat with a guest speaker.

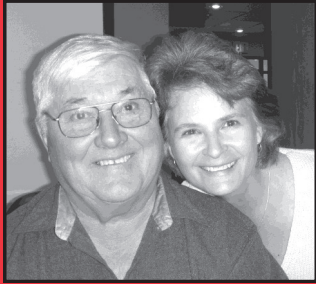
We encourage any single adults who feel like "getting out" and meeting new people to come to a meeting, social, service, or spiritual event. You are always welcome and we would love to meet you!

For more information and details on these and other events, please check weekend mass bulletins or call Okey at 763-425-2210, ext. 417.

—*Kay, Sandee and Janice from Singles with Heart*

# FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Meet Tom Phenow



Tom is pictured above with his niece, Tess Eiden, who works in the parish office.

## How long have you been a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul?

All my life—78 years. My parents, Peter & Nellie Phenow, were parishioners when I was born. I am a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, and I raised five children at St. Vincent's along with my wife Darlyne, who passed away in 1995.

## Tell us some of your favorite memories here.

I have many great memories of Fr. Boerboom. He baptized me, and then as a boy, I attended catechism classes with him every Saturday morning. I served as an altar boy with him, and eventually he was the priest who married Darlyne and me.

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### 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](http://www.saintvdp.org/parish/parish_newsletters)

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

An Index of Past Articles in The St. Vincent Voice

Have you ever wanted to re-read a past article from this newsletter, but weren't sure what issue it was in? Following is a list of the articles grouped by general subject, with the issue in which it appeared. All issues are available online at the parish web site: [www.saintvdp.org](http://www.saintvdp.org). We also have a binder available for your review in the parish office.

### Our Catholic Faith

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|---|-----------------------|
| Advent Reading Recommendations  | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| Advent Retreats near the Twin Cities  | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| Ask Father: Why are priests sent from parish to parish, rather than left in the same place?   | 2007: Aug.- Oct.      |
| Ask Father: Are priests required to say Mass every day? Why would Mass be offered only a few times a week?  | 2008: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Ask Father: Are Sundays considered a part of Lent? How does that affect our penance for Lent?   | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Ask Father: Besides money, what are other ways for us as Catholics to show Stewardship?   | 2005: Premier         |
| Ask Father: How does Advent preparation relate to our preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus?   | 2006: 4th Quar.       |
| Ask Father: In Mexico, the host was dipped in the wine at communion. Why is it different in Mexico?   | 2006: 1st Quar.       |
| Ask Father: What is the Proper Veneration of the Communion Blood by Parishioners?   | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| Ask Father: Since God knows I'm sorry, why confess to a priest?   | 2006: 1st Quar.       |
| Ask Father: What exactly does it mean when we say that we are part of the "Communion of Saints"?  | 2005: Premier         |
| Ask Father: Why do we have infant Baptism in the Catholic Church?   | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
| Ask Father: Why do we need to attend Mass weekly?   | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
| Ask Father: Why is the Eucharist not specifically mentioned in either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed?  | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
| Ask Sr. Nora: How can we best evangelize to some family members who no longer practice their faith?   | 2007: May- July       |
| Catholics Are Called to Conversion  | 2007: May- July       |
| Cultural Traditions of St. VDP (Genuflecting & Bowing; Posture during the Our Father ; Consecration Bells, etc.)                                    | 2007: Aug.- Oct.      |
| Do You "Celebrate" Lent?  | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Evangelizing in the Workplace   | 2007: May- July       |
| Family Corner: Create a Garden Together for Fun and Spiritual Lessons   | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
| Family Corner: Creating a Jesse Tree  | 2005: Premier         |
| Family Corner: How connected do you feel to your family?  | 2007: Aug.- Oct.      |
| Family Corner: Preparing Your Child for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist  | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
| Family Corner: Recommended Christmas books  | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| Family Corner: Resurrection Eggs  | 2006: 1st Quar.       |
| Family Corner: The Purple Plate of Appreciation   | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
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| Lift Your Burdens and Your Spirit with Reconciliation   | 2008: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Living the Commandments: First and Second Commandments  | 2008: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Living the Commandments: Introduction   | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| Looking for Jesus This Advent   | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| Make a Difference: Exodus Residence; <a href="http://www.guildofcatholicwomen.org">www.guildofcatholicwomen.org</a> ; Foundation Fior Di Loto India | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Make a Difference: Feed My Starving Children  | 2006: 1st Quar.       |
| Make a Difference: Find a spiritual discussion or prayer partner  | 2007: May- July       |
| Make a Difference: Help with Catholic Relief Services   | 2006: 4th Quar.       |
| Make a Difference: Make-A-Wish Foundation® of MN; Dress for Success   | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
| Make a Difference: Sharing & Caring Hands   | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
| Our Catholic Church--Worldwide  | 2006: 4th Quar.       |
| Pope Benedict XVI on Evangelization   | 2007: May- July       |
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| Preparing for Lent  | 2006: 1st Quar.       |
| Preparing for Marriage  | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
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| Something to Think About: "Unanswered Prayers"  | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
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| Story of a Soul (Book Recommendation)   | 2005: Premier         |
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| The Joys of the Sacraments  | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
| The Ways We Pray: Anointing of the Sick   | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
| The Ways We Pray: Examining the "Why", "When" and "How" of Prayer for Today's Catholic  | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
| The Ways We Pray: The Rosary  | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
| What are Penitential Acts?  | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
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| What is Christian Apologetics?  | 2007: May- July       |
| What is the GIRM?   | 2007: Aug.- Oct.      |

Find this index online at: [www.saintvdp.org/parish/parish\\_newsletters](http://www.saintvdp.org/parish/parish_newsletters)

## Parish Happenings

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| Cana Day Retreat and Dance .....                   | 2006: 1st Quar.       |
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| Charity Event at St. Vincent's: Mini-Fiesta .....  | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
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| Remembering the Easter Season .....                | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
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| Remembering the KC Breakfast .....                 | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
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| St. Vincent de Paul Annual Report .....            | 2006: 4th Quar.       |
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| St. Vincent's Christmas Bazaar .....               | 2007: Nov. - Jan. '08 |
| The Cana Retreat & Dinner .....                    | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
| The JustFaith Program Arrives .....                | 2008: Feb.- Apr.      |

## The People of St. Vincent de Paul Parish

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| A Father's Perspective on Youth Group .....   | 2007: May- July       |
| Almsgiving of Young Parishioners .....  | 2007: Feb.- Apr.      |
| Becoming a Catholic at St. Vincent's .....  | 2006: 3rd Quar.       |
| Book Club "Report" .....  | 2006: 2nd Quar.       |
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## CELEBRATING PENTECOST:

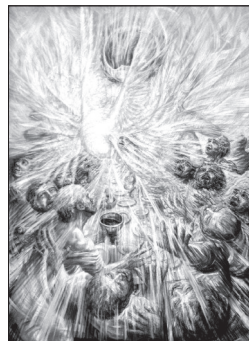
### A Day to Say 'Happy Birthday' to the Church

**T**hroughout the Liturgical year, we celebrate two birthdays: One, of course, is the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The other, Pentecost, is the celebration of the beginning of the Church.

Pentecost is familiar to Catholics and Christians as the day the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' apostles in the form of tongues of fire, and they received the

Holy Spirit. This glorious gift began the Church — but what the apostles did with it is an important part of the story.

In Acts of the Apostles, the day that would become Pentecost began simply enough:



*(Continued on page 8)*

## Meet Tom Phenow

*(continued)*

I still love to attend the Harvest Festival. I remember the days when everyone still brought homemade chicken and pies to the Festival. It's a great time to see lots of people from the parish, and have a beer with the guys.

**Tell us about a meaningful spiritual experience that you've had at our parish.**

I love going to the 7:30 am Mass. I'd go to an even earlier Mass if we had one!

**Tell us about your role as the caretaker of St. Vincent's cemetery.**

I love doing this work. I've been taking care of our cemetery for over 50 years. I started with my Dad and brothers back in 1945 when you had to dig the graves by hand with a shovel. Now, my son Bob helps me with the work.

The best part of the job is meeting with parishioners who want to purchase a plot. (By the way—my advice is not to wait until the last minute to buy one.) I also like visiting with all the people at the funerals and helping them out.



*Showing a map of the cemetery*

**Ever seen a ghost in the cemetery?**

Ha! Not yet, but I'm sure there are a few hiding out there. (Just kidding)



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# PENTECOST: THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

*(continued from page 7)*

that morning, the apostles and other believers were meeting together in a house in Jerusalem.

"Suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know, for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability" (Acts 2:2-4).

Many Jews were in Jerusalem because it was a holy feast day—Jews from Israel and nations throughout the region. Even people from as far away as Rome were visiting.

"When they heard the roaring in the sky above the house, the crowds came running to see what it was all about, and were stunned to hear their own languages being spoken by the disciples" (Acts 2:6). The story continues: Some of the people were amazed; others accused the disciples of being drunk. But Peter spoke up and shouted to the crowd that they were witness not to intoxication, but fulfillment of prophesy that Jesus would rise from the dead, ascend into heaven, and send the Holy Spirit to his disciples. The crowd was moved by Peter's speech, and asked what they should do. In a message that is familiar to Christians even today, Peter told them to repent from sin and be baptized in the name of Jesus. On that day, 3,000 people believed and were baptized, Acts says.

Thus, through the events of that day, the Church began.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that on several occasions, Jesus promised this "outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday, and then more strikingly at Pentecost." It was on Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was fully revealed. "Since that day, the Kingdom announced by Christ has been open to those who believe in him: in the humility of the flesh and in the faith, they already share the community of the Holy Trinity," the Catechism explains.

In his encyclical "Dominum et vivificantem," Pope John Paul II touched on the importance of Pentecost: The Church was revealed publicly to the people on Pentecost, he wrote, and the Gospel began to spread among nations through preaching of the Good News. He continues, "The time of the Church began at the moment when the promises and predictions that so explicitly referred to the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, began to be fulfilled in complete power and clarity upon the Apostles, thus determining the birth of the Church."

So when you go to church on May 11 and hear the scripture tell the story of tongues of fire and the disciples speaking in a multitude of languages, remember...this is a Sunday that we celebrate not only the miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples, but the very beginning of the Church itself.

—Eric O'Leak, Parishioner