



August 1—  
October 31, 2009



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

# The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Welcome to this edition of The St. Vincent Voice. In this issue, you will read about many fellow parishioners living our Catholic faith. Included are articles about our new Social Justice Program and teachers in our Faith Formation program. We will hear from a RCIA participant, about experiences of teens who have participated in the Christpower trip and the Steubenville Conference, kids attending our Vacation Bible School and we will also hear from and

about Catholic Priests who help guide us in living our faith. There are articles updating us on the Strategic Planning Committee efforts in our parish and about some wonderful accomplishments in our St. Vincent de Paul School as well. Also, please plan to come out and meet fellow parishioners at our annual get together, the Harvest Festival, on August 8th and 9th - see page 4 for details.

—*Marci Siers.*

*Pastoral Council Member and Parishioner*

## BEING TRUE TO OUR NAME

Under the Patronage of St. Vincent de Paul

To the best of my knowledge, our parish used to have St. (King) Louis of France as our patron saint, but at some point in history, St. Louis Catholic Church, Osseo became St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, in Brooklyn Park. The spirituality of every Catholic Eucharistic community is usually flavored with the spirituality of their patron saint. St. Vincent (our patron saint) always testified that when he served the poor, he “touched God” and when he came before God, he found himself reaching out to the poor. The poor in our society today are: the defenseless unborn baby,



*Statue of St. Vincent de Paul in the gathering area*

the traumatized woman who has gone through abortion or is contemplating doing so, the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, the disabled, the prisoner, the native of a war-torn country, the victim of domestic abuse, the struggling veteran and so on. These people are concretely “images and likenesses of God” just as is everyone else. It therefore makes sense that our communal spirituality should be one that lends hands and voices to the poor in and around our community as our patron saint did in his days in France. It was St. John Chrysostom who once said, “I cannot believe in the salvation of those people who do not work for the salvation of their neighbours.” Without duplicating everything that St. Vincent de Paul Society does as a charitable organization, our parish has a number of charitable programs that facilitate our outreach to the

less privileged in our community. We have recently developed more programs that will make our voices heard by legislators and policy makers. Our parishioners have the zeal, energy, and social justice consciences needed to speak loudly and persuasively for the underprivileged people in our society who have no voice. Our readiness to be charitable should be equalized by our passion for justice as in the case of the biblical prophets.

Social Justice Programs at St. Vincent include: Social Justice Committee, JustFaith, Justice-Walking, Womb-to-Tomb (pro-life), Medical Ministry, Prison Ministry, Ministry to the Disabled, Sowers of Justice, Multicultural Ministry, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Food and Gas Vouchers, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Baskets, Giving Tree, Baby Shower, Sharing and Caring Hands, Feed My Starving Children, Franciscan Brothers of Peace, WomenSource, CEAP and CROSS. Please check our website or the campaign pamphlets for the description of the activities under these programs.

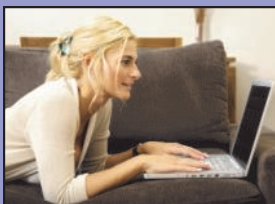
In order to boost our commitment to this call to promote the dignity of the human person through these programs as a church, we are launching a parish-wide Social Justice Outreach Campaign, which explains the reason for the beautiful monthly banners inside our worship space. The purpose of this year-long campaign at

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- August 8 & 9:  
Harvest Festival
- August 14:  
4th Annual  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Golf Scramble
- August 15:  
Feast of the  
Assumption
- September 7:  
Labor Day
- September 8:  
First Day of School  
at St. Vincent de Paul
- September 20:  
Catechetical Sunday
- September 26:  
St. Vincent de Paul  
School Marathon
- September 27:  
Feast of St. Vincent  
de Paul
- November 1:  
All Saint's Day

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



## ASK FATHER

Fr. Jack Answers Parishioner Questions

**Q. Father, ever since I was young, I always wondered why we make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips, and heart with our thumb before the gospel readings. I told my children that we were remembering the gospel (forehead), speak the gospel (lips), and keep the gospel in our hearts (heart). What is the real reason we do this ritual? Thank you.**

—Submitted by C. Gooley, Parishioner

It is quite basic. It is a gesture the people make as well as the person who proclaims the Gospel. The people in the pew when signing their forehead, lips and heart are to say, "May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart that I may listen to the holy Gospel." The person who is proclaiming the Gospel, whether it be a priest or deacon says, "May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart that I may faithfully proclaim the holy Gospel."

### Submit Your Question!

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

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Pastoral Council Looking for Input

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 name-tag.** 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. 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 two non-voting members, which are our pastor and our business 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: Ann Bergman, David Duffy, Janice Gabrick,**



**Back row (from left):** Dave Duffy, Norm Olafson, Don Ritter, Marci Siers **Middle row:** Rose Kahnke, Fr. Wehmann, Fr. Jack, Tom McMullen **Front row:** Nancy Moorman, Adriana Matzke, Ann Bergman - Not pictured is Janice Gabrick.

**Rose Kahnke, Tom McMullen, Adrianna Matzke, Nancy Moorman, Don Ritter, and Marci Siers.**

New members may join in the spring-time. Every March, we offer two evening Pastoral Council information nights. Any parishioner may attend, and learn more about the Council. Start thinking now about joining the Council, and plan to attend an information night next spring. After the first of the year, check the church bulletin for details about the dates and times of 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.

— Marci Siers,  
Pastoral Council Member



# WHY I TEACH FAITH FORMATION

Sean Masterman and Lorena Carter

When we joined St. Vincent de Paul Church, I felt God was calling me to be an active participant in building our community. It wasn't clear until early fall what that would entail. When I heard that the Faith Formation program needed additional teachers to deliver the program, I understood God's plan for me. I have been teaching in the Faith Formation program for the past four years.



The program has given me the opportunity to combine two of my great passions: teaching and faith exploration. For the past three years, I have had the pleasure of working with the sixth graders. I find this age especially engaging because the children are beginning to articulate the "big" questions in life—the core questions that help them to lay the foundation of what we

believe as Catholics, why we believe as we do, and how to integrate these beliefs amidst a secular world.

In Level Six, we explore the Old Testament and the foundations of Christianity. This backdrop provides a perfect framework for our faith exploration. A journey, on which I have the opportunity to act as the guide. Helping the children navigate the winding path and constant challenges is exciting. Our weekly explorations give me an escape from my work-a-day world filled with meetings and corporate headaches to return to the basics of faith. I find that this helps me to better articulate our faith and to embrace my Catholicism and Christianity more deeply. This experience has been as fulfilling for me as I believe it is for the children. It is this mutual benefit that assures me that God has called me to this role and that God gives me the grace and the strength that I need to be an effective, caring guide for our sixth graders.

— Sean Masterman.

*Faith Formation Teacher and Parishioner*



When we had our daughter baptized, we attended the baptism class. It was there that I realized, being committed to my faith is going to take some effort. The idea of teaching faith formation intimidated me, so I started co-teaching first graders. After a couple of years, I felt the Holy Spirit guiding me to give a little more, so I decided to move up each year with my class. At that time, I worked sixty hours a week and I was worried that I would not have enough time. I decided to pray about it. I prayed that if God wants me to develop and grow in my faith, to please open up some time. Before I knew it, I was working forty hours a week. This allowed me the opportunity to become more involved in other ministries at the church. From there the blessings just kept happening.

Teaching faith formation is a fundamental part of my faith journey. It has helped me

learn the answers to questions that I've never understood about my faith. The students have taught me more than I could ever teach them and the parents are wonderful and supportive. I will never know the answers to all the questions that the students have, but once they ask, I WANT to know the answer. Mother Theresa said, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

— Lorena Carter.

*Faith Formation Teacher and Parishioner*

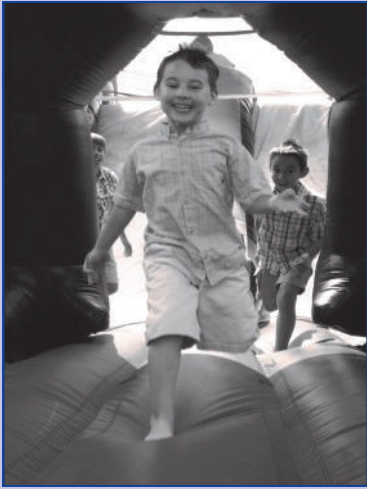


Registration for Faith Formation and Sunday Preschool/Kindergarten Classes is going on right now. Early Bird Fees are as follows: \$55 per student for Sunday Preschool/Kindergarten and \$100 per student for Levels 1 – 10 with a \$225 family maximum. Fees go up after August 31, 2009. Please note that registrations will not be accepted after September 15, 2009.



Teachers are needed for all levels! Please prayerfully consider whether or not this might be something you are being called to do. One student's tuition will be free for all teachers and office aides.





Join Us at the Harvest Festival  
It's a Great Place for Family Fun!

**AUGUST 8 & 9, 2009**

- Craft Vendors
- Pull Tabs
- Paddle Wheel
- Silent Auction
- \$1,000 Gas Card Raffle
- TV Raffle
- Big Raffle—Grand Prize \$6000!  
\$13,000 Total in Prizes!

**SATURDAY 12:00-10:00 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY 12:00-4:45 P.M.**



- Cash Bingo
- Family Prize Bingo
- Kids' Games
- Inflatable Rides
- Petting Zoo  
(1–4 p.m. on Sat. & Sun.)
- Free Child ID Kits provided  
by Farmers Insurance



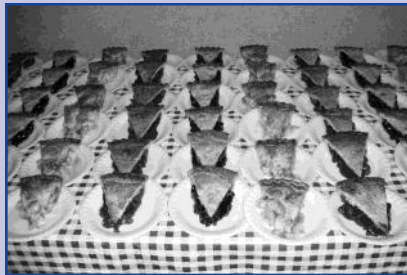
**LIVE MUSIC:**  
Saturday 1–4 p.m.  
**The Music of  
Crocodile Dock and More!**  
Performed by our very own  
Vacation Bible School Musicians

Saturday 6–10 p.m.  
**The Rockin' Hollywoods**

Sunday 1–3 p.m.  
**The Dixie Cats**



**Come Join  
the Fun!**



**Come Join  
the Fun!**



**GREAT FOOD FEATURING:**

- Hopkins Lions
- Culver's
- The Lookout Bar & Grill
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Caribou Coffee
- Chicken Dinner
- Sunday 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.





# A LOOK AT THE PAST

## Harvest Festival 1963—A Visit From Father Boerboom

The Rev. Henry J. Boerboom, dependable as the turning of the seasons, loomed up at my desk. His voice boomed out a greeting, he pulled up the hard-seated wooden chair reserved for visitors and announced:

"You know why I'm here."

Since this is a yearly ritual, I knew the answer. After all, when a priest is - unbelievably for his zest and physique - in his 80<sup>th</sup> year and takes to the road to promote a parish festival, you can't start explaining that other parishes have festivals, too. Who could say nay to the Netherlands-born, Minnesota-and-Belgium-reared pastor of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Osseo? How could I insist that we had to be able to defend his harvest festival against all comers - to prove it is unique?

"We're expecting to feed another 3,000 with chicken dinner next Sunday," he started off, after a big, firm handshake. "We'll serve from 11 in the morning until 6 at night, same as we have for 45 years. And we'll charge just \$1.50 for adults, 75 cents for children, and that includes homemade pies, too. And there will be all sorts of booths operating all day and into the evening. You know that the Osseo community is only 27 percent Catholic, but 49 merchants have donated some marvelous merchandise for our visitors Sunday."

Back of that, of course, is Father Boerboom's enthusiasm, his persuasiveness. During his 47 years in the parish, he

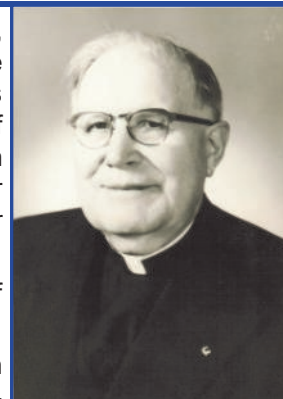
has built a school, a new rectory, and enlarged the old one for use as a convent. Last year, 79 boys and girls of the parish had half their tuition paid at Catholic high schools. This is plenty of use for any funds Sunday's festival dinner and all the rest will raise.

And what was the guarantee of good weather Sunday?

"We have never been rained out in 45 years," grinned Father Boerboom. "Of course, we were almost blown out the Sunday the Anoka tornado hit in 1939. Flattened our stands in Osseo, forced us to move our dinner serving and whatever else we could salvage into the church basement. But the edge of one tornado in 45 years doesn't take much of a bite out of our record for good weather, does it?"

With which Father Boerboom rose, gave me another presurized handshake and was on his way to tell the story of next Sunday's harvest festival to every likely prospect he could spot.

— Originally published in the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune*  
"I like It Here" Column by George Grim  
on Friday, August 9, 1963



Father Boerboom

## BEING TRUE TO OUR NAME

(Continued from page 1)

St. Vincent de Paul is to awaken our consciousness to Catholic Social teaching through education, love and service. Our earnest hope is that through this campaign, we shall be empowered, committed and encouraged to embrace social justice programs in our parish and beyond irrespective of our political or theological convictions. Since St. Vincent de Paul defended and advocated for the sacredness of human dignity in the less privileged and vulnerable members of our society, this campaign is therefore a clarion-call for us to be true to our name.

The theme of the campaign is:

*Ablaze for the Lord!!!*

Campaign schedule:

- Kick-off weekend: September 26th and 27th (Feast of St. Vincent de Paul)
- September - December 2009: Education
- January - March 2010: Relationship building (love/commitment)
- April - May 2010: Service (activities)

Through an active participation in this campaign:

- We will come to know that Social Justice is not part of the gospel; it is the whole gospel. (cf. Micah 6:8 "You have been told...what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.")
- We will pledge our commitment to set our hearts ablaze for the Lord by living the whole gospel.
- We will justify our pledge through service within and around our community. (cf. Matthew 25:34-36 "Come, you who are blessed by my Father;...For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.")

May the good Lord bless you for supporting and being part of our social justice programs through this ongoing outreach campaign.

—Okey Anyanwu,  
Pastoral Minister & Social Justice Director



REMEMBERING ...

Crocodile Dock  
Where fearless kids shine God's light!



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The kids made thank you cards to send to our troops in Afghanistan.



Each day 300 kids sang songs, played team-work-building games, nibbled treats, took on Daily Challenges to share Jesus' amazing power in their lives, enjoyed Bible adventures, collected Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's Word, and created crafts to take home and share with others! Thanks to all the hard-working volunteers who made this great week possible!



Sharing and Caring Hands received many stuffed turtle toys made by kids at VBS.



600 lbs. of food was donated to C.R.O.S.S. by our families through VBS.





# STRATEGIC PLANNING

## Holy Spirit Leads Strategic Plans for St. Vincent de Paul

**@** Strategic Planning Task Group (SPTG) was formed in December of 2007 upon the direction of the Pastoral Council. Work on future plans for the parish began in January 2008. The SPTG reports to the Pastoral Council and at the end of the work performed by this group, the Pastoral Council will take on the responsibility of incorporating the plan into the regular planning and ministry of the parish.



*Where we challenge ourselves to be more actively involved in our parish, more knowledgeable in our Catholic faith, and more confident in spreading God's Word.*

*Where we humbly seek to become more like Christ, lovingly caring for our parishioners, and eagerly giving service to our community, especially the poor and vulnerable.*

*Where we respectfully give praise in worship, joyfully share in fellowship, and hunger to grow deeper in our Love for Christ.*

*Where God is given the first of our fruits in time, talent and treasure, is loved above all else in our lives, and praised in all things.*

St. Vincent de Paul is one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese with 12,000 parishioners. Our average mass attendance is 4,100. We expect the parish to grow within 5-10 years, due to development in Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park. We've considered, "What should we be doing now, if anything, to prepare for this growth?" There are a host of other issues based on information parishioners provided through the parish survey in May 2008, discussions with all of the church department heads, the school and the Pastoral Council.

Parish Town Hall meetings were held in November 2008 and March 2009. Parishioners were encouraged to provide feedback on the following:

### Critical Issues:

- Youth
- Leadership Development
- Social Justice Outreach
- Communication
- Building Community
- Parent Participation
- Ministry for All Ages
- Growth
- Reinforcing the Catholic Faith
- Mass Attendance

### Core Values:

- Liturgical Worship
- Catholic Tradition
- Fellowship
- Outreach
- Life-Long Faith Formation

### Mission Statement:

**Know** and celebrate our Catholic Faith

**Love** God and our neighbor

**Serve** as disciples of Jesus Christ

### Vision statement:

*We envision a Catholic Community . . .*

*Where all feel welcomed to share in God's word.*

### Mission Statement:

**Know and celebrate**  
**our Catholic Faith**

**Love God and our**  
**neighbor**

**Serve as disciples of**  
**Jesus Christ**

We continue to welcome your feedback and support. Communicating our Vision and Mission is very important and we welcome your creative ideas. Feel free to speak directly with any member of the SPTG, Pastoral Council, or call the Parish Office at 763 -425-2210, and one of us will get back to you.

As we continue our work, we ask that you pray with us, our Strategic Planning prayer:

*Heavenly Father,*

*Help us to listen and be open to Your grace as we discern Your will for our parish.*

*Fill us with Your Spirit of wisdom and truth as we embrace and work through the Strategic Planning process.*

*May we grow together in faith, hope and love, a community of faith that is light to the world and a beacon of hope to those in need. Amen.*

*—Nancy Moorman, SPTG and Pastoral Council Member*

### Strategic Planning Committee Members:

**Jeff Bjustrom ♦ Jim Carney ♦ Bob Dubiel ♦ Jackie Hildreth ♦ Harold Johnson ♦ Nancy Moorman**

**Norm Olafson ♦ Andrew Rem ♦ Steve Seibert ♦ Mark Steeves ♦ Bob Wenner**

**Consultant: Jerry Roth from the Center of Parish Leadership**

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**Congratulations 8th Grade Graduates!**

## New Smartboard Technology in Every Classroom at SVDP

Smartboards have begun to be used at SVDP and will be installed in every classroom prior to the 2009-2010 school year. Smartboards are interactive whiteboards that engage students with hands-on learning.



## Award Winning Principal

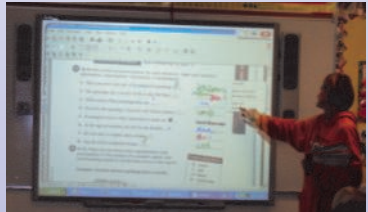
Kathleen O'Hara of St. Vincent de Paul School, is one of 12 principals from across the United States to receive the 2009 NCEA Dr. Robert J. Kealey Distinguished Principal Award from the Department of Elementary Schools of the National Catholic Education



Association. The recipients of this award, which honors distinguished educational leaders, come from the 12 geographic regions that compose the NCEA Department of Elementary Schools. Miss O'Hara was chosen from a possible pool of more than 6,000 principals.



Teachers and students can use the board like a computer but they can also write on the boards, as well as interact with the material. Teachers can also save the lesson on their computer and post it on their website for students to review later which is especially helpful for a student that needs repetition or for a student who was absent. Smartboards are amazing tools for our school!



## Record Number of Physical Fitness Awards Earned



St. Vincent's students earned **273 Physical Fitness All American Awards** this year, with a school record **68 Presidential** and **205 National** award winners.

1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2 Presidential & 18 National; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3 & 23; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 5 & 20; 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 9 & 29; 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 & 29; 6<sup>th</sup> grade, **16\*** & 33; 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 9 & 29; and, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 & 24.

*\*6<sup>th</sup> grade set an all time school record for one grade level, with the most Presidential & most overall award winners.*

## St. Vincent's School in the News

St. Vincent de Paul School was highlighted two times last school year on KARE11. Recess Rounds with Generation Endurance and the 2nd Grade Camp Read-A-Lot were both featured on "What's Cool In Your School."





## FACES OF ST. VINCENT'S

### Meet Danielle Rhoades, 2009 RCIA Participant

**W**hat motivated you to participate in the RCIA last year?

My Grandmother and my boyfriend Erik both motivated me to want to become Catholic. Both of my parents grew up Catholic, and my Grandma has always wanted to see me get baptized. Last year I went to a few Masses at St. Vincent de Paul with Erik and I decided that I wanted to receive my sacraments so that I could become a member of the parish and fully participate in Mass.

*What were some of the highlights of RCIA?*

A highlight from RCIA was making friends with fellow parishioners in class and becoming a close group during our faith journey. It was also nice to meet closely with the Church staff including Chuck, Father Jack, and Father Wehmann. We all learned a lot about our faith and were able to meet with various speakers during the class sessions. Another highlight of RCIA was volunteering for Franciscan Brothers of Peace and at one of the Friday night Lent soup suppers with the group.

*As a new member of the Catholic Church, what do you think is most special about being Catholic?*

I enjoy being part of the parish community and I feel like I am more aware of how I act and treat others than I was before. I take more time to relax, pray, and reflect on my days/weeks and how God is present in my life.

*As a new member of our parish, what are your impressions of St. Vincent de Paul?*

St. Vincent de Paul really cares about their parishioners and the community. There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available and ways to give back to others. I also noticed how warm and welcoming all of the staff and fellow parishioners are.

*How do you plan to share your RCIA experience with others?*

I plan on continuing to talk to other people about what a wonderful experience RCIA was and why I chose to become Catholic at 24 years old. I also would like to attend some of the RCIA classes in the future that are open to the parish.

*How do you plan to continue growing in your new Catholic faith?*

I plan on volunteering and being involved with various parish events. I also would like to continue to talk with others to learn and grow in the faith .



*Danielle with her Grandma Arlene Tormanen and boyfriend Erik Anderson.*

## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

### Teens Making a Difference Through Christpower



**W**e found ourselves in a place that felt so far away from home, yet in fact it was only ten miles from our community. We were on the first Christpower trip in Minnesota. Teens from nine different parishes all gathered together to work for a week in North Minneapolis. We stayed at Ascension Church and worked along with parishioners of the church. During the day we went with our group of five people to our work site. At our worksites we met; Grandma Aurora, the Visitation Sisters, Tony Olivia, Pat, and Tootsie just to name a few. When we returned from our worksites, we had Mass every night and then we had a different program each night. The days flew by quickly. Soon Friday night came. We had been planning all week for the annual Neighborhood Night of Peace. This was an amazing event. Approximately 300 people gathered to celebrate a night of peace. The children received school supplies and adults could win awesome door prizes. There was food, fun and games for

all. At the end there was even a peace pole dedication. It was an amazing event and an excellent way to top off our week. After the peace party, we learned that we would be taking part in a candlelight vigil for the victim of a recent homicide. It was so cool to see a community walk together in hope of a more peaceful neighborhood. At the end of the week, everyone kept saying how much we did for the community. Actually, I know everyone would agree that the community did more for us than we will ever be able to imagine.

*—By A Teen From Our Mission Trip*



### Share Your Story with Us!

What a blessing it is when parishioners are willing to write about their experiences for our newsletter.

Would you be willing to be a newsletter contributor, too?

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 so that we can consider it for an upcoming issue.

We hope to hear from you!



### Please Pray for Priests

Dear Lord,

We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

Amen.

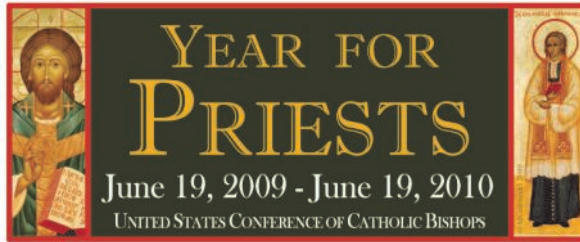
*Saint John Vianney,  
pray for us.*



# CELEBRATING A YEAR FOR PRIESTS

## St. John Vianney to be Proclaimed Patron Saint of Priests

On Friday, June 19, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI declared a year of the priest in an effort to help priests "grow toward the spiritual perfection" they need to be effective ministers and to help the faithful



*If we had faith, we should see God hidden in the priest like a light behind a glass, like wine mingled with water.*

—St. John Vianney

"appreciate more fully the great gift of grace which the priesthood is."

On June 19th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus—a day traditionally devoted to prayer for the sanctification of the clergy. Pope Benedict will close the year on June 19, 2010, at a "World Meeting of Priests" in St. Peter's Square.

"The purpose of this Year for Priests is to support each priest's struggle towards spiritual perfection, 'upon which the effectiveness of his ministry particularly depends', and to help priests, and with them the entire People of God, to rediscover and revive an awareness of the extraordinary and indispensable gift of Grace which the ordained ministry represents, for the person who receives it, for the entire Church, and for the world which would be lost without the Real Presence of Christ," said the Holy Father.

The pope will also proclaim St. John Vianney to be patron saint of all the world's priests during this year. At present he is considered the patron saint of parish priests. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of this 19th-century saint who represents a "true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ," the pope said.

St. John Vianney is widely known to Catholics as the Cure (parish priest) of Ars, a rural and spiritually dying town in central France. He won over the hearts of his villagers by visiting with them, teaching them about God and reconciling people to the Lord in the confessional for hours on end.

The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has set up

a Web site to mark the Year for Priests at [www.usccb.org/yearforpriests](http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests).

The site includes the pope's message for the occasion and the announcement of a plenary indulgence in conjunction with the celebration. The site

also offers specially commissioned prayers for priests and laity. Throughout the year, the secretariat also will use the site to publish monthly articles about the priesthood written by prominent Catholic women.

Other activities in the Year for Priests include a retreat on the national level and a gathering of priests in Rome for the celebration's culmination.

Please pray for our priests that they might always be faithful to their sacred calling.

### Ways to Honor Your Priest

1. Shake his hand after Mass and thank him for his vocation.
2. Offer to help him with a job or task around the parish.
3. Invite him over to bless your house. Have him stay for dinner or a family picnic.
4. Remember him with a prayer bouquet.
5. Send him a card at Christmas and on his birthday.
6. Have your children color him a picture or write him a letter.
7. Ask him individually what someone could do to honor his vocation.

— *The Catholic Spirit*



# MEET FR. CHUE VANG

St. Vincent de Paul's New Parochial Vicar

**K**! My name is Fr. Chue Ying Vang. The "a" in my last name is pronounced "ah" like "art."

I was born and raised in Laos during the Vietnam War. I have five sisters and four brothers. I am the sixth child and the youngest son in the family. Six of us are here in the States. One brother lives in California. Two brothers and two sisters live in the Twin Cities. My parents and the rest of my family were lost in the war.

The Hmong lived in the mountains. In the war they were recruited by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) to fight against the North Vietnamese Communists. When the communists took over my country in 1975, I escaped to Thailand with two of my brothers and two cousins. In Thailand we lived in refugee camps and were supported by the United Nations. It was in the refugee camp that I was converted to Catholicism.

In 1980 I came to the United States on an immigrant visa with one of my brothers, his wife, their daughter and a cousin. We ar-



rived in Rochester, Minnesota in the middle of February and it was so cold. The first thing we learned was to put on a winter coat. We were sponsored by the Church of St. Pius.

I went to Lourdes High School, Crosier Seminary in Onamia, MN, Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, St. Mary's College in Winona, the St. Paul Seminary, and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. I was ordained a priest in 1992. Since my ordination I have served at the Churches of St. John the Evangelist in Little Canada, St. Peter in North St. Paul, and St. Vincent de Paul in St. Paul. I also spent four years doing Biblical Studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. My last assignment was at Epiphany in Coon Rapids. I was assigned to St. Vincent de Paul, Brooklyn Park on July 1st, 2009.

Some of the things that I find fulfilling in my life are to believe all that we profess in the creed and to have a personal relationship with Jesus through prayers.

—Fr. Chue Vang, Parochial Vicar

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

A True Servant of God

**S**t. Vincent de Paul is the patron saint of Charitable Societies. He was born in the village of Pouy in Gascony, France on April 24, 1581. He studied theology at the University of Toulouse and was ordained a priest in 1600 at the age of 19. In 1605, on a voyage by sea from Marseilles to Narbonne, Vincent fell into the hands of African pirates and was taken as a slave to Tunis. His captivity lasted until his escape about two years later.

After a brief visit to Rome, he returned to France where he became preceptor in the family of the Count of Goigny, the General of the galleys of France. Through this lofty association, Vincent came to preach missions to peasants as well as convicts in the galleys. In 1625, he established the foundations of a congregation which later became the Congregation of the Mission or Lazarists, so named on account of the

St. Vincent de Paul  
Feast Day-Sept. 27th



Priory of St. Lazarus which the Fathers began to occupy in 1633. He also started the first religious group of women dedicated entirely to works of charity outside the cloister, a group called the Daughters of Charity.

Vincent's predominant virtue was charity, extending to all classes of persons. Despite his association with the nobility of his day, Vincent remained deeply rooted in humility. In the midst of the most distracting occupations, his soul was always closely united with God. A true servant of God, St. Vincent de Paul died in Paris on September 27, 1660 at the age of 80, and was canonized a saint in the Roman Catholic Church in 1737. The feast day of St. Vincent de Paul is celebrated on September 27th.

—Excerpts from www.catholic.org

### The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

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- **Marci Siers,**  
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- **Chuck Pratt,**  
*Staff Member*
- **Tammy Peterburs,**  
*Editor/Designer,  
Parishioner*

For information on joining the committee, contact Chuck Pratt at 763-425-2210.

## WE NEED You!



We are still looking for a few more parishioners to join the committee that puts together this newsletter. You don't need to be a writer—just a person who cares about the Catholic faith and our parish.

The time commitment is minimal—about 6-10 hours per issue. (We publish four issues/year.) We generally meet in the early evenings at the church and also share ideas and articles via e-mail. We want our committee to represent the parish. Do you have the time, talent and interest to be part of our volunteer editorial team? If so, please call Chuck Pratt at (763) 425-2210 for more information about this opportunity!



## The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
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*The mission of our newsletter is to provide all registered parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with an interesting and engaging publication that includes detailed articles about the people and events of our parish, education about our Catholic faith, and inspiration to deepen their relationship with God and the Church.*

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## Summer Trip to Steubenville Conference

This past summer I had the opportunity of traveling to Rochester for a Steubenville convention. At first I didn't really know for sure if I wanted to go to such an event that so many people would be attending, but I later realized that the people were more than half the fun. There were so many fun activities going on, fun speeches, awesome music that I still am listening to, new friends to meet from all over the U.S. and much, much more. I would recommend this trip for anyone who wants to have fun and to learn how to come closer with God, I know I have.

— *A St. Vincent de Paul Teen*

## SYMBOLS OF FAITH

### Christian Fish Symbol

At a recent newsletter committee meeting, a member shared how she was explaining to her children how different car companies and car models have logos that identify them. One child asked which company makes the "fish car".

Have you ever been behind a car at a stoplight and noticed a metallic fish on the trunk or bumper? Maybe it even had the name of Jesus inside the fish. Did you know that the fish is an ancient symbol of Jesus?

Our Catholic faith is rich in symbols. Symbols express more than mere words can express. It certainly makes sense to me that when it comes to something as mysterious and as important as our faith that we rely on symbols when words fail to express the deep meaning of our relationship with God. Our everyday lives are full of times when we use a symbol or a symbolic gesture to express what words just cannot



adequately convey. We kiss or hug someone to express our love. Think of what a crayon drawn heart on a piece of paper means given by a child to a parent. We give gifts to express our appreciation or congratulations because just saying thank you or congratulations isn't enough.

The fish was used in early Christian times as a secret

symbol for Jesus. A Christian would draw half of the fish and if the other person drew the other half, they knew they had found a fellow believer.

But the symbol goes even deeper in meaning. In Greek, the initial letters of the words, Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior, spell ICHTHYS which is the Greek word for fish.

So the next time you see a "fish car", know that the driver is a fellow believer in Jesus.

— *Chuck Pratt, Director of Faith Formation*