



May 1—  
July 31, 2009



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Spring's arrival always seems to bring a burst of anticipation. Easter itself may have passed, but celebration of Jesus' resurrection in the Easter season stays with us into May.

There is much to look forward to this time of year – warmer weather, summer vacation, flowers and vegetables in the garden. After reading this issue of the St. Vincent Voice, perhaps you will anticipate growth of a different kind, in the hope and joy that results in sharing your love with God and others and gaining a better understanding of your faith.

Faith is a key ingredient for overcoming the challenges in our lives. The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope that God and good



*“Hope springs eternal in the human breast:*

*Man never is, but always to be, blest.*

*The soul, uneasy and confin'd from home,*

*Rests and expatiates in a life to come.”*

—Alexander Pope

will prevail, and so will we if we trust in Him to help us through life's trials. One way to strengthen this relationship is through the Eucharistic celebration – a “personal encounter” with Jesus.

The Bible provides another avenue for a closer relationship with God; two features in this issue offer suggestions for not only reading the Bible, but how to study it and pray for insight into scripture.

Also inside are a few stories of ways members of the St. Vincent de Paul community are trying to become better Catholics – through service, through

a mission trip, through learning opportunities. From which could you benefit?

—Eric O'Link, Parishioner



### FACES OF ST. VINCENT'S

Meet our Parish Office Manager, Gloria Krynski

Gloria Krynski has been the Office Manager/Parish Secretary here at St. Vincent's for five years. Before coming to St. Vincent's, Gloria worked at St. John the Evangelist in Hopkins starting in 1975. There she was the Parish Secretary, as well as a catechist, Preschool Coordinator, and Sacramental Coordinator for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

At St. Vincent's, Gloria is just as busy—volunteering as a Sunday Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and Catechist for four years. Gloria grew up in south Minneapolis and her home parish was St. Stephen's. She graduated from the Academy of the Holy Angels. She and her husband, Larry, chose St. Vincent's because of the 24-hour Adoration in our chapel, the Mass schedule, and the many opportunities for volunteering. She loves St. Vincent's and considers her position as an Office Manager and a Secretary as a ministry rather than work. It's a position where she can get in-

involved in many areas of our church; and she can talk and see parishioners every day. Gloria likes the fact that there are so many different ministries at St. Vincent's where we reach out to our parishioners and community. After working in a parish setting for 35 years, Gloria feels that St. Vincent's is a perfect fit.

Her favorite events at St. Vincent's are the Harvest Festival and Lenten Suppers, especially when the Cub Scouts helped with the dinner this year. She enjoys seeing the youth so involved in our parish. Gloria and her husband, Larry, live in Maple Grove, and have two sons and three grandchildren. In her spare time she likes to read, do scrapbooking, loves walking and taking care of their grandchildren.

The next time you call or stop in the office, you will know who the person is with the smile in her voice and on her face, ready to answer any question that you may have.

—Kathleen Pomerleau, Staff Member



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **May 9:**  
CCW Spring Tea
- **May 10:**  
Mother's Day
- **May 14:**  
SVDP Book Club
- **May 19:**  
Parents' Morning  
Out End-of-Year  
Brunch
- **May 24:**  
Donut Sunday
- **May 25:**  
Memorial Day  
Mass at 9 am
- **May 31:**  
Pentecost Sunday
- **June 2:**  
SVDP School 8th  
Grade Graduation
- **June 4:**  
Last Day of School  
for SVDP School
- **June 5:**  
Last Day of School  
for ISD 279
- **June 15-19:**  
Vacation Bible  
School at SVDP
- **June 21:**  
Father's Day
- **July 4:**  
Independence Day



## ASK FATHER

Fr. Jack Answers Parishioner Questions

**Q. I want to read the Bible daily, but many times when I pick up the Bible, I don't know where to turn. Should I start at the beginning and read a little each day from the Old Testament or New Testament? Is there a better way to read the Bible? Please tell me how to get started, and which Bible you recommend.**

—Submitted by Mary, a parishioner

Mary, this is a good question. I believe there are two reasons to pick up a Bible and read: to study, or to pray. Either way, you will want a Bible of your own. I suggest The New American Bible. (Make sure when you study the Bible that you are studying a Catholic version of the Bible. The Catholic version is a bit different—it has a few more Books that the Protestant Bible does not have.)

Then, if you want to *study* the Bible, I would begin with Genesis. Make sure that when you study the Bible, you not only read the Book, chapter and verse, but also study the footnotes. One can find fascinating information in the footnotes. If you want to be daring, read a commentary along with your Bible. A commentary will open up and reveal many things as you study.

*Praying* the Bible is another thing. I would encourage one who wants to pray the Bible perhaps to study the readings for the week from daily Mass and Sunday. (These readings are listed each week in our bulletin, and also on our parish web site in the "Liturgy" section.) This is a great way to prepare for the upcoming Sunday. If you don't want to do that, then I would suggest that you pick up the New Testament and begin with Matthew's Gospel. If you are praying the Bible, I encourage you to pray only one chapter at a time. Invite the Holy Spirit to join you in this journey and to open your mind and heart to the word of God. Another avenue might be to read the writings of St. John. In that case, I would begin with John's Gospel, and then go to the epistles attributed to John. Good luck, and may God open your life to his Word.

### Submit Your Question!

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

## THE WAYS WE PRAY

Lectio Divina: A Catholic Devotion with a Rich Spiritual Tradition

“**L**ectio Divina” is a Catholic way of praying the sacred Scripture with a long tradition. It simply means “Divine Reading” or “Sacred Reading”. It is a powerful means of entering into the spirit through the pathway of the Scripture.

Lectio Divina is another way of saying, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening” as opposed to “Listen Lord, your servant is speaking”, which characterizes our daily prayer most of the time.

A good example of this form of devotion is the Liturgy of the Hours which was started in our parish last Easter Triduum. On those Triduum mornings, we gathered as a community and prayed the Psalms and canticles from the scripture.

There are two major methods of doing Lectio Divina, but in each of the formats, one must first choose a very brief scripture

text to be used. The first method is the four path way, which involves four steps during the devotion:

- **Step 1, Reading:** What does the text say? In other words, what is going on here? Is it healing, commissioning, creation, authority, etc.?
- **Step 2, Meditation:** What does this text say to me? Or... what parts of my life are affected by this text?
- **Step 3, Prayer:** What do I want to tell God about this text?
- **Step 4, Contemplation:** What difference does or has this text made in my life? Here, we switch to a listening mode by freeing our minds, quieting our thoughts, and letting God talk to us.

(Continued on page 3)



## THE WAYS WE PRAY

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Another method of doing Lectio Divina is through what St. Ignatius called “Savoring”.

It is simply a way of resting on a particular phrase/

word from the scripture and savoring it, enjoying it, and letting the text penetrate our being.

The reoccurring theme in whatever method we are using is the fact of a deliberate prayerful effort to let the “Word” gain traction on us.

For families or groups that may want to adopt this form of devotion, these simple practical steps can be very helpful:

1. Choose a brief text (such as the Mass readings for the upcoming weekend)
2. Silence - welcoming the presence of God
3. Read it out loud, slowly
4. Throw out some points or thoughts that stood out for you from the text
5. Read it again very slowly
6. Silence (meditation)
7. Conclude with the “Our Father”, “Hail Mary”, and “Glory Be to God”

Although the most beautiful way of celebrating the Word of God is during Mass, Lectio Divina is a powerful devotion, and a method of celebrating the same Word in a way that is accessible to everyone, everywhere and every time.

—Okey Anyanwa, Pastoral Minister

*In September 2005, Pope Benedict XVI stated:*

*“I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart (cf. Dei Verbum, n. 25). If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church - I am convinced of it - a new spiritual springtime.”*

## A Brief History of Lectio Divina

“Lectio Divina is Latin for *divine reading*, spiritual reading, or ‘holy reading,’ and represents a traditional Christian practice of prayer and scriptural reading...that calls one to study, ponder, listen and, finally, pray and even sing and rejoice from God’s Word.

The monastic rules of Sts. Pachomius, Augustine, Basil, and Benedict made the practice of divine reading, together with manual labor and participation in liturgical life, the triple base of monastic life.

The systematization of spiritual reading into four steps dates back to the 12th century. Around 1150, Guigo II, a Carthusian monk, wrote a book titled ‘The Monk’s Ladder’ (Scala Claustralium) wherein he set out the theory of the four rungs: reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation.”

—Excerpts from [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Practical ways to brighten your world with “Random Acts of Kindness”

An easy way to brighten your world at little or no cost is to practice random acts of kindness. A random act of kindness is a selfless act performed to either assist or cheer up another. As Christians, we know that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and this is one way to

put that into practice. The acts you can perform are limitless, but below are some examples:

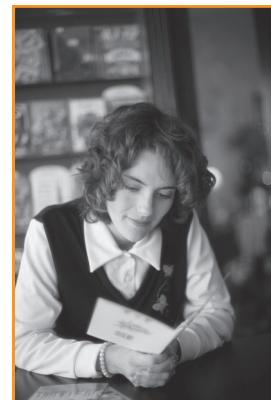
- Be generous with hugs, kisses and pats on the back.
- Call a lonely person.
- Invite someone who is alone over for dinner.
- Invite someone to go to Mass with you.
- Say a prayer for someone.
- Donate to a food shelf.
- Give blood.
- Clean out your closet and give away anything you no longer use.
- Volunteer to read to children at your nearest library.
- Visit hospitals with smiles, treats and friendly conversation for patients.
- Visit a retirement or nursing home and spend the afternoon talking with the residents.
- Help an elderly person with yard work or shopping.
- Volunteer at a local shelter, crisis nursery, soup kitchen, school, hospital or St. Vincent’s.
- Pick up trash or pull weeds in your neighborhood.
- Put a quarter in a parking meter that has expired.
- Leave change in the soda machine for the next person.
- Tell someone how much you appreciate them.
- Send a note in your child’s lunchbox to remind them how special they are.
- Make it a necessity to help your spouse, roommates, or parents around the house.
- Leave a muffin or note of thanks for your garbage collector, mailman, or newspaper delivery person.
- Let your staff leave work an hour early.

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# MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH KINDNESS

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- Offer to baby sit.
- Send a thank you note or drop off some treats at your local police department or fire station.
- Bake cookies for a neighbor or teacher.
- Plant a tree or some flowers.
- Make a meal for someone who is ill.
- Leave a bouquet of flowers on someone's door step.
- Walk a neighbor's dog.
- Send a card to someone in the military overseas.
- Tell your boss that you think he/she does a good job.
- Tell employees how much you appreciate their work.
- Offer a ride.
- Write to management at places where you get especially good service and commend them.
- Open the door or give up your seat for someone.
- Give a compliment.
- Leave that parking space up front for someone else.
- Clean the snow off the car that is parked next to yours in the parking lot.
- Return a shopping cart to the store for someone.
- Let the person behind you in the checkout line go first.
- Give family and friends "kindness coupons" they can cash-in for special favors.
- **Smile! Laugh! Be happy! It's that easy.**



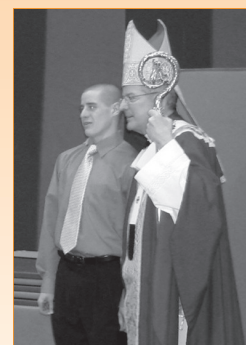
— Tammy Peterburs, Incoming Editor and Parishioner

## REMEMBERING...

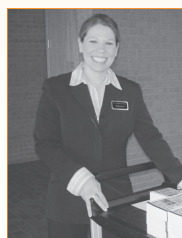
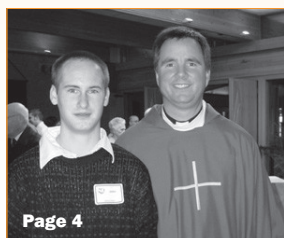
## CONFIRMATION AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Archbishop Nienstedt, along with Fr. Jack, Fr. Wehmann, and Fr. Ken O'Hotto, presided over the confirmation of 171 people on March 29, 2009. Families and staff gathered after the Mass at a reception to celebrate, and to meet Archbishop Nienstedt.



Thank you to our Confirmation teachers (pictured above), who volunteered many hours in order to prepare our confirmands for the Sacrament: Matt Kenney, Cindy Reinert, Pat Brink, Jean Thoresen, Kevin Ahlers, Chuck and Kelly Blair, Mark Sampica, Sue Sutko, Mark & Patti Schommer, Rebecca Keran, Terry Derksen, Bruce Dahlman, and Andrew & Jeannette Rem.



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Many Parishioners have Grown in their Faith this Year

Learning isn't just for children and youth. We are called by God to be life-long learners in regards to our Catholic faith.

St. Vincent's supports this calling with a variety of Faith Formation opportunities, and we are coming to the end of a very growth filled year of Adult Faith Formation:

- Over thirty women have participated in Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) groups.
- Sixty-three attended our fall Bible Study on 1 Corinthians.
- Thirty-seven learned about "Why the Sacraments Exist" with Fr. Wehmann.
- Fifty-seven made our fall Women's Retreat with Emily Cavins and twenty-two came to a Women's Retreat in February with Jean Thoresen.



- Thirty-two adults took advantage of our guest speakers in conjunction with RCIA.
  - For the men, our two Men's Spirituality Breakfasts drew fifty-nine attendees, and our Lenten Men's Spirituality Group allowed eleven men to share their faith journey each week.
  - Twenty-four people viewed and discussed an inspiring movie on the life of St. Paul.
  - Eighty-one registered for Jeff Cavins' *Catholicism 101* DVD series.
  - Forty-four "Encountered the Spirit" on retreat in March.
  - An average of ten parishioners discussed a wide variety of books in our monthly Book Club.
- Be watching in the fall for information on another exciting program year of opportunities for adults to enrich their faith.

— Chuck Pratt, Dir. of Faith Formation

## LIVING THE COMMANDMENTS

A Continuing Series on Living the Commandments in Modern Life

***This is the final article in our series reviewing 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. All the previous issues are available online at the parish web site—www.saintvdp.org.***

*"But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, gathered themselves together. One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him. 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " —Matthew 22:34-39*

Some people mistakenly believe that when Jesus said this, it erased the need for us to follow all other commandments. Not so... Jesus said in the very same book, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." (Matthew 5:17)

Jesus didn't suddenly give everyone the freedom to go out and lie, cheat, steal and murder. Instead, he is summarizing ALL the commandments (the "Old Law") into the "New Law". As it says in the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: "Before God gave the Commandments at Sinai, he entered into a covenant of love with the community of Israel. Once the covenant was established, God gave the people the Ten Commandments in order to teach them the way to live the covenant of love. In Christ we have been called to a New Covenant and a New Law that fulfills and perfects the Old Law."

The first three commandments are instructions on how to "...love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and the seven remaining commandments cover how to "...love your neighbor as yourself." These two laws tie together all 10 previous commandments: "The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:40)

(Continued on page 6)

## 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!

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Please give us some feedback on The St. Vincent Voice. We want to create a publication that will serve the needs of our parishioners.

⇒ What topics would you like to see addressed in this newsletter?

⇒ How can this newsletter most benefit you as a parishioner?

⇒ What questions do you have about the Catholic faith that we might address?

**Thank you! Please send your opinions to:** Attn. St. Vincent Voice Editor, St. Vincent de Paul, 9100 93rd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445. **Or you can e-mail your feedback to:** editor@saintvdp.org

### Save the Date:



**St. Vincent's Harvest Festival is coming up on Aug. 8-9, 2009**

The Harvest Festival is the annual fall "parish get-together" for St. Vincent de Paul, and it's a party you don't want to miss. It features live music, a terrific raffle for cash and prizes, craft booths, children's games and rides, delicious food, a silent auction, and much more! Watch for more details in parish bulletins late this summer.

## JESUS' COMMANDMENTS

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With this statement, Jesus made the 10 Commandments much more *personal* to each of us, and therefore more demanding of us. In many ways, the Old Law required its followers to look "outward"—to say to themselves, "Am I worshiping and doing to others as God has commanded me?" The Old Law was easy to understand as a list of "Thou shalt's" and "Thou shalt not's", and it was an important part of the covenant between God and his chosen people. However, with Jesus came the arrival of the New Covenant and the New Law, and Jesus requires us to look "within" as we seek to follow the commandments.

In order to do so, it is necessary that we become educated about Jesus' life and teachings, and that we seek to have a well-formed conscience. We must study the teachings of the Catholic Church by reading the Catechism and attending Mass, because the Church was established by Jesus in order to support his teachings and share the Good News after his Ascension.

We must also know what it is to love—love of others, and love of self. We must medi-

tate on God's infinite love and forgiveness of us, and then seek to imitate that love as we interact with our fellow man.

When Jesus said, "I am the way", he reminded us that we have been given the perfect example of how to live out these commandments—in the life of Jesus Christ. We must examine our own lives to determine whether we are following the example and teachings of Jesus. As we consider this, we must always keep in mind that Jesus was both God and human—faced with the same temptations and emotions as us. Jesus felt great fear as he freely chose to suffer and die for us. However, rather than live a comfortable life as a carpenter in Nazareth, Jesus was willing to leave his home in order to wander and teach, and eventually to die a painful death. Why? Because of his perfect trust in God's plan, and his perfect love for all people.

Of course, we will always fall short of his example, but in trying to imitate Jesus, we will surely grow closer to both God and our neighbor.

—*Nikelle Morris, Editor & Parishioner*

## MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA

Memories from Parishioner Kristi Reyes

St. Vincent De Paul's recent adult mission trip, organized and facilitated by Larry and JoAnn Lawinger, occurred March 4-11, 2009. Along with the Lawingers, the following people made the trip: Mike & Vicki Caron, Gil Fleischhacker, Rachel Gammelgaard, Samantha Gray, Joyce Hunstiger, Bill Knudson, Pat Liedl, Bill Maher, April Peloquin, Judy Randall, and Steve & Kristi Reyes.

Our group of fifteen traveled to Jinatepe, Nicaragua, which is located one hour outside the capital city of Managua. Our mission was to begin work on a water filtration system at the new NPH Orphanage (Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos), Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters". The new orphanage is named Casa Padre Wasson. The namesake, Father Wasson, is the founder of the existing nine orphanages located in Mexico, Central America, and South America.



*The author Kristi Reyes with husband Stephen*

The project is needed due to the relocation of the orphanage from their island home of Casa Santiago on the Island of Ometepe, across Lake Nicaragua. The need to move the children to the mainland is due to the volcanic activity of Volcano Concepcion, located on the is-

land. Fifty of the older teenage children have already moved to the new location. Eventually all of the kids of NPH living on the island will be housed at Casa Padre Wasson, except those who attend technical school in Managua. Along with additional housing to accommodate all the children, the property will include their school and church. Presently the students who have been relocated attend school off-site.

To date, four of the twenty-eight houses have been constructed. A new babies' house will be added when the project is completed. Approximately 500 children will reside at Casa Padre *(Continued on next page)*

# MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA

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Wasson when the houses are done and all have been moved. In visiting with the teens who have already moved, it is apparent they miss their island home, their brothers, sisters, and friends and are still acclimating to their new residence.



*This is Osmon. He showed such love and pride for his country of Nicaragua and the children at NPH.*

When we arrived in Managua, we were greeted by our dear host and new friend, Osmon Moreira, who works for the administrative offices in San Jorge. He treated us with such kindness and care. We are blessed to have spent the week with such a fine young man who has an obvious love for NPH and all the children.

Each person on the trip traveled with two suitcases going down; one with their personal belongings and one filled with items for donation. The suitcases were also donated, as they are gifted to young men and women who graduate and leave the orphanage.

We arrived at the new site to a warm welcome. We stayed in one of the four-dorm style houses that had been decorated with plants (paint cans as the planters—so resourceful!) and signs made by the children. Presently, one of the houses is being used for staff and volunteers.

A crew of three men led the water filtration project with the fifteen volunteers working side by side with them. The goal of the project is for the orphanage to be able to recycle the gray water from the houses. The first days were spent mixing concrete by hand and pouring it by wheelbarrow into a foundation. We were blessed to have the means to purchase two small gas-powered cement mixers midway through the trip, which sped up the production. The mixers now belong to NPH and will be used to finish the water filtration system as well as future projects.

Our evenings were spent socializing with the children, playing games and visiting. A language barrier existed for the majority of us, but even so, it is amazing how much communicating can occur when there is a strong desire (along with plenty of pointing and gesturing). The children were ever so patient with us. The last evening at the orphanage, we hosted the children at our house with food and drink, music and dancing. Those who seemed shy earlier in the week livened up a bit that night. We were honored to observe some of their traditional Nicaraguan dances.

Over the weekend, with Osmon as our host and guide, we were able to see the administrative offices where he

works in San Jorge. From there we went to Casa Asis, the baby house, located on the mainland of San Jorge. Casa Asis houses infants and children up to age 7. We were able to deliver items donated specifically for the younger children.

The grounds light up with the presence of Sister Elaina and her staff. She guided us on a tour of the school, chapel, garden, dorms, and animal pens. No shortage of energy exists at this residence with the small children romping around and the “watch me” type of attention they seek when they have visitors. What beautiful smiles and warm hugs we received.

During the week in Nicaragua, we had evening opportunities to share with one another what we call “God Moments”. Each of us spoke of instances throughout our day where we recognized God in our midst and at work. It was a great time to reflect on how the presence of God turns our experiences to joy. This trip served as a sincere reminder that it is not our outer circumstances that create our happiness, but rather our inner state. This was evident in the children as well. The small children of Casa Asis have all of their personal toys in one fabric sack attached to their beds. The teens of Casa Padre Wasson store all of their belongings in a single locker.

We discover God’s presence where we least expect to find him... within ourselves.

Due to the scope of the project, the work continues well after our departure. We have been sent photos of the progress and will anticipate word of its completion.

We offer a genuine and heartfelt thank you to Father Jack for his support of this mission trip. It was an honor to represent our parish of St. Vincent De Paul, and to have his blessings and prayers follow us. We thank all of the members of the parish for their prayers as well.



*Here some of our group are mixing concrete by hand, and below is our group at the work site*



*This was the last night, when we hosted the kids at our dorm.*

—Kristi Reyes, Parishioner

# REMEMBERING ...



Auctioneer Karen Sorbo joined us for the 7th year in a row to conduct the live auction. Karen is one of the leading fundraising auctioneers in the country, and she created a fun and exciting auction. She says that coming to St. Vincent's each year feels like a chance to re-connect with old friends.

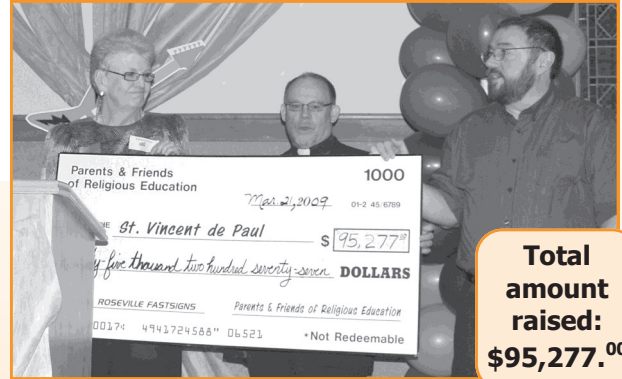


**Highest Live Auction Bid:**  
**\$2,900.00**  
 (for a full set of braces)

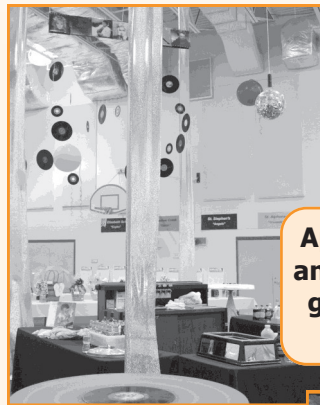


**St. Vincent de Paul Auction for Education**  
**March 21, 2009**

The Auction for Education is held every spring and has become one of the major fundraising events at St. Vincent de Paul. It consists of a live and silent auction with a fabulous dinner centered around a specific theme. Each year the proceeds are shared between St. Vincent's School and the Faith Formation Program. It is an evening of fellowship and great fun.



**Total amount raised:**  
**\$95,277.00**



**Approximately 270 people attended both the silent and live auctions. Regan Hall and the school gym were decked out with lots of the '80s Neon colors and fun memorabilia!**



**This was the 1st year that we offered tickets to attend the Silent Auction only, and our 1st Cash Raffle for \$10,000 in cash prizes.**



Teachers at play!



Auction Co-Chairs Jen Vettel & Mary Cheasick did a terrific job, assisted by over 100 volunteers! We'd like to recognize and thank our Committee Chairs:

- Accounting Control:** Doug & Diane Tigner
- Auction Preparation:** Jeff & Colleen Spehn
- Clean Up:** Jon Czerwinski
- Data Management:** Tiffeny Sable
- Decorations:** Kristi Rinehart, Jennifer Holscher, & Alison Kusch
- Live Auction:** Gina Schupanitz
- Marketing:** Mary Karges
- Music:** Dave Thune
- Set Up:** Tom Karges
- Silent Auction:** Deb Lande
- Solicitation:** Jim Collins
- Theme Baskets:** Maggie Wagner

**Highest Silent Auction Bid:**  
**\$1,700.00**  
 (for a 52" 1080p Samsung HDTV)

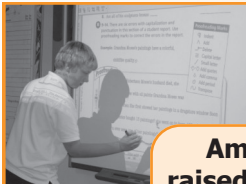
**Next year, we are going with a "Luau" theme. The tentative date is Saturday, Apr. 17, 2010. Volunteer signups will begin at SVDP Open House and in the parish office.**



The majority of attendees dressed in theme, which made for a fun night of reminiscing. Pictured above are "Robert Palmer and his Ladies" from the Addicted to Love video. We also saw political figures like President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev; movie characters including Beetlejuice and Tom Cruise from "Risky Business"; USA Olympic Hockey Players; Devo; Richard Simmons; a couple dressed as Rubik's Cubes; and lots of big hair, mullets, & neon clothes!

**Amount raised to help purchase smart boards:**  
**\$10,750.00**

The auction included a special drive to help purchase more "SMARTboard" interactive white boards. We currently have 2, but we hope to have them in every classroom in the next few years. With these boards,



classrooms can learn to use software as a group, write notes over video clips/web sites; showcase student presentations, and much more. If you'd like to contribute, please use the enclosed envelope and indicate that your donation is for the SMART boards.



**Thank You to all our volunteers!**



# “IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME”

A Reflection from Parishioner Marci Siers on Communion and Community

I am always in awe that our relationship with God is unlike that of any other. All other relationships only mirror our relationship with God. Jesus took our place and sacrificed Himself so that our sins might be forgiven, and so we may have the hope of eternal life. His taking our place has more meaning than I think we have the ability to comprehend as humans. As He shared the Last Supper with the apostles the night before he died, Jesus asked us to "Do this in remembrance of me". We remember Jesus in this way at every Mass.



Christians have been remembering Jesus in the “breaking of the bread” since the Last Supper, and since the 2nd century, the Mass has had a structure common to all Catholics. The fundamental actions of sharing prayer, bread, and wine have remained unchanged since that time. We experience a great heritage of tradition when we celebrate the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic celebration is an encounter with Jesus. Our taking part in this celebration is following Jesus’ words, "Do this in remembrance of me." Christ is present to us as the bread and wine are truly transformed into His body and blood. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in order to receive Christ in this way, we must prepare ourselves for so great and holy a moment. We must examine our consciences and fast before receiving

communion. Grave sins must be absolved in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving communion.

There are many fruits of receiving Holy Communion according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1391-1419). They are too extensive to review all of them in this article, but in no. 1416, it states the following: "Communion with the Body and Blood of Christ increases the communicant's union with the Lord, forgives his venial sins, and preserves him from grave sins. Since receiving this sacrament strengthens the bonds of charity between the communicant and Christ, it also reinforces the unity of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ."

In other words, when we partake in receiving communion, our relationship with Christ grows stronger both individually and as a community. Christ is more present in the world when this happens.

Following in Jesus’ footsteps can be challenging, but I always try to remember He is present in many ways to help me. Our Catholic faith helps us to recognize the many ways we can encounter Jesus in our lives. Hearing our Lord's invitation to "Do this in remembrance of me" is a good way to take an active part in our relationship with Jesus.

*- Marci Siers, Pastoral Council Member*

## THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

What does the Catholic Church Teach?

Easter provides us with an injection of hope for the human spirit. How much it is needed! The world didn't take much notice of the resurrection of Jesus. The reason for this lies in the fact that it was a humble, hidden event. Jesus did not appear in triumph in the temple, humiliating those who humiliated him.

Only those who Jesus called by name, with whom he broke bread and to whom he spoke words of peace, were aware of

what had happened. And even they had difficulty believing. Like us, they were slow to believe. Yet, it was this hidden event that freed us humans from the shackles of death.

Jesus rose as a sign to those who loved him and followed him that God's love is stronger than death. The resurrection of Jesus must not be separated from

*(Continued on page 10)*

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)

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 VOCATIONAL CALL OF TEENAGERS

When I was a teenager, I had many different ideas of what I wanted to be when I “grew up”. I wanted to be a pediatric doctor, but when I discovered I passed out at the sight of my own blood, I needed to rethink that plan.

I remember being on a Church retreat and hearing a speaker. To this day, I cannot remember what he talked about; all I remember is that he was a Youth Minister. Something moved in my heart that day. God was telling me that He wanted me to pursue ministry as a career choice. Little did I know back then that Youth Ministry was to become my vocation.

Now as a Youth Minister, I try to provide opportunities for teens to encounter God. I truly believe that when a teen can sit and



be silent with God, that God will speak to them and allow the Holy Spirit to move in their hearts.

I do not know what the plans are for the teens that I meet. What I do know is that my role is to be a support system and a sounding board, as well as a prayer partner for them as they try to listen and discern the gentle whisper of God in their lives.

—Molly Schorr,  
Youth Minister

## THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

*(continued from previous page)*

the resurrection of humans saved by Jesus. By entering fully into human life, and by experiencing the bitterness of death, Jesus became one with us and a Savior to all people. The death of Jesus was part of God’s plan.

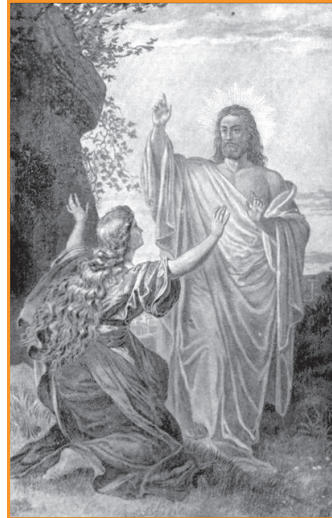
Jesus is the pioneer and leader of our salvation, pointing the way and leading the way along the road of obedience and suffering. At Easter we still feel that pain of the world, but faith in the resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our hope of eternal life, a hope which enables us to bear patiently the trial of life.

There is a quiet joy among us and a deep sense of peace because we know that life is stronger than death. So we might ask, “What is the Church’s teaching on the resurrection of the body?” The Catholic Church has, from the beginning, affirmed that our mortal bodies will be rejoined with our souls at the end of the world and will live forever with the risen Jesus.

The Catechism says that the resurrection of the body “means not only that the immortal soul will live on after death, but that even our ‘mortal body’ will come to life again.” (CCC 990) The Catechism bases this belief on the words of St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor:15). How this will happen “exceeds our understanding,” says the Catechism and “is accessible only to faith.” (CCC 1000) But it will happen. “All the dead will rise, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.” (CCC 998)

So how do we take the resurrection of Jesus into our everyday lives? In the Easter story, Mary Magdalene is a dramatic symbol of victory over despair. Think about it - she came trudging to the tomb on Easter morning weeping, filled with despair, the picture of gloom and sadness. She was brokenhearted because she had lost someone she loved. But that’s not the end of the story. She came looking for a dead body but instead, found a risen Lord.

When she saw the resurrected Jesus, she was resurrected too. No more trudging, no more heavy sighs, no more weeping. She burst out of the tomb of despair, running and shouting, “I have seen the Lord. He is risen!” Like Mary Magdalene, we too can rise above despair!



*Mary Magdalene encounters the resurrected Jesus*

Also in the Easter story, we see that we can rise above defeat as Simon Peter did. He is a dramatic symbol of victory over defeat. Peter had been so brash, so confident, so cocky. Then at “crunch time,” he failed. He denied Jesus. He was so ashamed and so defeated! But the risen Lord came and resurrected him and gave him another chance. Jesus asked the question, “Simon do you love me? Then feed

my sheep!” The risen Jesus was saying to Simon Peter, “You have a job to do. You are not defeated. You can bounce back. You fell down, but you can get up. You can rise above it! Don’t quit on me.”

Nothing transforms life more than hearing the strong voice of Jesus, who forever surrounds us with his love and whispers in our ear time and again, “Don’t quit. Keep on going.” We too can be resurrected. We can have a new chance, a new start, and a new life! That is the good news of our faith, news that’s too good not to be true!

By the grace of God and through the power of God, we can rise above the dark prisons that try to enslave us. This is the Easter message. Jesus arose and came out of the tomb. He was resurrected, as were his followers. The disciples rose from their spiritual and emotional graves and so can we!

Faith in the resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our hope of eternal life, a hope which enables us to bear patiently the trials of life. So there is a quiet joy among us and a deep sense of peace because we know that life is stronger than death, love is stronger than fear, and hope is stronger than despair.

— Deacon Sean Curtan, Staff Member

# CONTAGIOUS TEENS

Youth at St. Vincent's use their Summer to "Spread" the Light of Christ

By participating in **Summer Stretch** and **Christpower**, our St. Vincent de Paul teens will bring the Good News of God's love to the greater Metro area. They will be



showing the community the power of their Catholic faith, and how their participation in the Eucharist calls us all to be Christ for others.

**What is Summer Stretch?** Jr. High School students participate in various service activities around the city each morning over a 6-week period in July & August. This is followed by some reflection with their small group and lunch. After lunch they have a fun time at any number of social activities.

**What is Christpower?** Sr. High School students work on neighborhood revitalization, help at centers that distribute food to the needy, minister to folks in an assisted living environment, and much more. They also share many social and spiritual events over the course of the summer program.

## MEET TAMMY PETERBURS

Introducing a New Editor for The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter

Hello, my name is Tammy Peterburs and I will be the new editor/designer of The St. Vincent Voice. I have been a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul since my husband, Ryan, and I moved to Maple Grove in 1996. Our two sons, Jack and Matt, currently attend St. Vincent de Paul School and our daughter, Josie, will be starting kindergarten in the fall.

My full-time job as a mom keeps me very busy, but I also work from home as a bookkeeper/project manager for the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association which is a trade association for grain elevators and feed mills in the state. In addition, I volunteer at the school, coordinate the Scrip gift card program for St. Vincent's, and help to maintain the school's website.

All of that doesn't leave a lot of time for hobbies, but I love to do crossword puzzles

**Why are Summer Stretch & Christpower so important?**

Generosity is contagious. Enthusiasm is contagious.

Joy is contagious. Selfless service can become contagious, too. And even if it doesn't immediately become contagious in a teen's home, parish or community right away... give it time, it will.

By sharing their gifts with the world, the teens will spend their days glorifying God by giving back to God what was God's to begin with... their very selves. In the first book of Peter it says, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

These experiences will make the teens aware of the needs, hurts, pains and hopeless situations right in their own backyard. The teens' eyes will be opened and their hearts will be moved to make a change. This August, ask the teens why they serve, and what they learned from their service. You just might get an "itch" to follow in their example and serve others yourself.

— Molly Schorr, Youth Minister



and read. I also haven't encountered a sport yet that I don't like. If there are sports on TV, it's probably on at our house. I also enjoy baking, cooking and making my grandma's homemade bread and lefse.

I look forward to being involved in developing the parish newsletter each quarter. I know that it will help me learn more about my faith and I hope that this publication will provide a valuable resource for St. Vincent de Paul parishioners. If you have any comments or suggestions for upcoming newsletters, please feel free to contact me at [editor@saintvdp.org](mailto:editor@saintvdp.org).

— Tammy Peterburs,  
Incoming Editor and Parishioner



## The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

- **Tim Huston**, Parishioner
- **Eric O'Link**, Parishioner
- **Marci Siers**, Pastoral Council Member
- **Chuck Pratt**, Staff Member
- **Nikelle Morris**, Outgoing Editor/Designer, Parishioner
- **Tammy Peterburs**, Incoming Editor/Designer, Parishioner

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

## A FOND FAREWELL...

From our Newsletter Editor, Nikelle Morris



I can hardly believe that I've been working on this newsletter for four years! (Our first planning meetings began in April, 2005.) What a privilege and a learning experience it has been. I've grown in my faith and in my love for our parish, and I've enjoyed this opportunity to help "get the word out" on the wonderful parishioners and staff we have here.

I am stepping down as Newsletter Editor in order to devote more time to my family, but I will continue to edit the weekly bulletins for SVDP. I am truly grateful to our Newsletter Committee for their dedication and hard work—thanks to everyone who has made this newsletter a success!

—Nikelle Morris



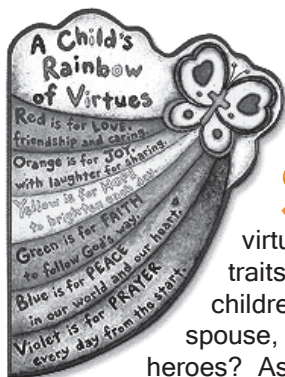
## The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of  
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
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 www.saintvdp.org

*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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## FAMILY CORNER

Create Opportunities to Discuss Virtues within your Family Life

Have you ever taken the opportunity to consider what virtues you value the most? What traits do you wish to pass on to your children, or do you most value in your spouse, your co-workers, or your personal heroes? As families, it's important that we take the time to really think about our values and communicate them, especially to each other. However, it can be difficult to communicate your values if you don't take the time to think about what they really are, so why not take a few minutes to jot down a quick list of the virtues you value the most? Everyone's list will be different, but here are a few virtues that might make your list:

- Integrity**
- Kindness**
- Enthusiasm**
- Hard Work**
- Forgiveness**
- Perseverance**
- Gratitude**
- Humility**
- Moderation**
- Creativity**

- Courage**
- Honesty**
- Faith**
- Thoughtfulness**
- Optimism**
- Joyfulness**
- Thrift**
- Fortitude**
- Responsibility**
- Flexibility**

Now that you've defined the virtues that you most value, it's time to talk about them with your family—or, if you are single, with some dear friends. Have each person make their own list, then rank them by importance and see how your lists compare. It can be fascinating to see how each person rates the virtues, and learn why that virtue is important to them at their current stage of life. While some might consider integrity the most important virtue, another might rank loyalty, optimism, or flexibility as the highest.

With young children, it's very important to define these words and give concrete examples to help them to understand. Consider choosing a "virtue of the week" (or the month—whatever works for your family) to discuss at the dinner table: What does the word mean? Why does this virtue matter? How has each family member demonstrated this virtue recently? When have they seen it in other people? What opportunities do they have in their daily lives to practice this virtue?

Hopefully you will find that an ongoing dialogue about values and virtues will bring you closer to your family and friends, and help you to find ways in your own life to continually work to be a more virtuous person. As the Catechism states, "A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself." (CCC, 1803)

—Nikelle Morris, Outgoing Editor/Parishioner