

August 1, 2010 –
October 31, 2010



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

ON THE GO AT ST. VINCENT'S

Summertime is here and you can see people *on the go* everywhere. People are busy with all sorts of summertime activities such as enjoying leisure time outdoors, vacationing, reading, etc. This issue has a number of articles about parishioners *on the go* at St. Vincent's. Read all about our newly formed Commissions and the Pastoral Council. Hear from a teen parishioner who participated in the ChristPower mission trip. Learn about the Garden Angels and our Flower Garden at St. Vincent's. You can also learn all about our upcoming annual Harvest Festival, which has

also been referred to as our "Great Parish Get Together." Don't miss all the fun pictures from the recent Vacation Bible School, they'll make you feel like you want to be a kid again. You can also learn about The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, what it means to be a godparent, and Fr. Jack explains what is involved in determining if a Marian apparition is legitimate. So, take the time to read this Newsletter. Don't miss what's *going on* at St. Vincent's.

—Marci Siers, Outreach Commission Member

PARISH LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONS

We Are Ready to Begin!

After three years of Strategic Planning efforts at St. Vincent de Paul, the Commissions are now formed and ready to begin on August 17th, 2010. It has been an exciting last few months as many interested parishioners have progressed through the Discernment Process. The Process began earlier this year with a Nomination Period when parishioners could either nominate someone



Group and the Pastoral Council Group met to discern and finally come to learn which parishioners would form the Commissions and Pastoral Council for the next 12 months. Each year in January the process will begin again of Nominations, Information Nights, Discernment Period and Discernment Night to replace the off going members. Please consider your interest in a Commission position now.

else or themselves as an interested candidate for the Pastoral Council or a Commission position. Many parishioners were nominated who expressed great interest in sharing their varied gifts and talents which represent some of the many blessings we have as a parish. The nominated parishioners attended Information Nights in March to review the Commission and Pastoral Council positions and to have an opportunity to ask questions. A prayerful discernment period followed the Information Nights during which parishioners individually discerned their future directions. Finally, it was time to form the Commissions and add more members to the Pastoral Council. This was done by parishioners attending the Discernment Night on May 11th. The Discernment Night began with a beautiful Prayer Service calling the Holy Spirit to be with us and also calling each of the parishioners in attendance on that night by name. Directly after the Prayer Service, each Commission

The Pastoral Council and the Commissions will all meet on the third Tuesday of every month except for the months of July and December. The meetings will start with all attending a meal from 6:00-6:30 p.m. to promote community. From 6:30-7:30 p.m., all of the Commissions will meet, and from 7:30-8:30 p.m. the Pastoral Council will meet.

Parishioners can contact the Commissions and Pastoral Council members by e-mail at pastoralcouncil@saintvdp.org or by calling 763-425-2210 ext. 677. They are also easily identifiable at Mass and other church functions. Pastoral Council members wear maroon colored nametags and Commission members wear green nametags. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to stop a member when they are wearing their nametag.

—Marci Siers, Outreach Commission Member

(Continued on page 3)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **August 13:**
St. Vincent de Paul
Golf Classic
- **August 14 & 15:**
Harvest Festival
- **August 15:**
Feast of the
Assumption
- **August 17:**
Pastoral Council &
Commission Meeting
Night
- **September 6:**
Labor Day
- **September 7:**
First Day of School at
St. Vincent de Paul
- **September 16:**
RCIA Begins
- **September 19:**
Catechetical Sunday
- **September 27:**
Feast of St. Vincent
de Paul
- **October 2:**
St. Vincent de Paul
School Marathon
Fundraiser
- **October 4:**
Psalms Bible Study
Begins
- **November 1:**
All Saint's Day



ASK FATHER

Fr. Jack Answers Parishioner Questions

Q. What is involved in determining if a Marian apparition is legitimate?

- Submitted by Lorena Carter

First of all I feel it's necessary to explain what a Marian apparition is. It is an event in which the Blessed Virgin Mary is believed to have appeared to one or more persons. These apparitions are believed to recur at the same site over an extended period of time. In the majority of Marian apparitions only a few people report having witnessed the apparition. They are often given names based on the town in which they were reported. To put it in simple terms, Our Lady has shown her love for us through her visits which we call apparitions. Every one of Our Lady's apparitions was for a specific purpose, not for an individual, but for a nation, and sometimes the world. Popular apparitions are: Fatima, Portugal 1917; Lourdes, France 1858; Knock, Ireland 1879; and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico 1531. Now for your question...The Roman Catholic Church has prudently been cautious to approve, disapprove, or condemn reported apparitions. The apparitions are placed in three classes; not worthy of belief, not contrary to the Faith, or worthy of belief. The message of an approved apparition cannot have any content that is contrary to the teachings of the Church. The approval of an apparition always begins with the local bishop who appoints a committee to take testimony, investigate, study, and report its findings to the local bishop. This process takes time. For instance, many people believe that Our Lady is appearing in Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This has been happening for quite a long time. The Church has not made an official statement concerning this apparition. The interesting thing about it is many people have made a pilgrimage there and have reported that holy things are happening. People are attending Mass and going to Confession more often. As of now, Medjugorje has not been found "worthy of belief" like Lourdes, Fatima, Knock and Guadalupe have. We must remember the place Our Lady plays in our Church. The overall message she gives to us is to be a people of prayer. Pray for our nation, and our world. The best prayer for us Catholics is to recite the rosary. Recite it individually or in a community. I encourage you to pray it as a family. Mark my words...praying the family rosary is a wonderful tool for family unity.

CHRISTPOWER MISSION TRIP

A SVDP Teen Shares Her Experience

ChristPower, a mission trip to North Minneapolis, was a really positive part of my life in 2009 so I decided to do it again this year. We stayed at Ascension parish and we worked together with five other parishes around the metro. One of the best things about ChristPower is that you help people in need. We were split up into groups with kids from other parishes and worked together to help people in the community. My group helped an older couple in St. Paul with their house. In four days, my group accomplished everything the couple asked for. We cleaned up the yard, planted a small garden, extended their patio in the backyard, cleaned out the garage, and painted the trim around the house and windows. They couldn't stop thanking us. Meeting new people at ChristPower is great too! When the next year comes, I'm excited

to see everyone I've met over the last two years.

Lastly, on the ChristPower mission trip, your connection with God becomes much stronger. Every night we had talks, reflections, reconciliation, and a powerful session of Adoration. Adoration is always awesome to watch because you see everyone singing, people are standing and kneeling, and you can just really tell that God is present there.

ChristPower has been such a positive experience for me, as it is for so many other people. I hope you join us next year so you can also gain a positive experience!

—Alicia Newman, Parishioner

Submit Your Question!

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



PARISH LEADERSHIP COMMISSIONS

(Continued from page 1)

The Finance and Administration Commission: Is responsible for budgeting and long term forecasting, budget review, finance and accounting practices and controls, financial stewardship and financial development, planning for facility and grounds maintenance and improvements - for Church and Cemetery, communication to parish of financial status and capital projects, recommending of human resource, facility, and general administrative policy and procedure.

The Finance and Administrative Commission coordinates the following subcommittees: Finance Committee, Financial Development, Facility, General Administration, and Cemetery.



Members: Todd Conrad, Mike Foster, Mark Novak, Julie Wong, Doug Tigner, Pete Thoresen, and Norm Olafson.

The Formation and Education Commission: Coordinates all levels of faith formation educational programming in the parish, children through adults, Catholic school and public school alike.

The Formation and Education Commission coordinates the following: Adult Formation, Parish School Catechesis, Faith Formation Elementary through High School Programs, Sacramental Preparation, RCIA, and Baptism Preparation.

Members: Sarah Hambrook, Elaine Szepesi, Cindy Pikovsky, Kathleen O'Hara, and Chuck Pratt.

The Worship Commission: Gives direction to the liturgical life of the parish, as well as fostering and promoting the spiritual growth of all parishioners, enabling them to understand what it means to be a baptized Catholic Christian. It also seeks to provide opportunities for personal and communal prayer besides the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.



The Worship Commission coordinates or works with the following subcommittees and groups: Music, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters and other Ministers of Hospitality, Servers, Art and Environment, Sacristans, and Children's Masses.

In addition, the Worship Commission is aware of, and coordinates with, the Liturgical Planning group that coordinate the weekend Masses for the various seasons, all liturgical ministers, prayer services outside of Mass, periodic retreats, and annual Parish Missions.

Members: Biddy Waletzko, Jonathan Kovach, Larry Phenow, Jeannette Rem, and Steve Barnhart.

Parish Life Commission:

Works to build a deeper sense of Christian community for all ages and interest groups in the parish. It works to engage parishioners to discover their gifts and areas of interest, and facilitates in bringing them to deeper levels of involvement in parish life.

The scope of the Parish Life Commission includes: Hospitality and Welcoming, Parish Organizations and Clubs, Youth Ministry, Community-Building and Socializing Events, and the Stewardship of Time and Talent.

Accordingly, each member commits to participate in learning key concepts of Catholic Stewardship (particularly as it applies to time and talent) and discovering new ideas and best practices for attracting, welcoming, and engaging parishioners. The Parish Life Commission includes various committees, organizations, and social groups in the parish including those that may be hosted, but are not specifically sponsored, by the parish.

Members: Michelle Gooley, Kris Hanson, Ann Fauteck, Deb Edstrom, Jennifer Newman, Dorothy Malone, Molly Schorr, and Kathleen Pomerleau.

The Outreach Commission: Coordinates the ministries of Pastoral Care, Social Justice, and education of the parish on Catholic Social Teachings, outreach ministries, charitable giving, and adult mission trips. Its scope includes outreach to both the parish membership and the larger community, either in the neighborhood or beyond.

The Outreach Commission coordinates the following subcommittees and/or activities: Pastoral Care - Home Visitors, Grief Ministry, Marriage Preparation, Ministry to Singles, Divorced and Separated, Social Justice Committee, JustFaith, Womb to Tomb Ministry, Sowers of Justice, and Immigration Action Committee.



Members: Tim Gnitka, Roxanne Harri, Carol Wenner, Marci Wills, Jean Thoresen, Marci Siers, and Okey Anyanwu.

Pastoral Council: Mark Curwick, Janice Gabrick, Ann Bergmann, Andrew Rem, Tom McMullen, Nancy Moorman, Fr. Jack Long, Fr. Chue Vang, and Norm Olafson. There are also two parishioner positions that have pending applications at this time.

Leadership Development Team: Carolyn Halbur, Jim Benson, Russ Funk, Nancy Moorman, and Molly Schorr.

Trustees: Jim Volp and Tim Phenow.

St. Vincent De Paul
Mission Statement

Know and celebrate
our Catholic faith,
Love God and our neighbor,
Serve as disciples of
Jesus Christ.

MEMORIES OF THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

From a Lifelong St. Vincent Parishioner

“Hey Dad, are we gonna have the Harvest Festival again this year?” The answer was always, “Yes.” “When is it gonna be, Dad?” The answer to that was always, “In August, the same as every other year.”

For a kid in elementary school, at the age of, say...8 years old, the Harvest Festival was the highlight of the summer. Take that and the fact that I grew up with three little brothers, and you can be certain that same exchange took place between my dad and me (or my brothers) for years. For all I know, my youngest brother may have asked that same question last week. He's 20.

Some of my fondest memories growing up were of the Harvest Festival. Back then, it was a week-long ordeal, at least in my family. We spent every evening at church that week re-building the stage and setting up tents including the home-made bingo tent. It was like a 40 year old, 40x20x10 foot jigsaw puzzle to which only four people knew the true secret. Each night ended with the treat of a can of pop - maybe two, just don't tell mom.

Back then, we'd go to the Saturday, 5:00 Polka Mass outside on the stage before the Harvest Festival officially kicked off. It was a big deal to get to play bingo with Mrs. Denne or Fr. Kampa. Fr. Kampa liked to play the coveralls and win the giant stuffed animals. And don't tell them I told you, but the Rockin' Hollywoods played at the festi-

val back then, too. OK, maybe not that long ago but this isn't their first time as the headliner at St. Vincent de Paul.

I remember one year when we were really hoping it wouldn't storm but it did. Everyone had to run for shelter. We got soaked. I mean as wet as if we'd just jumped in the lake. Soaking wet or not, we saved the TV, still had a blast and we still remember it...Wait, was that 20 years ago or last year? Probably both but I'll never forget either one. I remember one like that at the old church and school but I'd bet that many of you remember countless different festivals, whether it was the weather or the bingo game that got cut short by the lightning.

Maybe the Harvest Festival that you remember best was the time you won \$100 just for being there at the right time or when your best friend's family was the one that won the car in the raffle. Perhaps it was the one that at age 10, you felt especially important because you worked at the festival, just like the big kids and grown-ups.

Those are just a few of the reasons why I loved the festival when I was growing up. I'm still growing up (many years later) but now, I have kids of my own and get to watch their anticipation for the festival every summer and help them make memories that I hope they'll look back on fondly, when they're all “grown up.”

—Adam Phenow, Parishioner



THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

A Promise For Us All

As summer draws to an end, our parish prepares for its annual Harvest Festival. This year's gathering coincides with an important date on the liturgical calendar; the Assumption of Mary. The Assumption of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. Beyond that, many of us may not understand the importance of this celebration. The Assumption of Mary is a very significant date; not just for its place in history but for the promise that it holds for us all.

Historically, August 15th has been the date we celebrate the Blessed Mary's Assumption of body and soul into heaven. Evidence has shown that this event has been celebrated since the sixth century but has only been decreed as official Dogma in recent history. On November 1st, 1950 Pope Pius XII declared, “We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

Officially acknowledging this date in recent history only emphasizes its significance for our future. But why is the Assumption a promise? We know that the Blessed Mary led an exemplary life: a life “full of grace.” The Bible

teaches us that this grace was bestowed to her from her very birth and continued through her life by her unwavering faith in the Father, the creation of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, and by her Assumption into heaven. The Blessed Mary is mother to Jesus Christ, redeemer for us all. As such, she is Mother to us all and through her intercessions to Jesus Christ, we may find our way to the Father's house. This is why her Assumption is so important: it is a way for us to find our path to heaven. For if the Blessed Mary was welcomed into heaven, then we too may have the opportunity to join our Mother in paradise.

Mary's Assumption into heaven is an important event. As Pope John Paul II indicated in his Feast of the Assumption Homily on Aug. 15, 1995, “Her Assumption into heaven is not only the culmination of her particular vocation as the Mother and disciple of the Lord Jesus, but also an eloquent sign of God's fidelity to the universal plan of salvation aimed at the redemption of every man and of all men.” While celebrating the Harvest Festival in our community, let this date serve as a time of reflection on the Blessed Mary's life, the promise that her Assumption provides us all, and our place in the community of humanity.

—Marie Heinrichs, Parishioner



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

AUGUST 14 & 15, 2010

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

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



- 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 ENTERTAINMENT:

Saturday 2–4 p.m.
St. Vincent's Got Talent!

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

Sunday 1–3 p.m.
The Dixie Cats



**Come Join
the Fun!**



GREAT FOOD FEATURING:

Hopkins Lions
Culver's
The Lookout Bar & Grill

Chicken Dinner
Sunday 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Come Join
the Fun!**



**The St. Vincent
Voice Newsletter
Committee**

- **Lori Hansson,**
Parishioner
- **Marie Henrichs,**
Parishioner
- **Rebecca Keran,**
Parishioner
- **Lisa Price,**
Parishioner
- **Marci Siers,** *Outreach
Commission Member*
- **Chuck Pratt,**
Staff Member
- **Tammy Peterburs,**
*Editor/Designer,
Parishioner*

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

**NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION
DEADLINES**

Please submit your
ideas to our committee
by e-mailing them to:
editor@saintvdp.org,
or by mailing them to
the church, to the atten-
tion of "The St. Vincent
Voice Editor."

Please note the dead-
lines to submit ideas, so
that the Committee can
consider them at our
planning meetings:

- By Nov. 15 for the
Feb. 1–Apr. 31 issue;
- by Feb. 15 for the
May 1–July 31 issue;
- by May 15 for the
Aug. 1–Oct. 31 issue;
- by Aug. 15 for the
Nov. 1–Jan. 31 issue.

We don't need the full
article by the deadline—
just the basic idea for
the article to be devel-
oped. The Newsletter
Committee will deter-
mine the final content of
each issue.

REMEMBERING...

Vacation Bible School



THE FLOWER GARDEN

Possibly St. Vincent's Best Kept "Secret"

There is a beautiful flower garden on our parish grounds that often goes unnoticed by parishioners. This flower garden can be seen when walking the hallway from the church to Regan Hall and can be accessed through the back of the church. This little slice of heaven is maintained by a special group of people that call themselves the Garden Angels. I had a question and answer session with Kathleen Pomerleau, who heads up the Garden Angels, to get some insight into the garden and the Garden Angels who make the church grounds beautiful.

Q: What is the history behind the garden?

The garden was built during the time Fr. Lybarger was pastor here (1989-2001). It was built in remembrance of George Cullinan and Richard Signorelli. Back in 2000, a group of parishioners helped work in the garden by pulling weeds, etc., and realized that it needed a lot of attention. It was felt that adding flowers to the front of the church would also be a great asset. The following year we recruited some volunteers to help out and named the group the "Garden Angels."

Q: How many volunteers does it take to keep the garden looking so beautiful?

This year we have 15 volunteers, which includes teens and children with their parents. Being Garden Angels is a great activity for a family to introduce children to gardening and nature.

Q: What is each person's role? How is the work split up?

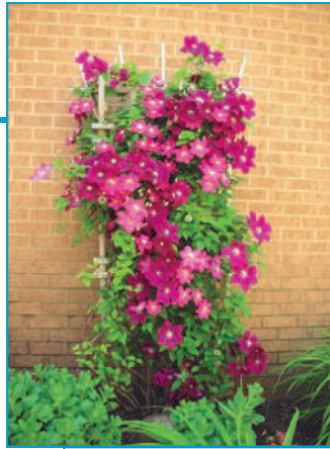
Each volunteer takes a day to come in and water all of the pots around the building and the garden. It takes about a half hour to get it all done. There is a sprinkling system for the actual garden as well. We also have a volunteer, Sharon Horan, who dead heads the flowers and that takes about two hours each week. Sue Newburg is responsible for planting all the pots out in front of the church.

Q: How can other parishioners become involved if they would like to help?

Each spring there is a notice in the church bulletin asking for volunteers. The majority of the volunteers return each year because they like doing it. Garden Angels is a great ministry in which to be involved.

Q: What kinds of flowers are planted in the garden?

Most of the plants in the garden are now perennials that came from my garden at home like the hostas and lilies. You have to smell the yellow lilies – they are magnificent! The perennials multiply each year and they tend to be less work. In the spring, I divide them and give them to the employees and teachers here for their gardens at home. When Sr. Nora was here, she gave us a few beautiful red canna bulbs that are along the back wall which will be blooming in a few weeks.



*"If you have a garden
and a library, you have
everything you need."*

Marcus Tullius Cicero.

It is important to have flowers blooming all summer so we have both annuals and perennials. Steve Barnhart loves zinnias and yellow marigolds because they are so showy in the garden.

A master gardener friend of mine and parishioner, Michael DeBoer, is going to plant bulbs for us in the fall so that there will be color early in the spring for the Spring Tea and for First Communion pictures.

Q: For what different occasions is the garden used?

The garden can be used anytime there is an event in Regan Hall like a wedding or CCW's Spring Tea. Families have also taken First Communion pictures in the garden.

Q: Do you have any other ideas how to make the garden more widely known?

In the past we had a mini music concert out there where parishioners brought their blankets and had a picnic dinner. Mrs. Schlicksup has used the garden for teaching her students about butterflies. The children let the butterflies go in the garden. We have purposely put in flowers to attract butterflies, bumble bees and birds. Classrooms could also have picnics out there on the grass.

Please feel free to stop by and enjoy this beautiful area on our parish grounds.

— Lisa Price, Parishioner



The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
9100 93rd Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55455
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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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SYMBOLS OF FAITH

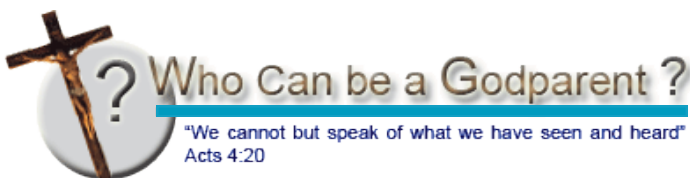
The Godparent at Baptism

On the first Tuesday of each month, our parish offers a Pre-Baptism Session to prepare parents for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. One of the topics covered is godparents. When I begin to talk about godparents, I state that the godparent represents the support of our family of faith for the family bringing a child for Baptism. A godparent symbolizes the care of our parish and the whole Catholic Church for their child that is being baptized. The godparent symbolizes the commitment of the whole church to help raise the child, being baptized, in our Catholic faith.

Some frequently asked questions:

What is the role of the godparent? I emphasize to the parents that the role of godparent is not just a matter of whose turn it is in their family or a way of honoring their best friend but is a serious religious role. Being a godparent is a religious role that should be given to someone who is an active, practicing, confirmed Catholic. The main duty of the godparent is to help raise their godchild in the Catholic faith. The godparent should be able to answer questions about our Catholic faith and be someone who provides a good example by being a person of prayer, virtue, and service. Godparents should also be active in the life of their parish by attending Mass every weekend, volunteering in parish ministries, and participating in the many, varied activities and programs that parishes offer.

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How many godparents do I need? According to the law of our church, you only need one, who is at least sixteen years of age. If you have two, one must be female and one male. You cannot have more than two. It is traditional to have two godparents which logically equals one godmother and one godfather. Godparents do not have to be a married couple.

Do godparents have to be Catholic? If you choose two, at least one must be an active Catholic as described above. The second person can be someone who is active in another Christian denomination. Keep in mind the main duty of the godparent is to help introduce the child to Jesus and to the Catholic faith. Non-Christians cannot be baptismal godparents.

The role of the Church is to assist parents in their duties as the primary teachers of their children in the ways of our faith. We hope to do that with each child presented for Baptism. The godparent selected by the parent can be an asset in the spiritual growth of the child. To do so, the godparent should recognize that they too are on a spiritual journey and have a faith life that can be passed on to their godchild. The godparent at Baptism can truly be a symbol of God's presence and the care of the faith community to their godchild and to all of us in the Church.

— Chuck Pratt, Director of Faith Formation