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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND FAITH IN OUR PARISH

As I prepared to introduce this edition of The St. Vincent Voice, it brought to mind two themes: a sense of community and symbolism.

Community is emphasized in this issue with the collection of Christmas Bazaar, Breakfast with Santa, and Youth Group pictures. It is highlighted by an article about a parishioner who makes a difference through volunteering and the articles focusing on marriage, the most intimate of all communities. We also have an update on our parish's Social Justice campaign to build and strengthen our community.

Symbolism is defined by the Catholic Church as "a badge of faith, teaching tools

and aids on the journey towards complex philosophies". This edition of The St. Vincent Voice features a thorough explanation of the Easter Triduum and its many symbols, an explanation of why we use candles with prayer, and the symbolism of wedding rings.

We look ahead to the Lenten season with a book list which provides us with a start to our reflective journey in our faith as well as an invitation to participate in Perpetual Adoration, Reconciliation, and Stations of the Cross. What better time than Lent to foster our relationship with God and his wondrous works?

— Lori Hansson, Parishioner

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The Greatest of All Feasts

Holy Week, Easter Triduum, the Easter season...

Palm Sunday, while still part of the Lenten season, is the entrance into the year's holiest and most solemn week. Holy week has as its purpose, the remembrance of Christ's passion. During the weekdays of Holy Week the scriptures point us toward the Triduum.

The Chrism Mass is celebrated by the bishop leading up to Holy Week. The blessing of the oils is a very ancient tradition dating back to the third century. Three oils are blessed: oil of chrism, oil of catechumens, and oil of the sick. The focus of the Chrism Mass is the priesthood of Jesus.

The Easter Triduum is the "greatest of all feasts." All other feasts of the year hinge on this great feast. While each Sunday stands on its own as an observance of the Paschal Mystery, the Triduum is a celebration of the Paschal Mystery. It includes Jesus' passion, death, and most of all, his passage from death to new life through the resurrection. This great feast calls us to remember with greater intensity, rejoicing, and awareness of the Easter event itself.

The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night, beginning after nightfall and

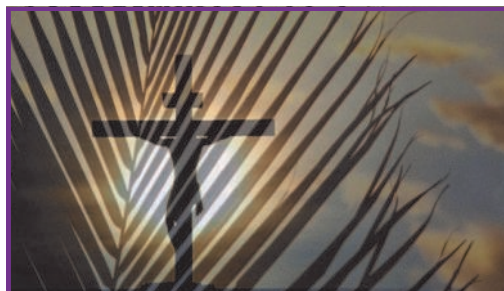


ending with dawn. The Triduum is actually one liturgy that lasts three days, there is no formal closing to the Holy Thursday or Good Friday liturgies. For three days, the church enters and remains in the tomb with Jesus.

Lent ends on the evening of Holy Thursday with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins the Triduum. It is a living memorial of the institution of the Eucharist and of Jesus' Passover in which Jesus left us signs of the new covenant. Jesus promises to be with us through the signs he gives us (especially

the Eucharist). It is the great miracle of the Eucharist. It is here where we see the gift of the priesthood, to act in the person of Jesus who brings us

(Continued on page 3)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- February 2:
Presentation of the Lord
- February 6:
Cana Dinner & Dance
- February 17:
Ash Wednesday
Masses at
8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
and 7:00 p.m.
- February 22:
Catholicism 101 -
five part DVD series
begins
- February 27:
Women's Retreat -
In God's Hands
- February 27 &
March 13:
Men's Spirituality
Group
- March 19-20:
Junior High
Luke 18 Retreat
- March 25:
Annunciation of the
Lord
- March 28:
Palm Sunday
- April 1:
Holy Thursday
- April 2:
Good Friday
- April 3:
Holy Saturday -
Easter Vigil
- April 4:
Easter
- April 17:
Confirmation at the
Cathedral of St. Paul
and
SVDP Auction for
Education



ASK FATHER

Fr. Chue Answers Parishioner Questions

Q. What is the symbolization / meaning of wedding rings in the Catholic Church? Does the church have a ruling or at least opinion on whether couples should continue to wear their wedding bands after marriage? So many today do not.
— Submitted by Judy Randall



The wedding ring could be the oldest and most universal symbol of marriage. When you see a man or a woman wearing a wedding ring you know that that person is married.

Once the ring has been placed on the finger it should never be taken off until death. It symbolizes love and devotion. When the couple place the rings on each other's fingers, they say, "N., take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity." The meaning behind the ring says, "I love you," "I wish to be with you forever," and "you are mine."

The ring is typically worn on the fourth finger of the left hand (the ring finger). It was believed by some ancient peoples, such as the Egyptians, that there was an artery that went directly from that finger to the heart, and the left hand is a bit closer to the heart. This made the fourth finger of the left hand the proper place to wear the pledge of love. The ring's circular shape represents perfection and never-ending love and devotion. It is made from precious metal as a symbol of strength in the marriage.

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.

AN INVITATION TO SERVE

In Our New Parish Leadership

As a result of our parish strategic planning, a new parish leadership structure has been developed. The next step is a parishwide discernment process that will begin in February with the goal of finding interested and qualified parishioners to serve in these new positions. The outcome is to have six parishioners on each of the five new Commissions. The Commissions are as follows: Finance and Administration, Formation and Education, Parish Life, Outreach, and Worship. The Commissions evaluate their parish ministry area and identify opportunities for improvement or change. Additionally, they collaborate in annual planning and work for the successful accomplishment of overarching goals. Details of the overarching goals can be found on our website, at www.saintvdp.org. Each of the five Commissions has one member that is also a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. One staff member will also serve on each Commission as Director of the Commission. A complete Parish Organizational Chart, including a position description of the Commissions, can also be found on the web site.

This process will include the opportunity for nominations of potential candidates and careful, prayerful discernment by those candidates. Discernment means to "see" or to "know" or to "acknowledge" what is. It is to see from God's perspective. The discernment process is one of uncovering the decision - not of making it. Look for more information in the following weeks in our parish bulletin as we move into this exciting phase of strategic planning. Questions can be directed to the Parish Pastoral Council by emailing pastoralcouncil@saintvdp.org. Is the Spirit calling you?

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now."

St. Teresa of Avila

— Ann Bergmann,
Pastoral Council Member



THE EASTER TRIDUUM

(Continued from page 1)

the miracle of the Eucharist. It demands a special grace and a priest receives the mark on his soul when he is ordained. Jesus reminds us of the self-sacrificing nature of his love. We see Jesus as servant of all, and he loves to the end. Jesus washes the feet of those he serves and instructs his disciples to go and do the same. We all share in the servanthood of Jesus.

Do we understand the foot washing? Where do we locate



ourselves in the story of the foot washing? Are we servants of Jesus? What do we do with this act of service? Is it merely a moral example of good pastoral love or is it a radical example of love so needed in the world? Maybe the

real problem is that we do not do it often enough to be good at it. Not actual foot washing, but those countless acts of humble service we can offer to one another on a daily basis.

We slowly shift into part two of our three-day liturgy as part one quietly fades into meditation and silence of darkness as the Eucharist is processed out to a holding tabernacle that represents the agony in the garden.

The Good Friday celebration of the Lord's Passion commemorates the redemption Jesus won for us through the gift of his life. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures. It is the redemptive act of the cross that was the fulfillment. The liturgy of Good Friday begins in silent prayer. There are three parts: liturgy of the word with John's account of the passion and the general intercession, the veneration of the cross, and communion using bread consecrated at the Holy Thursday liturgy. We see Jesus not as a victim; he is the initiator of events. Jesus freely walks to his death. Jesus is aware of his victory over his enemy, the evil one. The Good Friday liturgy is a cause for joyful celebration because of the love of God demonstrated through Jesus' passion.



We have two trials in the readings on Good Friday. In the trial of Peter, the judges are the servant girl and the onlookers. Peter denied Jesus seeking to save his own life. He lost it until Jesus gave it back to him. We should ask ourselves when we have denied being followers of Jesus by our words and actions. Then we have the trial of Jesus' crucifixion.

The intercessions on this day are a sign of the priestly function of God's people praying for the world. The veneration of the cross reminds us of the good news in the cross. This instrument of torture became a sign of salvation and love for all of us; the costly call of the



cross. What is the cross Jesus calls us to take up as we follow him? The cross will not let us be bystanders. From the cross come prayers: a prayer for forgiveness, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing"; and a prayer of turning it over to the Father, "Father into your hands I commend my spirit." These are the two prayers we can offer when our crosses come.

In the Easter Vigil there are four parts to the liturgy of this most holy night: service of fire, liturgy of the word, service of baptism, and liturgy of the Eucharist. The fire is the light of Christ shining in the lives of people. Thus, the Easter proclamation of Jesus, the Light who overcomes the darkness is shouted. Then the Exultet's proclamation lifts us to a communion between the saints of heaven and earth.

The liturgy of the word carries us back to the roots of our Christian beginning; creation, Passover, and paschal mystery. We are brought into the first Passover. The liturgy of the word reminds us that this is a night of new life. Life is reborn as we hear the baptismal passage from death to life.

On this night of new beginnings, the new water is blessed. Together with those who will be baptized on this night we commit and recommit ourselves through our baptismal promises. We pledge to enter and continue in the struggle between good and evil in this world. The baptismal liturgy comes to a close as the newly baptized are anointed with confirmation's holy oil.

For the liturgy of the Eucharist, we take a moment as the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The paschal story continues in word and action as we see the cross stand triumphant in the light of resurrection. We are fed and we go with the cross to carry, and the hope of the resurrection in our hearts.

Some of the symbols of the vigil: community (us), cross, fire, light, word, water, oil, white garments, laying on of hands, bread, and wine all are important in this great liturgy as we are people of the cross. We are people of the light and the water of baptism that brings us into the Paschal Mystery. We are Eucharistic people. We can say that symbols express our identity. The symbols of the vigil are for reflection all year!

— Deacon Sean Curtan

THE DAY WE MET THE POPE

St. Vincent de Paul's Youth Minister has Marriage Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI

When my husband and I were planning our wedding, our primary focus was on the sacrament, not the reception. Being a Youth Minister and working in the Church meant we had a lot of priests to choose from and ended up having three be a part of our ceremony. One of our priest friends was asking about our honeymoon plans. He told us that if we went to Rome before we had been married for two months, we could receive a special blessing from the Pope for our marriage. My husband and I talked it over and we couldn't imagine a better way to start our married lives together.

So in the midst of wedding planning, we were also planning a honeymoon to Rome and other parts of Italy. In speaking with our priest friend, he told us that the Archdiocese had to send information to the Vatican offices of Rome to receive tickets for the Sposi Novelli (newlywed) seating at the general audience of the Pope. We got our paperwork in on time and had to ask our pastor at the parish to sign a sacramental marriage certificate so we could show the Vatican offices that we did indeed get married in the Catholic Church. We were also notified that I should pack my wedding dress and my husband should bring his suit.

We were approved for our tickets three weeks before we were to leave for Rome and were given instructions and a map to where we needed to pick up our tickets. Packing my dress was not fun, but I was so excited to get to be one of those few brides who has a chance to wear her dress twice! While we were in Rome we got connected with the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). We both knew a few sisters in the SSND order and they offered to have us stay with them. This was amazing because they were just as excited as we were about our chance to see the Pope.

The Tuesday before the general audience we had to find the United States Bishops' Office near the Trevi Fountain and pick up our tickets and our instructions. What a delight to find out that the sister who was organizing all of this was from our Archdiocese. She gave us the inside information for the day. She told us that we needed to be at St. Peter's Square on Wednesday at or around 6am. The gates would open at 10am and then would be a mad dash to the metal detectors and the Swiss Guard. We needed to have our tickets, our sacramental marriage cer-



Molly and Nick Schorr in front of St. Peter's Square dressed in their wedding attire.

tificate and only one bag. She said once we got through all the security check points that we needed to literally run to the Sposi Novelli section to get a seat in the front row.

So bright and early Wednesday morning we arrived at St. Peter's Square and there were already two couples in line. By the time the gates opened, there were more than 60 couples waiting. When the gates opened we ran like crazy and were able

to get seats in the front row of the section. It was a warm day, but we

did not mind. The square was packed with people and once the Pope entered on his popemobile, the crowd went wild. After a message from the Holy Father (which was in Italian), he proceeded to go to the various sections and meet people. At this point the Swiss Guard came up behind us, took our chairs away and blocked the rows behind us. Only the first row was going to be able to actually meet and talk with the Holy Father. Only 10 couples out of 60 and we were one of them!



Pope Benedict XVI with Molly and Nick Schorr

When Pope Benedict came up to us, the first thing I noticed was how I was not nervous. We were able to hold his hands, just like you would do with a very good friend. Nick said "Bless you Holy Father," and then the Pope knew to talk to us in English. He said to us, "Oh Americans. What state?" We said "Minnesota." He said, "Oh, very cold there," and smiled the most genuine smile. I

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

said, "Thank you for all you do for the youth of the world. As a Youth Minister, the influence you have on teens is incredible." He said, "Thank you."

Then he put our hands together, placed his over ours and gave us a blessing for a long and happy marriage! He gave us each a blessed rosary with his coat of arms and moved to the next couple. There were a few camera crews taking pictures for us so all we needed to do was stand in the presence of His Holiness! And he was holy. He was so humble and holy and you felt as if you were truly in the presence of Christ. With all those people around him, he only looked at us. When he was talking with us, we felt as if we were the only two people in the room! Even though it was only about three minutes, it felt as if it were longer.

The rest of the day and the rest of our honeymoon all we kept saying to each other

was, "We just met the Pope!" It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life. This moment with Pope Benedict XVI reiterated why we are Catholic and why I work for the Catholic Church. Being around our Holy Father and seeing Christ radiate from him reminded me of the presence of Christ in all of us. Whenever I am struggling in my faith and having problems in my life, I think back to that day and that moment when we were blessed! I remember that Christ is present in my life and that each time I receive the Eucharist I am united with Catholics around the world in the Body of Christ. This is what I will tell my children someday, and my children's children.

May God bless Pope Benedict XVI and his ministry to our Church!

— *Molly Schorr,*
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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, or send it to the parish office to Attn: St. Vincent Voice Editor so that we can consider it for an upcoming issue.

"THIS IS A GREAT SACRAMENT;

I mean that it refers to Christ and the Church." - *Ephesians 5:32*



What does this mean...Christ and the Church??

The Sacrament of Marriage signifies the union and relationship between Christ and the church. The Sacrament gives the husband and wife the grace to love each

other as Christ loves the church. Marriage is a gift from God; making marriage between baptized Christians a Sacramental sign of His own love for the church and humanity. This sign is an outward example of a couple's commitment to share their whole lives together and to reveal God's love to themselves, their children, and others through their marriage relationship. Marriage and the family are the building blocks in our society. The Christian marriage can be referred to as the "little church" because it affects everyone. The "little church" is where we learn about God, each other, and our neighbors. We can understand then why there is a deep concern for marriage in our society. It is a priority to focus on strengthening the Sacrament of Marriage in our community.

So what are we doing here in our own parish to strengthen the "little church"? We have taken some steps in focusing on the Sacrament of Marriage this past year. Recently we hosted

"Couples by Candlelight" which introduced couples to The Alexander House and the many ways they work to build Christ-Centered marriages. Our Presenters, Jeremy and Cindy Rohr, led couples through an exercise to learn their spouse's top three emotional needs. From this experience we have the opportunity to become involved with the "Covenant of Love" Ministry. Covenant of Love Ministry is a parish-based marriage ministry renewing the vocation of marriage in the lives of married couples. Covenant of Love provides the framework for parishes to accomplish this mission. This program starts by building up marriage through the Covenant of Love Marriage group, a monthly gathering for marriage enrichment and fellowship. We are looking forward to working with the Alexander House as we begin to think about coordinating this ministry here at St. Vincent.

As you know, each and every year we celebrate marriage with a special Cana evening right around Valentine's Day...a perfect opportunity for a "date night!" We begin our evening with a prayer service followed by a catered dinner and dance. It is a wonderful evening to honor the Sacrament of Marriage and enjoy the fellowship of other married couples in our parish. This year our Cana celebration will be on Saturday, February

(Continued on page 6)



THIS IS A GREAT SACRAMENT

(Continued from page 5)

6, 2010. Please consider joining us for this wonderful evening where you can focus on just the two of you and your commitment to each other.



We also support the engaged couples of our parish by providing "Prepare," a tool to help premarital couples focus objectively on their relationship as they prepare for marriage. The Prepare program is intended to help couples focus on areas of growth and areas of strength in their relationship enabling them to progress in a positive direction. The goal of Prepare is to have a mentor couple assist them in learning new ways to communicate and problem solve, while exploring financial management, and marital expectations. During the mentoring experience the engaged couple is encouraged to focus on the Sacrament; the gift of marriage, and God as the center of their union. Currently, we have nine active mentor couples. Mentoring is a ministry that is based on a solid Christian marriage. Screening and inventories are given to those couples who are interested in becoming mentor

couples. New mentor couples are then trained in working with the engaged. Couples who have mentored agree that working with the engaged enhances their own marital relationship. It is a gift to work with those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

If you are interested in the Covenant of Love Ministry, participating in Cana, or would like to become a mentor couple, please contact the parish office for more information. We invite any new ideas you may have to strengthen the "little church" in our parish. As we move into a New Year, let us continue to pray for all married couples in our parish community, our mentor couples who work with the engaged, and for the success of our Cana celebration.

"Dear God,

Bless all married couples. In their love for each other, they reveal your love to the world. Give them the grace to live out their marriage covenant, provide them with strength when times are hard, and shower them with joy in the company of family and friends. Open their eyes to the gifts you have given them in order to serve you by serving others. May they enjoy many years together, growing closer to each other and to you. May they love and honor each other all the days of their lives. Amen."

Catholic Faith Handbook

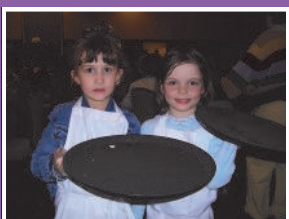
— Margaret Schauer, Pastoral Minister

Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross

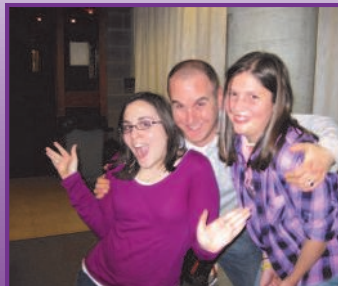
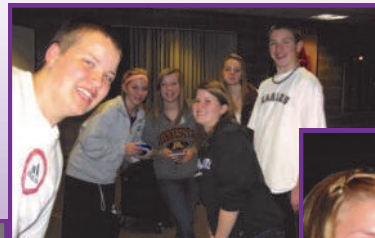
Join your fellow parishioners in Regan Hall for a delicious meal between 5:30-6:45 p.m., offered each Friday during Lent.



The suppers are followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. in the church.



REMEMBERING... Youth Group



LENTEN READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Deepen Your Prayer Life with a Good Book



The Cloud of Unknowing
Published by Doubleday, copyright 1973 edited by William Johnston, copyright 1996 forward by Huston Smith. Author anonymous.

Written in the 14th century by an anonymous Christian mystic. This book is a contemplative guide for deepening your relationship with God. 188 pages.

The Imitation of Christ by *Thomas a Kempis*. Written in the 15th century. This book is a guide for following Christ's teaching by imitating Christ. 236 pages.

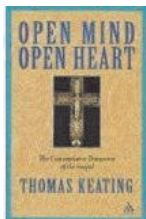
The Inner Life by *Thomas a Kempis*. Written in the 15th century. Excerpts from the Imitation of Christ. 108 pages.

The Pilgrim's Progress From This World To That Which Is To Come by *John Bunyan*. Written in the 17th century. Tells the story of a Christian on his pilgrimage from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. 185 pages.



Story of a Soul - The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux translated by *John Clarke O.C.D.* Written during the years of 1895-1897. This is the autobiography of Saint Therese of Lisieux who was a Carmelite nun. She is

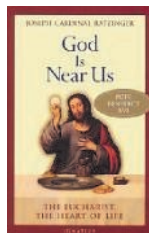
known for her teachings of the "Little Way." 271 pages.



Open Mind Open Heart - The Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel by *Fr. Thomas Keating*. This is a guide for spiritual growth and understanding. This book also includes an explanation of Centering Prayer. Chapter 13 lists a guideline for Christian Life, Growth and Transformation. Published in 1986, 148 pages.

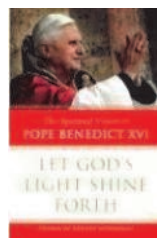
The Mystery of Christ - The Liturgy as Spiritual Experience by *Fr. Thomas Keating*. This book reviews Christ's presence in the liturgical seasons. Published in 1987, 126 pages.

Invitation to Love - The Way of Christian Contemplation by *Fr. Thomas Keating*. Reviews the conceptual background for the Christian spiritual/contemplative journey. Published in 1992, 138 pages.

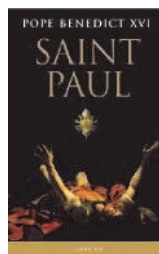


God Is Near Us: The Eucharist, The Heart of Life by *Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger*. Cardinal Ratzinger explains how God is near us in the Eucharist. Published in 2001, 148 pages.

Reluctant Saint - The Life of Francis of Assisi by *Donald Spotto*. A biography of Saint Francis of Assisi. Published in 2002, 215 pages.



Let God's Light Shine Forth - The Spiritual Vision of Pope Benedict XVI The first 75 pages are a very interesting biography of Cardinal Ratzinger's life. The remaining chapters of this book are about his faith, his views on today's world and on the Christian pilgrim. Published in 2005, 200 pages.



Saint Paul by *Pope Benedict XVI*. Written by Pope Benedict in honor of the year of the Apostle Saint Paul which was from June 29, 2008 to June 29, 2009. The book is Pope Benedict's explanation of St. Paul's life. It begins before his conversion at Damascus, then goes on to review St. Paul's teachings and ends with St. Paul's legacy after death. Published 2009, 131 pages.

— *Marci Siers, Pastoral Council Member*

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN??

The Lenten Season is historically a time for Catholics to reflect and refocus on their relationship with God. This makes it an excellent time to lift the burden of sin from one's shoulders through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Whether it's been 20 days or 20 years since your last confession, wouldn't it feel wonderful to hear those words, "I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"? Confession will be offered frequently at our parish during this Lenten Season.

Perpetual Adoration



Are you desiring to go deeper in knowing, loving and serving our Lord? Are you experiencing anxiety, depression or any negativity in your life? Come to the living water in Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and drink of the peace and tranquility of being in Christ's true presence. He waits for you and desires to pour out every blessing on you! Come experience what God has in store for you!

Lent is a great time to start Perpetual Adoration. Sign up for one hour per week by calling Mike or Jean at 763-494-8693 or during all masses on February 6th and 7th.

What is Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration?

- Adoration is a quiet time spent in prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is ongoing in our chapel seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

Why should I go?

- To deepen my personal relationship with Jesus.
- To grow in holiness (faith, hope, love)

REMEMBERING...

The Christmas Bazaar



FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Meet Parishioner Joyce Deane

Long before Saint Vincent's moved across the street to its new home, funeral lunches were served in the old church basement. Alongside the jello salad, chocolate cake and rolled ham, there was always a roaster filled with hamburger rice hotdish. A staple at every luncheon, you could count on finding it in the kitchen – just like the woman who arrived



Joyce Deane

early to chop the celery, open the cans of Cream of Mushroom soup and mix all ingredients together: lifelong parishioner Joyce Deane.

"My kids still call it funeral hotdish," Joyce laughed. "When there were leftovers, I brought it home and served it for dinner." Serving as St. Vincent's funeral luncheon coordinator for 13 years from 1976 to 1989, is just one of the volunteer roles Joyce has filled over the years.

"I love to volunteer," she explained. "When you are part of a parish community or an organization, you have a responsibility to be active. I know my life has been richer because I've worked on committees with knowledgeable fellow parishioners like Lee Gresser and Jim Volp, both of whom I respect and admire."

Born on the Scherber family farm in Dayton Township, Joyce's family moved to Osseo when she was 4 years old. In 1952, she was part of the

inaugural eighth grade class at St. Vincent's School. Then parish priest Father Boerboom had made it clear that if there was an area Catholic school, all Catholic children should attend. And the Scherbers obliged. When Joyce attended (along with classmate and long-time parishioner Joel Princeton) there were no uniforms...and no tuition.

In 1961, Joyce married Osseo High School teacher James Deane. The couple moved to Maple Grove where parishioners Paul

and Dorothy Kerber had just begun to turn a 40-acre plot into a suburban subdivision. The first homeowners in the Kerber addition, the Deanes raised their three daughters in the home they still reside in today. Over time, other parishioners moved into the neighborhood including Joann Anderson, Rich and Mary Scherber, Mary Lee Ruegemer, Tom and Jean Clifford, Michael and Lisa

Welton, and Dominic and Cathy Hadzima.

While her children were growing up, Joyce found time to stay active in parish life. At that time, women parishioners were assigned to different guilds. As a member of St. Patrick's Guild, Joyce's volunteer role grew. She pitched in at the Harvest Festival and was an officer in CCW. Elected to St. Vincent's first parish council in 1978 or 1979, Joyce also served on St. Vincent's School Advisory Board. She also was part of the building committee.

"I've always believed that when you get involved, you can make a real difference," Joyce said. "Working together, we can make things happen. It's the reason I first chose to volunteer and it's the reason I keep signing up." In addition to volunteering at St. Vincent's, Joyce was a long-time 4-H volunteer. Currently, she is active in the Maple Grove Community Organization (MGCO) and the Maple Grove Historical Society.

In our parish, Joyce co-manages the parish gift shop with Dorothy Kerber and Corrine Lauer. She also has been instrumental in making the Christmas Bazaar a successful annual event.

"As a volunteer, I've had many different jobs, but they all have one thing in common," she said. "Every time I volunteer, I have the opportunity to make new friends and to work with other volunteers to make our parish community even stronger."

— Polly Deane, Parishioner

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

We invite you to sign up for e-mail communications from the parish. Visit www.saintvdp.org for more information.

Please give us some feedback on The St. Vincent Voice. We strive 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.

**The St. Vincent
Voice Newsletter
Committee**

- **Lori Hansson,**
Parishioner
- **Rebecca Keran,**
Parishioner
- **Lisa Price,**
Parishioner
- **Marci Siers,**
Pastoral Council 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 attention of "The St. Vincent Voice Editor."

Please note the following deadlines to submit ideas, so that the Newsletter 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 developed.

The Newsletter Committee will determine the final content of each issue.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

(1225-1274) Feast Day, January 28th

Patron Saint of:

- Catholic schools
- Colleges
- Schools
- Students

By universal consent, Thomas Aquinas is the pre-eminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church. He is honored with the title Doctor of the Church, a title given by a variety of Christian churches to individuals whom they recognize as having been of particular importance, particularly regarding their additions to theological or doctrinal matters.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, per-



vades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.

We can look to Thomas Aquinas as a towering example of Catholicism in the sense of broadness, universality and inclusiveness. We should be determined anew to exercise

the divine gift of reason in us, our power to know, learn and understand. At the same time we should thank God for the gift of his revelation, especially in Jesus Christ.

Excerpts taken from americancatholic.org

— *Lisa Price, Parishioner*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

Catholic Schools Week

**January 31st -
February 6th**



Auction for Education 2010



**St. Vincent de Paul Auction for Education
April 17, 2010**

**Tickets go on sale after masses starting
February 13, 2010.**

Ticket options:

- Silent Auction only - \$20 (5:00 - 7:30 PM)
- Royal Package (\$1,500 seating for 8, dinner, premiere seating, drink passes, advertising, website)
- Gold Package (\$300 for 2, dinner, drink passes, advertising, website)
- Individual Ticket - \$65/person
- Table of 8 - \$520

*Proceeds benefit St. Vincent de Paul School
and the Faith Formation Program.*

SVDP's SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Highlights of Outreach Team Activities

In the wake of summer 2009, our parish Social Justice ministry initiated an outreach campaign. It is now seven months into the campaign and we are happy to share the dividends with everyone.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, the first phase of the campaign ushered in a host of good speakers and activities on various topics in Catholic Social teaching. Here are the highlights of what has been covered and the scheduled activities to come:

- September 29, 2009—Disability and our Catholic Faith
- September 30, 2009—First session: "Hospitality and Social Justice"
- September 30, 2009—Second session: "Life Behind Bars and Social Justice"
- October 27, 2009—Abortion, War and Capital punishment
- October 28, 2009—The Fears of becoming a Multicultural Community
- November 21, 2009—ZaMya Theater Group performed a drama titled, "The Housed and The Homeless"
- January 9, 2010—Parish Ethnic Potluck Supper which brought together 40 immigrant families in our parish with their various ethnic dishes
- January 12, 2010—Presentation on "The Church's Perspective on Healthcare Reform and Healthcare Directives"
- January 13, 2010—Diversity Workshop

These activities have certainly aroused both interest and curiosity about Social Justice Ministry. We are gradually coming to the realization that the true Catholic version of social justice is not partisan. It is an outreach that advocates for life from "womb to tomb." All our new programs under this ministry are directly connected with the basic principles of Catholic Social teaching namely:

- Womb-to-Tomb Ministry, Ministry to People with Disabilities, and Prison Ministry: emphasize Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- JustFaith and JusticeWalking: emphasizes Option for the Poor and the Vulnerable
- Medical Ministry: emphasizes our fundamental RIGHTS to Life and RESPONSIBILITIES towards one another to meet the common good
- Multicultural Ministry: emphasizes SOLIDARITY, which means that we are one human family irrespective of geographical, cultural and religious differences

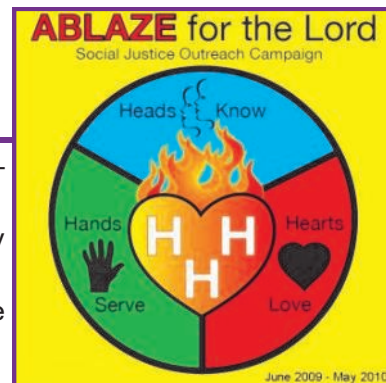
Please, join us for the rest of the campaign activities as shown on our parish website, bulletin and campaign brochures:

- January 23/24—Mission Trip Presentation

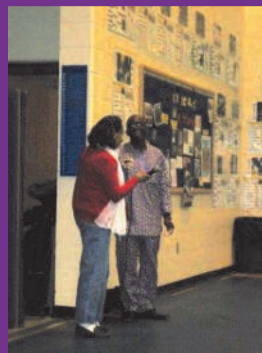
- February 6—Caregivers Retreat
- March 13/14—Ministry Fair
- April 10—Parish-wide Service
- April 24—Parish Campaign Closing Celebration with Texas Hold'em and Bunco games

It is by participating in our outreach ministries in the spirit of our mission "to know, love and serve" that we can really become true to our name as a parish under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul. May God bless you as you make up your mind to join our outreach team.

— Okey Anyanwu, Pastoral Minister



Parish Ethnic Potluck Supper





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.

The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
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Inside this issue:

The Easter Triduum	Pgs 1 & 3
Mark Your Calendar	Page 2
Ask Father—Wedding Rings	Page 2
An Invitation to Serve In Our New Parish Leadership	Page 2
The Day We Met the Pope	Pgs 4 & 5
This Is a Great Sacrament—Marriage	Pgs 5 & 6
Soup Suppers and Stations of the Cross	Page 6
Remembering...Youth Group	Page 6
Lenten Reading Recommendations	Page 7
Perpetual Adoration	Page 7
Remembering...Christmas Bazaar and Breakfast With Santa	Page 8
Faces of St. Vincent de Paul—Joyce Deane	Page 9
St. Thomas Aquinas	Page 10
SVDP's Social Justice Outreach Campaign	Page 11
Symbols of Faith—Lighting Candles in Prayer	Page 12

SYMBOLS OF FAITH

Lighting Candles in Prayer

Remember years ago when I worked in Michigan that we went on yearly retreats with the youth to the Fatima Retreat Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Part of every weekend retreat was going on a trip to the Grotto where a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes was located in a niche in a rock wall. As we approached, the youth got quieter and quieter until a deep sense of reverence filled everyone. Almost every youth would light one of the large candles and kneel in prayer. Maybe you have noticed that in many movies and TV shows, where the scene is in a Catholic church, that there are racks of candles aglow. Maybe you even know that we have some candles that people can light at St. Vincent de Paul. They are located in the two small areas on the sides of the church by the statues of Mary and St. Joseph. What are all these candles about?



Candles, like those described above, are called votive lights/candles or vigil lights/candles. Votive comes from the Latin word *votum* which means "vow" and vigil from

the Latin word *vigilia* which means "waiting" or "watching." The meaning of the names of these candles that are located in many Catholic churches, gives us a big clue as to the purpose of these candles. When lighting these candles in prayer for an intention, it can be part of a vow to God, Mary or a saint. Or the lighting can be a way of visually expressing the faithful waiting or watching for a prayer to be answered - even when we are not at church. Candles can also be lit with prayers of thanksgiving. The lit candle symbolizes your prayer. Your lit candle joins with those of fellow members of our parish family. Whenever we see votive/vigil candles aflame with faith and hope in our God, we should offer our own prayer for the intentions of all our brothers and sisters in the Lord. It is customary to ask for a donation to cover the cost of the candles which often come in two sizes, smaller ones that burn for eight hours and larger ones that burn for six days.



— Chuck Pratt, Director of Faith Formation