

May 1, 2010 –
July 31, 2010



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

It's the little things in life that make all the difference. This issue of The St. Vincent Voice brings that thought to mind. Parishioner Duane Crosland shares the story of his recent trip to Haiti with Feed My Starving Children to deliver meals. It takes so little to spend an hour to two volunteering to package those meals, but as Duane saw, that effort can make a huge difference for those who need it.

As individuals, we are like the rice in those meals. That little grain of rice, when added to the rest, is providing nourishment to the bodies of so many of God's people.

The same is true within our own parish. We come together to celebrate Mass as a community and receive the Eucharist that nourishes our spirits. Sharing our faith in God makes a difference in our lives. We can also be involved in a small way to make a difference in our parish community. This issue provides just a few examples.

"It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters most."—Mother Theresa. What little thing can you do to make a difference in the lives of others?

—Tammy Peterburs, Editor and Parishioner

A VISIT TO HAITI With Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a local organization that packs food for the hungry children of the world. St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (SVDP) is actively involved with FMSC packing more than 270,000 meals, 1,250 boxes or a semi-truck load in the last two years. In 2009 FMSC packed 97 million meals; in 2010 FMSC has a goal of 127 million meals!

FMSC schedules annual visits with their missionary partners and FMSC volunteers are invited to join the staff members on these visits. The March 2010 trip to the Love A Child (LAC) orphanage located in Haiti was planned last year before the earthquake. The earthquake did very little damage to the orphanage and the trip was still a go.

The trip's focus was the distribution of FMSC food, not the earthquake. Five FMSC staff employees and six FMSC volunteers made the trip.

Monday, March 22 we flew from Miami into Port Au Prince. The airport was very nearly a mob scene both inside and outside of the terminal. After picking up our bags, we were led through the crowds outside to a truck about a block away. As we exited the terminal, the air burned our eyes. One young gentleman decided that I must be an

easy hit because he followed me the entire block begging for a dollar. The back of the truck was built with benches along the two outside walls and was totally enclosed on the top and all three sides with a heavy mesh. The eleven of us joined our luggage in the back of the truck for the hour and fifteen minute ride to LAC. It was difficult to tell the difference between structures destroyed by the earthquake from those simply not maintained or never finished. Public water pumps could be found about every half mile with kids, women and men filling their five gallon pails. We saw a number of small tent cities along the highway and maneuvered around potholes that would put Minnesota potholes to shame.



Picture of FMSC group with Sherry and Bobby Burnette of Love A Child. Duane is back far right.

Love A Child was given 100 acres 10 years ago by a Haitian gentleman. LAC is managed by two amazing people - Sherry (Mommie) and Bobby (Poppie) Burnette. The two of them are examples of unselfish love, hugs, patience, humor, discipline, generosity, high energy and a true trust in our God. They have built the orphanage, warehouse, school, church, health clinic, radio station, fish hatchery and their own water and electrical supply source. All these structures

(continued on page 2)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **May 9**
Mother's Day
- **May 11**
**Leadership Prayer
Discernment &
Commitment Night**
- **May 18**
Senior Lunch—Noon
- **May 23**
Pentecost Sunday
- **May 31**
Memorial Day
- **June 8**
**SVDP School 8th
Grade Graduation**
- **June 11**
**Last Day of School for
SVDP Students**
- **June 15**
Senior Lunch—Noon
- **June 17-19**
**Annual Parish
Rummage Sale**
- **June 20**
Father's Day
- **June 20-26**
**Christpower Mission
Trip**
- **June 21-25**
Vacation Bible School
- **July 4**
Independence Day
- **July 16-19**
**Steubenville North
Youth Conference**



ASK FATHER

Fr. Jack Answers Parishioner Questions

Q. What is Ordinary Time? What is its focus? —
Submitted by Rebecca Keran

Ordinary Time is part of the liturgical year. It falls in the time between the Christmas season and Ash Wednesday. It then picks up after the Easter Season and Pentecost. The term Ordinary Time may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Like I stated above, Ordinary Time is part of the liturgical year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect, but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives. If you notice in the early Sundays of Ordinary Time we have Jesus beginning His ministry. He selects his Apostles and off he goes, teaching, healing and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. The liturgical color of Ordinary Time is green.

Remember the liturgical year does not correspond with the calendar year. The beginning of the liturgical year is the First Sunday of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent usually begins around the beginning of December or the end of November. Why don't they begin on a set date? It all revolves around when we celebrate Easter. All liturgies flow to or from the Easter vigil. Easter is determined as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. Does it sound confusing? It really isn't. Once we figure out Easter then we know when Advent starts and the flow of the liturgical year.

A VISIT TO HAITI *(continued from page 1)*

were built to survive the earthquake. The orphanage holds 65 orphans and is the largest food distributor of FMSC food on the island. They support and feed 13 schools and 39 missionary partners with FMSC food. LAC feeds 5,000 kids every day. In support of the earthquake relief efforts, a tent hospital was added and land cleared for Camp Hope on another piece of land. The U.S. used LAC to land helicopters to move injured Haitians between Haiti and the medical ships located offshore.

We arrived at LAC at 12:30, just in time for lunch; the food at there is amazing - fresh salads at lunch and supper and fresh fruit at breakfast along with homemade meat-loaf, salmon, chicken, scrambled eggs, etc. In the afternoon we were given a walking tour of LAC and then a chance to get settled before it was time for supper.

In the evening many of us joined the children for an hour long evening prayer with a lot of songs. I am sure that the people in Port Au Prince could hear one

little girl sing her songs of worship. A good looking boy with sparkling eyes was the drummer. The children have free roam of the orphanage. Many of the FMSC volunteers spent hours playing games with, holding and hugging the kids. We all had the opportunity to play with and hold Moses, the baby found at the bottom of a latrine.

Tuesday, March 23 we joined Sherry and Bobby along with a team of other volunteers for breakfast. Then we headed to the warehouse to distribute FMSC food for the next four hours to 39 LAC mission partners in increments of 25 boxes, 50 boxes, 30 boxes, etc. Over the course of the morning FMSC food was distributed to missionaries across Haiti. After lunch we journeyed to Le'Tant, a small lakeside village about 15 minutes away. Le'Tant is what you expect to see in National Geographic - little kids without clothes, some with extended stomachs, mud/stick huts, a sense of total poverty. We were invited into one of the huts which measured about 8 by 8 feet. The walls and *(continued on page 3)*



FMSC food distribution from the Love A Child warehouse to one of 39 mission partners.

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.

A VISIT TO HAITI *(continued from page 2)*

floor were all hardened mud with a grass roof. It had no furniture. What happens to the mud when the rainy season starts? The entire scene tugged at my conscience. Why not me?



Le'Tant village of mud and stick huts with straw roofs.

418 boxes of FMSC food were already on-site in the school/church. Those destined to receive a FMSC food box were given a card previous to the distribution. Women are preferred to pick up the food because they are less likely to cause trouble



FMSC food distribution line in Le'Tant.

while waiting in line. The line of people, packed body to body like sardines, entered through the front door. They picked the food up at the other end of the building and then exited with a smile by a side door. Most of the food boxes are balanced on the top of their head - sometimes two boxes.

Wednesday, March 24 we journeyed about 20 minutes to Ganthier which is a slightly larger town. Before our arrival a semi-truck had been driven into a secured compound with ten foot walls. When we arrived in our air-conditioned van, the mob scene parted to let us through the large gate into the compound. During the food distribution, only 25 women were let in the front gate at one time to help manage the crowd and food distribution. Hundreds of people pushed against the gate waiting their turn. Panic and desperation were evident throughout the distribution. We were told that if the gate broke, we were to head to our van and lock the doors.



People of Ganthier waiting for the FMSC food distribution

Recipients of the food exited the compound by a small side door with a smile and thank you to the FMSC volunteers. As we departed, the streets of Ganthier were lined with food boxes.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we distributed two and half semi-trucks of FMSC food. This equates to 3,125 boxes of food, 675,000 meals or \$131,250. This is enough to last most families 1 month.

Thursday, March 25 we ate breakfast and then headed to the tent hospital located on the other side of the LAC compound. We watched a Haitian staff cook FMSC meals in very large pots - maybe 2 feet in diameter. When we arrived we served the victims of the earthquake who were recovering in the tents. There were one, two or three injured Haitians in each tent along with family members to take care of them. A tent could easily hold up to eight people. We may have served up to 200 people one plate at a time of the FMSC food that we packed back in Coon Rapids. Later in the afternoon, we visited Camp Hope to distribute 200 boxes of FMSC food. Camp Hope is a small tent city set up to house earthquake victims. LAC cleared land for Camp Hope and it is being managed by the American Refugee Committee (ARC).



Recipient of FMSC food in Le'Tant'; approximately 40 lbs. of food in the two boxes

Only God could have orchestrated the following story. For my 2008 Christmas present, my family gave me a donation to FMSC along with a packing session. Our family packed food on 12/16/2009. There in the kitchen of LAC were boxes of FMSC food from Coon Rapids packed on 12/16/2009. God gave me the gift to witness the full food cycle of the FMSC process.

Friday, March 26 we headed back to our families, comfortable homes, warm showers, soft beds, friends, unforgettable memories, confirmation of our support for FMSC's efforts and a strong desire to do more with our lives.

Closing thoughts - The Haitian nation is a beautiful country filled with smiles and an abundant praise for God. Missionaries are loving, generous, special people who trust in God unconditionally. Our entire group cried at one time or another; I cried as I wrote this article; none of us will be the same people that left for Haiti on March 22. Why has God given me so much and the Haitians so little? The mud/stick hut with no furniture will always haunt me! Are we spending our personal money wisely? Tracy Kidder, author of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* writes - "God gave us the resources to support the people of the world; we simply have not figured out how to distribute these resources". We, the volunteers of FMSC are "feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit".



SVDP packs meals at the Coon Rapids site on the third Friday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 PM; and every fourth Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. If interested, contact Duane Crosland at dcrosld@aol.com or at 763-441-8683. For more information see www.fmsc.org and www.loveachild.com.

—Duane Crosland, Parishioner

**The St. Vincent
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Committee**

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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.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CEMETERY

In Existence for Over 150 Years

While our St. Vincent de Paul community has much for which to be thankful, including a thriving school, increasing attendance in Faith Formation programs, new Social Justice and Strategic Plan initiatives, and the anniversary of a twenty-two year old "new"



church, there is one aspect of our parish that tends to be overlooked - St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery. The cemetery is located just to the east of the church on 93rd Avenue.

Both the parish and the cemetery have been in existence for over 150 years. The sexton, or caretaker, of the cemetery is Tom Phenow, assisted by his son Bob, both life-long members of the parish. Tom replaced his brother, Peter, as sexton in 2000, upon Peter's death. Peter had been sexton since 1964. He succeeded his father, Peter Phenow, who was elected as the first sexton of St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in May, 1928. A member of the Phenow family, then, has been sexton at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery for just about 82 years.

As the parish grew, built, and expanded (now in its fourth church building) the cemetery has quietly grown from one section (in the northwest corner of the cemetery) to 12 sections.

There are about 4,000 gravesites in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, of which about



3,500 are occupied. Unfortunately, many of the earliest markers have eroded and vanished. The earliest one we can see today is dated 1874. It is assumed that there are between five and ten years until all the gravesites will be purchased. The church

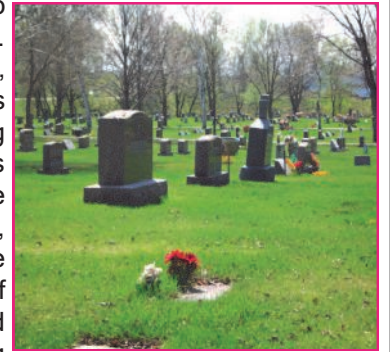
owns approximately nine acres just to the south of the cemetery and has obtained a conditional use permit to expand there. Plans for this expansion are on the website.

In the meantime, our cemetery is going through some other changes. The wishes of patrons

and mourners, and the cost of grounds-keeping and maintenance are making it more important to enforce rules to keep the cemetery free of clutter and in good appearance. With the warm weather arriving, lot owners can expect seasonal and loose

flowers to be removed.

Additionally, the parish is reinforcing regulations on gravesite decorations, due to the difficulty of moving and trimming



around so many objects. Flowers and plants must be on stands and seasonal wreaths/flowers must be removed within a reasonable time to keep the cemetery looking fresh and neat. Permanent benches are no longer allowed and bushes/trees absolutely cannot be planted, unless approved by the cemetery sexton.

More changes will follow. The Cemetery Committee has been gathering names for grave owners to enable communication about cemetery requirements and changes. If you own a gravesite and have not contacted the church recently, please notify the office at 763-425-2210 or churchinfo@saintvdp.org.

We welcome you to visit the cemetery and become familiar with this important ministry at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

—Tess Eiden, Bookkeeper and
Norm Olafson, Business Manager

ST. VINCENT'S MUSIC MINISTRY

Enhancing Our Prayer Experience Through Music



At St. Vincent de Paul we are very fortunate to have a large group of individuals who come together to enhance our prayer experience at Mass through music. Jacquie Okoh heads up the music department at our parish and through her guidance and the hard work of all of the



volunteer musicians, we have the opportunity to pray twice through the music they offer. Listed below are the many groups and the style of music they offer to us each week.

🎵 **Children's Choir** – *Directed by Katie Phenow* – Children in grades 1-6 come together to sing God's praises at Mass approximately once a month. Practices are held in the church meeting room on Sundays from 10:00-10:50 a.m. New members and instrumentalists are always welcome!

🎵 **Devotion** (Adult Choir) – *Directed by Jacquie Okoh, assisted by Lynette Fagerberg & Tom Feneis conducting* – This group consists of musicians of all ages volunteering their time and talent to sing at Masses two to three times a month. A variety of styles are shared with the community. New members and instrumentalists are always welcome!

🎵 **Freedom** (Teen Choir) – *Directed by Katie Phenow* – Young adults in grades 7-12 share their time and talent at Mass approximately once a month. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. New members and instrumentalists are always welcome!

🎵 **Jubilation!** – *Directed by Peg Sorensen*

🎵 **Resound** – *Directed by Bruce Richards*

🎵 **SingcerelyHis** – *Directed by Eric Roling*

🎵 **Exaltation** – *Directed by Katie Phenow*

– These groups consist of volunteer musicians singing for Mass once or twice a month. The groups are accompanied by guitars, percussion, and piano and are generally contemporary in style. Jubilation! Practices on Mondays at 7:00 p.m., Resound practices on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., SingcerelyHis practices on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., and Exaltation practices on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

🎵 **Mass Appeal** – *Directed by Tom Feneis* – This group of bell ringers form the parish handbell choir. The handbells play approximately once a month and rotate among all masses. They are also featured at the Christmas Bazaar and play regularly at the Friday night Stations of the Cross liturgies. Rehearsals are

held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the church.

🎵 **Inspiration** – *Directed by Jacquie Okoh* – This group of High School students who are experienced in notation but can't make the Freedom practices, sings approximately one a month. They practice an hour before the Mass that they are scheduled to sing at.

🎵 **Men's Schola** – *Directed by Jacquie Okoh* – This group of men sing twice a month at the 7:30 a.m. Mass, and an occasional 5:00 p.m. Mass. They practice on the Saturday before their scheduled Mass at 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m., depending on the church schedule.

🎵 **Praise Singers** – *Directed by Jacquie Okoh* – The Praise Singers are a group of students from the school in grades 5-8. This group sings approximately once a month, whenever they are needed. They rehearse on Tuesdays from 1:40-2:40 p.m.

🎵 **Cherubim Singers** – *Directed by Jacquie Okoh* – The Cherubim Singers are a group of students from the school in grades 2-4. They rehearse on Mondays from 1:40-2:40 p.m. and usually join the Parish Children's Choir once a month.

🎵 **Cantors** – There are a number of cantors that sing at an occasional 5:00 p.m. or 7:30 a.m. Mass. This group works with Jacquie Okoh in preparation for their scheduled Mass.

🎵 **Instrumentalists** – Our church is blessed with several adults and students proficient in flute, violin, guitar, bass guitar, piano, organ and percussion. These musicians assist at almost every liturgy we celebrate in our parish, including the Wednesday morning school liturgies. The student instrumentalists are guided in liturgical accompaniment by Jacquie Okoh.

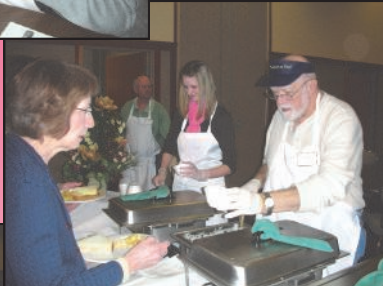
With summer approaching, Jacquie is looking for anyone interested in music willing to volunteer their time and talent to add to our celebration at Mass on the weekends. Thank you to Jacquie and all of our beautiful musicians at our parish.

— *Jacquie Okoh, Director of Music Ministry
and Rebecca Keran, Parishioner*



REMEMBERING...

Lenten Soup Suppers



THE WAYS WE PRAY

I Had a Dream That Changed My Life



I had a dream that changed my life. Eleven years ago, when Perpetual Adoration was just getting started here at St. Vincent de Paul, I considered signing up for it. But after some thought, I decided that one hour per week was just too much of a time commitment to fit into my busy life. That very same night I had a dream.

In my dream, I was driving my car with a passenger who spoke to me, though I never saw him. It was evening and getting dark, and for some reason I needed to pull over to turn my headlights on. My passenger told me to pull over, but I answered him that I didn't have time, and it really wasn't necessary because I was doing fine. My passenger told me again to pull over. I insisted that I was doing just fine as I was, and besides, I could follow the other cars in front of me to see where I was going. For a third time, my passenger told me to pull over and to turn on my headlights. Then I woke up. Immediately, I knew that my dream was about Perpetual Adoration. Quite irritated, I thought, "Alright already! I'll sign up for Perpetual Adoration." The next week, I started my 2:00 a.m. hour in the chapel.



Before my dream, I was a lukewarm, cradle Catholic, just going through the motions of my faith. After I started spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I realized how ignorant I was about my faith. This started me on a quest to increase my knowledge about God and Catholicism. I read many books and joined many Bible Studies (including Jeff Cavins' Bible Timeline - twice!). Through prayer and my studies, I fell in love with Jesus and my Catholic faith. I still have a long way to go, but I plan to spend the rest of my life growing in my faith and seeking a personal relationship with Jesus.

I am so grateful that God blessed me with a dream that started me on a path towards Him. It truly did change my life!

—Linda Hawks, Parishioner

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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Faith Formation Opportunities Abound at St. Vincent de Paul

Our parish has a multitude of programs for all ages to continue to grow in our faith. Faith Formation programs for the program year 2009-10 ministered to:

Children's Faith Formation:

- 196 Children were enrolled in Sunday Pre-School
- 515 Elementary Children with 136 (including School) for First Reconciliation and First Communion
- 474 Jr./Sr. High Youth including 137 for Confirmation
- (165 Volunteers shared our Catholic faith in the above programs)
- 300 are enrolled in VBS



Youth Ministry:

- 25 teens on average participated in Senior High LIFE Nights
- 40 teens on average attended Junior High EDGE Nights
- 100 Junior High and Senior High teens were involved with Summer Stretch 2009
- 20 Senior High Teens went to the Steubenville Youth Conference 2009 in Rochester, MN
- 15 Senior High Teens were involved in Christpower Mission Trip 2009
- 11 Senior High Teens will be attending World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain.



Adult Faith Formation:

- 428 adults attended the Adult Faith Formation offerings including:
 - 98 in the James Bible Study
 - 78 at two Women's Retreats
 - 49 at Men's Spirituality Breakfasts
 - 48 in the Catholicism 101 DVD series
- Other Adult Faith Formation opportunities included:
 - Book Club
 - MOMS (Ministry of Mother's Sharing) Groups
 - Men's Spirituality Group
 - Guest Speakers
 - Christian Morality Catechism Series
 - Movie/Discussion Series
 - RCIA
- 119 parents participated in Baptism preparation



Don't miss out on participating in the Faith Formation programs coming up in 2010-2011! Watch the parish bulletin, the website (www.saintvdp.org), and look for the fall Adult Faith Formation brochure for upcoming opportunities to continue to learn about your faith. You are never too young or old to grow in your knowledge of the Lord!

— *Chuck Pratt, Director of Faith Formation*

Save the Date:



St. Vincent's Harvest Festival is coming up on Aug. 14-15, 2010

The Harvest Festival is the annual fall "parish get-together". Watch for more details in parish bulletins later this summer. Join in on the fun!

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!

Welcome!



A warm welcome to our Church family for those who participated in the RCIA/RCIC program this year.

(Back row l-r): Jim Nord, Nate Johnson, Bill Lorraine, Kevin Grossman, and Shane Foster; (Front row l-r): Tod Kujawa, Paul Kubinski, Megan Pietruszewski, and SVDP Director of Faith Formation, Chuck Pratt.

We are excited to have all of them join with us in receiving Jesus in Holy Communion and blessed to have them as active members of our parish family. Congratulations!

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Madrid, Spain—August 11-23, 2011



St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Name of Jesus in Medina and St. Michael in St. Michael will be joining together in a pilgrimage journey to World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain.

We at St. Vincent de Paul are bringing 11 teens and 7 adults. Please start praying for them now as we start to plan for our trip. Those going from St. Vincent are...

Teens:

- Grant Bauer
- Kristin Carman
- Gabriella Castillo-Cowart
- Emily Doran
- Alex Gray
- Adam Hammer
- Kaitlin Kasprick
- Logan Korus
- Alicia Newman

- Haylee Schumacher
- Nicole Toay

Adults:

- Nicole Casebolt
- Bill Goers
- Sam Gray
- Lisa Korus
- Matt Korus
- Suzanne Maes-Toay
- Molly Schorr

every country in the world and speaking almost every language come together to share their different cultures and lives and ultimately their one and the same Catholic Faith. These young people gather to celebrate Mass with the Pope whom they love, their Church who they are for each other as the Body of Christ, and their God the Creator and Savior of all. This amazing opportunity to meet other Catholic teens and adults from all over the world is a once in a life time opportunity.

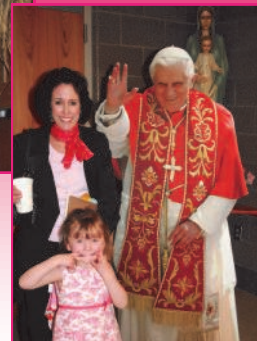
Between the three parishes, we are taking about 50 teens and adults. Over the next few months you will hear more about the trip as well as the many activities that are planned! There will also be ways that you can get involved in this experience! For more information about World Youth Day 2011, visit the official website at www.madridwyd2011.com.

World Youth Day. What is it?? World Youth Day is when our Holy Father, the Pope, brings the youth of the Church together to worship, pray, and to experience a greater understanding of the universal Church. Youth from almost

Please keep this journey and the teens and adults in your prayers!

—Molly Schorr, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

REMEMBERING ...



**Auction for Education
Pancake Breakfast**



FAMILY CORNER

Making Mealtime Prayer Meaningful



Imagine, for a moment, a family gathering around the dinner table.

- **Move the prayer from before the meal to after the meal** – simply change when you say the prayer. Saying prayer after a meal can help family members focus more on the act of praying than the food they are eager to eat.

Believing that the food on the table is a blessing from God, the family takes a few moments to pray, to thank God for the goodness He has shown them in providing nourishment for their bodies. They've said this prayer a thousand times before—and perhaps that's why it sounds so rushed, so uninspired, so forced. Sound familiar?

By mixing up the ways you pray at the table, you can ensure that habit won't trump heart. In the process, you'll discover again, the joy of meeting God in mealtime prayer!

Here are some prayers to include at your mealtime:

In any family, each person probably has a particular form of prayer that's most meaningful to him or her. Honor that by letting each individual choose a different prayer for the meal at least once a week... and have some fun with it. Here are just a few ideas:

- **Sing your mealtime prayer** – pick the melody and have fun.
- **Share the prayer** – go around the table and let each person tell God something he or she is thankful for that day.
- **Read a passage from Scripture** – let the verse be the prayer, don't feel the need to add anything to it.
- **Take a few seconds of total silence** – let each family member pray silently for a moment. You may be amazed at how powerful a prayer pause can be.

~~~~~  
*Thank you for the world so sweet,  
 Thank you for the food we eat.  
 Thank you for the birds that sing,  
 Thank you God for everything.  
 Amen.*

~~~~~  
*God is great,
 God is good.
 Let us thank Him for our food.
 Amen.*

~~~~~  
*Bless us, O Lord,  
 and these your gifts  
 which we are about to receive from your  
 bounty,  
 through Christ our Lord  
 Amen.*

— Lisa Price, Parishioner

# STRATEGIC PLANNING AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## Efforts Continue!

Our Strategic Planning efforts at St. Vincent de Paul continue! The Pastoral Council hosted Information Nights on March 21st and 23rd for all prospective candidates discerning for our upcoming Commissions and Pastoral Council positions. At the Information Nights we reviewed our new leadership structure, the upcoming Discernment Night on May 11th and the future start date of August 17th when our Commissions and Pastoral Council will begin monthly meetings. Please see our St. Vincent de Paul website at [www.saintvdp.org](http://www.saintvdp.org) for more information regarding Strategic Planning. Please pray for all the discerning candidates.

— Marci Siers, Pastoral Council Member

St. Vincent De Paul  
 Mission Statement

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

We invite you to sign up for e-mail communications from the parish. Visit [www.saintvdp.org](http://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](mailto:editor@saintvdp.org).

**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)

# SVDP SOCIAL JUSTICE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Concludes a Successful Year

To the glory of God, the Social Justice Outreach year-long campaign, which kicked off in the summer of 2009, has certainly aroused a lot of interest and curiosity about Social Justice Ministry in our parish. Our entire Outreach Ministry (which includes Pastoral Care and Social Justice Ministries) has also gained momentum as illustrated on our organizational chart shown on the next page.

In response to the Church's teaching on global solidarity, our parish outreach ministry is considering the possibility of a "sister parish" relationship with a local or international parish. Such a relationship will have a spiritually transformative impact on our community and enable us to grow from cultural isolation to an understanding of people of other lands and/or circumstances.

We had record turn outs for activities like the "Ethnic Potluck" (about 100 immigrant parishioners from 18 different countries of Asia, Africa and Europe) and Ministry Fair where 60 parishioners formally signed up for all of our new programs. More are still signing up through calls and emails. A parish-wide informational session is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 6:30 p.m.** to formally commission all our new under-listed volunteers.



**Longtime Volunteers – Thank You!**  
**New Volunteers – Welcome Aboard!**

⇒ **Volunteers:** Julie & JoAnn Aho, Betty Bartos, Netsanet Yibarek, Hoa & Sarah Nguyen, Ella Bocco, Peter Nguyen, Setodji Kumlan, Adiki Odonkor, Evelyn Valdez, Vickie Hansen, Regina Ratnaraj, Valerie Ndjoumai, Ferdinande Norris, Minna Denike, Anna Metcalf, Theresa Pipkin, Nimi & Ede Esuso, Onyi Anyanwu, Lori Murphy, Jacques Simo, Delphine Niemy, Ted & Jane Mungai, Rita & Theresa Kudjoe, Kwame & Eleanor A-W., George Korpu, Lamuael & Arlene A., Chat Smith, Katie Bolterman, Hoa Ngo, Daisy Verghese, Agata Sisto, Luann Bui McGee, Joseph Thomas, Vincent Amekudji, Diane Moukouri, Miki Mo, Dave & Martine W., Chris & Chi-Chi Ayika, Dennis Masi.

## Ministry to Persons With Disabilities:

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" 2Corinthians 12:9.*

**Activities:** Sacramental Accessibility Classes, Healing Mass, Caregivers' Retreat, Speaker Forums, Church Curbside Assistance, etc.

⇒ **Volunteers:** Theresa Swehla, Roxanne Harri, Forrest Zimbleman, Keegan Duffy, Amy Karls, Dave Winkelman



## Womb-to-Tomb:

*"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb" Jeremiah 1:5.*

**Activities:** Prayers for Life, March for Life, 40-Days for Life, Baby-Bottle Boomerang, Arms-of-Hope, etc.

⇒ **Volunteers:** Kathy Freed, Carole Ampe, Deby Samson, Ursula Godin, Betty Bartos, Donna Anderson, Duane Crosland



## Medical Ministry:

*"I am the LORD, your healer" Exodus 15:26.*

**Activities:** Free CPR Classes, Free Blood Screening, Rapid Response at Liturgies, Health Information, etc.

⇒ **Volunteers:** Terry Nelson, Judy Randall, Netsanet Yibarek, Barb Pierce, Mary Klingler, Patty Lyden, John Baker, Mary Sullivan, Carole Ampe, Jerry Zopfi, Mary Evanson, Mary Carroll, Mary Pat Smith, Chi-Chi Ayika, Lori Cleaveland, Al Stachowski, Shannon Stachowski

## Multicultural Ministry:

*"We though many, are individually parts of one another" Romans 12:5.*

**Activities:** Mission Trips, Annual Ethnic Potluck, Immigration Sunday, etc.



## JustFaith:

*"Faith without good works is dead" James 2:17.*

**Activities:** Scheduled group reflections on the spirituality of compassion, local immersion trips, videos and books.

⇒ **2008/2009 Participants:** Amy Holtan, Sallie Frye, Dee Davis, Anne Lindgren, Cathy Anderson, Jim Carney, Janice Gabrick, Terry Nelson, Theresa Swehla, Duane Crosland, April Peloquin, Julie Aho.

# SVDP SOCIAL JUSTICE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

- ⇒ **2009/2010 Participants:** Jenny Schaust, Kathy Freed, Donna Anderson, JoAnn Aho, Clarence Dorweiler
- ⇒ **2010/2011 Registrants:** Marci Siers, Paul Kubinski, Dan Pfau, John Ampe, Carole Ampe, Andrew Sipple, Donna Crimmins, Jane Henke, Bob Henke, Ursula Godin, Theresa Schmitt, Juan Guerrero

## Prison Ministry:

*"For I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:16.*

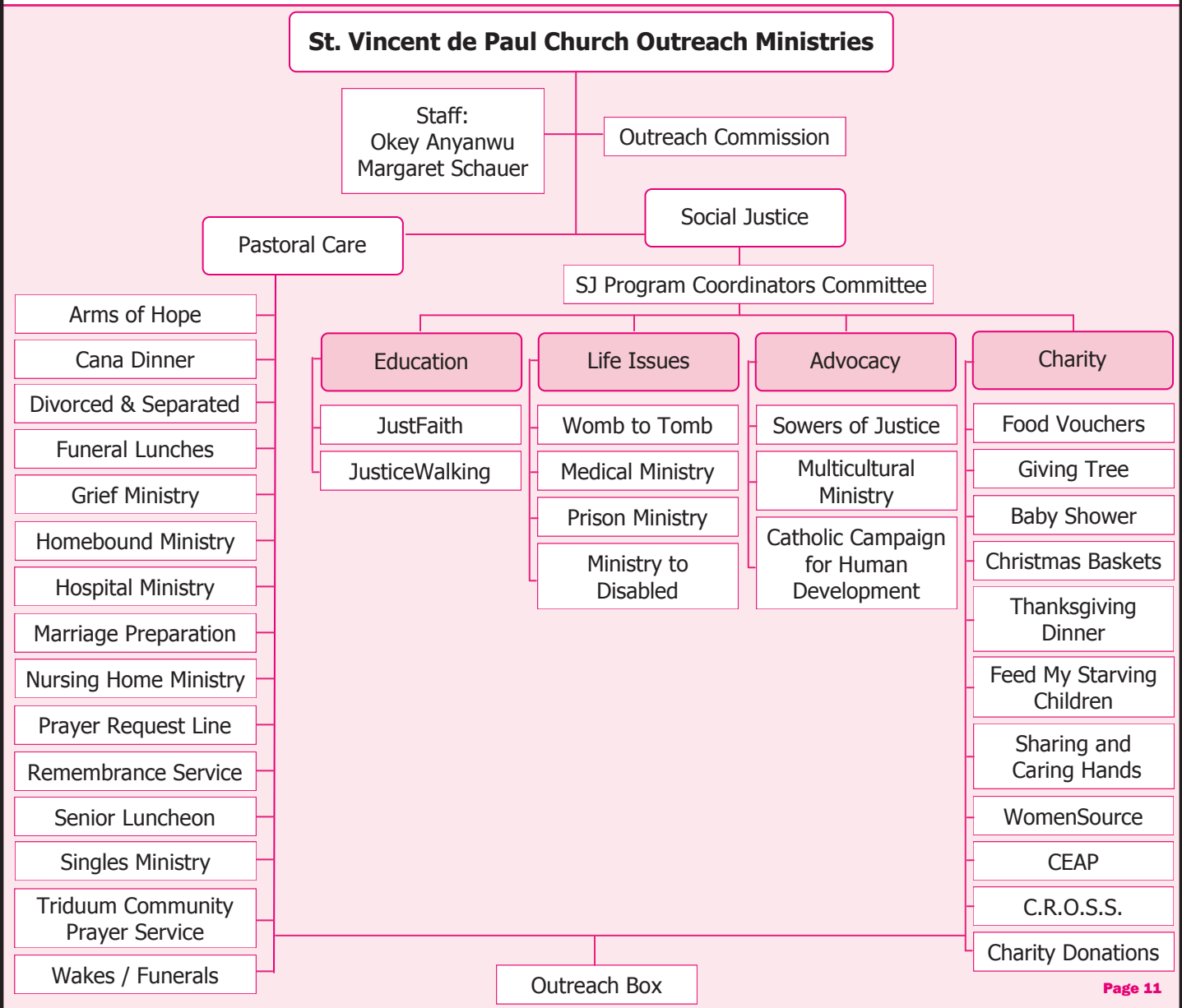
**Weekly or monthly visits to Plymouth Workhouse to:** Worship with Prisoners, Mentor, Tutor, Assist Chaplain, etc.

- ⇒ **Volunteers:** Larry Lawinger, JoAnn Lawinger, Joe Haefliger, Mary Lou Carney, Mona Dohman, Allison Dohman, Jean Thorsen, Dave Winkelman, Keegan Duffy, Deby Samson, Komlan Setidji

Finally, we are immensely grateful to our Pastor Fr. Jack Long for his pastoral support and leadership; to our parish staff, especially our Pastoral Minister Margaret Schauer for an inspirational cooperation; to our Campaign Project Managers: Larry and JoAnn Lawinger, Janice Gabrick, Betty Bartos, Chuck Blair and Rebecca McDermeit; to our Social Justice Program Coordinators: Terry Nelson, Jim Carney, Theresa Swehla, Julie Aho, Kathy Freed, Emily Doran, Anya Bender, Haylee Schumacher as well as all our Social Justice Core Group members, who stepped up to help with the Ministry Fair and other activities, especially Ms. Marie Moreland - a parishioner and professional artist, who volunteered to design the campaign banner, brochures and fridge magnets.

May God bless all of us as we consider this open invitation to join our Parish Outreach Ministries.

— *Okey Anyanwu, Director of Pastoral and Social Outreach*





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  
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# SYMBOLS OF FAITH

## The Sacred Heart

Why do you think hearts are found everywhere on Valentine's Day? The reason hearts are found on cards, decorations, candy, cookies and cakes on Valentine's Day is because the heart symbolizes love—romantic love, friendship love, and familial love. The heart is also a symbol of love in our Catholic faith. Although, in regards to our faith, it is a higher form of love, it symbolizes divine love. The famous passage from the Bible, found in the Gospel of John 3:16, announces that: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life." Jesus himself said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" John 15:13. Jesus loves us to death, death on a cross. So, it should be no surprise that the Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes this divine, redeeming love for all of us. The heart of Jesus is a symbol of his merciful and sacrificial love for us in a way that is meaningful to us humans. We know that the heart represents our deepest affections and so is a beautiful symbol of Jesus' extravagant love for us. After Je-



sus was crucified, a spear was thrust into his side, which pierced his heart, causing blood and water to flow forth. The devotion to the Sacred Heart springs from this event. Devotion to the Sacred Heart, which has existed for almost a thousand years, is a truly appropriate way for us sinners to respond to the generous love of Christ. Devotion to the Sacred Heart became popular with the mystics in the 13th and 14th centuries. Devotion to the Sacred Heart became widespread as a result of a series of visions of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Visitation nun, in 1673-75. The apparitions focused on Jesus' concern about the apathetic response of the world to his love. You can find the Sacred Heart of Jesus portrayed at St. Vincent de Paul in the beautiful, backlit, stained glass window, from the old church, that is now located next to the chapel and as a statue found in the link between the church and Regan Hall.



— Chuck Pratt, Director of Faith Formation