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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR FREEDOM AND FAITH

As this edition of *The St. Vincent Voice* reaches your mailbox and the summer heat is scorching, it is hard to imagine that summer is winding down. This time of year always seems to be a time of transition; fitting in the last fun of summer and preparing for the changes that fall brings.

This fall will bring the opportunity for change at the polls. "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty" describes the opportunity we have to preserve our freedom of religion and vote for what is important to us. Also in this issue, find inspiration in youth that are making a difference, meet the new staff

members at St. Vincent's and learn about the opportunities we have to grow in our faith.

In addition to growing our faith, we have the ability to cultivate our relationships with fellow parishioners at the 2012 Harvest Festival on August 11th & 12th. Find out what is new, what traditions have remained the same and how you can get involved in the Harvest Festival. Although the relaxing days of summer seem to be quickly disappearing, we have much to look forward to at St. Vincent's.

—Marie Hennicks, Parishioner

OUR FIRST, MOST CHERISHED LIBERTY *A Statement on Religious Liberty*

We are Catholics. We are Americans. We are proud to be both, grateful for the gift of faith which is ours as Christian disciples, and grateful for the gift of liberty which is ours as American citizens. To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other. Our allegiances are distinct, but they need not be contradictory, and should instead be complementary. That is the teaching of our Catholic faith, which obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding and our Constitution, which guarantees citizens of all religious faiths the right to contribute to our common life together.

Freedom is not only for Americans, but we think of it as something of our special inheritance, fought for at a great price, and a heritage to be guarded now. We are stewards of this gift, not only for ourselves but for all nations and peoples who yearn to be free. Catholics in America have discharged this duty of guarding freedom admirably for many generations.

In 1887, when the archbishop of Baltimore, James Gibbons, was made the second American cardinal, he defended the American heritage of religious liberty during his visit to Rome to receive the red hat. Speaking of the great progress the Catholic Church had made in the United States, he attributed it to the "civil liberty we enjoy in our enlightened republic." Indeed, he made a bolder claim, namely that "in the genial atmosphere of liberty [the Church] blossoms like a rose."¹

From well before Cardinal Gibbons, Catholics in America have been advocates for religious liberty, and the landmark teaching of the Second Vatican Council on religious liberty was influenced by the American experience. It is among the proudest boasts of the Church on these shores. We have been staunch defenders of religious liberty in the past. We have a solemn duty to discharge that duty today.

We need, therefore, to speak frankly with each other when our freedoms are threatened. Now is such a time. As Catholic bishops and American citizens, we address an urgent summons to our fellow Catholics and fellow Americans to be on guard, for religious liberty is under attack, both at home and abroad.



¹ Cardinal James Gibbons, Address upon taking possession of Santa Maria in Trastevere, March 25, 1887.

This letter, from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, may be read in its entirety at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/our-first-most-cherished-liberty.cfm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **August 11 & 12**
Harvest Festival
- **August 15**
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **September 3**
Labor Day
- **September 4**
First Day of School at St. Vincent de Paul
- **September 27**
Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
- **October 6**
SVDP Marathon for Education Fundraiser
- **November 1**
All Saint's Day

The citation from the previous issue's "Marriage Amendment" article was inadvertently left out.

The information from the article was taken from this source: Minnesota Catholic Conference Website, www.mnccc.org/informational-statement-on-marriage-amendment-activities/

Okey Anyanwu, the Director of Pastoral and Social Outreach, played an important role in writing this information for the Minnesota Catholic Conference.



JUSTFAITH

Parishioners Growing Their Awareness

Have you heard about JustFaith? JustFaith starts each year in September and meets weekly for a total of 30 times ending in May. Meetings are scheduled for 2 1/2 hours to allow plenty of time for learning, discussion and reflection. JustFaith uses several books as resources regarding compassion and poverty for weekly reading assignments. Each meeting follows the prescribed agendas provided by the JustFaith program, and generally consist of an assigned reading discussion and sometimes a movie or a speaker.

We also take field trips called Border Crossings. The Border Crossing destinations are decided upon by the participants so we can attend places that fit our interests. Examples of this include attending mass at St. Peter Claver for a cultural diversity experience, attending dinner with the Archbishop to kick off the annual appeal, and visiting homeless shelters in our Twin Cities area.

We also make our JustFaith meetings fun with snacks and social times! I had thought and prayed about JustFaith for two years before I joined. I knew this would broaden my knowledge about Social Justice through reading, discussion and Border Crossing experiences, but I wondered how all this would actually change me. I have learned that JustFaith increases your awareness of compassion and poverty in the world. I am more greatly aware of the needy and homeless. Hearing the news or seeing people in everyday life looks very different now. I now spend time thinking about how I can help change things.

JustFaith is also a good way to meet and get to know other parishioners. There are no registration fees for JustFaith. The cost of the books and materials is approximately \$125 which is paid for by each participant; however, scholarships are available. Participants will grow deeply in their awareness of compassion and poverty in the world and will leave the program wanting to do more to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Thinking about joining JustFaith? If you have questions or want more information, please contact Okey Anyanwu at the church office at 763-425-2210 or okey@saintvdp.org. You can also contact participant Marci Siers at 763-420-9460.

— Marci Siers, Outreach Commission Chair

AUTHOR MATTHEW KELLY'S VISIT

A Retreat Energized by the Holy Spirit

It was a couple of years ago when Fr. Jack mentioned the book *Rediscovering Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly during Mass. His enthusiasm for the book certainly piqued my interest, so I picked up a copy in the church office. I was immediately engaged by Kelly's passion for the Catholic faith and his straightforward way of sharing the genius of Catholicism.

It was last December when I heard that Matthew Kelly was going to be coming to St. Vincent de Paul for a half-day retreat on May 5. I knew immediately that I would attend. A short time later Fr. Bennet approached me about assisting with the event, and I joined Kris Hanson, Donna Anderson and Donna Crimmins in working with the Kelly team from Dynamic Catholic to prepare for the retreat.

We spread the word to parishes all over Minnesota and Wisconsin, promoted it in newspapers around the region, and Relevant Radio did an interview with Fr. Jack and Matthew Kelly. Then the Holy Spirit took over. Parishes from as far away as Duluth came. Some came on buses. Ticket sales climbed beyond expectations to a sellout at 1200 people. On the morning of the retreat as I took tickets from hundreds of visitors coming to our parish, many for the first time, I saw the Holy Spirit in their smiles and cheerful greetings. The energy was palpable. I felt such a sense of pride in our parish from the countless parishioners who volunteered, to the Knights of Columbus managing the parking

(Continued on page 4)

2012 Harvest Festival

Come Home to What is in Your Heart!

WHAT DO THESE THINGS HAVE IN COMMON?

Chickens · Inflatables · Beer Garden · Talent Show

Live Entertainment · Good Friends · St. Vincent's

THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL AT ST. VINCENT'S!

The parish Harvest Festival has been the annual get together for current and former parishioners for many years. The theme for the 2012 Harvest Festival is Homecoming, highlighting both the 50th anniversary of St. Vincent School, as well as encouraging all former parishioners to come back home and catch up on our parish family.



Whether you've been a member all your life, or just joined our community recently, the Harvest Festival is your place to connect with our parish, get together with old friends and meet new ones. A full schedule is planned including live music in the band shell, food vendors, bingo and pull tabs, Kid Zone activities including inflatables, and the ever-popular Beer Garden.

The Festival kicks off with our 2nd annual "Faster Than The Pastor" 5K Race and a children's Shepherds Flock 1K run. We are also planning our 3rd Annual "St. Vincent's Got Talent" show on Saturday afternoon. These are events you don't want to miss!

So, update your to do list with these Harvest Festival Activities:

- Save the Dates: **August 11th & 12th**
- Sell your raffle tickets.
- Train for the "Faster Than The Pastor" 5K run. Sign up online. (see below)
- Volunteer to work at a booth. Sign up after Masses or online. (see below)
- Sign up for the "St. Vincent's Got Talent" contest—either by yourself or with friends. Any talent is welcome, check the website for more information.
- Call your family and friends and invite them to the Harvest Festival.
- Donate new items to the Silent Auction; drop off at the church office.
- Spend Aug 11th and & 12th at St. Vincent's seeing old friends, meeting new ones and enjoying a great festival.

Fun for the whole family!

Surveys show that people who attend the Harvest Festival rate it the best community event at our parish!

Get the latest information and sign up online to volunteer, run in the 5K race, enter the Bean Bag Tournament or St. Vincent's Got Talent at: saintvdp.org/parish/events/harvest-festival

OR Scan our code and go directly to the website!



LEADERSHIP COMMISSION PLANNING

New Goals, New Members

August marks the beginning of the new planning year for the Leadership Commissions at Saint Vincent de Paul. Over the past twelve months each of the Commissions—Worship, Formation & Education, Outreach, Parish Life and Finance & Administration—have been focused on implementing, overseeing and evaluating each of their objectives identified in the prior year’s annual plan. Progress seems slow at times, but keep in mind that we are all trying to learn more about and develop our processes at the same time. Each year we continue to improve and we hope that every parishioner will begin to experience many of the exciting and challenging changes that we, along with many wonderful volunteers, have been preparing for and working toward.

The Pastoral Council selected the overarching goal for all five Commissions this past year: to continue improving the methods and processes of communication in the parish and to encourage more active involvement of parishioners in the parish, the church and the community. Please look for the details of each Commission’s specific planned activities in the upcoming issues of *The St. Vincent Voice*.

Until then, more information on the individual Commission’s annual plans are posted on the parish website; go to www.saintvdp.org. Click on “Our Parish”, find and click on “Leadership Discernment”. Then scroll down to the Commission you choose and click on “Annual Plan”.

MATTHEW KELLY

(continued from page 2)

lot (parking went out past Fair’s Nursery!), to the wonderful kitchen staff who managed to provide two snack breaks for 1200 people, to the tireless maintenance staff who kept the restrooms stocked and garbage cans empty, to the parish and school staff who directed guests around the building; I knew what it meant to be the body of Christ.

After everyone had settled into their seats, I stood in the back of the church and watched as Matthew began speaking. I was surprised at the emotion I felt as a tear came to my eye and pride in our parish filled my heart. Matthew shared with us that day the wisdom in Catholicism, about becoming the best version of ourselves and that when our habits change, our lives change. But what I remember most is feeling that I just glimpsed the potential of our parish to welcome strangers, to evangelize, and to be dynamic Catholics. The Holy Spirit was contagious that day and I know that as each person left they were changed and that through them others would be changed as well.

— Ann Bergmann, Parishioner

It is important to note that none of these objectives will ever be met without the help and cooperation of many, many dedicated volunteers and Saint Vincent staff members. We are always looking for persons young and old and in between to join us in our efforts to improve our parish and make it a place where everyone feels welcome to participate and contribute to a vibrant and growing faith community. We ask you to remain open to the calling of the Holy Spirit to join in the many volunteer opportunities in the parish, wherever you are in your faith journey. I can only speak for myself, but can tell you that what I have gained through my limited volunteer experiences here at St. Vincent’s is many lifetime friendships, fun and memorable experiences and maybe just a little bit of respect from my children. Priceless.

The Pastoral Council, in collaboration with the Commissions, will evaluate the progress on each annual plan toward our overarching goals. To contact any of the Commissions with questions or ideas, please send an e-mail to the Commission’s respective address listed below.

We’d also like to acknowledge the leaders whose terms have expired. We wish to express a very heartfelt thank you to the following for their invaluable contributions toward the development of the foundational structures of the parish leadership teams: Julie Wong, Elaine Szepesi, Sarah Hambrook, Roxanne Harri, Jean Thoresen, Deb Edstrom, Michelle Gooley, Linda Newman, Ryan Kaplan, Tom McMullen and Larry Phenow.

Current Commission members are as follows: **Finance & Administration:** Mark Novak*, Jackie Beiring, Jack Knip, Mike Foster, Doug Tigner, and Terry Stofferahn; **Formation & Education:** Barb Wenner*,

(Continued on page 7)

Commission Name	Commission Email
Finance & Administration	fa@saintvdp.org
Outreach	outreach@saintvdp.org
Worship	worship@saintvdp.org
Parish Life	parishlife@saintvdp.org
Formation & Education	fe@saintvdp.org
Pastoral Council	pc@saintvdp.org

We welcome your comments! The work of the commissions is ongoing, open to fresh ideas, good attitudes, and new perspectives.

NEW FACES

Meet the Newest Staff Members at St. Vincent's



Nolan Gutierrez , Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Howdy,

My name is Nolan Gutierrez. I am originally from Arlington, Texas which is located in the middle of Dallas and Ft. Worth. I first came to the Twin Cities in 2007 and served with N.E.T. Ministries where I was placed on the home team.

After serving for nine months within the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul I decided to make it my temporary home as I took up school at the University of St. Thomas. I am currently finishing up my double major of Catholic Studies and Communication and Journalism with a Theology minor.

I have always enjoyed working within the church and after my time with N.E.T., I felt a calling into Youth Ministry. I sought out St. Thomas because of their Catholic Studies program and Communication and Journalism. Not only do I feel that I've gained great knowledge of my faith but I also grew in community with the students at St. Thomas.

I worked as a chaplain for St. Thomas and ministered to the students who were a part of that community. After being in the Twin Cities for the better part of five years I wanted to make Minnesota my home because of the great Catholic identity that I've witnessed here.

I am excited for this opportunity to be a part of St. Vincent de Paul. The parish I grew up in was also called St. Vincent de Paul and serving here for the past month I already feel like I am home. I thank you for your support and prayers and am excited to meet you and your family.

Molly Schorr's position will be changing to Director of Parish Life. She will still be helping within Youth Ministry, but also coordinating Young Adult Ministry, Young Family Ministry, Parish Hospitality opportunities as well as other programs within the parish.



Kim Ordner, Sunday School Formation Coordinator

Hi,

My name is Kim Ordner. I have been a member of St. Vincent's Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) Club for two and a half years. This will be my third year on the board, and I am really looking forward to my new role as president.



I grew up in Richfield, MN and moved to Maple Grove almost seven years ago when my husband Chris and I got married. We have a four-year-old daughter Kate and a one and a half year-old son Caleb.

I went to the University of Wisconsin-Stout, where I graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I worked with preschoolers and infants at a child care center. Right before Kate turned one, I decided that I wanted to be a stay-at-home mom. I was struggling with the idea of taking care of other people's children while someone else took care of mine. It was the best decision I have made.

I really enjoy being a member of MOMS club. It is so wonderful to have the support of other stay-at-home moms and to watch my children play and build new friendships.

REMEMBERING ...

Vacation Bible School



CHRISTPOWER: SERVING OTHERS

Discovering Angels on Earth

Sometimes we don't realize how fortunate we are with everything God gives us, but I've learned that I don't have to go very far from home to appreciate my blessings and serve amazing people. We didn't hop on a bus and ride it for two days to go on a mission trip. Instead, we drove for twenty minutes to North Minneapolis and reached an area within our own community that is in need. On Christpower, during a summer day on June 10th, I met an angel in the form of a 91 year-old woman named Grandma Aurora. She touched my heart and deeply inspired me with her devotion to God.

For several days of my time on Christpower, our group's project was to clean out Grandma Aurora's attic and do some work on her yard. She had one other non-work related request for us as well: that we take time to visit with her. Grandma Aurora informed us while we were scrubbing down the attic that she was looking for a book of poetry and love letters that her first husband had given her.

Our group suddenly had new motivation and worked harder than ever while rummaging through all the treasures in her attic, but had no luck finding the journal. Each group member took a turn visiting with Grandma Aurora while we were cleaning, and she told us stories from her life and words of wisdom. Sometimes we would find something particularly interesting in the attic and go show her our discoveries. She would explain the history behind everything we located from dresses she used to go dancing in to newspaper clippings from yesteryear. She had a memory linked to everything we brought down, and it was absolutely fascinating to hear of her past.

Some of the conversations that I had with Grandma Aurora are ones that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. She talked about how she loved to pray the Rosary and she didn't read many other books beside the Bible. Then, she went on to tell us that she frequently experiences excruciating pain in her legs. However, she said

even though it hurt, she didn't view it as an obstacle. Instead, she told us that everyone is given a cross to bear, and this pain was simply the cross God had bestowed upon her.

On our last day working with her, she gathered the entire group around her in the living room. She thanked us for all the work we had done on her attic and yard and told us she had a gift for each of us. Then, she presented every group member with a beautiful ceramic angel that she had made herself. While handing them out she told us, "I'm giving you these angels because I believe each one of you are angels." I was very warmed by this statement, especially since I believe that she was an angel herself, and we were blessed enough to work with her.

Christpower is an amazing experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone. There is nothing more rewarding than serving others as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Our group was informed a week after Christpower by Grandma Aurora's daughter that the book of love letters from her husband had been located in one of the boxes pulled down from the attic. She said that without the work our group had done, it may have never been found. Truly, God is good, and I'm so glad that I was able to spend a week serving this angel on earth.

— Emily Wenner, Christpower Mission Trip Participant



STEBENVILLE: TEENS STRENGTHENING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Steubenville is a weekend-long youth conference in July where teens from all over the U.S. get together and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ. I have been going to Steubenville for three years, and love to go since every year is always a great experience for me. One of the reasons I keep going to Steubenville is because it's a way that I can get away from my normal, busy life and build a better and closer relationship with Jesus.



Being there always makes me feel more alive in my faith and helps me get a clearer understanding of my faith. It helped me understand that God is your ultimate best friend and is there for you through the good and bad times. He loves you more than He loves His own life, and you are blessed by the best!

There are two things I love about Steubenville. One of them is the praise and worship—the praise and worship is amazing! The songs that we sing really gets you into the mood of what's going to happen next, whether it be a talk we're listening to, spending time in adoration, or time with your group. I also really like to sing. When I know we're going to have praise and worship, I get excited because I don't get to have it everyday.

Another thing I really enjoy at Steubenville is Saturday adoration. Saturday adoration is the biggest thing that happens. The first time I went and found out we were having an hour or more of adoration, my first reaction was "great, so I get to sit here for an hour," and I wasn't overly excited about it. But at the end of it I was so overwhelmed, it

was amazing. It wasn't like your normal adoration where you sit in the chapel of your church and pray for an hour—it was way more than that. This adoration not only has music, but it is so powerful because you are basically right next to Jesus and you get that closer relationship with Him.

Saturday adoration is also the time I see Jesus Christ at the youth conference because He is there with me the entire time. Especially when the priest walks by with the monstrance—that is when it hits me. I see that Jesus, who died for me, is right in front of my face. It always hits me knowing He truly is here for not only me, but everyone else here at the conference. It is the best experience I have every time I go to Steubenville. I will go again next year for my last year as a teen and will go with my sister, which will be her first year, and get that experience with her. It is the best conference or retreat anyone could go on, and I recommend people going. In the end you will not regret going and will want to go back!

— Sam Anderson, Steubenville Participant

The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

- Okey Anyanwu, Staff Member
- Marie Henrichs, Parishioner
- Rebecca Keran, Parishioner
- Kim Lyngen, Editor/Designer, Parishioner
- Lisa Price, Parishioner
- Molly Schorr, Staff Member
- Marci Siers, Outreach Commission Member

LEADERSHIP COMMISSION PLANNING

(Continued from page 4)

Cindy Pikovsky, Rebecca Mercadante, Jenny Riese and Dawn Lewandowski; **Parish Life:** Kris Hanson*, Donna Crimmins, Nicole Casebolt, Sheila Johnson and Debbie Weber; **Worship:** Jeanette Rem*, Dee Stenzel, Cindy Scott, Gordy Chalmers, Mark Steeves and Bidy Waletzko; **Outreach:** Carol Wenner *, Bonnie Lindenfelser, Laurie Murphy, Marci Siers and Marci Wills; **Pastoral Council:** Mark Curwick, Andrew Rem, Pete Thoresen plus one member from each of the five commissions (represented with *).

—Mark Curwick, Pastoral Council



Vacation Bible School was a huge success this year! 289 kids and 166 volunteers participated in *Sky: Everything is possible with God!*

The kids enjoyed singing and dancing, doing experiments in the imagination station, hearing and participating in Bible stories, playing games and so much more! The week ended with the kids singing at the social after all of the masses on Sunday. Thank you to all the kids and parents for helping make that a fun addition to the week.

VBS can't happen without lots of help. Thank you to all of the station leaders, crew leaders, and volunteers who helped make all of the stations run smoothly and helped the children learn that they can "Trust God"!

We would also like to thank Chuck Pratt, Steve Barnhart, Katie Folwick, Warren Wills, Theresa Krohn, and Kathleen Pomerleau for their help making VBS a great experience! We also would like to thank all of the parishioners of Saint Vincent de Paul who donated supplies and continually support VBS!



The St. Vincent Voice

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

Inside this issue:

Our First, Most Cherished Liberty	Page 1
Mark Your Calendar	Page 2
JustFaith	Page 2
Author Matthew Kelly's Visit	Page 2
Harvest Festival	Page 3
Leadership Commission Planning	Page 4
New Faces	Page 5
Remembering...Vacation Bible School	Page 5
ChristPower: Serving Others	Page 6
Steubenville	Page 7
Vacation Bible School Thank You	Page 7
Stewardship: A Way of Life	Page 8

STEWARDSHIP

A Way of Life

As St. Vincent de Paul embarks on its 2012 Stewardship Campaign, we were wondering what stewardship means to you. Take our quick quiz to see if you are "stewardship savvy".

What does Stewardship mean to me?

- A. Stewardship means volunteering my time when needed for parish activities such as the Harvest Festival, Auction for Education or Christmas Bazaar.
- B. Stewardship means sharing my talents with my parish community such as singing in the choir, teaching a Faith Formation class or advising on a parish commission.
- C. Stewardship means supporting my parish and its ministries through financial contributions such as weekly collections, special collections or the Annual Catholic Appeal.
- D. All of the above.

If you answered "D," you are correct! Stewardship is an "attitude of gratitude" where we share our God-given gifts of **TIME**, **TALENT** and **TREASURE** with our parish community. As Catholic Christians, we are called to:

RECEIVE with gratitude your unique God-Given Gift

RECOGNIZE your responsibility to develop this generous gift from God

RESPOND joyfully to God by sharing your gift for the benefit of others

In the coming weeks and months, you will be receiving more information about stewardship at St. Vincent de Paul. We hope that you will reflect on the gifts you have been given and how stewardship can become *A Way of Life* for you.

Blessings,

—St. Vincent de Paul Stewardship Committee

