

May 1, 2012 –  
July 31, 2012



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## RELATIONSHIPS: WITH GOD, OUR FAITH, OUR PARISH AND EACH OTHER

We are called into a relationship with God through His gifts of life and love. It is this relationship that serves as a foundation for all others. This edition of *The St. Vincent Voice* focuses on the different relationships that we share: our relationship with God, our faith, our parish and the community as a whole.

By learning more about God's covenant with us, we can better understand the sacrament of Matrimony at a critical time in our society. This November will find the much discussed Marriage Amendment on the ballot. The "Marriage Amendment" article explains that "The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1661) and describes the opportunity we have to advocate for this sacrament.

In addition to changes at the polls, find out how the youth here at St. Vincent's are inspiring change for society. "A Look to

Our Teens" highlights youth service in the community as a whole.

The relationships within our own parish are growing and thriving as well. There are many exciting things happening in the parish at this time which are highlighted in "Upcoming Outreach Events". Discover what stewardship really means and how your relationship with the parish can grow in the "Stewardship Initiative" article.

You can learn more about new committees, important announcements, events and parish happenings through the new addition to the gathering space. Read about this exciting addition on page 4.

It is an important time for us, one which we can utilize to grow and nurture our many relationships. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:11)

*-Marie Hewrichs, parishioner*

## THE MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

What it is, why Catholics are taking action and the reasons behind our efforts.

The Catholic bishops of Minnesota, through the Minnesota Catholic Conference, support the adoption of a state constitutional amendment that preserves current state law defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

The Minnesota Marriage Protection Amendment, which will appear on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot, states:

*Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?*

Minnesotans can vote "Yes" or "No." Leaving the box blank counts as a "No" vote.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS :

#### Why is this amendment needed?

The amendment is needed to protect the civil institution of marriage, currently codified in Minnesota statutes, from active attempts in the state courts and the legislature to redefine it into a system of domestic

partnerships or eliminate it altogether. Unlike a statute, a constitutional provision cannot be changed without the permission of voters.

#### Why is the Church promoting a constitutional amendment?

All citizens, including Catholics, must care about the government's treatment of marriage because civil authorities are charged with protecting children and promoting the common good, and marriage is indispensable to both purposes.

It is a reality that unites a man and a woman and any children born from their union. That is what marriage is; that is what marriage does. Government supports this social reality; it does not create it.

There are many types of loving, committed relationships in our lives that serve a variety of purposes, but we don't call them

*(Continued on page 2)*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- May 13  
Mother's Day
- May 19  
Parish-wide Heritage Celebration
- May 20  
Ascension of the Lord
- May 27  
Pentecost Sunday
- May 28  
Memorial Day
- June 5  
SVDP School 8th Grade Graduation
- June 7  
Last Day of School for SVDP Students
- June 10  
Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
- June 14-16  
Annual Parish Rummage Sale
- June 17  
Father's Day
- June 18-22  
Vacation Bible School
- July 4  
Independence Day



## PARISHIONER QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q. What does a "covenant relationship" mean in relation to marriage for Catholics in our society today?**

**What is its origin?:** "I will make my covenant with you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you" Genesis 17:3,7.

**Secular definition:** The word "covenant" means a formal agreement, contract, testament, or treaty between two parties, with specific obligations on each side.

**Theological implications of "covenant":** The Church recognizes the secular definition of the word "covenant", but lays emphasis on the spiritual implications. While "contract" connotes the exchange of goods and services, "covenant" entails the exchange of persons—for example, a sacramental marriage.

Therefore, the Catholic and Christian understanding of a covenant relationship is portrayed more as a "gift" than a mere "contract" because "Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed Himself and given Himself to Man." At the last supper, Jesus highlights this implied "gift" connotation of all covenant relationships when he said: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:20; cf. 1 Cor. 11:25). This God-humankind relationship is the basis for all other forms of relationships, especially marriage. Hence, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and two will become one flesh" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Our Catechism articulates this in a better way: "The nuptial covenant between God and his people Israel had prepared the way for the new and everlasting covenant in which the Son of God, by becoming incarnate and giving his life, has united to himself in a certain way all mankind saved by Him, thus preparing for the "wedding-feast of the Lamb" (CCC # 1612).

*-Okoy Anyanwu, Pastoral Minister*

### Submit Your Question!

If you have a question for Fr. Jack or Fr. Bennet, please e-mail it to: [editor@saintvdp.org](mailto:editor@saintvdp.org).

## MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

marriage. That is because *marriage is more*. It is about what kids need, not what adults want.

### Is the Church imposing its view of marriage on others?

One need not be religious to see the importance of civil marriage to society, nor is the issue of marriage a purely religious or sectarian question. This is not a debate about sacraments, the "sanctity" of marriage, or the private dimensions of people's romantic relationships, but instead civil marriage's essential public purposes.

In this debate, the Church is merely offering her insights about what will promote the common good, just as She does on a whole variety of issues: abortion, the economy, migration, education, and poverty.

She attempts to speak using points of reference accessible to all people: natural law, social science, experience, history, and tradition. In doing so, the Church shows She is not defending a mere religious doctrine, but a truth that history shows is universal.

People may disagree with the Church's position, but Catholics are not disqualified



from public debates merely because what they know by reason is also supported by what they believe God has revealed. To claim otherwise is a radical assault on free speech and an affront to this nation's cherished tradition of religious participation in important political questions, such as the Civil Rights Movement.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## MARRIAGE AMENDMENT CONTINUED

### Isn't marriage a civil right?

Marriage is a civil right, but like every right it has limitations and responsibilities attached to it. Every man and every woman has a right to enter into marriage, but marriage as an institution can only be between a man and a woman. Governments do not have the power to redefine marriage because it is a permanent human institution that does not owe its existence to governments.

### Is the Church discriminating against gay people?

The Church is not targeting any one group by supporting the amendment. The language of the amendment makes this clear. The amendment does not take away anyone's existing rights or legal protections. We are simply defending marriage from attempts to weaken it or turn it into something else. The debate about the meaning of marriage is not one we have started, and we cannot remain silent as this very important institution is under attack.

We recognize that some who oppose a marriage amendment and want to redefine marriage experience same-sex attraction. We do not "hate" them, just like we do not hate those who have divorced or committed adultery or any other sexual sins. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

We must make a point to remind ourselves that every person has an inherent dignity. Like all other human beings, our brothers and sisters living with same-sex attraction are beloved children of God. As a result, the Catholic Church affirms that they "must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in this regard should be avoided" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2358).

People with same-sex attraction, like others in society, are productive citizens, loving parents, community servants, good friends, or our beloved family members. Their fundamental human rights must be defended, and everyone must strive to eliminate any forms of injustice, oppression, or violence against all persons.

But our love and compassion for our neighbor does not mean we are compelled to modify important public institutions to satisfy desires or validate relationships. People can live as they choose,

but no one has the right to redefine marriage for all of society.

### What is the Church doing to promote the marriage amendment?

The bishops have asked pastors in every parish to work with the Minnesota Catholic Conference to form parish committees—similar to their Respect Life and Social Justice committees—to educate Catholics about what marriage is, why it is important, and what the consequences are if it is redefined. In so doing, the Church hopes to equip Catholics to be "faithful citizens" and proactive, respectful participants in the public debate about the future of marriage in Minnesota.

*Most importantly, Catholics should witness to the truth of marriage by living their own marriages well and helping others do the same.*

### What can Catholics do to defend marriage?

Catholics can put their faith in action by working with their pastor or parish committees, the activities of

which are being supported by the Minnesota Catholic Conference. If a parish committee does not exist in a parish, parishioners can start one. Similarly, Catholics can volunteer their time with the Minnesota for Marriage campaign.

Because it takes money to speak in a democracy, Catholics are also encouraged to make a donation to Minnesota for Marriage, even in small amounts. Donations can be made through [www.minnesotaformarriage.com](http://www.minnesotaformarriage.com).

Catholics should also pray for the success of the amendment, for those involved, and that our message may fall on receptive ears. Most importantly, Catholics should witness to the truth of marriage by living their own marriages well and helping others do the same. Ultimately, it is not enough to pass a marriage amendment. We must truly rebuild a culture of marriage and family life.

*-Obey Anyanwu, Pastoral Minister*



**For more information and resources about the civil institution of marriage and why it is worth defending, visit the Minnesota Catholic Conference website:**

**[www.mncc.org/issues/marriage](http://www.mncc.org/issues/marriage)**

# A LOOK TO OUR TEENS

Becoming aware, serving others and glorifying God

By participating in Summer Stretch and Christpower, our teens at St. Vincent de Paul will bring the Good News of God's love to the greater metro area. They will be showing the community how the power of their Catholic faith and their participation in the Eucharist calls us all to be Christ for others.

Why are Summer Stretch and Christpower so important? Generosity is contagious. Enthusiasm is contagious. Joy is contagious. Selfless service can become contagious, too. And even if it



doesn't become contagious in their home, parish or community right away, give it time—it will.

By sharing their gifts with the world, the teens are spending their days glorifying God by giving back to God what was His to begin with...their very selves. In the 1<sup>st</sup> book of Peter he says, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

The experiences at Summer Stretch and Christpower will make the teens aware of the needs, hurts, pains and hopelessness happening right here in their own backyards. The teens' eyes will be open and their hearts will be moved to make a change. This August, ask the teens why they serve, and what they learn from their service. You just might get an "itch" to follow in their example and serve others yourself.

—Molly Schorr, Director of Youth Ministry



## Vacation Bible School 2012

June 18-22, 2012  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

Children 4 years old by June to entering 5th grade NEXT fall are invited to participate.

Pre-registration and fee are required. Contact the parish office for details.

**What events are happening at SVDP this week?**

**How can I share memories of my loved one at their funeral?**

**What are the readings for Mass today?**

**When is the annual...?**

**COMING SOON:** These questions and many more will be answered on the large screen monitor which will be added this spring and located behind the welcome center. One objective of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Life Commission was to enhance visibility and function of our Welcome Center. We intend to achieve this by installing a new means of communication: the large screen monitor. This large screen monitor will include messaging based on the liturgical calendar, important announcements and events that drive parish involvement, and heart-felt memories of our loved ones at their funerals.



This project is the work of a subcommittee with members from the Parish Life and Worship Commissions, parish staff, and parish community. These members purchased the appropriate equipment, assigned IT support, built the cabinetry to house the monitor and developed the annual messaging plan. By providing another form of communication, we believe we will see a more informed and involved community of parishioners.

# UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

Many ways to get involved!

## Infant and Child CPR Training

We all hope we'll never be put in the position of having to save an infant or a child's life, but it could happen. They can choke on food and toys, slip under water or get caught in a drawstring or curtain cord.



*Take the time to learn and practice the proper techniques in infant and child CPR.*

This course will be offered free at St. Vincent's to parents, grandparents, teenagers or anyone wanting to learn this valuable life-saving technique on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

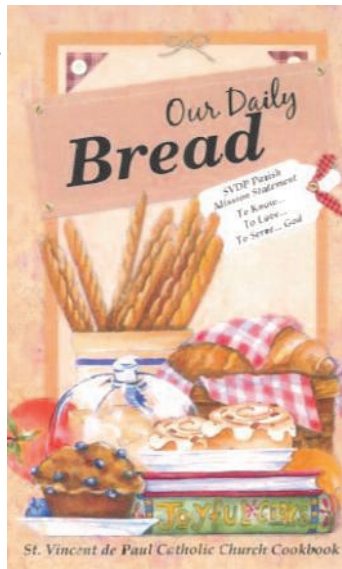
Please call the parish office for registration information.

## SVDP Cook Book!

*"Some people are cooks. Some people are eaters. We need each other." J.B.*

Many gatherings of people include a sharing of foods. When an event is planned, often the first question is, "What will be served?" Church cookbooks are a favorite source of possibilities, whether it be an appetizer, bread, or dessert.

This spring, SVDP will be sporting it's third cookbook, entitled *Our Daily Bread*. It has taken an entire year to bring it to production. SVDP parishioners have been most gracious by offering recipes and becoming advertisers and boosters. The new publication will offer choices of appetizers, salads, vegetables, main dishes, breads, desserts, and even a section with recipes created by SVDP kindergarteners and first graders.



*Our Daily Bread* will be on sale the weekends of April 28-29, May 5-6, and May 12-13. Depending on the rate of sales, more weekends may be added. Cookbooks will sell for \$15. In addition, there will be CD's of the book on sale for \$8. These items will be an excellent Mother's Day or Father's Day gift, a birthday gift, a thinking-of-you gift, or even a Christmas gift. Supplies will be limited, so it is advisable to shop early.

## SVDP 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heritage Celebration

Are you German, Irish, African, Asian, English, French, etc.? It is time again for our third annual Heritage Celebration which speaks to the heart of the theology of Pentecost. According to the Sacred Scripture, people from different nations spoke and understood one another while speaking different languages.

Many of you attended the Heritage Celebration potluck dinner last year, and it was a great success. It was so much fun, and we all met new people and friends. This year, we are inviting you again to join us in celebrating our heritage with another intercontinental potluck, which will include music and dance from different parts of the world.

Please mark your calendar and join us on **Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012** in the school gymnasium right after the 5 p.m. Mass.

We encourage everyone to participate by bringing a dish that represents your heritage. Please check the bulletin for updates.



We need volunteers to help us make this celebration a tradition at St Vincent de Paul. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact Diane at 763-498-3811 or Okey Anyanwu at [okey@saintvdp.org](mailto:okey@saintvdp.org) or call the parish office at 763-425-2210.



This year's Harvest Festival will feature all of the great food, fun, games, and live music that make this the great parish get-together every year!

**Save the Date:  
Aug. 13-14, 2011**

Watch for more details in parish bulletins later this summer. Join in on the fun!

**The St. Vincent  
Voice Newsletter  
Committee**

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

**Share  
Your Story  
with Us!**

If you have a story to share or an idea for an article, 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.

## PARISH LEADERSHIP Welcoming a new Stewardship Initiative

Stewardship is a lifestyle! Christian stewards see themselves as the caretakers of all of God's gifts. Stewardship is a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts—time, talent and treasure—that we have been given.

As a way to recognize and give thanks for our blessings, a Stewardship Committee has recently been formed at St. Vincent de Paul. This committee will help guide the parish in understanding and becoming better stewards of our time, talent and treasure. The Stewardship Committee is made up of parishioners like you and has linked activities with the parish commission structure.



As a first step, this committee has developed a Stewardship Plan approved by the church leadership. The plan will be rolled out in later this year, with parish communications beginning in October 2012.

You're probably asking the question, "What does this mean to me?" This will become more apparent over the year; however, a few examples of this and how it would apply to you are:

- ✦ Moving from just pledging treasure to also pledging time and talent. This information will be stored in a volunteer database that holds information on each volunteer, including occupations, interests, etc.
- ✦ Holding parish Ministry Fairs to give more visibility to volunteer opportunities.
- ✦ Establishing a "brand" at St. Vincent de Paul, bringing the meaning of stewardship to a new level. It will make "time, talent and treasure" equally important in the basic definition of stewardship,

At other vibrant churches in the archdiocese, stewardship is a critical part of the parish community. We are very excited about this at SVDP. Please help support and pray for the guidance of our new Stewardship Committee. Thank you and God Bless.

*- Jeannette Rem, Stewardship Committee Member*



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE-THROW CONTEST

Faithful sponsor of student events



Every year the Knights of Columbus sponsors a basketball free-throw contest at St. Vincent de Paul School. Girls and boys, ages 10-14, participate in this event, with winners moving on to the District contest. The 2012 contest was held on January 17th, resulting in 10 winners. Two SVDP students, Bennett Otto and Jack Dugan, earned a spot competing in the District contest and won in both the District and Regional Free-Throw Contests. Way to go!



Back row: Caleb Paulson, Bennett Otto, Austin Tigner, Jack Dugan and Ben Zitur. Front row: Grace Tutland, Megan Hanson, Emily Colford, Ava Dueck, and Grace Hill.

# REMEMBERING...

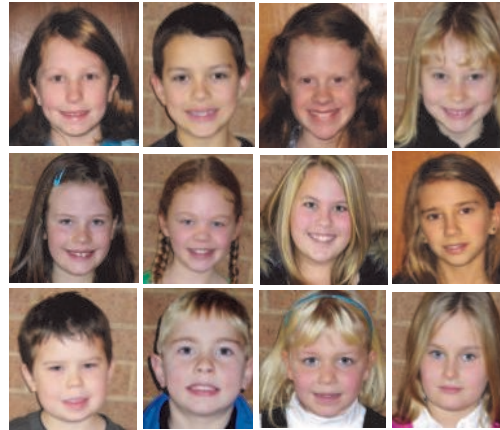
## “Keep Christ in Christmas” Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus sponsored the second annual “Keep Christ in Christmas” Poster Contest this past Advent. Through the “Keep Christ in Christmas” Poster Contest, the Knights of Columbus are attempting to revitalize the perception of the presence of Christ in Christmas. We want to remind our children what Christmas is really about. We believe this contest helps our children to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

This year’s poster contest was expanded to include competition levels for both religious education students and St. Vincent de Paul School students. Winners are pictured and listed below.



Front Row: Lindsey Riese, Marissa Miller, Joanna Yunker, Jack Nelson, Jordyn Brendenberg. Second Row: Grace Lowe, Piper Otto, Josie Peterburs, Alina Kanayinkal ; Back Row: Isabel McGraw, Alani Brands, . Katelyn Gasperlin, upper right.



Abigail Today  
Adamson Novak  
Ciara Mercier  
Shelby Julien

Erin Judd  
Jenny Leonard  
Lauren Pojar  
Sydney Frederick

Cale Ihde  
Luke Sipple  
Samantha Jessen  
Taylor Ullen

## ANNUAL SVDP RUMMAGE SALE

June 14th, 15th, & 16th

Mark your calendars for the Annual SVDP Rummage Sale to be held June 14-16, 2012 in the school gym. All proceeds from the sale benefit St. Vincent de Paul School.

### DONATION COLLECTION DATES:

♦Saturdays: April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, and June 2<sup>nd</sup> (9:00 a.m.–noon); Drop off behind the church office (west side of church).

♦Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> (9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.), Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> (9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.); Drop off at school main entrance. (larger furniture drop-off accepted these dates)

When putting things aside for donations, remember that clothing must be clean, unstained and in good repair.

Items that will NOT be ACCEPTED include non-working: electronics, computer equipment, microwave ovens, etc.

Also NOT ACCEPTED are:

Large exercise equipment	Christmas trees
Mattresses	Car seats
Cribs	Tires
Encyclopedia sets	Magazines older than 2 yrs

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Volunteers that work at least four hours, regardless of the day they work, are given the opportunity to pre-shop.

- ⇒ Monday and Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. - sorting and set up.
- ⇒ Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. - sorting and set up.
- ⇒ Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, June 14, 15, & 16<sup>th</sup> -- during the opening shifts on the days of the sale (extra help checking people out and carrying items to cars).
- ⇒ MUCH help is needed Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at noon to tear down. This would be an especially good shift for our high school and college youth.

Please contact the Lyngen (763-498-7291) or Spanier (762-425-9762) families to set up a time to volunteer. Thank you!





## The St. Vincent Voice

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

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

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# SYMBOLS OF FAITH

## Eagles' soaring flight symbolic of the Ascension of Christ

To see an eagle gracefully soaring in a bright blue sky is an awesome sight to behold. Locally, they can be found on a clear day soaring above Elm Creek Park Reserve. Their seemingly effortless flight through the sky leaves an impact and is symbolic of many things, most importantly, Jesus.

We know that the image of an eagle is often used in depictions of St. John's Gospel. Our Golden Gospel book at St. Vincent's has the etching of an eagle on its' cover. It is this etching that represents the great truths and heights to which Jesus rose. Because St. John's Gospel focuses on the truth of Jesus, it is only fitting that, by extension, the eagle is a symbol of Christ.



This symbol serves as a reminder of the great events that Jesus Christ experienced. St. John, as one of Christ's disciples, witnessed the Ascension forty days after His resurrection. (Catholic Encyclopedia-www.newadvent.org)

A soaring eagle may be symbolic of this awesome event. The Ascension of Our Lord occurs forty days after Easter, Thursday, May 17th. The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated on Sunday, May 20th. If you glimpse a soaring eagle this summer, take a moment and reflect on the miracle that the Apostles were privileged to witness.

-Marie Hewichs, Parishioner