

November 1, 2012 –  
January 31, 2013



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# The St. Vincent Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## RESPONDING TO CHANGE IN THE WORLD AROUND US

Sometimes change can be subtle, like in the deeper understanding of the world around us. Sometimes change can be more obvious, as in the colors of leaves changing and falling and the temperatures dropping dramatically outside.

In this issue of *The St. Vincent Voice* we look at the change going on around us in our parish communities. There is change in how we live out our faith as a church community through our commissions and the better understanding of the directions we want our parish to go. There is change in how we respond to social media and the

negativity that sometimes comes so easy, the simple idea that positive feedback can be groundbreaking. Change in how we respond to the opportunities to help those in need. Change in how we understand, respect and appreciate the beauty and importance of the sacrament of marriage.

Most importantly, there is the opportunity to change how we respond to the world around us, especially during this year dedicated to rediscovering and strengthening our faith.

—Rebecca Keran, Parishioner

## MARRIAGE AT THE HEART OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are made for love, so we must seek social justice, which is to have the common good as the horizon of all our actions. And social justice requires, above all, that we safeguard and strengthen marriage and family life.

The future depends on love because the future depends on children. Without children, cultures die, nations die, the human species dies. Nothing is more fundamental to the common good than children. And nothing matters more for the well-being of children than the health of marriage and family life. The struggle for the common good is more urgent than ever: the innocence of our children is threatened by the “hook-up”.

### Promote Peace by Promoting the Family

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she was asked what people can do to promote world peace. Her answer was profoundly countercultural: “Go home and love your families.” Justice can only arise from the human heart, and habits of the heart are first learned in the family.

Pope Benedict XVI has repeatedly pointed to the same truth, emphasizing the irreplaceable role of the family in “humanizing” individuals: “Indeed, in healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving con-

cern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness, or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them. For this reason, the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace.”

The loving commitment of marriage opens the spouses to the children that result from their union. Just and loving relationships flow outward from the family into the larger community and serve the common good.

### Love and Money

In our individualistic culture of consumerism, with its focus on the economic calculation of private advantage, it is very difficult for us always to act with the common good of society as our horizon—to treat family values as more basic than economic values. It is very countercultural indeed to point out that sex is not a private matter. Even economically speaking, however, marriage must be recognized as crucial.

Marriage is a wealth-building institution. If we want to raise the economic status of the disadvantaged, we need to promote marriage. Minorities have suffered from the breakdown of marriage and the family disproportionately. The life-long commitment of a husband and a wife is one of the most significant factors in the economic health of the individuals involved, especially women and children. As one sociologist puts it, the

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **November 1:**  
All Saint's Day
- **November 2:**  
All Soul's Day
- **November 22:**  
Thanksgiving Day
- **December 2:**  
First Sunday  
of Advent
- **December 1 & 2:**  
Christmas Bazaar
- **December 8:**  
Immaculate  
Conception  
(Holy Day of Obligation)
- **December 15:**  
Breakfast with Santa
- **December 25:**  
Christmas
- **January 1, 2013:**  
Mary Mother of God
- **January 6:**  
Epiphany of the Lord
- **January 27:**  
Catholic Schools  
Week Begins

### The St. Vincent Voice Newsletter Committee

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



## ASK FATHER

Fr. Magner Answers Parishioner Questions

**Q.** Father, I'd like to know more about the season of Advent. Why are there 4 weeks in Advent? And why does an Advent wreath have three candles of one color and one candle of another color?

- Submitted by Lisa Price

**A.** Advent is the first season of the liturgical year in the Church calendar. Its name comes from a Latin secular term to denote the coming or arrival of the emperor. Thus, in the Church, the season of Advent is a season of anticipation which leads up to the arrival of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, who is born to us on Christmas Day. However, the Church describes Advent as having a twofold character: it is "a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; [and] as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation." (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*)

The length of the Advent season has evolved over time. From the mid-fourth century onwards there were areas in the world that celebrated a longer Advent, beginning on the Feast of St. Martin on November 11. In Rome the season evolved to a period of approximately four weeks; a practice which remains to this day. Now Advent always begins on the Sunday which falls on or closest to November 30. Also, it is never earlier than November 27 or later than December 3. (This year Advent begins on Sunday, December 2.) Because Advent may begin on a different Sunday each year the actual number of days of Advent may vary from year to year. There may not be exactly four full weeks but there are always four Sundays celebrated in Advent, even if the Fourth Sunday falls on December 24.



A traditional feature of Advent is the Advent wreath. Although its origins are uncertain, it has become Christianized in its symbolism. The circle of the Advent wreath represents the eternal nature of God, who has no beginning or end. The evergreen boughs represent eternal life. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Traditionally, there are three violet candles and one rose candle. A candle is lit on each Sunday of Advent to mark the progression of the season. The violet candles represent the liturgical color of the season. The rose candle represents a pause in the penitential nature of the season.

It is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "to rejoice". It is taken from the traditional entrance prayer (introit) for the Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

It should be noted that, despite secular influences, the season of Advent should be respected and observed as its own season and should not become blurred into a month-long celebration of Christmas. Christmas is its own season. Advent, too, should be celebrated as its own season with its own unique character. It is a time of reflection and anticipation for the coming of Christ our Savior at Christmas and at the end of time.

### GET TO THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012

The Minnesota Marriage Protection Amendment reads:

*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?*



Spread the word to **VOTE YES**. And remember, a non-vote is counted as a "no" vote!

# STEWARDSHIP IS...

Understanding stewardship through the eyes of the saints

Please pray for Stewardship support in our parish, in our community, and in our world. Stewardship thoughts and tips follow. Please pray for God's grace and guidance as you discern your role in the work of St. Vincent de Paul Church.

**Stewardship Committee:** "Francis, we understand that you have a great appreciation for nature. How would you describe this special interest?"

**Francis:** "I consider myself a 'Steward of Creation'. The 'wonder of nature' is my passion. I am a stickler for protecting the environment. It is our duty to our Creator and to each other to 'safeguard all material and human resources' responsibly. 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' is my personal mantra... but the words 'repair my falling house' keep haunting me. I also have a special place in my heart for all God's creatures 'great and small'."

## STEWARDSHIP IS RESPECTING GOD'S CREATION IN "WONDER AND AWE".

**Stewardship Committee:** "Therese, it has come to our attention that you have perfected a stress-free technique in the 'Art of Giving'. Tell us what you have discerned."

**Therese:** "Live moment to moment. When it comes to charitable giving, you don't have to make huge efforts. Do what comes natural. Do things you enjoy. Start by doing 'small things with great love', then progress as you become more comfortable. Soon the act of doing becomes an act of sharing which becomes an act of love and becomes your own 'little way' of life. Try spending your time on earth doing good for the glory of God. You can 'spend heaven doing good on earth'. I plan to 'let shower from heaven ... a shower of roses'."

## STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE.

**Stewardship Committee:** "Vincent, you take God's call for each of us to support the Church (according to our station in life) quite seriously!"

**Vincent:** "I do. I have learned to 'combine my work with the rich and fashionable with tending to society's outcasts'."

Everyone can give something...time, talent, and/or treasure according to their ability. I use my influence in the world for the glory of God. I try to inspire 'zeal for God and love for souls'. I live to serve."

## AS A DISCIPLE, STEWARDSHIP IS THE SERVING OF CHRIST.

**Stewardship Committee:** "Paul, we read/heard somewhere that your life 'took a complete one-eighty'. Can you tell us about this life changing experience?"

**Paul:** "This is true. I experienced a complete conversion. I was literally knocked off my feet. I was somewhat of a bully in my former life - very poor people skills - but I heard Christ's call to 'love my neighbor'. I'm still a man on a mission, but I've turned negative anger into positive zeal and all for the glory of God. 'I was blind, but now I see'."

## STEWARDSHIP IS LIFE CHANGING – FOR YOU AND FOR THOSE YOU LIFT UP.

**Stewardship Committee:** "Mary, you have choreographed 'balance' into a dance, of sorts. Tell us your secret."

**Mary:** "I have many roles; wife, mother, first disciple...like most of you. Balance is key. Strive to be holy, happy, and healthy. Always remember you are chosen by God. You are instruments of His love. Give yourself to God's plan. Say 'yes' whenever you hear His call. Don't underestimate yourself with concerns that you are not 'equipped' or not 'qualified' to do the work of God. If it is His will, 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you'. The grace of God will be with you. 'For nothing will be impossible for God'."

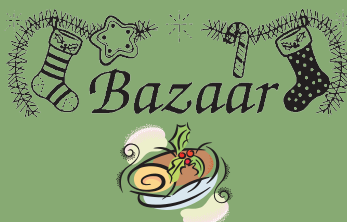
## STEWARDSHIP IS EMBRACING YOUR "YES" WITH BALANCE.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank our fellow parishioners for the honor of serving such a faith-filled, generous, and passionate community. We look forward to working with all of you as, together, we do our duty toward the mission Christ entrusted to us to KNOW, LOVE, and SERVE GOD in building His Kingdom here on earth.

SAT, DECEMBER 1:  
9:00 AM—5:00 PM  
Lunch Served all day!

SUN, DECEMBER 2:  
8:15 AM—12:30 PM  
Coffee, Juice, Rolls

*Come to the  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Christmas*



FEATURING: Santa Claus, Over 60 Crafters, Gourmet Coffee at Java Joe's, Live Musical Performances, Gently Used Book, Puzzle and Movie Sale, Raffle AND...

**Slice of Heaven Bakery:** delicious cinnamon rolls, caramel rolls, coffee cakes, cookies, breads, croutons, Krumkaka, Rosettes, Lefse and more!





## Stewardship

AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
*a way of life*

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is midway through its 2012 Stewardship Campaign. We hope that you have taken advantage of the many opportunities provided during Coffee & Company.

Weekends to become more familiar with the leadership commissions, ministries, and volunteer positions available in our great parish. Upcoming Commission hosted Coffee & Company's are as follows:

**November 3rd & 4th:**  
OUTREACH

**November 10th & 11th:**  
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION and WORSHIP

**November 17th & 18th :** STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT WEEKEND



Come after the Sunday Masses and enjoy doughnuts, cookies, coffee, lemonade and fellowship with your parishioners. All the "Coffee and Company" events are hosted by various ministry groups in the parish. Come and check out all the amazing things this parish has to offer.

## HELPING OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

*"Go in peace, be warmed and filled"*

As we enter into our Advent and Christmas seasons, you may be wondering what you can do to help others. Our Catholic faith has a very long and notable history of always helping the poor and people in need. This is our visible presence in the world. Our *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says the following:

*The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.*

*Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God:*

*He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? CCC 2447*

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## MARRIAGE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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sociological data indicate that "the preferential option for the poor begins in the home."

### Sex and the Common Good

In marriage, love and life transform the world. The nobility of the vocation to true love must be communicated in a compelling way to our children who are being drawn away by the dehumanizing "hook-up" way of life. "Friendship with benefits" destroys the happiness of everyone involved, but our young girls are especially victimized. With innocence destroyed, our children are finding it harder and harder to grow up to love with that openness of heart necessary to welcome the future in life-long and life-giving marriage.

Intimate relationships between adults can also be unjust, even when the people involved consent to being treated badly. Pope John Paul II never tired of reminding us that sexuality is meant to express lifelong and life-giving love. Anything less is lying with our bodies. We owe it to other people to respect their dignity, which is inseparable from how we treat their bodies. We must not exploit them for our own pleasure. And we are owed the same respect.

We are the ones that must communicate this social sensibility to our children, pointing out, for example, why cohabitation not only causes broken hearts but also damages the common good. It all begins in the home—in marriage and family life. Whatever attacks the integrity of love in the home undermines society and social justice at its root.

—This article has been culled from the Minnesota Catholic Conference website and edited by Okey Anyanwu:

[www.mccc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/marriage-at-the-heart.pdf](http://www.mccc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/marriage-at-the-heart.pdf)

Here is a list of Charitable Opportunities at St. Vincent's. Please see the St. Vincent de Paul website for more information at [www.saintvdp.org](http://www.saintvdp.org).

**Vouchers:** Through this ministry we provide social outreach to the needy in our community.

**Giving Tree:** The Giving Tree is dedicated to fulfilling the holiday wishes of children and adults, who would otherwise go without gifts. Parishioners purchase and distribute to needy families and Berkshire Nursing Home residents.

**Christmas Baskets:** Through this ministry, baskets are provided upon request to the needy in our community at Christmas in the spirit of compassion.

**Thanksgiving Dinners:** This ministry is meant to express our spiritual solidarity and compassion for those in the community who find themselves in need. Beneficiaries are provided with a Thanksgiving meal upon request.

**Feed My Starving Children:** Our parish supports this organization financially upon request and through groups of parishioners who volunteer to package food for children around the world.

**Sharing and Caring Hands:** Our parish supports this non-profit organization on the second Wednesday of each month. Parishioners prepare and serve a meal at Sharing

and Caring Hands in downtown Minneapolis.

**CEAP Food Drive:** Our parish supports CEAP, a nonprofit food shelf in Brooklyn Park, through yearly food drives.

**Charity Donations:** Our Charitable Outreach Ministry welcomes monetary donations as well as other items.

**EDGE Youth Group and LIFE Night Youth Group Stocking Stuffer Project** on December 12, 2012. Donations needed include personal hygiene items and toys for boys and girls. Please drop off donations at the church office prior to December 12.

**BIZAA:** This is our new international outreach program at St. Vincent de Paul. Please drop off donations of medical equipment or toiletries for our upcoming Mission Trip in April 2013 to Nigeria.

For more information about how to support these programs, please call Okey Anyanwu or Margaret Schauer at the church office at 763-425-2210.

—*Marci Siens, Outreach Commission Chair*



## REMEMBERING ...





# THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

## A PLACE OF PRAYER, LEARNING AND FAITH

Your parish Formation and Education Commission recently completed setting their goals for 2012-2013. One of the goals is to help parents enhance faith life in the home.

Every home is a "domestic church," and we want to help your home become a place of prayer, religious learning and lived faith in your relationships. The Formation & Education Commission hopes to find free or inexpensive resources that parents can use in the home to form their children in our Catholic faith.

A special focus will be on prayer resources for you to pray with your children or grandchildren. These resources will be available in the gathering area kiosk or at the parish website. Be on the lookout for these resources as they become available in the future.

Remember that when you had your child baptized you promised God and the Church that you would "make it your constant care to bring him/her up in the practice of the faith."

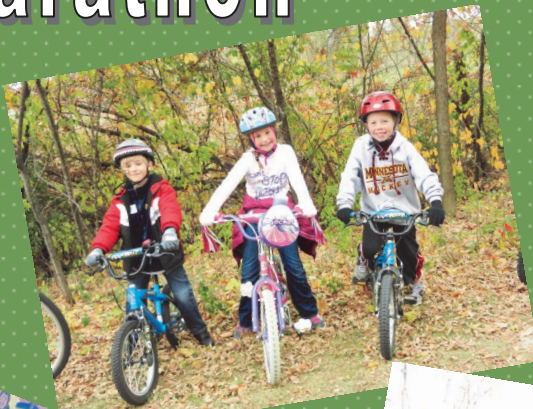
Our parish is here to help you in this very important task, but we cannot rival the influence you have in your child's faith life. Your influence on their faith development cannot be matched but working together we can pass on a lived faith that will be a positive influence in your child's life.

—Chuck Pratt, Director of Faith Formation



### REMEMBERING...

## St. Vincent's School Marathon



## Saturday, Oct. 6th 2012



# FACES OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## One of our own makes kindness go viral

Texting, Instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter—for most teens, expressing themselves through these social media tools are an everyday part of their lives. Unfortunately, this instantaneous, and often anonymous, form of communication can also provide fertile ground for gossip and public mocking.

Enter Kevin Curwick, a 17-year-old senior at Osseo High and active member of the St. Vincent de Paul community. In effort to counteract the online attacks aimed at his fellow classmates, Kevin anonymously created a Twitter account, @OsseoNiceThings, and began to single out the positive characteristics of his peers. He says it was “basic, common sense to do the opposite” of the cruel taunts and bullying occurring online. A sample Tweet reads “great artist, but even better friend” and then acknowledges the student by name.

“Doesn’t get enough credit for his effort. Michael Day” and “The girl does her part to bring spirit to school everyday. She’s willing to step out of the box and support anyone in need. Raja Nichols.” These kind words have inspired others to do the same. And it’s working; since the @OsseoNiceThings page started in late July, the accounts attacking Kevin’s classmates have declined.

It was only when KARE 11 aired a television story about @OsseoNiceThings, that Kevin humbly came forward and his classmates learned who was making kindness and positivity be a cool thing to do. Kevin is happy that “people have latched on to this idea,” which is an understatement considering how his actions have spread throughout the Twin Cities, the country and even the world.

Similar Twitter pages have popped up at high schools around the Metro and several national media outlets have picked up Kevin’s story: *The Huffington Post*, *USA Today*, and countless others, including an interview with Ryan Seacrest. People from Iowa to Connecticut, and from Australia to Germany have contacted Kevin, either to share their stories of being bullied or to thank him for what he has done. Early followers of @OsseoNiceThings numbered 130; the number now has exploded to over 4,000.

Kevin is quick to point out that this concept and its results do not belong to him, but to Osseo Senior High. He’s proud of his high school, it’s special community, and the positive things for which the school should be recognized. Upon graduation, Kevin plans to hand over @OsseoNiceThings to an incoming senior so that the spreading of positivity on behalf of the school community continues.



However, no one who knows Kevin well is surprised by his actions. As Fr. Jack Long says, “Kevin is a kind, considerate, and reverent person.” Though in turn, Kevin believes that being a sacristan for our parish and attending St. Vincent’s school has made it easier for him to do the right thing; “My faith has taught me to look at each opportunity and respond how God would like me to.”

In Kevin’s view, “you don’t have to dig too long to find the positive aspects in people, for all people, the goodness in them can easily be found.”

—Kim Lyngen, Parishioner



### Save the Date:

#### Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 15  
from 8:30 until 11:30 am

- \* Enjoy a yummy breakfast.
- \* Tell Santa what you’d like for Christmas.
- \* Have your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- \* Do fun crafts with Santa’s helpers.
- \* Shop in the Elves’ gift shop for mom and dad.





## The St. Vincent Voice

A Publication of  
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
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 Brooklyn Park, MN 55455  
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[www.saintvdp.org](http://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

### Year of Faith 2012-2013

In an effort to encourage rediscovery of faith, Pope Benedict XVI declared a “Year of Faith” to begin on October 11, 2012. The year is an invitation for each Catholic to rediscover, grow and share our shared faith. To encourage this growth and share the message of its importance, the Vatican has unveiled events, a song and even an official logo. They enhance the message and help inspire individual growth. By studying the logo as a symbol, we gain a deeper understanding of the message the Pope is delivering.

Like the “Year of Faith” concept, the logo is seemingly simple in design but is rich in meaning. A small box with a modest sailing ship represents the Church at a time of change. In the depiction, a small wave curls at the hull of the ship, suggesting that the Church is moving forward. Sea waves often symbolize chaos or uncertainty, reminiscent of present change in society. By the power of the sail, the ship is moving forward through the changes of our times.



The mast of the sail is a cross, a sign of our faith, guiding the ship. When combined with the cross, the mast creates the letters IHS. These initials are derived from the Greek word for Christ. The more you study the picture, the more symbols appear to remind us of Jesus and the Church. This is one small piece of many that, when studied closer, will allow us to learn more and fortify our faith. ([www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html](http://www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html))

The “Year of Faith” concludes on November 24, 2013. By studying the elements of this special year and learning more about our faith, we have the ability to grow. This special year is an invitation for all Catholics to strengthen their relationship with Jesus and to renew their faith. ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

— Marie Heinrichs, Parishioner