



NEWS

FROM THE PEWS

A Quarterly Publication for Immaculate Conception Church

February 2007



photo by: Kathy Gangwisch

▲ FR. BENJAMIN (RIGHT) AND HIS FRIEND FR. ROBERTO IKE, GOT COMFY IN THE RECTORY KITCHEN WITH PARISH STAFFER ALVINA COLLINS.

Immaculate Conception Church

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Leenu Ukochukwu Benjamin Ebere Nwosu.*

By Kathy Gangwisch

So one graduation day at the school in Nigeria where Fr. Benjamin Nwosu was serving as chaplain the young boys were taking turns reciting the Prayer of the Faithful. Each had supposedly memorized his part.

All went well for a while until one of the youngsters forgot what he was to say. In a panic (everybody was looking at him) he quickly uttered, "Thank God for our chaplain, Fr. Benjamin." Okay, that was nice.

But then he added, "May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

Laughter broke up the ceremony and the poor kid was on the spot. After the Mass, Fr. Benjamin thanked the young boy for reminding him of the inevitable, death.

Nothing like that may apply here for our 33-year-old new priest. This likeable fellow will hopefully be with us a very long time.

Born and reared in Okigwe in Imo State, Nigeria, Fr. Benjamin was the baby of a family of seven kids. His Dad served in the military, transitioned to hospital work in Lagos and retired as a farmer. He's no longer living, but Fr. Benjamin's Mom, a seamstress with her own

in-home business, is. Of the Nwosu children, Benjamin and an older brother Daniel Iheanacho (living in Pennsylvania) are the only U.S. residents.

He was quite close to his Mother growing up and she took him to Mass with her every morning. Young Benjamin became enthralled with what the priest was doing at the altar and decided that was the life for him.

He entered junior seminary at age 12, progressed to senior seminary and was ordained in '01 in his home parish.

His first assignment was at a parish in the Diocese of Okigwe where, in 2001, he was named assistant pastor.

From '02 to '05, Fr. Benjamin was Chaplain of the Marist Brothers of the Schools, Nigerian Province. He provided pastoral care to various institutions run by the brothers.

He then went to Belgium where he earned his Master's Degree in Reli-

gious Studies at Catholic University of Leuven.

Last summer, Fr. Benjamin visited the U.S. for the first time, doing parish work in West Virginia and Louisiana. He then returned to Nigeria and began thinking he would like to widen his experiences by serving again in this country.

A longtime Nigerian friend and priest, Fr. Roberto Ike, who lives here and teaches business at Lincoln University (also filling in at area parishes) encouraged him to come to Jeff. City.

Fr. Benjamin is a huge soccer fan and a champion table tennis player (anyone want to take him on??). He enjoys reading, Shakespeare being among his favorites.

* Now, would you like to know what the headline of this story says? In one of the Nigerian languages: "Meet Fr. Benjamin." Do that after any of his Masses. He's a lovely person, quick to smile and chat. And don't forget your ping-pong paddle.

Our Older Adults Ministry

By Dolores Scheuler

About a year ago Father Dolan asked me to take on the task of ministering to the older adults in our parish. These are people who have been active in the parish in the past but now are no longer able. Some are confined to their homes because of illness or infirmities; some are in nursing homes or assisted living; and some do not have any family with whom to visit or ask a favor of.

Our elderly are very important to us and our parish life even if they cannot come to Mass or other events on a regular basis. We do not want them to be forgotten.

My ministry includes:

-
- Liturgical:** Twice a year (October and March or April) help organize a Mass of Anointing of the sick.
 - Social Activities:** Plan meals monthly/bimonthly for older adults.
 - Education:** Provide and coordinate educational programs with special needs of older adults in mind.
 - Visitation:** Visit those who are homebound. Foster and support parish outreach to those in grief of a loved one who has passed away.
-



As you can see, this is a very big menu for one person. There's a good group of people helping now with fixing and serving the meals, and another group I call on to help at the Mass of Anointing to greet the people, usher them into the pews and help with the wheelchairs.

Our Communion ministers do a good job and take time with their patrons during visits, but often they have a long list and are not able to visit as long as they would like. Or they have a family function that needs them.

Our elderly need to know that the parish has not left them stranded; we need more people to help. We would like help with ideas for educational programs at our gatherings and with transportation for those who are able to get out but only need a ride and someone to help them. We also need communication from you their families. We would like to know when someone is no longer living at home, or if they have moved into assisted living, gone to the hospital or nursing home or just changed addresses.

Our next Mass

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of Anointing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. I hope some of you can help in some small way. Just asking a neighbor if they would like to attend the Mass and soup lunch would be a start. These older adults no longer drive and do not have transportation. This could be something you can do. Call Dolores Scheuler at: 573/635-1728. God Bless You All.

With love from Rosie 

In case you have missed the notice in the bulletin..... Rosemary Rieke's articles, which appeared in the Parish newsletters from 1977 to 2005 have been bound and are available from the Rectory office. Enjoy reading 100+ pages of what Rosie had to say about a variety of things... from raising a family of 9 children to growing with the changes in her life and in the Church. Read some about the history of Immaculate Conception and about traditions and lore from our past. Her family is delighted to offer this compilation. A donation of \$10.00 to the Samaritan Center, where Rosemary volunteered for many years, is requested.

Let's Take a Look at the Mass: The Gathering Rite

In our first article, we looked at ways we may compare the Mass to a special family meal. When our families gather for a meal, they do many things. First, we sit and talk. We might tell stories about things that happened in the past. At some point we are called to the table, say grace, pass the food, and eat and drink. At the end of our time together, we leave and go home. We can think of the Mass in the same way. We gather, tell stories, share a meal, and are sent out.

In this issue we will look at what happens until the beginning of Mass.

We call this:
The Gathering Rite.

Coming together, or assembling, is the heart of our Sunday worship. The reason behind each

of the ritual actions at the beginning of Mass can be found in one word:

gathering. Their purpose is to bring us together into one body, ready to listen, pray, and break bread together.

Before the Second Vatican Council, people thought the Mass was only the "work of the priest" and all we did was come and watch what he did. That was very sad! The Mass was one of many things discussed and written about during the Council. Following the Council, everyone was called to a much different kind of participation. No longer were we to stand idly by while the priest did all the work. We were called to full, active, conscious participation during Mass.

The Catechism reminds us that every person has "his or her own part to play in the celebration, each in his or her own way." (CCC 1348) No matter if we are priest, lector, musician, altar server, or part of the congrega-

tion we must be fully alive and bring all we are every time we come for Mass. Let's look at the **Gathering Rite** in this manner.

The purpose of this Rite is to bring different people together to become a conscious, worshipping community ready to listen and celebrate. Our oneness in prayer and song, priest and congregation, more fully manifests Christ's presence among us.

It is important to remember that the Gathering Rite begins before we leave home. Everything

that happens while we are getting ready, or coming to, Mass is part of this rite. All that goes on at home (what to eat for breakfast, what to wear,

how we get along with everyone) and in the car is brought with us as we enter the church.

Many churches, like ours, have **greeters** who welcome you as you arrive for Mass. We all like to feel welcome when we come together. All of us, not just the ministers who are greeters, need to greet the people we see at church.

One of the first things Catholics do when we come into church is dip our right hand in the holy water and make the sign of the cross. This reminds us of our Baptism because we were baptized with water and signed with the cross. Baptism brings us into the Church.



By Phyllis Emmel

When we get to our pew we **genuflect** (go down on one knee) to honor the altar and the presence of Christ in the tabernacle. Today some people bow to the altar before entering the pew.

After we enter the pew, we should spend some time in prayer. This quiet time helps us get ready for Mass. A few minutes before Mass begins we hear the bells ring. This **call to worship bell** rings out to announce the presence of the church to the community and also to remind those nearby it is time to come to Mass.

At the end of the Gathering Rite everyone and everything is ready for Mass to begin. We stand together and move into the Introductory Rite. I hope everyone comes back next time so we can take a look at that part of the Mass in more detail.

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Immaculate
Conception
Church

Clarence and Dorothy Veit

By Joan Rodemann



Their lives began in the country around Osage Bend. Since those early days, Clarence Veit and Dorothy Hoelscher Veit have seen and done many things. Their faith, family, community outreach and education have kept them grounded and led them to each other over 50 years ago.

Clarence and Dorothy both remember school days at the Osage Bend Public School. Sixty to seventy children filled the one-room schoolhouse. School days began with Mass. Both of their fathers served on the School Board and saw the need for another teacher and another room. To help defray the costs, their fathers built the additional room onto the school. This generous forward thinking responsible attitude has been passed down to them. They have taken the charge and run with it.

Clarence was the oldest of the seven children of Clarence, Sr., and Anna Mertens Veit. When he graduated from 8th grade in 1941, he was stuck. There was no bus to take students to high school. But his resourceful father had an idea. He approached Sr. Bertina at St. Mary's Hospital and asked if Clarence could live and work in the hospital in order to attend St. Peter High School. Since Clarence's dad had been bringing produce to the hospital for years, Sr. Bertina agreed to his proposal. And so, at 89 pounds, 13-year-old Clarence Veit left home to make his way in the world.

Clarence recalls, "St. Mary's Hospital had dormitories for men and women workers. It was really a good deal for people since transportation wasn't available as it is now. I lived in the men's dorm and worked 7 days a week cleaning the medical laboratories or working in the kitchen. I could go home one Sunday a month."

Looking back on those years,

Clarence remembers Sr. Bertina fondly. "She took charge of me. She made sure I did my work, both at the hospital and at St. Peter's. Mother Superior signed my report card. By my senior year I had grown quite a bit and wanted to play football. Sister allowed it as long as I could keep up with my responsibilities."

Dorothy laughs, "When Clarence played football at St. Peter's, there were 11 jerseys. So when one player came out of the game, he had to peel off the jersey and the player going in, put it on!"

The value Clarence puts on education came from his grandpa. He remembers him saying, 'Someone can take what you put in your pocket, but what you put in your head is yours.'

In order to survive during his high school years, Clarence had to learn self-discipline. Besides school and work during the week, Clarence became the hospital chaplain's traveling altar boy. That chaplain was Msgr. Kertz, who later came to Immaculate Conception, where he re-connected with his former server. This was Clarence's Sunday schedule. Begin the day serving the 5:30 Mass at the hospital, then travel to the penitentiary for an 8 a.m. Mass, onto Algoa for a 10 a.m. Mass and ending his tour at Church Farm for a 12:30 Mass. Those were the days of fasting from midnight before receiving Holy Communion. But Clarence said, "The sisters always fixed us the greatest dinner when we returned." He laughs, "By the end of my freshman year I weighed 159 pounds!"

Like all 18-year-olds, Clarence signed up with the draft Board on his birthday. The next day his draft notice appeared. He joined the Navy and counts that experience a blessing, too, since it made him eligible for the G.I. Bill.

Clarence recalls, "When I got home from the Navy, I planned to enjoy

myself for a while. But my dad had other ideas. He told me 'no need to waste time. Go to town and talk to Cole County School Superintendent Roger Wilson.' Well, I had to borrow the family car to do that. My mother told me not to go out celebrating but to come home right after my interview. But the Superintendent had called the Division of Employment Security and they put me to work that very day. My mother sure was upset when I came home that night after work. She thought I'd been out celebrating!"

Clarence's teen years had taught him about hospitals, prisons, and military life. Dorothy's early teens had honed her skills as a homemaker and cook. The fourth child of the eight children of Louis and Catherine Suthoff Hoelscher, Dorothy knew how to do many things at an early age. "When I graduated from 8th grade, my family needed me to work at home. It was World War II. My big brother had been drafted and my older sister had joined the convent." Dorothy stated.

But in her mid-teens, Dorothy got a chance to try life in Jefferson City. She became a nanny for two families. She also worked at the Capitol cafeteria and at Tweedie's.

One August Sunday in 1950, Dorothy and Clarence became reacquainted at the Rich Fountain parish picnic. They never looked back. On June 14, 1952, at St. Margaret's Church in Osage Bend, they married. Dorothy recalls, "It was 104 degrees that day. That Saturday, because it was an Ember Day, we had to get a dispensation so meat could be served at our wedding dinner. We had the

THIS GENEROUS FORWARD THINKING RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF CLARENCE AND DOROTHY'S FATHERS HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN TO THEM.

wedding at 8 a.m., because of the rule of fasting from midnight in order to receive Holy Communion.”

The new Mr. and Mrs. Veit lived in an apartment for a while, but were able to build their first home in 1953 on Benton Street. “We were thrilled. It was so near church. This is where we lived when Kathy was born.” But 5 years later, the Highway Department came calling. They were in the crosshairs of the Highway 50 Expressway. After a mad scramble and bunking with relatives, the Veits moved to their current address at 1106 Winston.

Dorothy furthered her education through Lincoln and Jefferson City Junior College, but chose to be a stay-at-home mom and to provide childcare for other children. It was a good deal all around. Kathy had companionship, Dorothy had extra cash, and Clarence got to come home to lunch to a chorus of “Hi, Daddy” since all the children referred to him as Daddy just as Kathy did.

When Kathy started school, Dr. Barry Rowan asked Dorothy to work for him in his dental office. She was flabbergasted. “I had no idea what the job would be, but he said he’d train me and he did.” She worked there until their son Philip was born.

Then she returned to childcare.

Perhaps it was her firsthand knowledge of the workings of a dental practice that led Dorothy to a 40 year involvement in what is now called the

Dental, Eye, and Shoe Program. This is a United Way agency which provides services for the less-fortunate children in five local counties.

School nurses notify the Board and Dorothy, as treasurer, cuts the checks.

“It started out just dental. Shoes and glasses were added later and I retired as Treasurer in the year 2000.

I also worked for Dr. Werth for a number of years, retiring in 1992,” Dorothy explained.

Clarence had continued his education in accountancy through St. Louis University, the University of Missouri and Lincoln. With his competence and mild manner, he advanced through the ranks. He was an assistant director of Employment Security when he retired in 1992.

In reflecting on their lives, Clarence and Dorothy enjoy the good feeling they find at Immaculate Conception Parish. Both recall that when they joined I.C., in November of 1952, the parish buildings consisted of the church, rectory, the Pleus Building and the Sisters’ House which was located where the present sacristy

of the church is today. Clarence adds, “As you can see from the present buildings, we were involved and helped with many a building program in our years with the parish.”

Clarence continued, “Through the years, we have been fortunate to have such good pastors. Lots of times, the priests would stop by to visit. One became a regular after Saturday evening confessions. Another stopped by every Friday for lunch.” Dorothy laughs, “If I wasn’t there, he’d start the grilled cheese sandwiches without me!”

Their contributions to the parish span years and tap into their many talents. Clarence was on the first parish council, the first chairman of the Tithing Program set up by Msgr. Kaiser, past president of the Holy Name, and past president of the Home and School Organization. He has been involved in Helias fund drives from the very beginning. He remains an active member of the Knights of Columbus. For a number of years, Clarence has made trips to Columbia where he gets groceries and other products for the Samaritan Center. He was very active in the Boy Scouts.

Clarence said, “Our son, Philip, was an Eagle Scout and I’m proud to have received the St. George Medal in Scouting, and the ‘Order of the Arrow.’”

Dorothy is a charter member of the Immaculata Club and a past presi-
continued at bottom of page 10

**THE VEITS’
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Christ Renews His Parish

By Everett
and Marla
Markway

Christ Renews His Parish is a program designed to bring members of the Parish together in Christ. This is your invitation to join in that experience. Please prayerfully consider participating in this Spirit-filled weekend retreat. The women's weekend is Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1, 2007; the men's weekend is Saturday, April 14, and Sunday, April 15, 2007. The weekends are an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and to grow in appreciation of your sisters and brothers at Immaculate Conception Parish.



*Christ
Renews His
Parish*

The retreats will include some group activities and interactions, some prayer together, and some reflection by "team" members. It is an opportunity in a relaxed atmosphere to respond to Christ's call to a closer and deeper relationship with Him.

The spring weekends will be presented by a "team" of participants from the fall 2006 weekends. This continuation is part of the uniqueness of the Christ Renews His Parish program. Participants are usually so renewed and uplifted that they are eager to share their faith and their experience with others in the parish family. They become the new "team" and begin planning the

next women's and men's weekends soon after they complete their own. During the preparation and formation time, even greater spiritual growth occurs.

To request
a brochure
and CRHP
registration

form, please contact one
of the following:

- Sr. Laura Magowan at 635-6143
- Rev. Mr. Larry Hildebrand at 659-5974
- Rayna Rice at 635-6966
- Everett or Marla Markway at 635-8643
- Pam Victor at 636-9679
- Jeff or Karmen Stockman at 893-2378
- Tom Fennessey at 893-5989



**Welcome
to Immaculate
Conception Parish!**

NEWLY-REGISTERED MEMBERS

December 2006

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Ellen) Lambert, 923 Fairmount Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65101

January 2007

- Mrs. Tammy Alfithis, 703 Cardinal St., Jefferson City, MO 65101
- Mrs. Ruth Graves, 206 Fredericks Ln., Jefferson City, MO 65101
- Mr. and Mrs. Peter (Shawn) Ickes, 731 Troy Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109
- Mr. and Mrs. Jason (Jackie) Ralston, 1411 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109
- Ms. Yulma Sunson, 1014 Fairmount, Jefferson City, MO 65101
- Mrs. Sara Wheat, 104 S. Johnson, Jefferson City, MO 65101

BAPTISMS

November 2006

- Faith Lorene Falter, daughter of John and Katherine Falter
- Ethan Lawrence Kampeter, son of Jeremy and Stephanie Kampeter

December 2006

- Claire Marie Cassmeyer, daughter of John and Jennifer Cassmeyer
- Andrew Wayne Gregg, son of David and Patricia Gregg
- Caden Matthew Hoerschgen, son of Glen and Gloria Jean Hoerschgen
- Emily Elizabeth Sanning, daughter of Linda Sanning

January 2007

- Drew Michael Cavender, son of Tim and Tammy Cavender
- Elizabeth Larae Wingrath, daughter of Scott and Becky Wingrath

Central Bank

MEMBER F.D.I.C.



Expect More.

Music News

The music ministry scholarship was begun by Fr. Pat when he arrived at I.C. as a way to encourage youth to give back to the parish through their musical talents. Scholarship funds reimburse parents for lesson fees for the students, and students in turn use their musical talents at our Masses.

The requirements of the scholarship are: to be a current participant in music ministry at IC, to have a financial need in paying for lessons, to be actively involved in parish life, and finally, the applicant must write a letter explaining what they hope to accomplish with their lessons and how they wish to give back to the parish through their musical talents.

This year's recipients of the Music Ministry scholarships are: Fiona Holly, August Holly, Laura Roark and Greta Roark.

- Fiona Holly is the daughter of Tim & Deanna Holly. A junior at Helias, she's currently taking private lessons in piano, voice and flute. Fiona is active in our adult choir, playing flute and singing soprano. She's also active in the Helias Concert Choir. Fiona says, "Music is a great joy to me to me whether I'm listening to it or making it. By making music at Mass I feel I'm using my talents for God."
- August Holly, son of Tim & Deanna Holly, is an 8th grader at IC

school. He studies both piano and saxophone. August says, "Whether I am playing in church or at home, I know it pleases God to hear me play."

- Laura Roark is the daughter of Keith and Janet Roark. Laura is home schooled, in 8th grade, and has been a member of the Children's Choir for four years and is a student cantor. She studies piano, and has played prelude pieces for Christmas Eve. Laura says, "Through the years in Children's Choir and piano, I have gained confidence in myself and have learned that God has given me an opportunity to use my musical talents to serve Him."
- Greta Roark is also the daughter of Keith & Janet Roark and is home schooled in 6th grade.

WINNING MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS IS FUN AND JUST PLAIN NEAT FOR SISTERS GRETA AND LAURA ROARK AND BROTHER/SISTER FIONA AND AUGUST HOLLY. THE KIDS TOOK A BREAK FROM CHOIR PRACTICE TO GET TOGETHER FOR THIS SHOT. ►

A member of the Children's Choir and studying piano, Greta has also been a student cantor and played prelude pieces for Christmas Eve Mass. Greta says, "I was excited to be performing a solo for the Christmas program taped for television. I like singing at Mass. It is my prayer to Jesus. I hope to play piano at Mass one day."

Congratulations to all our recipients, and a reminder that there are funds available for our adult music ministers who may wish to attend a continuing education workshop. Contact Laura Forbis at icmusic@mchsi.com for more information.

By Laura Forbis, Director of Music and Liturgy



photo by: Kathy Gangwisch



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The Daughters of Isabella

This international organization (US and Canada) is open to practicing Catholic women. Our local Glennon Circle #322, with over 140 members, includes the three Jefferson City and neighboring parishes. We were chartered in 1925.

The Daughters of Isabella is dedicated to friendship, charity and unity. Some of the projects of this organization in the past and now are baby showers for Birthright, donations to

WE ARE
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Boys & Girls Club, Carmelite Sisters, Etta & Joseph Miller Arts Center, cash and shower for ladies at Fulton State Hospital, eyeglasses and monetary donations to Merida Foundation in Mexico, RACS (Rape and Abuse Crisis Center), Senior Nutrition Center, Vitae Society, Samaritan Center, Jefferson City Day Care, Hospice Friendship House, and the Vogelweid Center.

The Daughters of Isabella Circle offers an annual scholarship to a deserving Helias High School Sophomore girl and fundraisers include quilt raffles, social luncheons and dinners, bakeless bake sales, etc.

By developing lasting friendships, we keep in touch with members who are ill, homebound or in nursing homes. Monthly Masses are offered and programs for spiritual growth are planned at various times throughout the year. We have special services and spiritual benefits for both

living and deceased members. Glennon Circle has 10 meetings a year. The meetings include a social hour, business concerns and occasional guest speakers.

Members contribute nearly 10,000 volunteer hours annually to church, school, civic, hospital, aging programs and other areas of service.

On Sunday, March 25th, we are

sponsoring a Sausage Breakfast and Raffle at the local Knights of Columbus Hall. Tickets will be available to purchase. Please plan to attend. In April we will celebrate Queen Isabella's Day with a special Mass or program and dinner.

If interested in joining, please contact the Regent, whose name is listed in local parish bulletins.

Boy Scout Troop 6

By Mike Flanagan, Assistant Scoutmaster

Scouts and adult leaders doubled up on their outdoor fun in January.

The troop had a regular campout in the first part of the month and went skiing on a day outing later in the month.

Troop 6 members kicked off 2007 by camping out on a farm near Chamois. It rained some overnight Friday and Saturday, but it was a beautiful day Saturday for the troop's events.

Scouts and adults did some shooting at the farm. The troop set up shooting ranges for .22 rifles and an area to shoot clay pigeons. Some of the scouts

were working on the rifle shooting and shotgun merit badges. Those not working on merit badges tried to gain bragging rights by hitting the most targets.

Some troop members also spent a Saturday skiing at Lost Valley Ski Resort near Eureka. Scouts and adults had another beautiful day to get out and enjoy the sensation of sliding down a snow-covered hill.

The troop held a Court of Honor in January which recognized Scouts who earned rank advancements and earned Merit Badges.

Troop members also put in their service hours by helping clean up after the chili supper, which was at the end of Catholic Schools Week.



▲ SCOUTS ON THEIR CAMP OUT IN CHAMOIS

Birthright

Birthright moved to a new location in July. Our new address is 1006 E. High. This is an apartment owned by Alfred Schmitz. It is much larger; and we are very happy with our new location. Our only concern was that our friends would not find us but this has not been the case. Plans are underway for an open house in the Spring.

Beginning January 1, 2007 a taxpayer making a contribution of \$100 or more to Mid-Missouri Birthright will be allowed to claim a 50% tax credit against their Missouri state tax liability.

This tax credit is a result of a bill passed by the 2006 Missouri Legislature (HB 1485) and will be managed by the Missouri Department of Social Services. Birthright will provide the proper tax forms to contributors who qualify to claim the tax credit.



We are still in need of volunteers. If you have a few hours you could spare and think you might be interested, please call the office: 635-8822 or Barb Schmitz: 395-4000.

St. Ann's Sodality

New officers have been elected for St. Ann's Sodality.

Our New Officers

President: Alice Baumhoer
Vice President: Ellen Whertvine
Secretary: Grace Blank
Treasurer: Delores Baumhoer

We also want to thank the outgoing officers for their years of service to St. Ann's Sodality.

We would like to invite you to our St. Ann's meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. for a luncheon and bingo in Pleus Hall.

We are looking for suggestions on what you would like to do at the meetings to add interest. Please give us your ideas and drop your suggestions in the collection basket. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Submitted by
Ed Stroesser



The Social Concerns Commission is planning a Lenten food drive to provide needed supplies for The Samaritan Center. We will be contacting representatives from each parish organization to involve as many of you as possible in this drive.

We appreciate your participation in this effort.

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Book

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 Homework Hassles
 Snowflake
 Blizzard of the Blue Moon
 The Trouble with Mister
 Get Rich Quick Club
 Shall I Knit you a Hat?
 Rolling in the Aisles
 The Blizzard
 Trading Places
 Our 50 States
 Moose Crossing

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 (Honor) Grandma & Grandpa Linsenbardt
 Ali Boudreau
 Haylee Backues
 Grace Bullock

Thanks, I.C. Parish!

Valda and I served on the January, 2007 TEC held at Immaculate Conception. We just want to tell you how much we appreciate using the facilities here for the weekend.

We had a great weekend with 16 beautiful teenagers who braved the ice and snow. The facilities here are just perfect for the TEC.

Thanks also to the great parishioners who cooked for our meals and all the cookie makers out there that donated several batches of delicious cookies. We know how much those teens love good food!

Submitted by Ed Stroesser

PARISH PEOPLE

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dent. She taught Sunday school, was homeroom mother, a teacher aide, den mother, and Girl Scout leader. They are proud their daughter Kathy became a First Class Girl Scout.

Currently, Dorothy is a member of the parish choir, volunteers for Birthright and the Samaritan Center. In addition, she is very active in St. Mary's Health Center Auxiliary; she and Clarence are both life members of St. Mary's Auxiliary.

Both Clarence and Dorothy have served as liturgical ministers and both have made cursillos. Dorothy was ready to make another retreat when she decided to try the one right here at I.C. She found the Christ Renews His Parish a good experience.

As parents they have been involved, supportive and proud of their son and daughter. Both are graduates of I.C. and Helias. Kathy has an engineering management degree from UMR and Philip, a masters in Finance from UMKC. But if you really want to see some smiles, mention their 6 grandchildren!

Since retirement, the Veits have enjoyed some great trips to Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, Ireland, Mexico and beyond. But Clarence knows he can always find true enjoyment in his own backyard – in his garden. Dorothy says, "He agrees with the saying, 'One is nearer to God while working in the garden.'"

Dorothy and Clarence Veit: two people whose combined talents have enriched our parish and community for decades.



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Nicholas J. Rackers

A LITTLE DOSE OF FAMILY & FAITH

Lent Came Early This Year

By Martha Schieber

When I was asked to write a family-oriented column for News from the Pews last year, it was with the intent of sharing family stories and faith, along with a dash of humor. Considering my family, the humor part is easy. But this article will hold off on the humor and not focus on the Schieber's of David St. Instead, I'd like to share a little about my Dad.

I grew up in the Archdiocese of St. Louis in a small town called Sullivan. Only 90 miles east of Jeff City, it's an easy "over the river and through the woods" to my children's grandparents house. Lately, it's been a little harder trip to make as my Dad dealt with the end stages of pancreatic cancer. For many of you reading this, you know exactly what this means. But for me, it was a new experience everyday.

During the January ice storm, we learned that the disease was back and had spread. That's when Lent began for me. I spent five days inside that hospital with him, as no other family members could get there due to the ice. Sullivan was hit hard and Mom was stuck at home in her own personal darkness, sometimes without electricity.

I had five days with my Dad all to myself. Yes, the Lenten clock had started ticking, because this was going to be the worst "desert experience" of my life. To my surprise, however, I found flowers growing in this place. He opened up and shared with me things about his life that he never talked about before. He was a part

of the Battle of the Bulge in WWII, and he finally spoke about army life and how he witnessed General George Patton directing traffic one day. He said that was quite a site!

I've always hated hospitals, but that experience was a gift. I thought it was horrible that my mother couldn't get to him for five days. As it turns out, she needed that time to grieve and prepare for the next phase. At home, and with the help of angels known as Hospice workers, he was exactly where he wanted be. The prayers that people said definitely worked. I know this because all three of the Hospice

workers had grown up in the "Lead Belt" area, where my parents grew up. These strangers became instant family.

Naturally, nobody wants to leave this earth and the people they love. But to hear your father say, "I'm ready," and mean it because his spiritual house was in order, is something that I hope I can say someday. My Dad's Catholic faith has always been a beacon of light to me. It was at its brightest during his final days. He prayed for us, not himself. He showed us the Lenten experience has a reward. We know he went Home, as that was his last word before his last breath. Home – where his light shines eternally, just as it does in my heart.

THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE WORST "DESERT EXPERIENCE" OF MY LIFE.

A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S GOODNESS

Just Pray. (Duh!)

By Angie Pemberton

I am a three-time childhood cancer survivor. I survived when no one, including the doctors, thought I would. I have experienced God's miracles in a big way. Amazingly, I am still in awe of God's ordinary miracles. I am still surprised when God answers my prayers.

Oh ye of little faith....

And so was my surprise last week when God very clearly answered my prayer. You see, at the end of last school year I decided to leave my twelve-year career in teaching and counseling. It was a difficult decision. I love kids. I love teaching and counseling. I truly believe it is my calling. Still, health issues and a desire to pursue a career in motivational speaking led me to quit my job.

Being a stay-at-home mom and business owner has not been what I expected. There are, of course, pros and cons to every situation, and I found myself fretting on a daily basis over whether or not I made the right decision. My stomach had that nervous feeling, and my head wandered at night instead of allowing me to sleep. What should I do? What should I do?

Pray. "Duh," as the kids would say. Pray. And so I prayed.

Last week, when I stopped by school to give my son a dose of an antibiotic, I innocently stopped at Mrs. Kuster's office to inquire about tutoring students. It was then she told me about the school's need for a social studies teacher.

It was no sooner out of her mouth, and I knew I had my answer.

I am now teaching social studies to seventh and eighth graders. Amazing, really. Since starting, I have had parents, teachers, and staff say "thank you" for stepping in to take this position. Little do they know what it means to me. It is the answer to my prayer.

AMAZINGLY, I AM STILL IN AWE OF GOD'S ORDINARY MIRACLES.

We're Lookin' Good!

By Kathy Gangwisch

The hugely substantial rehab at church didn't start out as that. It began with plans to update the two bathrooms, making them more accessible to parishioners with handicaps. They will be standard to ADA specs (Americans with Disabilities Act).



▲ FACILITIES MANAGER MATT MCGRAIL IN HIS WORKSHOP GRINNING OVER THE REHAB IMPROVEMENTS TO GOOD OLE I.C.

photo by: Kathy Gangwisch

"Then one thing led to another," said Matt McGrail, I.C.'s facilities manager, as he spoke of the big picture.

Good that it did, for the outcome is going to be fabulous as you may have seen from the renderings on display in the back of church.

The rebuilt rectory porch will still allow people to use it and the breezeway into church, albeit with a left turn that'll take you in via the old confessional area. Yes, there will be a new confessional.

Down that left hand turn will be three new meeting rooms, another entry into the church and an exterior door with a ramp for handicap access.

The general contractor is I.C. parishioner Jim Wisch, owner of Wavco Construction. He and Matt (all of us, actually) have received donated materials for the project. Church members with companies that produce items needed in the construction have been generous in their giving, thus reducing overall cost.

The building process is expected to be complete in May. Enjoy our new facilities!



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