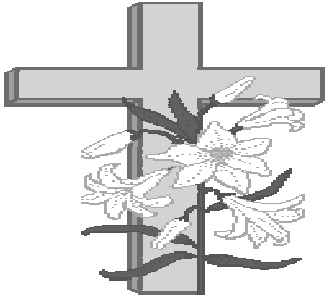


Volume 3, Issue 4

May 2010



MISSION POSSIBLE

St. Agnes Cathedral
533 South Jefferson Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65806
417-831-3565



YEAR OF THE PRIEST

2009-10

Prayer for the Year of Priests

*Our Father of the New Covenant,
written in the Blood of Christ,
we are so supremely grateful for
the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
celebrated under the leadership
of our priests. "Do this in Memory of Me."
With the laying on of hands through the centuries,
you continue to provide celebrants
for the Church's Liturgy of the Eucharist.
How can we thank you?
Make our priests models of faith to inspire
those who are to follow them
in this ministry to do so.
May the priestly, prophetic, and noble church
live up to being the Body of Christ
in our world today.
Lord, again consecrate us as your people.*

Amen.

Father Mike McDevitt

FATHER MIKE REFLECTS



Dear Parishioners:

Summertime and the living is easy! That is my hope for all of you. Everyone needs some private time and relaxation, but many times we don't make these concerns a priority. Then we wonder why we are not happy and why the kids feel that they are missing out on so much. Life may be much easier than we make it.

I want to announce to you that the book, *The Catholic Passion: Rediscovering the Power and Beauty of the Faith* by David Scott (Loyola Press, Chicago, 2005) – Paperback, \$13 through me), is *wonderful*. I am going to have a few discussions about it in late June and early July when everyone has had the opportunity to read this book. Just telephone your order into the parish office (831-3565) and ask for either the paperback (\$13) or a hard-back copy (\$18). Watch the parish bulletin for the discussion sessions.

On May 22, I will have been ordained a Catholic priest for 39 years. In June you will see my article for the *Year of the Priest* in the diocesan newspaper *The Mirror*. As of right now, I must say that ordination seems like a couple of years ago. Then I only have to look in a bathroom mirror and I see my father staring back at me. This apparition is truly appropriate because my mother shared with me after he was gone how much Dad wanted to have one of his sons to become a priest.

Dear parents, don't ever think that you do not have an influence on your children for better or worse. The Church, and the world for that matter, is completely dependent on the health of family life. Talk to your kids about God. They would like to hear about your faith. Make sure that they are getting the message of your life right and that they are not misreading you. Poor communication seems prevalent with all these cell phones, text messages, emails, Twitter, and Facebook. Your children see what you believe everyday by what engages your energies.

On page 146 of our centennial history about St. Agnes Parish, *South of the Tracks*, you can view my father kissing me after my ordination to the diaconate. Our spiritual ancestors live on in us who are left behind. This Thanksgiving is the hundredth anniversary of our church building. With this milestone, 250 more *South of the Tracks* books (originally published in 2008) have been ordered and will be here by the end of the summer. Requests are being filled on a first-come-first-served basis. More details are later in this newsletter. Our parish story as a *communion of saints* lives in many ways because of those who have gone to the Lord in eternity.

One of the themes of Lent of which I spoke this year was *quietude*. Being silent and waiting for the Lord to speak can take place in church, at home when you are alone, or when enjoying some aspect of Mother Nature. It can take place in the morning with a cup of coffee or tea, with a glass of juice, or milk and an Oreo cookie. At work, you probably have to close a door and put out a *Do Not Disturb* sign. With the spouse and the children, give them a hint of what you are up to. Driving in the car alone with the radio off really works when the traffic flow allows it. And nobody is an atheist when looking at stars.

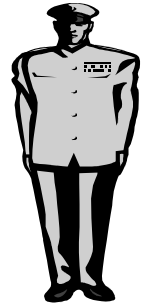
I am praying for all of you, the Catholic Church, and our contemporary world. I hope you can feel it.

Father Mike

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Thank you to all who are serving our country so faithfully!

Please notify the parish if you have anyone in your family who is in the military so that we can keep them in our prayers.

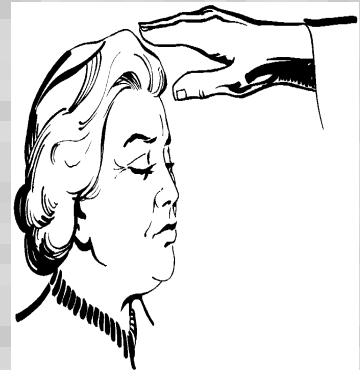


Lt. Christina Bounds	James M. Cox	T. David Dramer
Mike Eagleberg	Sra Jeffrey M. Edwards	Seth Franks
Jeffery Grant	Jeff Holt	Andrew Johnson
Ricky LaCosse	Peter Noot	SPC. Jeff Pastore
Jason Reece	Jonathan Reyes	Michael Rogato
Thomas Rogato	SPC. Erica Schaeffer	PV2. Eric Skahan
Todd Sullivan	Lt. Beth Wensel	Tyler West
Terry Wyatt		

REMEMBERING OUR SICK

Please pray for our sick:

Pat Cutler	Thomas Mason	Chris Oelschlaeger
Pat Patterson	Janie Hall	Richard Malone
Nancy Sullivan	Bobbi Egert	Ernie Ruzicka
Art Ade	Homer Horras	Paul O'Brien
Bernie Duchinski	Frank Corbello	Nanette Anderson
Edie Enos	Bill Hart	Joan Bean
Doris Farabee	Mary & Terry Pearman	Jim Keltner
Bernice Williams	Harriet Pacyniak	John Wilkinson
Vernon Thom	Peggy Gilbert	Bernard Salvaggio
Joe Bellino	Debbie Love Snyder	Howard Pohl



Calendar

Sunday=SU Monday=M Tuesday=TU Wednesday=W Thursday=TH Friday=F Saturday=SA

THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST JUNE 19, 2009 – JUNE 19, 2010

April 25 SU	<i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i> <i>Last Day of PSR</i> Vocations' Project Andrew (SEAS, Spfld.)	6:00 pm
April 27 TU	Organ Concert (Cathedral)	7:00 pm
May 1 – 2 SA-SU	<i>DDF Weekend</i>	
May 1 SA	First Communion Retreat and Rehearsal	9:00 – noon
May 2 SU	Parish Youth Graduation Mass and Cookout First Communion and Reception <i>No Latin Mass</i>	11:30 am 2:00 pm
May 3 M	Ecumenical <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	
May 4 TU	Annual Scouting Awards (Bishop Johnston) – Cathedral Reception (Cafeteria)	7:00 pm
May 5 W	Parish Council	7:00 pm
May 5 – 6 W-TH	Seniors Unlimited trip to Conception Abbey (Sr. Bernadette)	Leaving 8:00 am Holy Trinity
May 7 F	Men's Club Mass and Breakfast School May Crowning Westhues Sunset Stroll (K of C's)	6:30 am 8:30 am Mass
May 8 SA	Latin Wedding Young/Foster (Fr. Jeff Fasching) Reception here	
May 9 SU	Mother's Day	
May 11 TU	K of C Auxiliary Ladies (Dining Room)	7:00 pm
May 12 W	K of C Clergy Appreciation Dinner (Sacred Heart – Bolivar)	
May 13 TH	St. Vincent DePaul Meeting Catholic School Board	6:00 am 7:00 pm
May 14 F	<i>Light of Leadership School Mass</i> Cherub Mass – Chapel (with dessert)	8:30 am 5:30 pm
May 16 SU	K of C Breakfast	8:00 – 11:00 am
May 17 M	Parish Finance Meeting School Awards (Cathedral)	12:00 pm 12:30 and 2:00 pm
May 18 TU	8 th Grade Graduation in Cathedral and Reception (Cafeteria)	6:30 pm
May 20 TH	Last Day of School	
May 21 F	Spfld. Cath. High Graduation (Gillioz Theater) Marriage Encounter Meeting (Dining Room)	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
May 29 – 30 SU	Memorial Day Weekend	
May 31 M	Parish Office Closed Masses (9:00 am at Resurrection Cemetery – Bishop Johnston)	7:30 am Only (No 5:30 pm)
June 2 W	Mass followed by <i>Parish Picnic</i>	5:30pm

Calendar (cont.)

June 4 F	Men's Club Mass and Breakfast	6:30 am
June 6 SU	Youth Mass (Youth Activity to follow)	11:30 am
June 8 TU	Ladies Auxiliary K of C	7:00 pm
June 9 W	Bishop Johnston's 20 th Anniversary of Priesthood	
June 10 TH	St. Vincent DePaul Meeting	6:30 pm
	Catholic School Board	7:00 pm
June 12 SA	Lahr/Niederhelm Wedding (Dcn Mark)	2:00 pm
	Congregation of Mary Queen Sisters' Professions	
June 13 SU	<i>Catholic Communications Campaign</i>	
June 13 SU	Closing Mass for the Year of the Priest (Cathedral) – Bishop Johnston	
June 18 F	Marriage Encounter (Dining Room) 7:00 pm	
June 19 SA	Boston/ Rommel Wedding (Fr. Mike)	2:30 pm
June 21 – 25 M-F	<i>Vacation Bible School (SEAS)</i>	
June 21 M	Parish Finance Meeting	12:00 pm
June 26 SA	Sees/Olson Wedding (Here – Fr. Mike)	2:00 pm
June 26 – 27 SA-SU	<i>Peter's Pence Collection</i>	
CAMP RE-NEW-ALL DATES: July 5-9, 12-16, 19-23, 26-30, and August 2-6.		
July 2 F	Men's Club Mass and Breakfast	6:30 am
July 4 SU	Independence Day (<i>No Youth Mass</i>)	
July 5 M	Parish Office Closed – Holiday	
July 7 W	No Parish Council this month	
July 8 TH	St. Vincent DePaul Meeting	6:30 pm
July 10, 11, 17-18	<i>Weekends for Garage Sale Drop-offs (Gym)</i>	
July 10 SA	Hutchinson/Martin Wedding here ... 2:00 pm	
July 13 TU	K of C Auxiliary Ladies (Dining Room)	7:00 pm
July 16 F	Marriage Encounter Meeting (Dining Room)	7:00 pm
July 16 – 17 F-SA	Steubenville Conference (Springfield)	
July 19 M	No Parish Finance Meeting this month	
July 23 – 24 F-SA	<i>Parish Garage Sale</i>	
July 24 SA	Ayirebe/Baffour Wedding	1:00 pm
July 25 SU	Blood Drive	
July 31 – August 1 SA-SU	Missionary Coop Plan – Fr. Augustine Ibok, Society of Peace	
August 4 W	Parish Council	7:00 pm
August 5 – 8 TH-SU	<i>Marian Days</i> (Carthage)	
August 6 F	Men's Club Mass & Breakfast	6:30 am
	Church Women United (Dining Room)	9:00 – 11:00 am
August 8 SU	Bishop Leibrecht's 80 th Birthday	
August 10 TU	K of C Auxiliary Ladies (Dining Room)	7:00 pm
August 12 TH	St. Vincent DePaul Meeting	6:00pm

Calendar (cont.)

August 16 M	Parish Finance Meeting	12:00 pm
August 20 F	Marriage Encounter Meeting (Dining Room)	7:00 pm
August 28 SA	Annual Scout Retreat (Holy Trinity, Spfld.) <i>Dancing with Our Stars</i> (Sprfld. Catholic Schools)	
September 1 W	Parish Council Meeting	7:00 pm
September 4 SA	Tuan/Diep Wedding (Vietnamese – Fr. Isidore)	2:00 pm
September 6 M	Labor Day Masses	7:30 & 9:00 am Only

SOUTH OF THE TRACKS

Our history book, *South of the Tracks*, will again be printed in 2010. This book was originally published in 2008 to celebrate the centennial of the parish. This book is a history of St. Agnes Cathedral with over three hundred pictures. A full index of names in the parish will help you find families, friends, and former teachers. There is also a complete listing of our pastors and bishops.

This coming Thanksgiving is the centennial of the cathedral building. Another 250 copies of this book will be printed. The cost for it will be \$35 with an additional \$8 shipping cost.

Please call Judy Rippee at the parish office. You can also send her a letter requesting the book. Or you can email her at jmrippee1@juno.com to place a book on reserve for you. Copies will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

Missouri Right to Life, Voice for Life, Lutherans for Life, Anglicans for Life, and 40 Days for Life have joined together to encourage a continual picket in front of Planned Parenthood facilities in Springfield and Joplin.

Rules for walking: Leave access on the sidewalk and entrance of the facility for other people. Do not force a conversation, but respond if engaged by passersby. Walk anytime that is convenient for you. Encourage others to join in this noble effort.

You may carry a sign signifying our cause, but just walking and praying has enormous benefits. Two abortion clinics in Springfield were closed this way.

Call Rosie at 883-0617 or email voiceforlife@gmail.com

Father Rodolphe sends his greetings to the parish. Letters can be sent to him at:

5438 Wellcraft Dr.

Greenacres, FL 33463

Post office service in Haiti is still down. This address is for a family member who will relay the letters to him.

YOUTH NEWS by Iris Bounds



Youth Mass: The St. Agnes Youth Mass is held the first Sunday of every month at 11:30 A.M. Youth in grades six to twelve are encouraged to attend and participate in this Mass. Youth serve as lectors, ushers, servers, gift bearers and Eucharistic ministers. In addition, a youth choir is being formed and youth are needed to sing as well as play instruments. If you are interested in participating in this Mass please contact Lisa Peters at ldp898s@yahoo.com or Iris at 890-7423. The youth Mass on May 2 will be one to honor our graduates from eighth grade and high school.

Youth Cookout: Immediately following our youth Mass on May 2, our first cookout will be held to honor our graduates. Families are invited. We hope to see many of you there. There is no charge, but we do need adults to assist with cooking and donations of salads, chips, pop, or water are graciously accepted. Please contact Iris if you can assist in any way.

Youth Choir: A big thank you to Ken Pesek and the many youth musicians he has been assisting in the last few months that are providing music for our youth Masses. More youth are needed to sing and play instruments. Adults are also invited to assist with the music. Please consider praising our Lord and sharing your talents.

Attention Junior High Youth: Junior high youth from St. Agnes have been meeting regularly the third Sunday of each month from 12:30-2:30. We have had several projects including valentines for our shut ins, stuffing Easter eggs for our annual hunt, bowling, food and much more. All youth in grades 6-8 are invited. We will continue to meet throughout the summer. Check the bulletin, the youth bulletin board, or our Facebook page for more information.

Watch the Lamb: This annual Lenten project was held Friday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. Twenty-two youth participated in this meditation on the song by Ray Boltz. Youth also read special Stations of the Cross prior to *Watch the Lamb*. We would like to thank all the youth who participated, all the adults who assisted, and all of our parishioners who attended. A special thank you goes to Brianna Love for serving as our student director this year.

Easter Egg Hunt: Youth once again sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt held at 10:00 a.m. on Easter morning. The weather cooperated and it was a glorious day with the Easter Bunny and lots of eggs to find. Thanks to all of our youth who helped stuff and hide the eggs. Thanks to so many parishioners for your donations of cash, candy and plastic eggs!

Upcoming Summer Events: Youth will continue to meet during the summer. It's a great time to get to know other youth from our parish! All youth activities are posted on our bulletin board, in the bulletin, and our Facebook page. Email reminders are also sent out on a regular basis. Please contact Iris at boundsi@yahoo.com if you would like to be placed on our email contact list. Some of our summer activities will include: Assisting with Vacation Bible School; planning games for our annual parish picnic; games of soccer, softball after the youth Masses; canoe trip.

Youth shown here: *Olivia Piekarski, Miriam Dashtipour, Nick Love, Eric Smith and Jordon Bueno*

SAINT AGNES SCHOOL By Jeanne Skahan



In the fall semester of 2009, the eighth grade students of St. Agnes School were introduced to the National History Day competition. This contest has a yearly theme that students explore with topics of their choosing. This year's theme is *Innovation in History: Impact and Change*. Students also chose whether to work in groups or as individuals, and the type of project they would create to express their topic within the yearly theme. Students conducted extensive research; developed their theses statements; and wrote process papers. Types of projects produced by St. Agnes eighth graders included exhibits, papers, documentary film, and websites. We showcased their projects during Catholic Schools week with our first History Day Fair. Several volunteer judges were on hand to critique the projects and offer evaluative comments. Several students entered the regional contest hosted by Missouri State University, and competed with many area schools. Five of our students were selected by the judges to represent our region in the state competition. They are: Jessica Gamble and Emma Thomas with their exhibit *Doppler Radar: Saving and Changing Lives*, with a third place award; Allie Banasik, Samantha Mahaffey, and Sarah Buckley with their website *Photography: Retouching Reality*, which was given a first place award. These students will compete on the state level on April 10, 2010, in Columbia, Missouri.

Voice For Life Contest Winners:

Poetry: David Havens (third)

Essays: Lauren Lawson (first), Anne Marie Walsworth (third), Evan GaroutteI (second), Sarah Buckley (second)

Posters: Jonelle Gamble (second), Grace Reith (first)

Coloring Posters: Isabella Gomez, Michael Russo, Cody Swaters, Jeremy Rader, Nicholas Aasby, Sophie Roberts, Emma George, Lynnsey Hughes, Madison Wutke, Trey Garoutte, Maggie Davis, Hailey Collins, Jacob Demarest, Ashley Swaters, Mattie Hall, Stephen Kielhofner, Andrew Olson, Lauren Anderson, Aiden Ogle

Drawing Posters: Ahrianna Eyerman, Anna Rader, Stephen Kielhofner, Valerie Buvat, Emily Kroutil, Dominica Wallace, Jennifer Hernandez, Annah Love, Olivia Wallace, Emma Thomas, Samantha Mahaffey, Chris Stein

Poetry: Michael Sallee, Enya Eyerman, Elizabeth Nguyen, Helen Halter, Patrick Horton, Mariah Berg, Andrea Lampe

Essays: Jessica Dick, Mercedes Spalding, Libby Nelson, Meredith Pickens, Nicholas Nelson, Sophia Denny, Sarah Winton, Zach Merz, Greg Morris, Rachel Prather

PASTORAL CARE By Sr. Barbara



Baby Sitting: Over the past two to three months, the free babysitting offered during the 8:30 Sunday liturgy has not been used by our families. The service is free to parishioners, but the babysitters are paid by the parish. **Following the final Sunday of PSR for the year on April 25, we will not offer babysitting during the 8:30 Mass during the summer months.** We would like to receive feedback from families with children of any age who need this service with regard to their intention of utilizing it. In the mean while, please respond to our parish council or our parish staff (their names are in the parish directory on pages 9 and 10). We need to know if parishioners feel we need to continue the availability of babysitting on Sunday mornings. The response we receive will depend on the service being resumed in September.

Spring Cherub Mass: The Annual Cherub Mass will be held on Friday, May 14, at 5:30 in St. Agnes chapel. We especially invite those who have lost children through miscarriage, SIDS, abortion, accidents, or childhood illnesses. Following Mass, we will have a short memorial ceremony at the Cherub shrine behind the chapel including vigil candles, any plants participants may bring, short prayer, and blessing. This will be followed by dessert, weather permitting, on the lawn nearby. It would be helpful to call the office (831 3565) if you plan to attend so we will know how to plan refreshments and desserts.

GriefShare: St. Agnes Cathedral began GRIEFSHARE VI on Tuesday, February 23 and will conclude until May 18th. The meetings begin at 6:30 pm and conclude at 8:00 pm and are held in the Multi-purpose Room of St. Agnes School. This thirteen week seminar is a nondenominational group that features biblical teaching on grief and recovery topics. It is designed to help people who are experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one through death.

St. Agnes Cathedral sponsors GRIEFSHARE, having leaders who understand what you are experiencing and can offer you comfort and encouragement during this difficult time. The facilitators are Jim Boeving and Sr. Barbara Dingman. Each session includes a DVD featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These DVDs also include the real life stories of people who have experienced similar losses. Participants discuss in a small group what you've learned from the DVD. They received a Reflection Book at the first meeting which offers information to focus on during the week. For more information on GRIEFSHARE, go to their web site: www.griefshare.org You may also call Sr. Barbara at the parish office.



Since we first began GS we've had a GRIEFSHARE Prayer Support Network. These individuals pray for the GRIEFSHARE group each day during the thirteen weeks of the program, and particularly on Tuesday evening. *There are no meetings for this ministry.*

FAITH FORMATION By Sabrina Schmidt



Welcome to Our New Catholics:

Pamela Carbone
Terry Hill
William Osborne
Robin Wittenberg
Mackinnon Love

Mary Childress
Charles Love
Michelle Reese
Renee Howard
Jacob Love

Jessica Haffner
Dianna Love
Lauren Welch
Ronald Magalski

FIRST EUCHARIST (May 2)

Rachel Bodine	Broznan Andrus	Annie Callahan	Colin Carrol
Anna Cataldo	Lily Clift	Maggie Davis	Caroline Demarest
Sydney Everhart	Savannah Gibbs	Nicholas Gomez	George Hall
Emma Harper	Lynnsey Hughes	Gideon Kroutil	Gavin Mahy
Connor Marler	Makayla McVay	Sarah Miller	William Scruggs
Julie Smith	McKenzie Taylor	Micholas Winn	Thomas Wright
Madison Wurke			

Our Parish School of Religion is coming to a close on April 25. Thank you to parents who brought your children to classes and to the children for their energy and trust of the teachers. Many thanks also go out to the following people who worked hard each week to teach our faith:

CLOW

John Rollhaus
Tara Friga

KINDERGARTEN

John Rollhaus
Leslie Hayter

GRADE 3

Sister Rosaline

GRADES 7 & 8

Tim Osredker
Sue Epperson

PRE 3

Kathlene Martin
Ashley Martin

GRADE 1

Kit Creemer
Deanna Bueno

GRADE 4

Sister Marie

HIGHSCHOOL

Larry Cataldo

PRE 4

Louise Hund
Anmarie Kollmeyer

GRADE 2

Helen Rapp
Leanne Anderson

GRADE 5 & 6

Jeanie Wiertzema
Jeff Smith

SPECIAL LEARNERS

Doug Calvetti



A special thank you also goes out to Jan McEvoy, who is the coordinator for the PSR program and a wonderful support to my own ministry!

PCCW By Donna Pinney

First, we want to thank all of you that helped with the parish and diocesan events this spring. We thank God for volunteers. Parishioners and priests from other parishes, as well as visitors from other faith communities, attended the events, including the Chrism Mass dinner and reception, Rite of Election, Easter Vigil reception for our new Catholics, the Confirmation and First Eucharist receptions. Several PCCW's in the area contributed funds to present a white rose to each priest and bishop in attendance at the Chrism Mass this year to honor them during this *Year for Priests*.

About 80 women from St. Agnes and surrounding parishes attended the Women's Lenten Retreat in March. We were blessed to have Sr. Bernadette Goessling guide us on our journey with the gospel story of The Road to Emmaus.

Mark your calendars: Save the date/ Save your stuff: The annual parish garage sale is set. Pre-sale is on July 22 for St Agnes parish with sale open to the public on July 23 and 24. This fundraiser would not happen without volunteers. New and seasoned helpers are very welcome. All help is *greatly appreciated* including from students looking for service hours. Be sure to watch the bulletin for drop-off dates in July (we do not have storage space available to drop off anything earlier than that). For more info, call Nancy Rebori at 887-9154.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS By Andrew Love

Our Knights have been very busy over the past few months and have some big plans coming up in the near future. We are currently getting ready for elections of our officers for next year. Current Grand Knight Andy Love will not be running again due to an upcoming military move. Elections are in May. Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month in the St. Agnes band room in the school. Any Catholic males ages 18 and up are eligible to join. We do a lot of great things for the parish and would to have you included. You can contact us at st.agnes.knights@hotmail.com .



Our annual Monsignor Westhues Sunset Stroll is May 7 at the St. Agnes parking lot. This is a fundraiser for our Springfield Catholic schools. We will have food, games, and luminaries. Come out and support the school of your choice. On May 16, the Knights of Columbus are challenging the men of St. Agnes to a softball game at the playground field at St. Agnes. Get your bats and gloves and come out to play. Our Sunday breakfasts are on the third Sunday of the month. They are donation-only. We will have our last one in May, then start the BBQ again.

We hope that everyone is having a great spring and will have a wonderful summer. God Bless.

SING TO THE LORD! By Ken Pesek

The Liturgies of Holy Week were indescribably beautiful in every way this year. The music of all the liturgies, the preparation of the readers, the flowers in the church, everything sang of the resurrection. Here are some of the scenes from Holy Week 2010:



WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP By Ben Francka

Ben is the Stewardship Committee Coordinator for Saint Agnes.

(from a stewardship drive at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Ocala, Florida)

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is first and foremost, a way of life, the wise use of all that we are and have, knowing that who we are and what we are becoming comes from God. He is the Creator of our world. He has called us to be co-creators in the use of the gifts he has given to us and to be responsible in the way we use those gifts. God empowers us through our baptism to reach beyond self and serve the needs of one another and to build his kingdom among us, God's family, the Church.

God will ask us one day to give an account of the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure that he has entrusted to us. Stewardship, then, begins with the personal need of each one of us to return to God a truly grateful portion of our time, talent, and treasure in thanksgiving for all the blessings he gives to us.

What is Stewardship of Time?

Time is all we really have: it is the raw material of life. A responsible steward of time understands the joy and satisfaction derived from taking some time for God's people through Church. Sharing time means being with God in prayer and worship, sharing our love with family and friends, and volunteering our time in church and community activities that help others and promote justice.

What is Stewardship of Talent?

Each of us has been gifted by God in different ways. Sharing our talents arises from the fact that God has given each of us that ability to do certain things well, and we have a responsibility to develop these talents to serve and give life to others.

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied Grace. 1 Peter 4:10

What is Stewardship of Treasure?

Our power to earn is also a God-given gift, and the stewardship of treasure is our sharing of this ability. Our earnings represent the work of our minds and bodies, both of which are precious gifts of God. Supporting the Church is an obligation of all members, and stewardship is the manner of fulfilling this responsibility. Stewardship of treasure asks us to plan our giving. More than that, it invites us to set aside the "first portion" of what we earn as our grateful offering to God through His Church.

Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share. 1 Timothy 6:18

Do not store up yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroys, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroy, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Matthew 6:19-21



WHY CATHOLIC? By Ginny Smithberg

Year four of *Why Catholic?* will begin this coming October at St. Agnes. Small groups have been meeting for the past three years in the school, in the Palotti Center, and in homes. We hope that many of you will join us during this final year; *it's never too late to join.*

When I first heard the name of the program (*Why Catholic?*), I thought that was a pretty goofy name. After all, most of us *know* why we're Catholic and feel extremely blessed to be members of the church that was founded by God's only Son. What I quickly discovered, however, was that the focus of the program is on our Catholic *Catechism*, which is an incredible resource for all of us. It's basically a reference book, not one that you might be tempted to sit down to page one and finish some 700 pages later. RENEW International, developer of the program, wisely divided the study into eight sessions and suggested a small group, faith-sharing format.

Year One focused on *The Profession of Faith: What We Believe.*

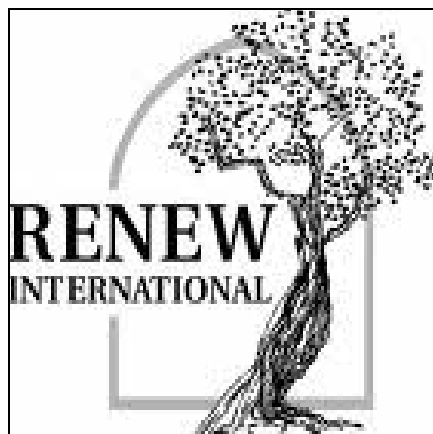
Year Two dealt with *The Celebration of the Christian Mystery: Sacraments.*

Year Three focused on *Life in Christ: Walking with God*, and

Year Four deals with *Christian Prayer: Deepening My Experience of God.*

These last two sessions will help us understand how God communicates with us, different types of prayer, and some difficulties we may experience in prayer. Regardless of whether our formal religious education was many years ago (remember the *Baltimore Catechism?*) or very recent, as with our wonderful new converts, we all need to continue to strengthen our relationship with God and enrich our faith so that we are able to share it with others. Such a blessed gift we all have! Some gifts are just so special that we cannot contain them within our hearts; *they simply must be shared.*

The learning and the sharing were special to all of us, but perhaps the greatest gift has been the bonding we have experienced with each other and with our God. We are, after all, the family of God and the family of St. Agnes Cathedral Parish. Come join us in October. *We have room for each of you!*



OUR LIFE IN PICTURES



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Springfield, MO 65806-3198
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Permit No. 1604**

*Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia,
for he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
has risen, as he foretold, alleluia;
Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

For the Lord has indeed risen, alleluia.

God our Father, you give joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

