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Alleluia! Happy Easter!



Baptism-being called out

by Father Wayne Schmid

During the Easter Season we make and/or renew baptismal promises. Since the first Christian community was composed of Jews it is important to understand that they would have seen themselves as a *qahal* (meaning "called-out") community of Jesus' followers, yet very faithful to their Jewish religion. Our traditions flow from these beginnings of the Christian faith. Hopefully we will renew our baptismal promises with a deep appreciation of what it means to commit to being disciples **called by Christ** to be His presence in our world. With this in mind I would like to share a brief reflection on our response as Christ's *qahal*—people summoned by God for his service.

A vow, oath or covenant is unconditional, and we usually have little idea of what it will entail. We enter into relationship because of the love we wish to express. For example, when a person vows to love, honor and cherish another until death, he or she isn't often thinking about who will stay up with the baby when it's colicky or who will talk to the adolescent about chastity or where the mother-in-law will live when the time comes that she needs long-term care.

A vow is given without condition or expectation. In a contract by contrast, terms are explicitly defined and one party generally gives something in exchange for something received from another. This distinction is important.

Christ loves unconditionally and completely, even when his love is betrayed. God cannot *not* love you and me. He first chose us, first loved us, without considering the cost. This is a covenant love. In baptism when we say "I do," we take an oath to love as Christ loves, to take his light to the world. We vow to be the Body of Christ. We make an unconditional commitment of availability to God and neighbor—to the world!

Baptism calls us to responsibility for the life and mission of the Church. We all share in this ownership. Participation is not a matter of personal choice or convenience. We are all **called out** to praise God through worship, to evangelize, to hand on the faith, to reach out to those in need, and to make the work of the Church possible financially. These responsibilities belong to all who call themselves followers of Jesus.

Our baptismal responses of "I do" set us apart and call us to a life based on gospel values rather than the values of the world. As you renew your baptismal promises this Easter season, take some time to reflect on how your life manifests what you say you believe—**FAITH IN ACTION**.



Hearts set on fire: Janet Clark, Terisa Kramer, Kim Smith, John Stuhlsatz, Amy Reed, Ed Smith, Nicole Wilbert, Michelle Sommerhauser, J.T. Ronnfeldt, Morgan Anderson, Rachel Kleman, Cassie Sattler, Deanne Besen, Savanna McHenry, Kyle Walsten, Christy Burkemper, Jamie Smith, Aaron Williams, Adam Clark, Harlee Alexander, Aaron Rogers, Karen Jackson, David Burkemper, Brice Walsten, Kellie Smith, Brian Gessler and Amber Williams participated in the Diocesan Catholic Youth Convention recently. See Amber's story on pg 4 and more on faith formation on pgs 3-5.

SPIRITUAL LIFE



RCIA participant Mark McMillin signed his name in the Book of the Elect during the Rite of Sending in February.

Made new in faith

by Sister Marie Zoglman ASC

Congratulations and welcome to our newly baptized parishioners! At the Easter Vigil this weekend, those who desired to become Catholic are received through Baptism and Profession of Faith as full-fledged members of the Catholic Church. They have been faithfully participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation sessions since last August. We joyfully welcome them at the table of the Lord. These new members include Jordan Ediger, Sonja Fiechtl, Kris Gibfried, Miranda Gibfried, Timothy Gibfried, Rocky Glenn, Monte Helms, Paige Leger, June McMillin, Mark McMillin, Jennifer Moore, Thuy Nguyen, Sean Reed, Terry Staats, Heather VanNatta and Jeremy Wright. Justin Bell has been attending sessions also to prepare for Confirmation. Welcome! We are glad to continue walking with you on this journey of faith! You renew us as Church!



John Ketzner has his forehead anointed with holy oil during the Parish Anointing of the Sick last week. Carol Wojcik waits with her hands outstretched to be anointed, too.

OUTREACH



Ted and Mona with some Zambian children

Called to serve in Zambia

by Sherri McElroy

After spending 18 months in Zambia as missionaries with Catholic Relief Services, (CRS), Mona and Ted Lewis returned to the United States in early March. They spoke to members of Altar Society about their experiences at the March 22 meeting.

Many may be aware of Operation Rice Bowl—CRS' Lenten program that calls on people to pray, fast, learn and give in solidarity with the poor around the world. However, even as the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, most Catholics do not have a clear idea of CRS and its works. Mona and Ted will spend the next six months furthering the mission of CRS by educating those in the Wichita diocese about the services provided by CRS.

Zambia is one of the poorest countries in the world and has many orphaned children due to AIDS. This is evidenced by the fact that someone born there today has a life expectancy of 40 years. Mona and Ted worked in the Diocese of Solwezi and spent time working with orphaned and vulnerable children (those who have lost at least one parent or who are without the proper standard of living), and caregivers of home-based care (individuals who go to homes of those with AIDS to make sure they follow the medication regimen). Mona also spent time tutoring 12 children, and Ted worked to establish a radio station.

Despite all the hardships and struggles of life, the people in Solwezi are happy and usually have smiles on their faces. Life there is simple and without many of the comforts that we take for granted. But it is also lived without the distractions and materialism of life here in the United States.

Mona and Ted are thankful that they were able to serve, but they are happy to be back in Kansas with family and friends. Mona is the daughter of Kathy Klassen, a St Mary parishioner, and Ted is the son of Rosemary Lewis, a St Francis of Assisi parishioner.

Pray Well Everyone
Pray For You
Pray For Me
Pray Together We All Will Be

-Ted and Mona

FAITH FORMATION

Gathering to *learn*

by Ann Hughes, Director of Faith Formation

Our latest Generations of Faith gathering focused on Anointing of the Sick, a sacrament that has changed significantly over the years. For those of us old enough to remember Extreme Unction (or Last Rites), this was a sacrament that was only received when one was very near death. But since the Second Vatican Council, Anointing of the Sick is no longer restricted to people in imminent danger of death. It is intended to bring hope, comfort and peace to anyone suffering from various health issues.

The Gathering began with a time of Prayer that included dramatizations by teens of the stories of Jesus' healing of Bartimaeus, the crippled woman and the leper.

Participants then heard the Montgomery Family (Alex, Audrey, and Richard) and the Gentry Family (Edna and Guy) share their experience of feeling that the fear and worry caused by serious illness or pending surgery eased when they were anointed. In very moving fashion, they spoke of how the touch of God was evident as Alex and Edna received this sacrament. They also shared how important the St Mary community had been during those weeks as many people prayed for them, provided food, offered words of encouragement, and were there to take care of many, many needs.

Following the personal sharing, adults and adolescents went to the Knights of Columbus Hall to learn more about Anointing of the Sick, while children went to the classrooms to learn how they could be like Jesus and help people who were in need of healing.

To conclude the GOF gathering, all participants returned to the sanctuary for celebration of Anointing of the Sick. About 20 people were anointed at each gathering. As they returned to their seats, they were given a flower made by the children, another symbol of the community's loving care for those who are ill.



Steven Schaaf, Monica Blake and Ricardo Claudio lit candles during prayer after presenting stories of Jesus' healing miracles at the Wednesday Generations of Faith gathering.



Parish youth made sunflowers for those who were anointed. Above are Tyler Wheeler, Julia Polidoro, Samantha Engels, Maddie Farber and Kadi Stithem.

Generations of Faith

by Ellen Herdler

My family and I attended Generations of Faith in March. I appreciate this Catholic program because our whole family benefits from the experience. As the mother of two middle school teenagers, it is sometimes hard to keep my daughters enthusiastic about their faith. It is wonderful to be able to interact and share experiences with other people of our faith community. This last gathering was of exceptional impact to our family due to the testimonials given by parishioners who had recently received the Anointing of the Sick.

We came to realize that this anointing is not just given to those who are departing us, but also as a spiritual and healing aid to those who are ill and elderly. We were moved to tears by the candidness of young Alex Montgomery and his family as they shared their experience with the burden of cancer. Edna and Guy Gentry eloquently expressed their pain and struggles with scoliosis. Each ailing person also told us how the anointing gave them an inner strength they knew they did not have on their own. By the grace of God, my daughters recognized the severity of these two conditions. Since our education, we have requested that a close family member seek anointing from a priest. I cannot express how grateful I am for the gift of this knowledge.



Janet Clark and Kapaun senior David Burkemper lead a Confirmation session. Confirmation is April 11.

Hearts on fire

by Amber Williams

If you breathe upon a spark,
it quickens into a flame.

—Sirach 28:12

In a world where teenagers face negative stereotypes, what a wonderful idea to think that just a small spark can start a fire if we allow the Holy Spirit to come into our lives! The theme of this year's Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) was powerful. The 19 parish teens and 8 parish adults at DCYC were all quickened in our faith by Apex Ministries and their message. Their exciting combination of skits, juggling and keynote speeches emphasized the importance of showing Christ's love to everyone we encounter.

After regional gatherings, our parish led a breakout session on the importance of icebreakers for any successful youth gathering. It was a big hit, and other parishes learned from our experiences and advice.

Later in the evening everyone enjoyed a nice dinner with friends new and old, and then it was off to the dance. Sunday we participated in Mass with Bishop Jackels. Michelle Sommerhauser and Jamie Smith were nominated and recognized at the *regional* level for Outstanding Catholic Youth and Light of Christ, respectively. J.T.

Ronnfeldt was recognized at the *diocesan* level as Outstanding Catholic Youth for Region V, David Burkemper was recognized for his four years of involvement for Region V, and St Mary received the Parish Recognition Award for our active LIFE TEEN process and furthering Catholic youth education.

The conference stirred all of us in our faith and was a fun opportunity to gather with other teens of the diocese. Now all who participated can enter into the weeks ahead with our hearts on fire for God.

Shine Jesus Shine

lyrics by Graham Kendrick

Shine Jesus Shine
Fill this land
with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit Baze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow River Flow
Flood the nation
with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord and let there be light



Warm hearts and winning smiles—no wonder J.T. Ronnfeldt and David Burkemper received awards at DCYC!



*Was adult leader Karen Jackson trying to show the teens how to **be a flame?***

Eucharist-Real Presence



Diane Brillouet, who joined the Church at Easter Vigil 2006, drinks from the cup. **Generations of Faith gatherings on April 22 and 25 will focus on Eucharist.** Please come!



New LIFE TEEN core team members Kraig Ford, Amber Williams and Joe Rogers are paying it forward. They were graced with support from our parish family when they were youths here, and now they're passing on the gift of faith to current high school teens. All three young adults were involved in CYO or LIFE TEEN when they were in high school, and Kraig and Amber are St Mary Parish School alumni. Welcome aboard!

Success

by Maria Galley

Are test scores the only measure of a school's success? Once again, our parish school has achieved excellence in test scores as measured by the state of Kansas. This means that based on standards set forth by the state for all state accredited public, private and parochial schools, St Mary Parish School (SMPS) is recognized as one of academic excellence.

As a school, SMPS earned the Standard of Excellence Award from the state, one of only three schools in Derby to do so. Our middle school was awarded the Standard of Excellence on three of four tests taken. On the reading assessment, 100% of our 7th and 8th graders performed at or above the state average. Our 4th graders were even more impressive with 100% scoring at or above the state average in BOTH math and reading. All grades tested performed extremely well in both reading and math.

The school as a whole earned seven Standard of Excellence awards—an outstanding achievement. On all but one of the tests taken, our students exceeded the state standard. This is an accomplishment of which we should all be proud—our parish school relies on the stewardship of our entire parish for its success. We can certainly say with confidence that SMPS is a school of academic excellence. Kansas state assessments have shown, year after year, that we are meeting (and exceeding!) the goal of educating our children. But are test scores the only measure of a successful school?

The SMPS mission statement reveals another, equally important, goal of our parish school—to educate students while nurturing their Christ-like formation. Our students are immersed in their faith. They begin and end each day with prayer. Middle school students begin each new class with prayer. Students attend Mass at least twice a week and



St Mary 8th grade students Jenny Gerlach and Craig Compton won the recent Optimist Club Oratorical Contest.

participate in a prayer service once weekly. Students are more than attendees—they practice their faith hands-on. Students are lectors, altar servers and cantors. Regular participation in liturgical ministry and other Stewardship allows them to learn about and actively participate in our faith in a way they could never achieve by simply reading a book or attending Mass on Sunday with their families. Daily Stewardship opportunities include middle school students helping preschoolers write letters to Santa or being reading buddies to first graders, to students of all ages emptying trash cans and cleaning tables after lunch. Children learn that our role in the Church is one of service to others.

SMPS IS a school of excellence—but not just because the State of Kansas says so. It is a school of excellence because our students thrive in what is truly the best of both worlds—academic excellence combined with daily faith formation.



St Mary students served brunch and gave sunflowers to guests following Anointing of the Sick last week. Pictured here is Elaine Landes and Chauncy Jackson.

Following Jesus



PSR students Kayla Redeker, Alex Penka and Dustin McNickle carried the cross and candles as PSR 6th grade led Stations of the Cross for students and parishioners.



Cantor Colleen Zirkle, a 7th grader (inset), and Sydney Schaaf, a DHS senior, provided beautiful musical accompaniment for the PSR Stations last week.



PSR students returned to class following Stations and discussed Jesus' Way. These kindergarteners with catechist Traci Schremmer were filled with wonder and joy when talking about heaven.

SAINT MARY PARISH



Memorials and Honorariums



Thank you for your gifts.

Memorials (in tribute of someone who has died, marked with a ✠) and honorariums (financial gifts made to honor someone living) are beautiful and enduring gestures of love and faith that recognize a special person and also provide for the Church's future. New gifts this year are in bold font.

Michael Adams ✠	Blanche Erbert	Dr. Amber & Don Lambert	Roman Rau ✠
Altar Society	Julia Erway	Jack Landes ✠	Greg & Sandy Rau
Mary Arnold ✠	Gerald Fager ✠	Lola Landis ✠	Sadie Favreau
Arturo P Atencio ✠	Joseph Fanello ✠	Vernon Lang ✠	Joaquina Flores Rosa ✠
Laurence Bachman ✠	Joe Fanello ✠	Father John Lanzrath	Jose' Sanchez ✠
Baker ✠	Mary Fanello	Donald Lehr ✠	Richard Schaffer ✠
Everett Balster ✠	Louis Fannello ✠	Kevin & Rachel Lewis	Father Wayne Schmid
Basil Delgado ✠	Marcia Fanning	LIFE TEEN Core Team	Mildred Schmid ✠
Rosie Benner	George Favreau ✠	Edward Lind (of Iola) ✠	Sister Louise Schmid ✠
Mary Bernard ✠	Bobbie Feikert ✠	Regina Lindner ✠	Bill Schrader ✠
Normand A Bissonnette ✠	Kathryn Fontaine	Eugene Lindner ✠	September 11 Terrorist
Betty and Jake Boardman Family	Agnes Gengler ✠	Marguerite Linot ✠	Victims ✠
Elizabeth J Boardman ✠	Edna Gentry	Alonzo Lollar ✠	Bernice Sheahan ✠
Eddie and Verna Bouchey ✠	N.J. Gessler Jr. ✠	Joseph Longar ✠	Clayton Shippers ✠
Irma Jean Brown ✠	Elizabeth Gibbs ✠	John Lux ✠	Teresa Simbeck ✠
Donald J. Bruggeman ✠	Gilbert ✠	Pat Maimer ✠	Mary Sink ✠
Carlos Buell ✠	Gabriele A. Gordan ✠	Joseph Mamary ✠	Taylor Smith
Zita M. Carlson ✠	Walter Haney ✠	Cleo Marlow ✠	Harold Sorenson ✠
Ronnie and Mary Carver	Anna Haney ✠	Jamie Maugans ✠	Ronald & Mary Spence ✠
Albert A. Cocchetella ✠	Thelma Hoffman ✠	Roseanna Maxwell ✠	St Mary Faithful Stewards
Christian Compton	William Houchin ✠	Orsman McCammon ✠	St Mary Parish Staff
Richard & Karol Cornejo Family	Lucille Houchin ✠	Daniel McCoy ✠	St Mary Middle School
Benita Cox	Hudson ✠	Annie McHenry	Teachers
Kevin Dana ✠	Mae Hundley ✠	Katie McHenry	Margaret Stanberry ✠
Lana Dawdy	Dortha Johnson	Ben & Mary Mendoza	Nora Stewart ✠
Floyd Dawson ✠	Jessica Johnson	Richard Montgomery	Brett and Katie Stout
Marian Deiter ✠	Julianna Johnson	Manual Rosa Moreria ✠	Bryan Swank
Ken Delgado ✠	Eulalia Joines ✠	Jack Morgan ✠	Gai Thi Tan ✠
Albert Dextras ✠	Charley Jones ✠	Liddie Mossey	Nadine Tiemeyer ✠
Virleen & Al Dickman ✠	James Jordan ✠	Patricia Murrow ✠	Mary Titus ✠
Janice Dixon	Jerrie Joseph ✠	Mamie Neeland ✠	K Vaughn
Harry Dobson ✠	Kandlbinder ✠	Jennie Nolan ✠	Frances Vicik ✠
Lawrence Doughty ✠	John Keller ✠	Gertrude Olliges ✠	William Vicik ✠
Caroline Douvia ✠	Carol Keller	Nikki Parks	Villar ✠
Diane Doyon ✠	John Kelly ✠	Loretta Pater ✠	Kathleen Wade ✠
Bud Dreitzler ✠	JoAnn Kennedy	Rachel Patterson	Ray Warren ✠
Keith & Marcia DuLac	Charles Kenyon ✠	Gerald Pierce	Virginia Warren
Raymond Dupree ✠	Lucille Kerby ✠	Mary Potter ✠	Ellen Wilbert
Shelby & Bayley Eastman	Leonard Killion ✠	Walter Powers ✠	Clara Witters ✠
Bayley Eastman (Baptism)	Arlee Killion ✠	J. Provenzano ✠	Ralph Wolke ✠
Andrea Eastman (Joined the Church)	Leona Kling ✠	David Rabe ✠	Harlan Wright, Sr. ✠
Gwendolyn Marie Eastman	Knights of Columbus ✠	Laverne Rabe ✠	Steven Zirkle ✠
Francis Edmond ✠	Leo Konecny ✠	Nancy Rader	Sister Marie Zoglman
Ann Egan	Lawrence Korphage ✠	Gerald Rafferty ✠	Roman Zoglman ✠
Leo Engels ✠	Mary Kuntz ✠		

To contribute to an existing memorial/honorarium or make a gift to St Mary Parish in memory of someone deceased or in tribute of someone living, please call Andrea Eastman at 788-5525 or pick up an envelope from the basket in the gathering space.

◇ St. Mary Parish Events ◇

Can I have 2?



Carmen Weigandt serves Father Wayne a steaming hot bowl of delicious soup at a Lenten Soup Supper. Altar Society hosted Soup Suppers after the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. Participation in the Stations and the Suppers this year was excellent.

Since we've moved to the Faith Center, participation in many events has increased. The convenience of being able to walk from the worship space to the Knights Hall for fellowship and food after the Stations or after Mass without going outside and braving the elements has certainly been a factor! It's great to see folks gathering and making friends and enjoying their parish!

If **you** would like to meet some folks in the parish, stop by the Knights Hall between 10-11 am on Sundays. Parish Breakfast is the second Sunday of each month and Coffee & Donuts is the other Sundays. Or give Jessica Rose a call at 788-2994. She chairs the Welcome Committee and would love to meet you and introduce you to others. Welcome Committee hosts dinners to welcome new folks and introduce them to parish office staff and some others in the parish. Give her a call! Or give Vicky Tully a call at 788-5525. She registers new people in the parish. Welcome! We want to meet you!

April - May 2007 calendar

Sun, Apr 8	EASTER SUNDAY Eucharist, 9 & 11 am NO Parish Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt, 12:30 pm, Faith Center grounds NO 6 pm Eucharist
Mon, Apr 9	NO SMPS Parish Offices closed NO LIFE TEEN core team or junior core team meeting
Tue, Apr 10	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 School Council, 7 pm, School Library
Wed, Apr 11	PSR sessions, 6 pm, school
Thu, Apr 12	Gospel of Mark Scripture Study, 1 pm, old parish offices/former rectory Altar Society, 7 pm, Knights Hall Gospel of Mark Scripture Study, 7 pm, FC Rm-114
Fri, Apr 13	Scrapbooking, 6 pm, Faith Center, Rm 114
Sat, Apr 14	Diocesan Middle School Youth Rally, 8 am, Faith Center Rm 114
Sun, Apr 15	RCIA, 10 am, Rm 112 RCIA Babysitting, 10-11:30 am, Rm 114 Coffee and Donuts, 10-11 am, Knights Hall EDGE Sessions, 12:15-2 pm, FC Rm 114 Stewardship Renewal Luncheon & Celebration, 12:30-1:30 pm, school gym Life Night following 6 pm Mass
Mon, Apr 16	Gospel of Mark scripture study, 9:30 am, former rectory LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 Gospel of Mark scripture study, 7 pm, FC Rm 112
Tue, Apr 17	Welcome Dinner, 6 pm, Knights Hall Pastoral Council, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Wed, Apr 18	Parent, Student Confirmation meeting, 7 pm, school gym Finance Council, 7 pm, Faith Center conference rm, 106
Thu, Apr 19	La Leche League, 9 am, Faith Center Rm 114 Gospel of Mark Scripture Study, 1 pm, old parish offices/former rectory Harvest House, 6:30 pm, Knights Hall Gospel of Mark Scripture Study, 7 pm, FC Rm-114
Fri, Apr 20	Kindergarten screening, 8 am, childcare room
Sat, Apr 21	Prairie Land Food Distribution, 6 am, School gym
Sun, Apr 22	RCIA, 10 am, Rm 112 RCIA Babysitting, 10 - 11:30 am, Rm 114 Generations of Faith, 12:15 pm, Faith Center NO Coffee and Donuts NO Life Night
Mon, Apr 23	Gospel of Mark scripture study, 9:30 am, old parish offices/former rectory LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 Gospel of Mark scripture study, 7 pm, FC Rm 112
Tue, Apr 24	Sacred Heart Guild, 8:45 am, former rectory/parish off Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 7 Wonders Fair II, 7 pm, school gym
Wed, Apr 25	Generations of Faith, 6 pm, Faith Center
Thu, Apr 26	Middle School Musical, 7 pm, school gym
Fri, Apr 27	Kindergarten screening, 8 am, childcare room DARE graduation, 9 am, school gym
Sun, Apr 29	Lifesaver Sunday RCIA, 10 am, Rm 112 RCIA Babysitting, 10-11:30 am, Rm 114 Coffee and Donuts, 10-11 am, Knights Hall EDGE Sessions, 12:15-2 pm, FC Rm 114 Life Night following 6 pm Mass
Mon, Apr 30	LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114

(cont on other side)

March-April 2007 calendar (cont.)

Tue, May 1	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 SMPS Faculty vs. 8 th grade Volleyball game, 7 pm, school gym
Wed, May 2	PSR sessions, 6 pm, school Parent, Student Confirmation meeting, 7 pm, school gym
Th, May 3	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, noon-7 am Fri, FC Rm 112
Fri, May 4	First Friday Coffee & Donuts, immediately following 8 am Eucharist, former rectory/parish offices
Sat, May 5	God's Food Pantry weekend First Holy Communion
Sun, May 6	First Holy Communion Coffee & Donuts, 10 am, Knights Hall EDGE Sessions, 12:15-2 pm, FC Rm 114 Senior Recognition, 3 pm, Knights Hall Life Night following 6 pm Mass
Mon, May 7	LifeTeen Core team, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Tue, May 8	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 School Council, 7 pm, SMPS library 7 Wonders Fair III, 7 pm, school gym
Wed, May 9	PSR final session, Mass & picnic, 6 pm, school
Thu, May 10	Confirmation, 7 pm, Faith Center Home and School, 7 pm, Annex
Fri, May 11	Scrapbooking, 6-11 pm, FC Rm 114
Sun, May 13	Parish Breakfast, 10 am, Knights Hall LIFE Night, after 6 pm Mass, FC Rm 114
Mon, May 14	LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114
Tue, May 15	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 Pastoral Council, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Wed, May 16	Catechists Appreciation Dinner, 6:30 pm, Knights Hall Finance council, 7 pm, FC Conf Rm 106
Thu, May 17	La Leche League, 9 am, Faith Center Rm 114 Harvest House, 6:30 pm, Knights Hall
Sat, May 19	Prairie Land Food pick-up, 6:30 - 7:30 am, school gym
Sun, May 20	Coffee & Donuts, 10 am, Knights Hall Life Night following 6 pm Mass
Mon, May 21	LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114
Tue, May 22	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Wed, May 23	SMPS Fun Day
Thu, May 24	8 th grade Graduation and reception, 6 pm, school gym Altar Society, 7 pm, Knights Hall
Sun, May 27	Coffee & Donuts, 10 am, Knights Hall Blessing of the High School graduates, 6 pm, Faith Center
Tue, May 28	Sacred Heart Guild, 8:45 am, former rectory/parish off Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Thu, May 31	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, noon- 7 am Friday, FC Rm 112

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION, LAYOUT & DESIGN
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vbdragon@cox.net

Thanks to Kapaun junior Sarah Daley (layout) and to Deanna Salas (photography) for sharing their gifts in this Messenger!

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All decisions regarding editing are at the sole discretion of the staff.

Submit articles, photos, family news and information to St Mary Church, PO Box 325, Derby, KS 67037 or email to Davi (above). To share your gifts regularly as a digital photographer, writer or editor, or if you have suggestions or comments, call Davi.

Thanks to The Derby Informer for allowing us to reprint portions of DeAnn Barr's story about Jenny Foster-Farquhar.



Autumn Sekerak and Abby Ronnfeldt were among the many happy (and well-fed) customers at the Parish Fish Fry!

New Knights of Columbus & other news



Paul Durrenberger, Kent Niebuhr, Kraig Ford, J.T. Ronnfeldt, Chris Ronnfeldt and Tre Baham joined the Knights of Columbus in February. The Knights have been busy. In addition to welcoming these new members, they invited the LIFE TEEN core members to be their guests at a well-attended Parish Fish Fry and hosted a steak dinner for 60 parish office and school staff and guests, as a way of thanking both these groups for all they do for the parish. They also hosted the monthly Parish Breakfast, and will host the Easter Egg Hunt this weekend. What good eggs!

Vision 2007

by Father Wayne

In the November 2000 *Messenger*, I outlined parish goals for the next four years. Some of these goals, ratified by the Pastoral Council, have been met or are in process. Since 2000, our Council has approved a Vision, an updated Mission Statement and Parish Core Values. Following is a summary of the above, and a couple of goals that I hope will become parish goals if the Council approves.

1. Our Vision: To be an *Acts: 2 Church*—a parish community which gives life to the world around us. We will be a spiritually healthy, vibrant and engaged parish.

2. The degree to which we carry out our mission determines the degree to which we reach our vision. **Our mission** is to be God's presence on earth, furthering a just society, compelling us to respond to God's call through Word, faith formation, service and worship.

3. Certain milestones mark our progress in this journey to achieve our vision. These milestones, these achievements of faith, are as follows:

A. Building facilities to accommodate our ministries today and into the future, including: a school, a church, landscaping which lends to a sacred environment, a rectory (on the grounds or in the neighborhood); and ultimately, a Catholic Senior Care Center (assisted living and nursing home). From cradle to grave, St Mary would be intimately connected to every phase of our members' lives.

B. Half of our members will be in some form of ongoing faith formation.

C. Three quarters of our membership will be living Stewardship as a way of life; attending church regularly, participating in ministry and giving a true tithe of 10% of income.

D. The diocesan concept of true tithing is a 10% tithe, with 8% going to one's parish and 2% to charity, so our parish will give 2% of its annual income to charity.

E. We will add to our parish staff: a full-time parish nurse who will also serve the school, a parish manager, and a liturgical music coordinator. We must keep in mind that the current needs of the parish will always dictate personnel needs.

I believe these milestones will not only demonstrate that we are living out our vision and thus carrying out our mission, but they will also be seen as very much in line with our core values.

Charitable giving throughout the year

Organization	Beneficiary	Event/s	Time of yr	
Altar Society -St Anne guild	Gerard House	Soup supper	April	
		Santa Breakfast	Dec	
	-St Bernadette guild	Anthony Family Shelter	Soup Supper	April
		Nativity Display	Dec	
	-St Francis guild	Harbor House	Soup Supper	April
		To be determined	Christmas Party	Dec
	-Lourdes guild	Guadalupe Clinic	Soup Supper	April
			Paper Products Drive	May
			School Supplies	Aug
			Rice & Beans	Nov
			Cookie Walk	Dec
			Tots to Teens	Dec
	-Marian guild	The Lord's Diner	Soup Supper	April
			First Fri brunch	monthly
	-Sacred Heart guild	Center of Hope	Soup Supper	April
		Christmas	Dec	
	God's Food Pantry	monetary	monthly	
		canned goods	monthly	
Knights of Columbus	Kansans for Life	Lasagna supper	Feb	
	Gerard House	Lasagna supper	Feb	
	A Better Choice	Lifesaver Sunday	April	
	Religious Scholarship	SMPS 8th grader	May	
	Guadalupe Med Clinic	Baseball Night	Jul	
	Various	Annual Bar-B-Que	Sept	
	Education Grant	Raffle	Oct	
	Derby Free Spirits	Tootsie Roll Drive	Oct	
	Holy Family/Cath Char	Tootsie Roll Drive	Oct	
	Starkey	Tootsie Roll Drive	Oct	
	Special Olympics	Tootsie Roll Drive	Oct	
	Seminarian Fund	Knights general fund	Dec	
	Derby Op Holiday	Knights baskets	Dec	
		CFCA	monies collected	quarterly
		LIFE TEEN funds	Mardi-Gras food sold	Feb
	LIFE TEEN funds	Sanctus jewelry sold	Apr	
	LIFE TEEN funds	Dinner Theater	Jun	
	LIFE TEEN funds	Parish Picnic food sold	Aug	
	Venezuelan Mission	gifts donated	Aug/Oct	
	Derby Food Pantry	food collected	Nov	
	Catholic Charities Pantry	food collected	Nov	
	Guadalupe Clinic	food collected	Nov	
	Operation Holiday	gifts donated	Dec	
EDGE Pro-Life Group	Westview Manor	blankets donated	Dec	
	Gerard House	monies collected	2 X's/yr	
	Birthingline	monies collected	2 X's/yr	
PSR	A Better Choice	monies collected	2 X's/yr	
	Rice Bowls/Missions	monies collected	annually	
	Catholic Charities	gift giving for Op Hol	Dec	
PSR/St Mary School	Guadalupe Clinic	monies collected	Dec	
	Catholic Charities	food drive	Nov	
SMPS	Derby Food Pantry	food drive	Nov	
	Gerard House	baby items/clothing	Aug	
SMP Home & School	American Heart Assoc	jump roping pledges	Feb	
	St Mary School	UPC, box top coll.	ongoing	
Parish	SMPS	annual fundraiser	Feb	
	SMPS playground equip	Fireworks stand	July	
	SMPS	Trash Bag sales	Sep	
Parish	SMPS classroom exp	Turkey Bingo	Nov	
	Center of Hope	parish collections	Ash Wed.	
	Parishioners in need	parish collections	Holy days	
	Peters Pence	parish collections	Easter	
	Catholic Charities	food drive	Jun/Nov	
	Retired priests/sharing	parish collections	Christmas	
Holy Savior	envelope collections	monthly		

Note: In addition to the 10% tithe we give to the diocese, which goes to support many worthwhile endeavors, above are a few of the many charitable causes that our parish supports. The list was compiled to assist you in planning your own charitable giving, and to demonstrate the breadth of our parish's giving beyond our weekly parish contribution and our Stewardship of time and talent.

Family matters

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Together we mark the milestones of our lives, celebrating the joys and sharing the sorrows.

Congratulations

Jessica Johnson was elected president of the Collegiate Music Educators National Conference. Her senior recital is Fri, April 13, 7:30 pm in Alumni Auditorium (the clock tower) at Friends University for those who would like to go.



Jessica

Jim and Sara (Gonzalez) Coffey celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 6. They enjoyed a special dinner with their family and a trip to Missouri to celebrate the occasion.



Jim & Sara

Deaths

Agnes Gengler, mother of Martha Greene and of Mike Gengler, died on February 25.

Gloria Moyer, wife of Billy, mother of David and Mike, died on March 5.

Herman Zecha, grandfather of Bethany Ramsey, died on March 8.

Gordon Lamers, father of Mike and of Phil, died on March 11.

Lucille Rinke, mother of Ernest, Dave, Russell, Frank, Bill and Jim Rinke, Ruth Brown, Linda Buess, and Wanda Snyder, died on March 16.

Parish blessings

by Audrey Montgomery

Note: Many people asked us to tell our story of the past year with Alex, so my wife wrote this story—not to gain sympathy or special attention, but to show how our parish took care of us in so many ways when we needed it most. Thank you all.

—Richard Montgomery

On April 20, 2006 our 15-year-old son Alex was admitted to Via Christi St Francis for extensive tests after many months of illness and strange symptoms no one seemed able to diagnose. He had recently lost his friend Kevin Dana to a rare form of cancer. That loss was painfully fresh in our minds. We were terrified, to say the least.

After a few hours of tests and questions, Richard and our daughter Molly went to gather a few items for the hospital stay. Father Wayne had come to sit with us and was with Alex and me when the doctor returned.

“Alex has lesions covering the lungs and liver,” the doctor announced. Father Wayne walked me out into the hallway. I was numb; I couldn’t speak. He embraced me and spoke gently and quietly. My ini-



Alex and Audrey Montgomery spoke about Anointing of the Sick at GOF last month.

tial response, after a few moments, was anger. How could God let this happen to us? We didn’t deserve this. At that moment, prayer was not foremost on my mind.

I couldn’t talk to anyone. I was too emotional. My friend Lourdes Williams kept leaving messages, pleading for me to call. Richard and our son Noah had left school suddenly that afternoon and although no one knew why, they knew something was seriously wrong. I wouldn’t even talk to my family; all communication went through my sister. We were so overwhelmed. Richard and I spent the whole night awake, holding our son, who was very frightened, and trying to comfort him. Alex drifted in and out of a fitful sleep. Richard had his rosary in his hand continuously. The only prayer I could think of was the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. I prayed it over and over all night long. That prayer was the only thing that could calm me for many months to come.

Our son was in kidney failure, and after six days and two surgeries, specialists finally came up with a diagnosis—Hodgkins lymphoma, Stage 4. Alex had tumors lining his throat, pleural cavity, forty tumors in his lungs, on his spleen, his liver and in his bone marrow.

When we heard the official diagnosis, John and Lori Torline were with us. Their love and strength helped carry us not only throughout that painful evening, but through the entire journey. We know God puts special people in our lives at just the right moment. We’ve learned that more than ever this past year.

The response of our parish family when they heard the news was absolutely incredible. Lori, who is also the school nurse, told me, “Audrey, you can feel the Holy Spirit here at school. It is absolutely the most incredible feeling. Everyone’s praying for you all.”

*A special welcome
to our new parishioners!*

Adults

Nicholas Greene
Justin & Shelly Igo
Heather & Martin Rappold
Amy & Stephen Rose

Children

Cade, Chloe, Codi
Jordan, Adam
Madelyne, Isabelle

We were carried on a cloud of prayer, love and incredible gifts. Parishioners cooked salt-free meals suited to Alex's ailing kidneys and the severe protein loss that ravaged his body. Sylinda Mahoney lovingly organized meals for us all summer. Every meal was carefully planned, delicious and so appreciated.

Lori and Megan Torline made salt-free cinnamon rolls, bread and tortillas for months, and Lourdes, knowing Alex's love of Mexican food, made salt-free salsa, guacamole and refried beans during his hospital stay and all year long.

Our hearts were touched over and over by so many acts of love. People brought treats to Alex regularly: fresh fruit, ice cream, all kinds of low sodium items, and Alex's favorite candy, Skittles! Alex went from an emaciated 5'8" and 110 pounds to 6'1" and 175 pounds at present, with size 14 shoes. Our oncologist was amazed that Alex never experienced vomiting or weight loss with chemotherapy.

Our every need was met: gift cards for meals, gasoline, movies and bookstores. Rolls of quarters arrived while we were in the hospital. We didn't want to leave our son, so this helped immensely, since we had to buy meals there. A basket arrived filled with breakfast and protein bars, fruit, other snacks, and cash for our needs. A blue sports bag arrived filled with toothbrushes, deodorant and other needed items. There were games, books and movies to keep all of our children occupied.

The day before we left the hospital I suddenly remembered that I was supposed to make six dozen cookies for the Kapaun prom. Every little thing was overwhelming at that time, so I broke into tears again. It is nothing usually, but it was too much right then. Allison (Bade) Lesley was visiting us and said immediately, "I'll do it, don't worry!" and made beautiful cookies. Her gentle demeanor was so calming.

Chemotherapy started on May 2—near the Feast of St. Peregrine (patron of cancer patients), and by the 23rd, Alex's worst fear became reality. His hair was falling out. Not just in wisps, but large hunks of thick, dark hair were on his pillow. At first he pretended to be Edward Scissorhands, shaping his fingers like scissors and snipping at his hair, which flew all about. We all laughed.

Then he had to face the world without his hair. At the chemotherapy clinic his hair was all over the pillow. It was mak-

ing him itchy, getting in his eyes, his mouth. He was angry and snapping at people. I told him, "Just say the word and we'll shave it off."

He said, "Tonight. I want it off by tonight," so I sent word to Lourdes and Brian Williams. Jeffy Miller and a group of Noah's and Alex's friends came to the Williams' home for a head shaving party. Jeffy first cut the boys' hair into Mohawks. We took great pictures! Then Brian let Jeffy shave his head. Alex said, "I'll go next." It was very quiet while his head was shaved. Tears filled his eyes but he held his composure, and Richard and I held back our tears. Jason Lund, Thomas Ford, Austin Shockey, Josh Lund, John Kennedy and Christian Williams had their heads shaved that day to support their friend—a gift of the heart. Thank you boys, Brian, and Jeffy.

Our other children, Noah and Molly, were loved and cared for by many. While we were concentrating on Alex starting chemo, Molly was about to graduate from KMC. I felt so guilty. This was supposed to be Molly's "big moment," but we were preoccupied by Alex's illness. I love detail and take great pride in organizing and putting on celebrations, but I just couldn't focus. Stress in one's life—a sick child, a death in the family or any major stress—makes focus difficult. When Bonnie Glaser asked how she could help, I couldn't even respond. She, Sue Gessler and Sylinda joined forces, and planned, decorated and took care of every detail for the best graduation party ever. St. Mary's teachers even helped with the cooking; we just had to show up. It was incredible. Our daughter felt loved and honored, and we were humbled by everyone's love and graciousness. It was wonderful, taking us away from cancer and fear to a celebration we will never forget.

In June, Alex was "Pilot of the Day" at McConnell Air Force Base, courtesy of the Kansas Air National Guard (KANG) and parishioner DeAnn Barr. He was able to forget the pain and stress of cancer to experience the thrill and technology of flight. What a memorable day! Besides being cool, the experience made Alex proud to be an American. Thank you DeAnn and the KANG Flying Jayhawks!

Many of our youngest parishioners showered Alex with cards, pictures and messages of love and concern. These cards always made Alex smile, as their prayers and love were so genuine.

Alex's friends were a great support. Sarah Williams planned get-togethers, visited in the hospital and did anything she could to make Alex's life easier. Alex's classmates at KMC and former St. Mary classmates supported him in the Light the Night Walk for Lymphoma in September. Kapaun students raised over \$2000 for "Alex's Crusaders" and walked with him at the event. It was heartwarming to see so many parishioners and other friends supporting Alex.

Alex wanted to be treated normally, to blend into a crowd like before. Stares, uncomfortable glances, and people who turned away occurred often. He didn't like being treated differently. Over and over we told him that facing cancer is difficult—it frightens so many people and they are uncomfortable and don't know what to say. One young lady from our parish, however, did not turn away. Abby Lewis, a junior at Kapaun, didn't have classes with him, but always spoke to him whenever she saw him in the hallway. I don't believe people realize how much a smile or a greeting can impact someone's day. Abby helped Alex more than she will ever know. For those brief moments, he felt normal.

Our family believes in the power of prayer. We were lifted in prayer by everyone. Our family, our parish, and many strangers we never met prayed for our child. Those prayers got us through the darkest moments in our life. In April our son was in Stage 4 of cancer, as I've said. By September, his CT scan was clear. Our oncologist has said his recovery was incredibly rapid. Alex had to go on with chemo through October 31. The next two months he had radiation every day. It was very difficult and uncomfortable for him.

Alex still has many follow up check ups, CT scans and blood work to be done, but he is in remission now, and we are so thankful. **Thank you** to all who shared their blessings, their time, their talent, their gifts. Thank you for mowing our lawn, cooking our meals, cleaning our house. Thank you for loving our children and making them feel comforted and protected. Thank you for hugs, smiles, cards and most of all your prayers for Alex and our family. You were there for us. You carried us. We are forever humbled and grateful.

For every name or kind act mentioned here there are others that there just wasn't room to mention! Please know that we are grateful to all and truly humbled by your selfless generosity. This parish carried a family in need. God bless you all. — Richard

Getting to know your parish family...



Steve Bond with Father Wayne and Lindsay Clark at Easter Vigil 2005

Ordinary people show God's love

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Steve Bond is 59, 6'1" tall, with salt-and-pepper hair. He looks like a typical middle-aged guy, but as he says, you never know what's going on in the lives of people you see.

Steve weighed just 110 pounds (*remember, 6'1"!*) and was so sick that he was homebound when diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver in early 2002, the result of a Hepatitis C infection from a 1971 blood transfusion.

Steve was put at the top of the liver transplant list. To buy time, doctors put in a stint to take care of bleeding and fluid pooling behind his liver. His health improved enough for him to be moved down the transplant list, where he'll stay until he gets really sick again, which is bound to happen and is frightening.

Steve was a salesman for 23 years. He and his wife moved here from Mississippi to be closer to her family. But when cirrhosis was diagnosed, Steve had to go on disability, unable to work. His wife left him. They were divorced in 2004, and he had to sell their home. He was left with no family nearby, no job, no health and no future. He found new friends and family at St Mary.

Right off, Steve will tell you that he doesn't look at his experiences as suffering, but as blessing. He isn't a whiner, one to say, "Oh, poor me!" He only shared his experiences when asked and assured that knowledge of his journey might encourage others in theirs. Steve

says "God kept putting people in my way. I couldn't escape."

Steve's ex-sister-in-law was the first person God sent him, a convert to Catholicism who raised her children Catholic and lived a good, devout life, despite family opposition. After Steve's divorce, she and her husband continued their 25 year-long friendship with him and brought him emotional support. Steve admired her, and had thought about exploring Catholicism, though he'd always been Protestant.

Having sold his home, Steve needed a place to rent. God put Lindsay Clark in his path next. She'd been laid off and needed to rent her house. Steve rented it. In casual conversation, she invited him to church with her. He enjoyed Mass at St Mary, and began attending weekday Mass as well. Lindsay and her family became his close friends, and she agreed to be Steve's sponsor for RCIA. He was confirmed at Easter 2005. Two weeks later, Steve sponsored Lindsay's little sister, Liz, when she was confirmed.

Steve's faith journey was impacted not only by the Clarks, but also by Sister Marie and Father Wayne's encouragement. RCIA catechists and sponsors Brian and Leslie DuLac became his friends, too. Leslie put together a care list and went to Oklahoma City's transplant center with him to meet with his

social worker. Anyone on the transplant list must have a detailed plan for care following a transplant; hospitals seek to reduce the risk of a donated organ being wasted. Steve had no family here, so Leslie found parishioners to be on call 24/7 to care for Steve if he receives a transplant, and to drive him since recipients can't drive for 3-6 months.

Due to his illness, Steve could no longer ride horses, but he still visited old friends at a farm near Derby. Carol and Monte Mayfield's daughter Emily took riding lessons there, and Steve recognized Carol from daily Mass. They began talking, and the four became friends. Steve helps Emily with her horse, and Carol helps Steve, calling regularly to check on him and taking him to Oklahoma City for checkups. She invited Steve to Generations of Faith, which he thoroughly enjoys.

Steve received Anointing of the Sick in 2005. Soon after, a blood test for Hepatitis C came back negative. A liver biopsy confirmed that he no longer suffered from the disease that had destroyed his liver and would have caused inflammation in a transplanted liver. It is not impossible, but it is unusual for a person to become free of Hepatitis C after years of the disease. Steve attributes this to the celebration of the sacrament.

Steve has gained weight, and is happy with the sense of community and growth in his faith he has experienced in our parish. He doesn't feel alone now. He calls himself a late bloomer and says that it took him awhile to get where God wanted him to be. He knows the journey's not over yet, but feels that he's on the right track here at St Mary. The people and faith of this community support him in his journey.

Helping others

by DeAnn Barr

Jenny Foster-Farquhar always knew she wanted to help people when she grew up, and as the Director of Emergency Services for Catholic Charities in Wichita, that is exactly what she does every day.



This 1987 graduate of St Mary Parish School said her Derby roots greatly shaped her career choice.

"My education at St. Mary and at Derby High

School gave me a strong sense of community and a greater understanding of the value of relationships,” said Jenny. “Through positive relationships with classmates, teachers, volunteers and coaches I was able to see that one person can truly make the difference in one’s life, no matter how brief the encounter or interaction may be.”

It didn't take long following her 1996 Kansas State graduation with a Bachelor of Science in sociology for her dreams to take shape.

“I wanted to work at a place where I could make a difference and make a positive impact on someone’s life. My first job after college was in an emergency shelter for juvenile boys. My responsibilities included monitoring the residents in the home, working with local schools to get them enrolled, monitoring their progress in school, and teaching life skills classes.”

Catholic Charities had always appealed to her as a place to work. She said, “The awareness of social issues and the work that the organization does is so vital to the community and families served by our programs. Staff and volunteers work hard to create an environment of community and hope.”

As Director of Emergency Services, Jenny oversees the Food Pantry, Emergency Utility Assistance, Case Management Services and Hispanic Social Services, all located at 437 N Topeka, Wichita. Catholic Charities Emergency Services is always in need of volunteers and food donations. For assistance or to volunteer, call Catholic Charities at 264-8344. Interest in donations or food drives can be directed to Debbie Sigman at x221.

Jenny recommends working in the non-profit sector to anyone interested in making a difference: “There are many opportunities for professional and personal growth. The work is challenging but very rewarding. In my ten-year career I have enjoyed the common thread of working to better people’s lives and working in organizations whose mission embodies that purpose.”

Jenny enjoys spending time with her husband Andy Farquhar and three-year old son Cole, parents Tony and Betty Foster and grandparents Ray and Tommie Kennedy, all long-time St Mary parishioners.



by Davi Stuhlsatz

Roselle Agner lived in Kyrgyzstan from September 2004–November 2006, promoting peace, understanding and friendship as a member of the Peace Corps. Since 1961, the Peace Corps has helped people build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

Roselle, daughter of Lorie and Ben Sansing, graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Political Science in May 2004 and joined the Peace Corps as a way to, as she said with her ready smile, “put my classroom learning to use and to challenge myself, as well as to give back. If you can help just one person, it’s worth it. It was a great experience. I loved it!”

Roselle was familiar with the Peace Corps from their work in the Philippines, where she was born. A high school civics teacher promoted the idea of volunteering with the Peace Corps, so after college graduation, Roselle headed to Kyrgyzstan. She spent two months learning Russian (She had never studied Russian before!) prior to beginning her work teaching English as a foreign language. She also received health and technical training, safety and security lessons, and learned about the culture.

Roselle first lived with a host family, and then in an apartment. Her host family relied on an apple orchard and sheep farming for income. Cholpon-Ata, where Roselle lived, is heavily dependent on farming and tourism, an industry hurt by a March 2005 revolution. Volunteers are expected to live in a comparable manner to the native people; so Roselle was given a living allowance comparable to neighbors rather than a salary, so that she could connect with them rather than be set apart.

The school where Roselle taught had 8th-11th grade morning classes, and 1st-7th grade afternoon classes. She taught upperclassmen and led after-school clubs, such as Advanced English or Test Prep Club. Natives who speak English well tend to seek high paying interpreter jobs, so there is a shortage of English teachers.

Roselle found the culture interesting. Most people in the former Soviet Union republic are Muslim (76%). Education relies heavily on

memorization rather than critical thinking, and rather than focusing on individual achievement, students are more group or community-focused, and don’t understand why “helping each other out” (we would call it cheating) on tests is unacceptable.

Another component of Roselle’s assignment was Gender and Community Development. She was proud of her work with a local orphanage, a women’s shelter (a rarity in the country), and in getting funding to help teach the police force about women’s legal rights. Men looking for a bride in Kyrgyzstan sometimes kidnap women and force them to marry. Police do not keep track of or intervene in this or in domestic abuse situations. Police send the woman who may come to them seeking help to the elders or back to her family, as these are seen as personal family matters.

The Peace Corps promotes sustainability so that the country’s people can do what volunteers did once they leave. Roselle wrote and received grants for the police education program and for indoor plumbing for the orphanage; out-houses are common and electricity is unreliable.

Roselle beamed as she spoke of her experience. She loved the experience and misses her students and host family, but is happy to be back. This month she moved from Derby to Atlanta to accept a job with Better World Books, a company that sells donated books to promote literacy. While she is no longer overseas, she is still making a difference in the lives of others by helping people learn.

To learn more about the Peace Corps, go to www.peacecorps.gov.



Station VI: Veronica wipes Jesus' face
Labor of love: 5th grade made mosaic Stations of the Cross for the Weekday Chapel by painstakingly cutting color pieces from magazines. The vivid and beautiful mosaics saved the parish the expense of replacing the original stations, which were moved to the Faith Center.

Look at your heart

Veronica pushed her way out of the crowd to stand in front of Jesus and gently wipe his face. Jesus was so thankful that he left a picture of his face on her veil.

Have you ever helped someone? Have you ever done something that helped someone feel better? This *Messenger* had stories of people who helped others and of some who were helped. Sometimes we may think what we do is very small or unimportant: giving someone a helping hand or just smiling at someone who looks sad, but it is part of our call to love as Jesus loves! It is what makes our parish such a warm and welcoming community, the Body of Christ.

Thank you for all you do!



You're Invited

to come celebrate our success and to make our vision a reality!

Stewardship Renewal Luncheon & Celebration

for adults and high school youth

Sunday • April 15
 12:30-1:30 pm • School Gym
 618 N Derby Ave.

Please come!

Building status*

by Stephanie Birmingham

Our beautiful Faith Center, completed in October 2005, is the middle building and Phase I of our parish Master Plan pictured below. Father Wayne is very direct in reminding us that **our** contributions determine how soon Phase II construction can begin and whether we can build the church and education center together. Phase I depleted the building fund at the time, and left a current loan balance of \$836,654. That puts St Mary back at square one—depending on your family giving to build the rest of the project.

Construction of the church is estimated to cost \$6.2 million, including furnishings and appointments. It would include a worship space for 1,150 comfortably, a bell tower, parish offices and a chapel for adoration. Building the school—with two classes per grade from Pre-K through 8th, a gymnasium, and com-

mons area—would cost an estimated \$7.4 million, but the sale of the current facility at Derby and Madison Avenues would pump an estimated \$1.2 million back into the building fund. Current Faith Center worship space and offices would be converted to a Parish Hall and meeting rooms.

Pastoral Council member Jo Dowling is eager for the new school to be built. "Maybe I'll get to see my [eight-year-old] daughter Ann educated in the new facility. I hope it will be done before she finishes her education at St Mary," said Jo. "The longer we're in our current facility, the more we're going to have to sink into it to keep it running and maintained."

To start Phase II construction, St Mary must increase its total contributions, according to Director of Development Andrea Eastman. Andrea said, "My husband Rod and I didn't arrive at a 10% tithe overnight. In fact, it took several years, a lot of

soul-searching and much discussion, but by increasing a little each year, we arrived at our goal. We have had many blessings in our lives that we attribute to our faithfulness to Stewardship."

If each St Mary parish family could make the commitment to work towards a 10% tithe, increasing weekly giving by 2% of their gross income, the dream of a new church and school could become a reality.

"I'm hoping that Phase I completion will ignite the fire in everyone to get Phase II going," Jo added.

* An update of an April 2004 article; building cost estimates are 2004 numbers.

