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Lent: Training season for current & future Catholics

by Father Wayne

While preparing to write this article, it dawned on me that spring training begins soon for established veterans of major league ball teams as well as for those aspiring to play in the majors. Spring training is an intensive preparation for baseball season, which opens in early April. For Catholics and those desiring to become members of our faith community, Lent is a time of renewal and preparation for the Easter event (Triduum) April 5-7—the symbolic opening day of the rest of our lives as Catholic Christians.

Lent is the time the Church sets aside for us to examine how well we are embracing our baptismal call/commitment to discipleship. It is also a time when catechumens become elect and, along with those already baptized but desiring to become Catholic, begin final preparation for baptism or making a profession of faith. We join with them in their preparation so that we might renew our own baptismal promises with rejuvenated commitment and passion.

During these next six weeks we discipline ourselves to embrace the Gospel call. To do this we undertake three forms of righteous deeds mentioned in Ash Wednesday's Gospel: **almsgiving, fasting and prayer**. Our Lenten practices call us to inner renewal (*fasting*); namely, to discipline ourselves to meet the challenging personal demands of discipleship, and to the outward mission of service to others (*almsgiving*). *Prayer* is what enables us both to change interiorly and to move outward toward others in mission.

"Lent is a time of renewal and preparation for the Easter event (Triduum)—the symbolic opening day of the rest of our lives as Catholic Christians."

To assist you during this Lenten training season I am offering you a training pamphlet to help you determine what areas of your game skills need sharpening, and to keep you focused. It is brief and direct, a serious workbook that presents Lent as a powerful opportunity for renewal. It is an excellent tool to help us focus on what is needed for our conversion, growth, and the renewal of our baptism commitment to discipleship.

This *Messenger* focuses on Lent, stories of people in our community, faith formation and worship. Feel free to use this and the workbook, "What am I doing for Lent?" (available in the gathering space) to develop your personal spiritual training program. **Have a productive Lenten training season!**



◀ *Getting in the ballgame:* Year II Confirmation student Emily Bright catches a ball which is tossed from person to person. It has questions to contemplate and answer such as "If Jesus lived in your town, where would he hang out?" or "What do you think God looks like?" or "Describe a time you sensed God's presence." See pages 5-9 for more faith formation news.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Made *new* in faith

Congratulations and welcome to our newly baptized parishioners!



Serena Cheyenne Maria and Benjamin Matthew Alexander, children of Matthew and Tara Crippen, were baptized on February 4.



Gwendolyn Marie Eastman, daughter of Andrea and Rod, sister of Shelby and Bayley, was baptized on February 11. Also pictured are Father Wayne and Gwen's godparents, Ray Nixon and Sister Marie Zogman. ▶

Not pictured: **Mason Dean Bui**, son of Jennifer and Phuc, brother of Ethan, was baptized on January 3.



Shawn Michael Perren, son of Laura Skinner, grandson of Jeff and Sherry Skinner and Steve and Debbie Perren, was baptized on December 23. Also pictured above are Shawn's godparents, Norm McGeeney and Whitney Skinner (left) and Father Wayne.

IDEA FOR LENT:

Pray for those in sacramental preparation!



Jacob Isaac, son of Kendra Waitley and Alex Gonzalez, was baptized February 4.

◀ **Brayden Matthew Smith**, son of Michelle and Steve, brother of Brandon, Taylor, Christian, Alexandra and Luke, and grandson of Keith and Marcia DuLac, was baptized on February 4.





Daniel Keith Kasych, son of Keith and Cindy, brother of Olivia, was baptized on February 4.



Josef Edward Sekerak, son of Heather and Ed, brother of Evan and Autumn, was baptized on January 6.



Lena Rae Ramsey, daughter of Bethany and James, was baptized on February 18.



Addison Ann Foster, daughter of Jarrod and Kim, granddaughter of Tony and Betty Foster and Dennis and Cindy Beiswanger, great-granddaughter of Ray and Tommie Kennedy, was baptized on December 23.



RCIA

Mike Dowling, Monte Helms and Sister Marie listen to another member of an RCIA small discussion group. Candidates, catechumens, sponsors and catechists prepare for the Easter celebration and grow in their relationship with God and with one another through RCIA.

Journey

by Sister Marie

This weekend, at 9 am Mass, our RCIA catechumens and candidates participate in the Rite of Sending. In the afternoon, they participate in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral. In these two rites, participants are sent forth, received into the wider Church and returned to the parish in anticipation of celebrating Easter sacraments.

The symbolism of these rituals reflects and strengthens in us all the Spirit-driven need to seek and find Jesus' love and peace in our lives. In each rite, candidates and catechumens celebrate a passing from one way of understanding Christian life to another more discerning, zealous approach to the life in Christ they seek. Each rite reminds us of the previous one and builds to a new height and natural progression of the conversion experience.

During the Rite of Sending, RCIA candidates and catechumens stand before the parish community. Sponsors/godparents and our faith community give testimony that, to the best of our knowledge they are ready to continue

toward Easter, and therefore we feel confident in sending them to our Bishop for the Rite of Election, which is a testimony of faithfulness and commitment.

Candidates and catechumens do not stand alone. They are accompanied by sponsors, team and community members, who stand with them and let the Church know that they are ready to be in full communion with the Catholic community.

An integral part of this ceremony is the signing of the Book of the Elect. As catechumens sign this book, they seal their covenant with God. When the bishop signs this same book, he receives them into our family of Christ. Candidates (persons who were baptized Christians prior to beginning RCIA) view their names in the book. They do not sign, because through their baptism they are already part of the "elect." Both candidates and catechumens are now called the elect, having been elected to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter Vigil.



Zachary William-Thomas Jensen, son of Geoffery and Stacia Anne, was baptized on December 30.

IDEA FOR LENT: Stations of the Cross

- Fridays, 5:45 pm, Faith Ctr worship space
- Sun, Feb 25, 7:30 pm, school gym (618 N Derby)
- Wed, Mar 28, 6:15 pm, Chapel/old church (722 N Derby)

IDEA FOR LENT:

Attend daily Mass or at least one extra Mass a week! Daily Mass at the Chapel (old church, 722 N Derby Ave) is: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri at 8 am and Wed at 7 pm.

Rite of Covenant

for Confirmation



Confirmandi Karly Cornejo and Austin Shockey sign the Covenant Book, indicating that they desire to continue their preparation for Confirmation. Second year Confirmation candidates participated in a retreat and the Rite of Covenant at the end of January. Confirmation is May 11.

for First Eucharist



Students preparing for First Eucharist participated in the Rite of Covenant this month. Students gave Father Wayne hearts cut out of red felt material to indicate their desire to grow closer to Jesus. Father Wayne gave the parents cross necklaces for the children. Here, Melissa Wheeler places the cross on her child Alyssa as other parents do the same for their children. First Eucharist is May 5/6.

FAITH FORMATION



Justice

Catechist Liz Zirkle gives Jacob Henderson a piece of string in a game which demonstrated that rules may be the same, but other factors handicap the poor.

by Liz Zirkle

“Justice for the poor!” “Justice for the needy!” “Justice for the unborn!”

I have heard these cries for help my entire life. What do they mean? How do we find justice? (Someone once told me the only way to get justice is to adopt a cat and name her “Justice.”) For most of my life I have confused American justice with Biblical justice. I dare say most of us have. American justice is often rooted in consequence. Biblical justice is rooted in God’s love.

Sixth grade PSR students are far ahead of most us in understanding Biblical Justice. They recently completed “*That’s not Fair!*” A Program for Teaching Catholic Social Doctrine. The class seeks to take advantage of sixth graders’ natural demand for justice to open their minds to a world outside themselves.

Through games and challenges these students learned how God sees all of us as His children. We share with the needy because we are family. The Catholic Church asks that all of God’s children be given the opportunity to live a decent life. The first step towards this goal was breaking poverty stereotypes. (Ask Jacob Henderson how it felt when I stabbed his “Soul”.)

Otherwise known as Catholic Social Doctrine, we share with the needy in two ways. First is through Charity. Charity addresses individual needs. All PSR classes participated in a food drive, a change collection for Guadalupe Clinic and Christmas gift giving for Catholic Charities.

The second part of Catholic Social Doctrine is Biblical Justice. Justice is much harder and in many cases requires far greater sacrifice. Miguel Flores will tell you how Justice requires the powerful to agree to change the rules so everyone has an equal opportunity to seek a decent life.

Kayley Miller will tell you a decent life is better defined as a safe life. Through our budget unit the class came to see how the current minimum wage will not provide an adult with a safe life.

The program concluded with students recognizing when a rule should be changed to achieve justice. Justice does not seek to change the inconvenient rule. Rather, justice seeks to minimize the need for charity.

Example = formation

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Marketing research tells us that visual demonstration and repetition are key to retention. Father Wayne keeps reiterating the importance of adult example and adult faith formation, and asking parents to **show** their children what faith means. Despite their protests otherwise, according to Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers, **children's religious behavior is strongly influenced by their parents' example**. If we want them to be holy, we must be holy. The life we nourish is not just children's, however, but ours, as well. Each of us needs the nourishment found in reading and praying the Holy Scriptures, participating in Eucharist and sharing Christ's love.

IDEA FOR LENT:

Visit www.americancatholic.org. Read & reflect on the *Saint of the Day* or *Minute Meditations*.

Family faith foundation

by Mark Welte

Since retiring from the military earlier this month, I am pursuing employment in the Wichita area. During my temporary retirement I am enjoying the freedom to attend daily Mass.

I grew up on a farm just outside Augusta, Kentucky, a small town of 1500 people located near Cincinnati, Ohio. We attended St Augustine Catholic Church. I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic school through 7th grade. **Daily** Mass was part of the school curriculum. The school, administered by the Sisters of Notre Dame, was originally eight grades, but was cut back to seven due to limited resources. One of the special events we always looked forward to in the spring was the May procession and crowning. Children all brought fresh flowers and were excited to be a part of it.

My father came from a devout Catholic family while my mother was a convert. They provided a loving and devout Catholic family environment, active in our parish, and setting good examples for my brother and me. My parents prayed the rosary daily, and always said our prayers with us at night. There was a filled holy water font, used routinely, on the hallway wall by our kitchen. My parents had statues of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Mother prominently displayed on top of the buffet in our dining room, and a picture of the Sacred Heart displayed in our kitchen. The Blessed Mother was honored in the flower garden in front of our home, and we had May crownings there.

My paternal grandparents, aunts and uncles (Dad has six siblings.) also set good examples. In my grandparents' home the family rosary was prayed every evening after supper. After the table was cleaned and dishes were washed, the entire family retired to the living room and prayed the rosary together. It didn't matter what was going on, who was there (family, relatives, or guests), or what was on TV. Everything stopped, and we bonded both during and after the family rosary. After the rosary, there was relaxing time to discuss family things. **I witnessed "The family that prays together, stays together" in action. We visited our grandparents frequently, and participating in this practice had a profound influence on me, reinforcing the importance of our faith.**

Family traditions

by Marilyn Hunter

Traditions. Customs. These are treasured ways, handed down from generation to generation, for families to mark some of life's most important occasions. Marriage is one of these occasions, and at the recent wedding of our daughter Lori, we were able to participate in several traditions.

One custom especially meaningful to us is "Dedication to Mary." It is common to many places, including where I grew up in Indiana, and is practiced by many different ethnic groups. At a time either prior to, or after the wedding Mass, the bride presents a bouquet of flowers and kneels in prayer before Mary. Sometimes music is played or a vocalist sings favorite selections such as "Ave Maria" or "On This Day O Beautiful Mother" as the bride asks Mary to guide and bless her as she begins her married life.

Lori and I attended Mass the day before her wedding and knelt together at her Dedication after Mass. Lori chose a bouquet of yellow roses as those were her Grandma's favorite flowers and Grandma (watching with love from heaven) had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin her entire life.

As we knelt, we felt the connection with our past and the bright hope for our future. I hope that someday Lori will experience this tradition with her own daughter, and that this beautiful custom will continue to bless all who embrace it.



Marilyn and Lori in prayer for Mary's guidance and intercession

IDEA FOR LENT:

Take time for prayer. Use *The Word Among Us* as an aid in reflecting daily on the scriptures. Subscribe at www.wau.org or (800) 775-9673 or save www.wau.org/meditations/meditations.asp as a favorite and visit the website daily for free!

Adoration

by Nancy Huffman

"Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a way in which we can fulfill the Lord's first and greatest commandment: **'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind** (Mt 22:37)," stated Dr. John McCormick in his "Adoration Formation" series at the Spiritual Life Center in February.

In fulfilling the first commandment, we are empowered to then keep the second: **"Love your neighbor as yourself,"** Dr. McCormick said.

Professor McCormick, of Newman University, discussed some of the theology connected with Adoration in his series but spent more time on what we can actually do with our time in Adoration, explaining different types of prayer:

1. Recognition of Christ's presence in the Eucharist. When we enter the Adoration area, we acknowledge Christ's presence by genuflecting and making the sign of the cross. In our minds we consciously acknowledge that we are in the presence of Christ.

2. Request grace to make a good holy hour.

3. Recollection: Focus our minds and hearts on entering into prayerful adoration. Choose a short reading, such as Scripture, spiritual book, or life of a saint. Use this reading as a point of meditation on what the author meant and how the reading applies to us. At this point we might enter into prayer, searching for the Lord's guidance to our understanding, repenting of weakness in the area of life discussed, and requesting help. *(I personally enjoy using a scriptural rosary at this point and only saying one or two mysteries, but really meditating on the meaning of the events.)*

4. Resolution: Toward the end of our hour of Adoration, we consider a practical plan for changing our lives with God's help. Make the changes short and specific, such as: "I will be patient with X" or "I will be faithful to prayer." Then, ask for God's grace to keep the resolution. *(It may be that God will urge you to go to confession.)* Finally, we may choose a thought or Scripture to meditate on throughout the day.



Second grade student Gabby Miller and Mrs. Gentry work on cursive writing in the classroom earlier this week.

Healing love

by Edna Gentry

I have suffered from back problems for almost ten years, but the pain in my back and legs intensified in spring 2006. I finished the school year as a second grade teacher at St Mary and saw my family doctor, who could provide only temporary relief. Surgery was probably my only hope for permanent pain relief; unfortunately, the earliest appointment I could get with a surgeon was in October!

My first concern was how to prepare a classroom for a new year while in excruciating pain. My good friend Kris Baker and her daughter Lauren came to my rescue and spent a week doing the physical work necessary to prepare my room for the first day of school, along with my husband Guy, who helps every year.

My next concern was how I was going to be on my feet most of the day teaching an energetic group of second graders. This concern immediately dissolved when the staff learned of my disability and began preparing accommodations without my even approaching them. There was not one person at school who did not offer me some type of assistance every day including my sweet little second graders. My class prayed for me every morning as did the staff and parents. Their concern and love was a great comfort.

When I finally met with the orthopedic surgeon he diagnosed me with spinal stenosis and scoliosis and scheduled surgery. Now my concern was what would happen to my class while I recovered from major back surgery, but I knew I couldn't continue to teach in my condition.

I contacted the Prayer Line because I have witnessed the incredible power of prayer, and I emailed Father about receiving the sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** before my surgery. We decided to celebrate it in my classroom so my students could witness this lesser known sacrament. **I wanted them to understand that Anointing of the Sick isn't simply given to someone who is elderly or about to die. I told them it was a special way of receiving God's love and strength as I prepared for surgery.**

This was my first experience receiving this sacrament, and **I was amazed at how calm and at peace I felt** as I completed final details prior to surgery.

Guy and I arrived at Wesley at 5:30 am and I was prepped for surgery. I kept telling my husband how calm I felt and he kept telling me how nervous he was! I joked that maybe he should have received Anointing of the Sick too! My normally high blood pressure was right on target and the nurses commented on my positive attitude. I told them about all the prayers being said on my behalf and about the sacrament that filled me with peace and God's love.

Surgery was completed and it was a great success. The support from our parish family continued as we were spoiled with delicious dinners and encouraging get well cards. I wore a back brace for three months, completed 12 weeks of physical therapy, and will wear a bone stimulator until August. I returned to my students on January 29. I am so grateful for the patient understanding of my students' parents while I was recovering.

I know that this healing sacrament is still at work in my life because I have had such an incredible recovery and my formerly unbearable pain is now nonexistent. Although I won't be able to do all the activities I did before my spinal fusion, I am very thankful for the ability to walk and be on my feet without hurting. I am also thankful for the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and all the truly Christ-like people who helped me on this journey.

IDEA FOR LENT:

Spend 20 minutes daily in Centering Prayer. In a quiet place, use a sacred word to help let go of thoughts or distractions and just be with God.

◇ St. Mary Parish Events ◇



Preschool day# 50

by Marcia Helten

Our parish school celebrated the 100th day of school, but here in preschool we don't have 100 class days during the entire school year, so we decided to celebrate 50 days with a 1950's day!

First we either made door hangers with bowling equipment (Bowling was first televised in the 1950's.) or a poodle with a doghouse, or coloring a large poodle picture and adding cotton to it. At carpet time, we looked at several items (thanks to Gail Schmeidler) from the 1950's. We compared *Candyland* and *Chutes and Ladders* board games from the '50's with how they look now. We looked at a '50's popcorn popper and found out who knew how we popped popcorn over the years.

In our fun Sock Hop students learned how to do the Twist, the Stroll, the Hand Jive, and the Bunny Hop. What great exercise, all while in our stocking feet! We all had to have a try at hula-hoops and seeing "how low we could go" in several rounds of Limbo.

At the computer we heard, then sang, the song that started Howdy's show each week, and even handled a real Howdy Doody doll. We had worked up quite an appetite, so we ate foods which were introduced in the 1950's, such as Jell-o Instant Pudding, Peanut M&M's, and fish sticks, served on lunch trays and bowls used here in the 1950's. We topped it all off with a yummy ice cream soda and ended our day with a story from a 1950's reader, Dick and Jane. The day was full of learning and fun!

March - April 2007 calendar

Thu, Mar 1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Noon– Friday 7 am, Faith Ctr Rm 112
Fri, Mar 2	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 12–7 am, Faith Center Rm 112 First Friday Mass, 8 am, Weekday Chapel First Friday Coffee & Donuts, after 8 am Mass, former parish offices/rectory Stations of the Cross, 5:45 pm, Faith Center Soup Supper, 6 pm, Knights Hall
Sun, Mar 4	RCIA, 9 am Mass and dismissal/break open Word, FC Rm 112; RCIA Babysitting, 8:45 am – 11:30 am, Rm 114 Generations of Faith, 12:15 pm, Faith Center
Mon, Mar 5	LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114
Tue, Mar 6	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Wed, Mar 7	FIAT, 8 am, school gym Generations of Faith, 6 pm, Faith Center NO PSR sessions NO Confirmation
Thu, Mar 8	Altar Society, 7 pm, Knights Hall Preschool Science Night, 7 pm, school gym
Fri, Mar 9	Stations of the Cross, 5:45 pm, Faith Center Soup Supper, 6 pm, Knights Hall Scrapbooking, 6 pm, Faith Center, Rm 114
Sun, Mar 11	RCIA, 9 am Mass and dismissal/break open Word, FC Rm 112; RCIA Babysitting, 8:45-11:30 am, Rm 114 Parish Breakfast, 10-11 am, Knights Hall EDGE Sessions, 12:15-2 pm, FC Rm 114 Life Night following 6 pm Mass Adult Choir, 7:15-8:30 pm, FC Rm 112
Mon, Mar 12	LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm, Faith Center Rm 114
Tue, Mar 13	LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Wed, Mar 14	School Council, 7 pm, School library Faith In Action Tour, 8 am, 6 pm, school gym PSR sessions, 6 pm, school Confirmation sessions, 7:30 pm, Faith Center Finance Council, 7 pm, Faith Center, Conf Rm 106
Thu, Mar 15	La Leche League, 9 am, Faith Center Rm 114 Harvest House, 6:30 pm, Knights Hall
Fri, Mar 16	First Eucharist Parents meeting, 6:30 pm, Neumann Hall Stations of the Cross, 5:45 pm, Faith Center Soup Supper, 6 pm, Knights Hall
Sun, Mar 18	RCIA, 9 am Mass and dismissal/break open Word, FC Rm 112; RCIA Babysitting, 8:45 am – 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 Adult Choir, 7:15-8:30 pm, FC Rm 112
Mon, Mar 19	Spring Break thru March 23 LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114
Tue, Mar 20	Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114
Wed, Mar 21	NO PSR or Confirmation, spring break
Fri, Mar 23	Stations of the Cross, 5:45 pm, Faith Center Soup Supper, 6 pm, Knights Hall
Sat, Mar 24	Prairie Land Food Distribution, 6 am, School gym
Sun, Mar 25	RCIA, 9 am Mass and dismissal/break open Word, FC Rm 112; RCIA Babysitting, 8:45 am – 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 Adult Choir, 7:15-8:30 pm, FC Rm 112
Mon, Mar 26	LIFE TEEN Jr core team, 5:30 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114

(cont on other side)

March-April 2007 calendar (cont.)

Tue, Mar 27	Sacred Heart Guild, 8:45 am, Old Rectory Lenten Reconciliation Service, 7 pm, Faith Center Pastoral Council, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114 NO Centering Prayer
Wed, Mar 28	Faith In Action Tour, 7:30 pm, Faith Center PSR sessions, 6 pm, school Stations of the Cross, 6:15 pm, Chapel (722 N Derby), led by PSR 6th grade Finance Council, 7 pm, Faith Center Conference Rm 106 Confirmation sessions, 7:30 pm, Faith Center
Thu, Mar 29	Home and School, 7 pm, Annex
Fri, Mar 30	Anointing of the Sick, 8 am Mass, Weekday Chapel Stations of the Cross, 5:45 pm, Faith Center Soup Supper, 6 pm, Knights Hall
Sun, Apr 1	Palm Sunday RCIA, 9 am Mass and dismissal/break open Word, FC Rm 112; RCIA Babysitting, 8:45-11:30 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 Adult Choir, 7:15-8:30 pm, FC Rm 112
Mon, Apr 2	LIFE TEEN Core, 7 pm, Faith Center Rm 114
Tue, Apr 3	Voting, 6 am - 7 pm, school gym Centering Prayer, 7 pm, FC Rm 114 Early Childhood speaker, 7 pm, Annex
Wed, Feb 7	FIAT, 8 am, 6 pm, school gym Early Childhood Donuts with Dad, 8 am, Annex PSR sessions, 6 pm, school/Mass, 7 pm, old church (722 N Derby Ave) Confirmation sessions, 7:30 pm, Faith Center
Thu, Apr 5	Holy Thursday—Mass of The Lord's Supper, 7 pm, Faith Center
Fri, Apr 6	Good Friday, a day of fast and abstinence Stations of the Cross, Noon, Weekday Chapel

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION, LAYOUT & DESIGN
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and Andrea Eastman

*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.

Special Note: Thank you to the *Derby Informer*
for allowing us to reprint portions of DeAnn Barr's
articles on Mark Welte and Maggie Wilson.

Our apologies:

- In December's *Messenger*, we in-
correctly reported that LaVerne Rabe
had been a sacristan.
- The Mark's Gospel Scripture
Study schedule was not available
when the calendar was prepared.
Please consult the bulletin.

SAINT MARY PARISH



Memorials and Honorariums



Established Dec 15-February 18 of 2000 • 2001 • 2002 • 2003 • 2004 • 2005 • 2006 • 2007

*Memorials and honorariums are financial gifts made to St Mary Parish in tribute to someone who has died or in honor of someone who is living.
Thank you for your gifts—you have made a beautiful and enduring gesture of love and faith that recognizes a special person but also provides for the
Church's future. Gifts are listed on the anniversary of the date they were established.*

Memorials for the deceased (Name & date established)

Jack Morgan • Jan 2000	Michael Adams • Feb 2002	Normand A Bissonnette • Feb 2004	Villar Memorial • Dec 2006
Frances Vicik • Feb 2000	Loretta Pater • Feb 2002	Bobbie D. Feikert • Feb 2005	Roman Zoglman • Dec 2006
John Keller • Feb 2000	Basil Delgado • Feb 2003	Mary "Lou" Potter • Dec 2005	J. Provenzano • Dec 2006
Mary Arnold • Feb 2000	Ralph Wolke • Feb 2003	James A. Jordan • Jan 2006	Manual Rosa Moreria • Dec 2006
Joseph Longar • Jan 2001	Ray Warren • Jan 2004	Francis Edmond • Dec 2006	Joaquina Flores Rosa • Dec 2006
Leonard Killion • Jan 2002	Nadine Tiemeyer • Feb 2004	N.J. Gessler Jr. • Dec 2006	Jack Landes • Dec 2006
Mildred Schmid • Jan 2002	Steven L. Zirkle • Feb 2004	Louis Fanello • Dec 2006	Harlan Wright Sr • Jan 2007
Lucille Kerby • Feb 2002	Marian Deiter • Feb 2004	Leona Kling • Dec 2006	Richard Schaffer • Jan 2007
William Vicik • Feb 2002	Anna Haney • Feb 2004	Virleen and Al Dickman • Dec 2006	

Honorariums recognizing someone living (Name & date establ.)

Richard Montgomery • Jan 2005	Benita Cox • Dec 2005	Ben and Mary Mendoza • Feb 2006	Katie McHenry • Dec 2006
Dr Amber & Don Lambert • Dec 2005	Edna Gentry • Dec 2005	Julia Erway • Feb 2006	Carol Keller • Jan 2007
Kathryn J. Fontaine • Dec 2005	Bryan Swank • Jan 2006	Sadie Favreau • Dec 2006	Nancy Rader • Jan 2007
Marcia Fanning • Dec 2005	Jessica Johnson • Feb 2006	JoAnne Kennedy • Dec 2006	
Nikki Parks • Dec 2005	Julianna Johnson • Feb 2006	Richard/Karol Cornejo Family • Dec 2006	

*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.*



Members of Chi Rho, from left, are Kevin Lager, Angelus, Kan; Mark Vail, Watertown, N.Y.; St. Mary's Derby parishioner A.J. Wilson; Krister Johnson, Wichita; Jacob Ridder, Garden Plain; Kevin Welch, Topeka; Stephen McGowen, Shawnee; Ben Christensen, Hebron, Neb.; Kyle Lang, Sycamore, Ill.; John Vishnfsky, Mulvane; Matt Young, Wichita. Not in the photo is Russell Krones, Derby resident.

Home for faith

by AJ Wilson

With all the paperwork, admission hurdles and financial stress of sending a freshly-graduated son or daughter to college, the continuation of that student's participation in the faith is a concern that can be easily overlooked.

I remember my mother telling me that her grandfather pleaded with her to continue going to Mass while at college. While that request is still made of many college-bound seniors, sadly many don't comply with their promises. In general, the public college environment is not conducive to forming or growing in one's faith. Whether they are faced with temptations to sin or roommates with different religious beliefs, every student's faith is challenged in some manner. All too often, a student's faith isn't strong enough to withstand the constant opposition.

I have seen too many of my own friends, who made the same promise my mother did (to remain strong in

faith and to attend Mass regularly) fall to that opposition and break their promise. This is the reason that the Catholic Households of Chi Rho (men) and Ave Regina (women) exist at Kansas State University. These are houses that have been dedicated (for about five years now) to forming a positive living environment for Catholic students. They are considered an extension of the Catholic student center (St Isadore's) and are not involved in the Greek system.

I am in my third year at K-State and have lived with the men of Chi Rho since freshman year. Living with them has enabled me to combat that opposition by involving me with good friends who have helped me to continue growing in the Catholic faith while attending a secular college. If you or someone you know is considering K-State, please let them know about us and pass on our contact info: www.menofchirho.com, 316-207-3808 (my cell #) or ajwilson@ksu.edu (my email).

Catholic Schools Week

Why Choose a Catholic School?

1. FAITH FORMATION
2. Academic Excellence
3. Sports/extracurricular activities

"The value of a Catholic education is not test scores or opportunity for involvement or a few Religion classes. The value of a Catholic education is that **at the heart of everything we do is the Catholic faith.** It is not citizenship or scholarship. The heart of everything we do is to instruct and help lead children to God. **We feel we are not just doing a job but fulfilling a ministry.**"

-Principal Montgomery



OUTREACH

Homebound Ministry



Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound take communion to parishioners in nursing homes, assisted living and confined to their homes due to illness.

Above Gary Tully is shown visiting with Julia Stamps, a Westview Manor resident who has become a close friend with the Tully family through Gary's Eucharistic Ministry visits. You might have heard Father Wayne mention Julia on a Faith in Action tour or in a homily. Despite being confined to bed, Julia is an active member of the Body of Christ. She prays for our parish family and tithes regularly. Girl Scout troop 828 organized weekly videotaping of the Liturgy of the Word for Julia.

The Lord's Diner



Kathy Wurdeman, Kathy Glamann and others served at The Lord's Diner on the first Saturday of February. For more information about serving at the diner, visit www.thelordsdiner.org.

IDEA FOR LENT:

Fast from unkind words or gossip. Don't say anything about someone that you wouldn't say if he or she were right beside you.

Family matters

by Davi Stuhlsatz

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

Congratulations

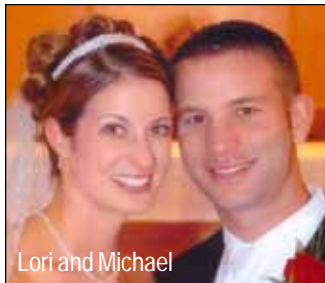
Grace Barr, daughter of Roger and DeAnn, won the St Mary Parish School Spelling Bee on February 1. She is in fourth grade and will compete at the Sedgwick County Spelling Bee on February 25.



Grace

Marriages

Lori Hunter, daughter of Marilyn and Bob, married **Michael Maddox** on November 11, 2006.



Lori and Michael

Deaths

Harlan Wright Sr., father of Harlan Wright Jr, died on January 5.

Anabel Hentzen, mother of Jane Pendrak, Louis and Mike, died on January 28.

Rich Schaffer, husband of Treva, brother of Ralph, father of Liane Youngwirth, Derek and Kyle, died on February 13.

Lt Col Welte retires

by DeAnn Barr

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Welte retired from the Kansas Air National Guard earlier this month. Mark was the 2005 recipient of the "Outstanding Air Reserve Component Information Operations Field Grade Officer of the Year." In earning this prestigious award from the Air Force, Welte was distinguished as the top candidate from the Air National Guard. The award was one of many that Mark received while serving in the U.S. military.



As Computer Network Operations Flight

A special welcome to our new parishioners!

Adults

Frank Gartland
Sean and Janie O'Brien
Doug & Lisa Penka
Debbie & David Speed
Ashley Wray
David Mabry

Children

Marshall, Rory, Haley
Connor, Chase, Alex, Dylan
Madeline, Miranda



At right: Rory, Haley, Sean and Janie O'Brien at the recent Welcome Dinner.

Commander at McConnell Air Force Base prior to his retirement, Mark headed the team that does network vulnerability assessments of U.S. Air Force installations worldwide. He led training and professional development, and spearheaded and was an active participant in an exercise that dealt with state, local and other government agencies, private companies, and Department of Defense entities all working together to simulate multiple natural disasters and responses to these events.

Mark is a Master Navigator with over 2600 flying hours. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife Darlene have been married for 26 years, and have three daughters: Erin, Rachel and Susan.

Ambassador

by DeAnn Barr

St Mary eighth grader Maggie Wilson has been accepted as a People to People Student Ambassador and will travel to Australia and New Zealand this summer. Maggie was selected based on her demonstrated leadership, citizenship and her desire to learn about diverse cultures and venture into the world in the name of peace, friendship and understanding.



Maggie

People to People International was

founded by Dwight Eisenhower, who believed encounters between people of different backgrounds would form the foundation for lasting world peace.

One of Maggie's required recommendations came from former SMPS teacher Sylvia Whitney: "Compassion for others is key for Maggie," she said. "Her family has been a strong example for her in the way they respond to other people in need, and she has totally embraced it as her way of life. This compassion makes her a special person. She is open to other people and their ways without holding judgment."

Maggie is looking forward to her adventure. Her goals are "to gain more self-esteem, meet new people, learn about Australia's and New Zealand's government and culture, and have fun!" She continued, "I'm really looking forward to snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, and am excited about the possibility of holding a koala or kangaroo."

Maggie is one of Chris and Cindy Wilson's six children. Funding the trip will take the creative efforts of the entire family. Maggie plans "to participate in as many fund raisers as possible. We are organizing a huge yard sale for this spring. I also plan to baby-sit, save my spending money, and sell small items that represent my school or Derby."

Maggie departs in June for her three-week trip, and will attend Kapaun Mt Carmel HS in the fall.



Knights Youth Director Derek Smith and Darren Dawdy

Basketball drama

by Derek Smith

Normally, Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contests are mellow affairs. Kids shoot, winners are declared and everyone has a good time. Our council's competition had a little more drama this year. Darren Dawdy was the 2006 International Free Throw Champion as a thirteen-year-old, and he returned this year to compete in the fourteen-year-old boys' division. Darren and a young man named Dylan Schieber had both been excellent shooters for the previous four years and had always finished neck and neck.

In 2006 Darren made his last 74 free throws in a row at various levels to win the International championship. He stepped up to the line this year with some obvious pressure to do well. Would he crumple under the weight of expectations? He proceeded to knock down his first fifteen and then ten additional "tie-breakers" for all twenty-five. He extended his streak to an astounding 99 in a row in competition. Darren was low-key about it and helped shag balls for his little eight-year-old brother afterwards (who shot an amazing 13 for 15 even though he's not old enough to officially compete).

Dylan arrived at the gym a little later and warmed up. He was not aware of the mark he had to hit, but the Knights in attendance were. Dylan canned his first five. The Knights began to take notice...6, then 7. Nobody wanted to look at him, afraid they would break his concentration...8, 9 and 10 went down. Dylan had the Knights' full attention, but they tried to appear casual. He sent his 11th try up and it just slid off the side of the rim. Knights winced for him. Darren sat casually slumped in the corner not reacting as he was now virtually assured of advancing to the District Championship.

Dylan went on to knock down 23 of 25...a stellar effort that unfortunately took place in the same division as the current international champ. The Knights milled about and quietly wondered if Darren might possibly be an android. Darren has won state once, finished second in state once and won the whole thing last year. He currently plays on the Derby High School Freshman team.

2007 COUNCIL #4458 FREE THROW WINNERS:

- Girls:* 10 Allie Smith
11 Ali Coufal
12 Mari Hoffman
13 & 14 No entries
- Boys:* 10 John Coufal
11 Taylor Schieber
12 Austin Watchous
13 Aaron Schif
14 Darren Dawdy

The January 10 council winners above advanced to the February 10 district (Derby-Rose Hill, Haysville, Mulvane, and St. Anne-Wichita councils) contest.

District winners from Derby were Ali Coufal (12 free throws made), John Coufal (14 made), Taylor Schieber (18 made), and Darren Dawdy (21 made). District contest winners are eligible to participate in the Regional contest at Garden Plain High School on February 25.

Congratulations to all the young people who participated in the council and district contests, and good luck to Ali, John, Taylor and Darren at the regional contest!

Good race

by Davi Stuhlsatz

In the last *Messenger*, there was an article about eighth grader Craig Compton's half marathon in the fall with his dad, Carl. Carl and Craig were training together for a full marathon. They registered for the Houston marathon, which allows entrants as young as 12, and accepts a total of 15,000 entries!

On Sunday January 14, Carl and Craig both crossed the marathon finish line together with an electronically-recorded time of 4:14:52. Craig and Carl ran together for the entire race, and Craig was especially nice to slow down so his dad could walk during the final miles!

Craig was the youngest man to run the race and, in spite of dragging his "boat-anchor dad" (*Carl's words*) to the finish line, he placed third in his age division! It was a great experience for both of them. "The race lasted a few hours, the t-shirts will last for years, and the memories will last a lifetime," said Carl.

Volleyball fun



St Mary has two adult volleyball teams competing in the DRC league this winter. The teams' win-loss records aren't awesome, but the fun they have together is! Pictured above by row, left to right are St Mary White team members Paul Shearrer, Karen Alexander, Rebecca and Shad Snodgrass; Don and Stephanie Birmingham, Anita and Bruce Luehring; and St Mary Blue team members Dave and Valerie Wondra, Bob Stuhlsatz, Craig Smith; Chris Coufal, Steve Fryer, Davi Stuhlsatz and Jeffy Miller. Not pictured are: Tom Coufal, Kitty Smith, Sue Shearrer.

Getting to know your parish family...

Strengthening Body and Spirit

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Carol Keller, a member of the 1970 eighth grade class at St Mary Derby-Rose Hill, was named 2007 St Mary Parish School Distinguished Alumna this month. Principal Richard Montgomery presented Carol with the award after Mass, and then Carol visited the school and spoke with sixth and eighth grade classes about her experiences at the school, her vocation and the many blessings God has given her.

Carol feels that God led her each step of the way to her profession as a physical therapist. Carol's father was disabled, so she was familiar with physical therapy through his experiences. She feels that St Mary imbued in her a strong work ethic, excellent academics and the example of Jesus and the saints. After studying physical therapy at WSU, she felt called to work with children through a particularly enjoyable internship experience in the area. Carol has worked with disabled students in the Derby school district since 1982. In 1983 she was a member of the group that formed the Derby Free Spirits, an organization that provides recreation and leisure activities for those with disabilities, including participation in Special Olympics. In 1989 Carol started the Challenge Games, an annual athletic competition for persons with physical disabilities.

Carol spoke to students about her memories of St Mary, from the layout of the classrooms, to the nuns who taught the students, to playing Chinese jump rope at recess. She spoke about things that have changed, such as going to Mass every school day (in her time), no PE classes (until her 7th and 8th grade years, when the St Mary students went up the hill for PE with Derby Junior High students) and the lack of sports, particularly for girls prior to the passage of Title IX in 1972. She spoke of classmates who are still members of this parish and of how blessed we are in the parish and in Derby, with good people, strong faith and a good community.

Carol was a gymnast and cheerleader in high school, and she always seems to have an encouraging attitude and a ready smile. She spoke joyously about the students and athletes she works with and coaches, including Jordan Bird, an international wheelchair racer. She is earnest in her desire to see disabled children improve and for them to understand that they've improved through their own efforts and hard work. She doesn't expect everyone to be a world class competitor as Jordan is, but takes joy in each small improvement her students



Carol Keller accepts the 2007 Distinguished Alumni award from Principal Montgomery

make. She obviously loves her work, the people she meets and those she helps.

Principal Montgomery said, "The Alumni Award is given to a graduate of St. Mary Parish Catholic School who has demonstrated dedicated service to our school, parish or community. Mrs. Keller's long time commitment to the Derby Free Spirits and the Challenge Games is well known throughout Derby. To visit with her after her many years of service only convinces you more of her obvious commitment to serving others. She has all of the caring and devoted qualities that we hope all of our students will develop. She was an obvious choice for this award."

Mardi Gras a blast!



Many parishioners participated in mardi Gras and had a great time visiting with friends, playing games and eating delicious food. Pictured here are Haley Kreutzer and Kaitlyn Stallard

IDEA FOR LENT:

Participate in faith formation here or at the Spiritual Life Center. Call Ann Hughes *today* at 788-1877 about Generations of Faith or The Study of Mark's Gospel or call the SLC at 744-0167 for their course offerings.

Shared memories

by Sue Bitel

Myrna Messer, St Mary parishioner and recently published author of Remembering...a town that was, spoke about her book at Altar Society's February meeting. Never planning to write a book, her mind was



changed when her mother passed away at the age of 104. After her death, Myrna and her family found some jottings their mother had made during her lifetime. These notes meant so much to Myrna that she decided to record her family memories in a book for her family and especially her two granddaughters.

Initially, Myrna was going to write about the family, but as one thing led to another her book became a history not only of her family, but also the history of her church and the colorful characters in Foxholm, North Dakota, her small rural hometown.

Myrna said, "I am going over the time limit of my talk," but she just couldn't stop sharing excerpts from the book. Her enthusiasm was contagious and the women present wanted her to continue, despite the meeting that was still to follow. Myrna held everyone's attention, not only for her own story, but because her story has been lived by so many who could identify with it. She has received many phone calls and letters from people who have heard of her book and were somehow either in it or related to characters in the story. Myrna said the response has been amazing. She feels fortunate to have fulfilled her desires to write the town and family history, and is very pleased at how happy she has made people that in many cases she never knew.

Altar Society women attending thoroughly enjoyed Myrna's talk on Remembering...a town that was.

IDEA FOR LENT:

Give to the poor: Bring food for God's Food Pantry the first Sunday of the month or save money for Operation Rice Bowl (Visit <http://orb.crs.org> for more info)!

Scholarship

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Rachel Welte won a \$500 scholarship from the Derby Knights of Columbus as an eighth grader at St Mary



Parish School in 2003. Now that she's a senior at Kapaun Mt Carmel High School, she's winning even bigger scholarships!

Rachel was recently awarded the \$10,000 Excellence in Educational Administration Scholarship from Wichita State University. She also received a \$2,000 Sedgwick County and a \$1,500 New Incoming Freshman Scholarship.

Rachel, the daughter of Mark and Darlene Welte, plans to major in elementary education. She said she's wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember, and has been inspired by many of her teachers over the years. Rachel went to Swaney Elementary School from kindergarten through fifth grade and then to St Mary for sixth through eighth grades, before attending Kapaun.

Rachel has been active in Girl Scouts since kindergarten, and has participated in various other activities as well: the Cultural Awareness Society, National Honor Society, Quill & Scroll, Handmaids of Mary, Students against Destructive Decisions, Crusader Yearbook, Crusaders for Life, Kapaun softball, and a high school abstinence program called Pure and Simple.

Rachel is excited about the scholarships, about being able to stay close to home and family, and about becoming a teacher. She commented, "A number of my favorite teachers are former Shockers who received their education degrees from Wichita State. I would like to follow in their footsteps and become an outstanding teacher who not only instructs children, but also makes a difference in each student's life."

A song in her heart

by Davi Stuhlsatz

Jessica Johnson and her family moved here in 1989, and she attended the parish school from kindergarten through eighth grade. Her music ministry began in elementary school, when she cantored frequently for weekday Masses. After graduating from eighth grade in 1999, she began singing as a cantor for weekend Masses. Jessica also enjoyed singing with the LIFE TEEN Band every week for almost six years and the Guitar Group too, so she often sang at more than one Mass in a weekend.



In addition to cantoring, in 1994 Jessica was among the first group of girls in the parish to be allowed to become altar servers. She continued in this ministry for eight years, and helped train younger servers, too. She and her family assist in preparing the environment for liturgy, particularly at Easter and Christmas, when trees, rocks and fonts are moved in or out of the worship space. This year, Jessica was also chosen to become a Eucharistic Minister.

Currently, Jessica is finishing a bachelor's degree in Music Education with an emphasis on vocal music, and a Spanish minor at Friends University. She plans to graduate in May 2008. While she will be qualified to teach K-12, she hopes to teach at the elementary level.

A significant part of a music major's degree requirements are to develop and perform in a senior recital. The recitals are generally composed of music the students have mastered while at college. This performance, usually solo, is graded by several of the music teachers at Friends University, and is a determining factor for graduation.

Jessica's senior recital is Friday, April 13 at 7:30 pm in Alumni Auditorium (the clock tower) at Friends University. She would like to extend an open invitation to her whole parish family, especially since so many of you have played a large role in her life and career choice. There is no admission fee and seating is available, so please come support her and enjoy the performance (without singing along this time though —save that for the next time she cantors at Mass!)



Your gifts
change *lives*.

Thank you for
sharing
with the *Lord!*



St Mary Parish Balance Sheet as of 12/31/06

<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>	
Checking, Money Mkt & Other Deposits	\$309,270	A/P and Other Curr Liabilities	\$93,232
Chancery Savings	71,888	Notes Payable - Bldg & portable	888,468
Investments and Endowments	3,000	Equity/Fund balances	(582,180)
Building Fund	100,580	Net Operating Income	85,218
TOTAL ASSETS	\$484,738	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$484,738

St Mary Parish Operating Statements

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
<u>PARISH OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSE</u>	<u>Jul-Dec '05</u>	<u>Jul-Dec '06</u>	<u>Jul-Dec '06</u>
Ordinary Church Receipts	\$866,004	\$883,154	\$870,094
Extraordinary Church Receipts & Endowments	48,499	35,540	14,190
Organizational & School Receipts	146,328	120,827	118,261
Total Parish Operating Income	\$1,060,831	\$1,039,521	\$1,002,544
Stewardship (10% of ordinary church receipts to diocese)	86,588	88,360	91,802
Salaries, Payroll & Religious	144,373	149,498	168,623
Utilities, Supplies, Repairs & Maintenance	22,025	29,496	34,800
Interest Payments on loan from diocese	0	27,752	57,900
Church Capital Outlay	1,768	400	1,000
Income Disbursements (Holy Savior, Rice Bowls, etc.)	20,587	8,975	7,800
Religious Education/Formation & Other Programs	17,019	10,730	31,349
Other Church Exp. (Copier Lease, Tech Support, Postage, etc)	11,448	18,186	18,137
Total Church Expenses	\$303,808	\$333,396	\$411,411
SMPS Salaries and Payroll	427,022	452,878	484,134
SMPS Utilities, Supplies, Repairs & Maintenance	54,809	55,518	54,717
SMPS Capital Outlays	23,743	18,502	20,600
Other SMPS Expenses (Copier Lease, Tech Suppt, Sports, etc)	31,938	39,303	34,336
Total St Mary Parish School Expenses	\$537,512	\$566,201	\$593,788
Catholic High School Subsidy & Expense	118,667	114,449	122,450
Total Parish Operating Expenses	\$959,986	\$1,014,046	\$1,127,649
Net Income/(Expense) From Parish Operations	\$100,845	\$25,475	(\$125,104)
<u>BUILDING FUND INCOME/(EXPENSE)</u>			
Receipts & Memorials	\$47,431	\$109,622	\$43,100
Interest Income	0	0	0
Stewardship (10% of building fund to diocese)	(3,107)	(1,794)	(1,794)
Expenses	(16,231)	(1,130)	(1,130)
Net Income/(Expense) From Building Fund	\$28,093	\$106,698	\$40,176
<u>NET OPERATING INCOME/(EXPENSE)</u>	<u>\$128,938</u>	<u>\$132,173</u>	<u>(\$84,929)</u>
<u>EXTRAORDINARY DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Funds disbursement for the Faith Center Building	(\$929,820)	(\$46,954)	0
TOTAL NET OPERATING INCOME/(EXPENSE)	<u>(\$800,882)</u>	<u>\$85,218</u>	<u>(\$84,929)</u>

Notes

from Andrea Eastman

Have you ever been in the same room as a million dollars? I have—once—many years ago when I was an internal auditor for a bank. You might think a million dollars would be kept in large bills, but actually, the million I counted was made up of many \$5's, \$10's and \$20's. It's an interesting parallel, I think, to the \$1,000,000 contributed at St Mary Parish the first six months of our fiscal year. Many gifts we receive also come in \$5's, \$10's and \$20's (and each is important and appreciated!)

As I review the financial report of our parish family the following items seem to need comment:

- As reported in November's *Messenger*, the original loan for the Faith Center project was \$900,000. We then added \$45,000 to purchase the new (*to us*) portable for the school. Our current payable is \$888,468, which means in just 6 months, we have reduced the principal of the combined note payable by \$56,000!

- Equity/Fund Balances looks odd with a negative \$582,180 balance. That number is the cumulative deficit position of our parish from July 1954 to June 2006. The balance is negative because we expensed the entire Faith Center project last year, resulting in a \$900,000 deficit last fiscal year (for which we obtained the diocesan loan).

- Our ordinary gifts are strong with a slight increase over last year's gifts. This increase is much appreciated. A stronger increase is needed in order for us to maintain and grow.

- Religious Education Formation & Other Programs are significantly less than budget due to the use of a grant from the Maria De Mattias Endowment towards Generations of Faith expenses.

- School salaries are less than budget due to Principal Montgomery teaching Middle School Composition for first semester without additional compensation.

- Gifts to the building fund are strong—more than twice the prior year's gifts!

- An \$85,218 surplus at the end of December is **OUTSTANDING!** The million, contributed in gifts big and little, is effectively used to carry out our parish mission. Thank you!