

The Sheep & Goats Gazette...And God Loves Us All!

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2012

Parish Pastoral Council Approves Mission and Vision Statements

By Jennie Freiberger, Editor

This past December, while many people were very busy preparing to celebrate the season of Christmas, the members of our Parish Pastoral Council were also busy...not only were they preparing for the holiday, they were also working very hard to approve a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for our combined three

churches. All that hard work and determination paid off in both statements being approved by the members in their December meeting.

These statements are a result of what you, our parishioners, have made known through the Dreams Project, phone calls by PPC members to parishioners, and listening sessions offered by

the PPC.

But don't think that because this big task has been completed our Parish Pastoral Council members will not have anything to keep them busy. Their next task is to begin working on Objectives, Strategies, and Plans of Action. You can be sure to keep informed of their progress by reading upcoming weekend

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bulletins and *The Sheep & Goats Gazette*, as well as articles on our website and Facebook page.

Mission Statement

As Pastoral Region Two of the Dayton Deanery
of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati,
we are a welcoming Catholic faith community
that is gathered by God for celebration and praise,
which inspires us to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Vision Statement

We will remain a stable Catholic presence in the northern urban area by:

- Providing opportunities for spiritual growth;
- Engaging in vibrant worship;
- Evangelizing our parishioners and neighbors;
- Witnessing to the Gospel through service and outreach;
- Growing our membership and resources of time, talent and treasure.

"And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

—Matthew 25:32

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...And God Loves Us All!

Published Five Times A Year

Editing & Layout.....Jennie Freiberger

Submit Articles & Contact Her At.....jfreiberger@corpusmercymartyrs.org

Editorial Guidelines

The purpose of our parish newsletter is to promote unity by providing a means of communication for parishioners to publish news, ideas, and events, thus building community and fostering a sense of belonging among the members of our parish family.

We encourage everyone to submit articles about "what's happening" in their personal and parish lives.

Deadline For Next Issue:

February 17

Contributors for This Issue:

Pat Duffley, Jennie Freiberger,
Mary Miltenberger,
Pat Offenberger, Paul Picker

The Exuberance of Youth

By Pat Offenberger

One of the joys of trucking (or the curse of it) is in watching new drivers coming into the industry. With social networking methods like Facebook, Twitter, etc., you can interact with these new drivers just entering the business. Stop at a truck stop and you can see the optimism of those entering the transportation industry. I was exactly like them, thinking that driving a truck HAD to be a dream job. That I actually held such a false hope, after working with my dad for years, and seeing what could and would challenge you daily, shows just how naïve I can be at times. But the drivers of today come into trucking in a much different manner than those of us who came up "back in the day."

I've said it before: most people who got into trucking back when I was young either had friends or relatives who drove and were willing to "allow" them to be "interns"

(I guess that would be the proper term). Someone who wanted to learn to drive rode along, most generally without any pay, and got the "awesome" job of loading and unloading the truck. They may have driven occasionally when the driver got tired, usually far out of town where traffic was light.

I got lucky. Yes, going with my dad entailed loading and unloading the truck, but I had A LOT of time behind the wheel. My dad owned several of the trucks he drove, and really thought he had what it took to be a trucker. He just didn't do that "staying awake" part real well, so he stayed closer to home for a long time. He didn't have long periods of driving to deal with; he was in and out of the truck usually every half hour or so...until we started hauling produce.

We "truck farmed" for many years, planting 25-30,000 tomato

plants, about as many green pepper plants, and about half as many hot pepper plants. We'd have maybe six acres of sweet corn and green beans, as well. We were able to take our produce a short distance to a packing house for shipping. When I was about 12, farmers out in our area of Washington County, Ohio started getting out of growing produce, thinking they couldn't compete with the large produce farms down by the Muskingum River. So they closed down the nearby packing house, and we were forced to take our produce into Marietta to get it shipped to larger cities.

I went with my dad on the first load we took to Marietta that year, and he was stressed out that we would lose the ability to ship out our crop. We got to the larger packing house in Marietta (where our nearby packing house had

been taking stuff for years), and when I was unloading the truck Dad struck up a conversation with the packing house manager. Dad asked him how they got the collected produce out of Marietta to the other cities, and got the obvious answer: they shipped it out on trucks. When Dad learned this, he asked what the requirements would be for a truck to haul out of there. He was told the truck needed to have at least a 16 foot bed, with side racks 8 feet high, swinging doors on the rear, and a tarp over the top of the truck.

We had a large canvas tarp. On the way home that day we stopped at a lumber yard and bought plywood and lumber. We had the typical scrap pile of metal on the farm to repair farm equipment. That evening, we built racks, fabricated swinging doors for the back, and stretched the tarp over the top of the truck. We commenced hauling produce to Cleveland, Youngstown, Pittsburgh, and the Akron/Canton area the very next day. And Dad took one of us three older boys with him daily. We'd barely get out of Marietta and Dad would get tired, and he'd have whichever boy that was with him slide over and drive until we got to "the big city." None of us even had a driver's license yet, and a chauffer's license was required to drive a truck like the one we were running back then (we were considered a "for hire" truck. They call them commercial vehicles today). But the highway patrol got used to seeing us boys driving the truck up the road, and I don't remember them ever stopping us.

That was a much different time in America; it wasn't quite as busy on the roads back then as it is today. Raising a family on what a farm earned every year took every family member doing all they could to pay the bills.

Today's new drivers most gener-



ally are graduates of a truck driving school of some sort, either through the company that hired them, or an independent school. Most community colleges even have driving schools these days. And I suppose the quality of instruction should be better than how I came up; Dad was hardly a licensed driving instructor. His teaching method was to sock us real hard in the right shoulder any time we screwed up, with the usual rebuke of, "Don't do that again!" I'm convinced my right shoulder ached until I was in my 30s. But what my education lacked in professional instruction was made up for in spades by learning EVERYTHING about upkeep of the truck. We did most any maintenance possible ourselves, and I don't remember any major breakdowns, because Dad preached a strict lubrication program on the truck. Oil and grease were a lot cheaper than new auto parts. The drivers today don't get that added knowledge. Some, because trucks today (like our autos) are made up of several computerized systems. Others, because most newer drivers today refuse to consider getting on the ground to work on a truck. And that makes me sad.

Where I work, we have actually had a driver call out a road

service technician to change his windshield wiper blades. They won't change burnt-out lights. And if you told them they had to change a truck tire, they'd laugh at you. Most would refuse to consider loading or unloading a truck, and they wouldn't think of riding along and doing the "scut" work we did back then for free, to simply gain the experience. Most believe they come out of a truck driving school as a "professional truck driver." I've driven for better than 35 years, and I still consider myself a rookie...I'm still learning. The words that stuck with me all these years were the wisdom my dad shared with me. He said that the day I thought I had it all figured out, that I knew everything there was about trucks, to get my "butt out of the seat." Because that would be the day I became a danger to myself and everyone around me on the highway.

As a matter of fact, though some thought I was making a joke, I told people for years to NEVER call me a professional driver, because that term has a negative connotation to many of us older drivers, simply because these new drivers call themselves professionals. I also used to tell people to NEVER tell my mom I was a truck driver because she was still proud of me.

(continued on page 5)

Medication Side Effects

By Mary Miltenberger, Health Ministry

You go to the doctor for a problem. You get a prescription for something. You fill the prescription, take it just like the instructions say. In a week you develop another problem. Back to the doctor, another prescription to take just like it says. In a few days something else is up. Not really major, but aggravating.

It may not occur to you or the doctor to question whether you are having side effects to the medication you are taking. They don't always develop right away. Medication side effects are often not a big deal, just some aches, or insomnia, or maybe you are feeling more depressed than usual. I mean, if you read the literature that comes with your prescription you can envision limbs falling off and going blind before slipping into a coma! So what's losing a little sleep compared to that, right?

It's still important. Out of 10 people, 9 can take a drug and it works fine, then the 10th person has strange things happen (even if that drug works for the original problem). These reactions can affect your quality of life even if they don't drive you to the emergency room. Milder symptoms like drowsiness, sleeplessness, muscle aches, dizziness, nausea, and bouts of depression may just be troubling, or they may result in falls and road accidents. (So you could end up in the emergency room anyway...eek!)

Why do drugs prescribed to make you better sometimes trigger other problems? A major problem is errors made by doctors, pharmacists, hospitals...even the person taking the medication. But there can also be adverse reactions your particular body has to certain

substances, as well as bad interactions with something you've been taking so long you forget it's a medication.

Getting older can make this worse. (Big surprise, huh?) Changes occur in all our organ systems and they can affect the way medication is absorbed or how it works. The flu shot, for instance (you got yours, right?), is sometimes given at 4 times the usual strength for people over 65 because their immune systems begin to be less efficient. Many doctors do not realize that different dosages should be considered of some medications for someone who is 70 or 80. Many of the clinical trials that proved drugs were safe for market were not done on older people. So it may be a kind of guessing game to take something new and see if it indeed works like it's supposed to, or if it gives you side effects and needs to be adjusted or changed to something else.

So you may be playing guinea pig...without the cage or cedar shavings! Sometimes you have to take medication to feel better. But consider asking about alternatives to a prescription, or things you can do in addition to the medicine. For instance, I can ice my knee and rub liniment on it before running to the ibuprofen bottle and worrying about how much of a hole it will eat in my stomach. Yes, it's easier to take the pills. And sometimes I actually have to do it. But it's worth it to me to try other things that won't give me side effects.



How can you tell if your medications are making you sick? Good question, with no good answer. If you break out or get nauseated within 24 hours of beginning a drug, that's a great indicator. Stop taking it and call the doctor right away. But a lot of side effects are not really obvious and take a while to show up. And you can't just stop taking medications every time you feel a bit off.

There are two things to consider if you have some of the symptoms mentioned and they don't go away. Ask the doctor who wrote your prescription if what you are feeling could be caused by it. Also, ask the pharmacy people the same question. If you get all of your medications filled at the same store (Kroger, Walgreens, etc.), their computer will show what you have been prescribed and even if you told them you had an allergic reaction to a drug. Ask them about any vitamins or herbal supplements you take, and if there are any foods to avoid while taking your medications. And of course, double check that you are taking them correctly. Should it be taken with food? Without food? Can you throw your whole day's medications in your mouth at one time and get it over with, or do they need to be staggered to avoid interfering with each other? Chemistry is a wonderful mystery that can make you crazy. Get your money's worth from your visit to your doctor or pharmacy...ask questions and make sure you feel like you know what's going on.

Eat Less, Eat Well

by Mary Miltenberger, Health Ministry

New year, new diet? Did you go a little overboard with all the holiday celebrating? The beginning of the year is a traditional time to review our weight and eating habits. There are a lot of good programs that can help us get back to a better weight. But you can “do it yourself” too. According to Good Samaritan Hospital dietician, Kathie Stevens, here are a few tips that can help you eat less and still eat

well.

- Eat slowly. Make meals last 20 minutes to cut back on second helpings.
- Gradually cut down how much you eat. As your stomach shrinks, you’ll have less room to eat too much.
- Eat foods high in fiber to feel full longer. That would be vegetables, fruits, and whole grains.
- Ask, “Am I hungry?” before grabbing “see food.” Break the routine of eating out of habit, for emotional reasons, or just because the food is there.
- Drink six to eight 8-ounce glasses of water every day. Measure your glasses so you know how much a full one holds. Or fill a quart container; when it’s empty you’re halfway to your daily

goal.

- Stop supersizing.
- Limit between-meal snacking, unless it’s raw veggies.
- Set aside a time to eat and do just that, at a designated place. No TV, driving, reading, computing. Don’t stand, sit down. (I get too bored to overeat when I do this).
- Don’t eat stuff you don’t like. But keep trying the healthy foods; you can develop a taste for something you didn’t used to like if you have a good reason to eat it.

There, you didn’t spend any money on a membership somewhere or order a carton of strange and expensive substances, yet you could very well be on your way to peeling off a few pounds while you create better eating habits. Happy 2012!



(continued from page 3)

She thought I played piano down at the brothel (just joking; she knew what I did for a living).

I meet some younger drivers that I count as being up to the task. And I meet way too many who have no idea what they have gotten themselves into. But I still remain constantly amazed that there are new drivers who actually look forward to trucking in all 48 lower states, and who think staying in a

truck for a month or so sounds like a lot of fun. I used to think that, too. Somewhere along the way I discovered I was getting older, and living in a truck for an extended period of time flat tired me out, and that I craved getting out of a truck after 5 or 6 days on the road. And that I missed WAY too many events where family wanted me to be present and share their special day.

God love them; they’ll burn out like us older drivers after a time,

but there will be a new crop ready and willing to take up the mantle. Because, just like the trucks themselves, the drivers wear out as well.

Until next time, pray for me. You can likely use the practice, and Lord knows I need all the help I can get.

Catch you on the road,

Pat

What's In A Name?

By Pat Duffley, Parish Pastoral Council

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet.” — Romeo & Juliet

On the weekend of December 17 & 18, 2011, Pat Duffley, representing the members of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), gave a talk at all three Masses that announced the beginning of a project to decide on one name for our three churches...in essence, a renaming of the “Region Two” moniker that has been used since our three parishes combined in July, 2007.

The goal is to have a vote in April on the suggested names, to finalize the selection in May, and to submit the chosen name to the Archdiocese soon after. PPC feels that because we are in reality one parish, with one pastor, one staff, and one liturgical calendar, it is appropriate that we implement this phase of the Catholic Urban Presence (CUP) Plan initiated over 8 years ago.

Please understand that in order to facilitate meeting and worship location announcements, and to respect the traditional names of our three

churches, we will always call our church buildings Corpus Christi Church, Our Lady of Mercy Church, and Queen of Martyrs Church. What PPC is asking of parishioners is for a new name, to replace “Region Two.”

To give everyone a chance to submit name suggestions, each of our three churches now has a box with comment sheets available: CC—in the Madonna Room and also the main entrance literature rack; OLOM and QM—in the main entrance literature racks. Name suggestions can also be dropped into the collection basket during Mass. Additionally, parishioners can also contact PPC members, or the specific members of the sub-committee working on the name change. They are: CC—Bobbi Lennon and Donna O’Neill; OLOM—Judy Martinson and Pat Duffley (Chairman of the sub-committee); QM—Karla Brun and Tom Harmon. These members will be available at their respective churches on the weekends of Febru-

ary 11 & 12, and March 10 & 11 to speak with parishioners. Make sure to read the weekend bulletins and check our website and Facebook page for future information.

It is important to note that the Archdiocese of Cincinnati requires that parish names be selected from the following:

- The Martyrology of the Church (catalogue of martyrs and saints);
- Pertaining to Christ, i.e., Christ the King, Resurrection...
- Pertaining to Mary, i.e., Mary, Queen of Peace; Mother of God...

Once a name to be proposed is selected, it is presented to the Archbishop for his approval to move forward. Consultation with parishioners may take place.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Parish Pastoral Council is asking for your input in renaming Pastoral Region Two to simplify financial records and to assist with parish unification. Please prayerfully consider this request for input and then write your comments/concerns on the following lines. If you have a name suggestion, please submit it below. Parishioners will be asked to vote on selected names in April, with the hope of making a final recommendation to the Archbishop in May. You can drop this slip of paper into a collection box at each of our three churches, or into the collection basket during Mass. Thank you for your assistance.

Comments _____

Name suggestions and reason behind choice: _____

(optional—your name & phone number if you wish to be contacted): _____

Below is the text of the talk Pat Duffley gave last December at all three of our churches. It's included here to give you a bit more information regarding the renaming of Pastoral Region Two.—Editor

“Good morning, folks.

My name is Pat Duffley and I'm here today to give you an update on behalf of Parish Pastoral Council. I've been a member of Our Lady of Mercy Church since 1985, usher coordinator since 1995, and on Parish Pastoral Council for the last four years. During that time I've seen the Council discuss and make decisions about many different issues. As you know, our three churches have faced economic, membership, school closing, building maintenance, social justice and changing urban neighborhood challenges. We've navigated these waters through two pastor changes while going through the process of merging three distinct parishes into one. This process was begun over eight years ago and is known as the Catholic Urban Presence or CUP Plan.

After much discussion, Parish Pastoral Council recently decided to implement an element of that Plan by forming a sub-committee to help us collectively decide on one name for our three-church parish. Comments from parishioners at our listening session last September held at Founders Hall and a sampling of opinions during phone calls to parishioners from Parish Pastoral Council members were overwhelmingly in favor of this project. The reality is that, in fact, we are one

parish with one pastor, one staff, one council, and one liturgical calendar. As we look to the future we hope you agree that referring to ourselves as “CorpusMercyMartyrs” or “Pastoral Region Two” seems cumbersome and uninspiring.

I assure you we don't take this task lightly and we are respectful of the fact that there are real ties to the name and traditions of each member church amongst our parishioners. The team members other than myself are Judy Martinson, Roberta Lennon, Donna O'Neill, Karla Brun and Tom Harmon. This gives equal representation to each member church but, ultimately, we want this to be a transparent, parish-wide project. We intend to have at least two members of our team available after Masses in the church vestibules the 2nd Sundays of January, February and March to listen to your comments and take suggestions for the name. There will be announcements at Mass regarding those dates the week before as well as bulletin reminders and website postings. We will also have comment sheets near the literature racks in each church throughout that period which you can use to suggest a name and which can be returned to us or the parish staff directly or in the collection basket. In late April we hope to have a vote of all the suggested names

and, if there is no clear winner, to narrow the choices down to perhaps the top three or four. In that event, in May, we will have the final vote which must then go to the Archdiocese for approval. After that approval we will, of course, need to continue to refer to each church building by their current names of Corpus Christi Church, Our Lady of Mercy Church and Queen of Martyrs Church, to facilitate location announcements of liturgical and social events. If all goes as planned, this process will result in a single official Parish name by sometime next summer.

As you know, Parish Pastoral Council consists of volunteers and representatives of our various commissions. We meet monthly and minutes are available at each church and on the website. Please don't hesitate to talk to any of us on Council or the sub-committee about your concerns about this or any other matter. Also, please consider joining one of our many ministries and share your time and talent. Have a wonderful week and on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council we wish you all a blessed Christmas!”

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Jane Bensman, *President*, 276-2623

Carl Meyer, *Vice-President*, 491-6635

Barb Dierkers, *Secretary*, 276-2680

Bobbi Staigers, *Faith Formation Rep.*, 278-2105

Ed Finn, *Finance Rep.*, 277-7482

Donna O'Neill, *Social Justice Rep.*, 278-7127

Julie Moreo, 277-3810

Karla Brun, 277-4482

Pat Duffley, 278-9503

Tom Harmon, 264-0121

Bobbie Lennon, 274-3843

Judy Martinson, 275-9197

Rosemary Picker, 277-2737

Reflections for Lent

By Paul Picker

The Christmas season is over, and we're stuck in the middle of winter. That means Lent is right around the corner. Paul Picker offers us two reflections to help get us ready.—Editor

In The Dark

We live in darkness, the light surrounds us but we are little aware of the presence. We go through life with blinders on, eyes closed or with a glare that distorts the presence of the light. When we sit at our table with abundant food and cannot give the homeless person our pocket change for food, then the presence of light has been blocked out. When the latest gadget becomes our focus and our stewardship to our church is ignored, then the presence of the light has been turned off.

When we close our eyes, shade our eyes, or even cover our eyes, the presence of the light is still there. We can and often do shut out the presence of the light; it is of no use, however. The presence

of the light is always there and in our humanness we find ways, conscious or unconscious, to shield ourselves from the presence of the light. When we do not tell the whole truth, the presence of the light is diminished. When we take that extra twenty minutes for lunch, the presence of the light is darkened. When we are given too much change and fail to return the extra money, the presence of the light is dimmed.

The presence of the light is always there; we make it less visible with our own selfish reasons. Darkness is made within ourselves, yet we have a choice. We control the switch for our own darkness in our greed, lust, gluttony and self-centeredness. Sometimes we are blinded by not seeing our own blindness. We cannot

create the light of presence, yet we can surely create the darkness in our lives that tries to overshadow the presence of light.

We can overcome our darkness to the presence of the light by removing the switches that cause the darkness. Switch off the darkness in your life by giving that homeless person your pocket change, or better yet, buy them a meal. Switch off that TV channel that leads to your lust and say a rosary. Switch off the "me" time and serve a meal in a soup kitchen. Those parts of ourselves that lead us into darkness cannot only be switched off, but can be rewired so that the temptations that lead us into darkness are removed. Through confession, prayer, and discipline, we become like a mirror that receives the light and reflects it back. After all, we are made in the image of God.

Hide and Seek

"I am only human, after all. No one is perfect." We love to hide behind these statements, our acceptable excuse for our mistakes. Are they really mistakes, or something else? When we leave the church and make our way out of the parking lot we want to blame our bad behavior of not letting that car in front of us into the line as our "only being human." When we are rude customers and cannot return our purchases with the receipt, we are "only human." When we fail to show up on time and hold things up, it's because "no one is perfect." When we mess up with one of our children and cause them pain, it's because "no one is perfect."

We are good at hiding. Even Adam and Eve tried to hide from

God. Yes, we are imperfect but that is not the point. Our mistakes are not so much about our humanness but more about our lack of Godliness. When you let that other car in line in front of you, it's an act of love. When we accept the no return policy with grace, it's an act of love. When we are on time, or seek forgiveness from our children, it's an act of love. God is love and when we who are made in the image of God act in love, it's not about our humanness, but our being Godly.

We're called to Godliness by God, not by any part of humanness. The capacity to be like God is within reach of all of us. It is not easy sometimes but it is attainable. We hurt ourselves spiritually when we accept our mistakes as "only being human."

When we accept these mistakes as our lack of Godliness then we maintain our connection to God and can seek His forgiveness. When we are acting with love we need to be conscious that we are acting in the image of God.

It's difficult to not make excuses; it's difficult to ask for forgiveness. We're much more Godly when we see that we have not acted in love and ask for forgiveness. When we hide behind our being imperfect humans, the connection to our Godliness is severed. Mistakes are not the problem; it's how we view those mistakes. When we see our mistakes as our lack of love, then we can sustain our relationship with God. We must remember that we were never meant to be alone with our mistakes.

Lenten Liturgical Events

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
FRI	Feb. 3	Blessing of the Throats	8:30 a.m.	QM Church
SAT	Feb. 11	Marriage Liturgy	4:30 p.m.	CC Church
SAT	Feb. 11	<i>Under the Sea</i> Dinner	5:45 p.m.	Founders Hall
WED	Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Mass	8:30 a.m.	CC Church
WED	Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Mass	5:00 p.m.	QM Church
WED	Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Mass	7:00 p.m.	OLOM Church
FRI	Feb. 24	Soup Supper	5:45 p.m.	McAuley Hall
FRI	Feb. 24	Rosary	6:40 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Feb. 24	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.	QM Church
SUN	Feb. 26	Rite of Sending (for Rite of Election)	11:00 a.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 2	Soup Supper	5:45 p.m.	McAuley Hall
FRI	Mar. 2	Rosary	6:40 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 2	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 9	Soup Supper	5:45 p.m.	McAuley Hall
FRI	Mar. 9	Rosary	6:40 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 9	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 16	Soup Supper	5:45 p.m.	McAuley Hall
FRI	Mar. 16	Rosary	6:40 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 16	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.	QM Church
THR	Mar. 22	Reconciliation Service	1:30 p.m.	OLOM Church
THR	Mar. 22	Reconciliation Service	7:00 p.m.	CC Church
FRI	Mar. 23	Soup Supper	5:45 p.m.	McAuley Hall
FRI	Mar. 23	Rosary	6:40 p.m.	QM Church
FRI	Mar. 23	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.	QM Church

Wish List 2011-2012

Thank you to all who responded to our Wish List so far. We have received monetary donations from parishioners and alumni. The Assumption Food Pantry now has a fan and AM/FM Radio. Volunteers have helped with Family Fun Nights, our Parish Mission, and other activities. Please consider giving of your Time, Talent or Treasure to help complete our wish list!

Treasure (Contact Tink Siwecki 274-2107 ext 115)

Mats Corpus Christi/Our Lady of Mercy/McAuley Hall (PARTIALLY RECEIVED)

Fan for the Assumption Food Pantry RECEIVED

Partition for Assumption Food Pantry office RECEIVED

Radio AM/FM for Food Pantry RECEIVED

Cordless Microphone/CC

Parish Wide Media Update

To better serve our Parish needs we would like to update our older electronic equipment at each site

Digital Camera-\$200.00 For use at Parish Events RECEIVED

Video camera- \$250.00 For use at Parish Events RECEIVED

4 New DVD Players approx. \$250.00

3 Flat Screen Televisions (47in.) \$398 ea for Parish Center/CC/McAuley Hall (1 RECEIVED)

1 Flat Screen Television (55 in.) \$1297.00 Founders Hall

Lap Top Computer \$600.00 For use at Meetings/Funerals/Events

Repair Roll up Screen in Founder's Hall

Time

Assumption Food Pantry Volunteers (Contact Cindy Rogerson 608-0945)

2 hours 15 min commitment on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday

Food pickup from Food Bank on an as needed basis

Family Faith Formation (formerly CCD) at McAuley Hall. Need catechists & helpers

(Contact Jan Reed 274-2107 x 101)

Parish Mission (October) need to borrow a follow spot light, someone to run it and several more helpers with the production (would involve rehearsal with Frank Runyeon) COMPLETE

Lenten Retreat –Helpers

Faith Formation (formerly Education commission) – need members

RCIA – need presenters and dismissal volunteers

Friday Family Fun Nights – popcorn baggers, helpers COMPLETE

Talent

Maintenance (Contact Bob Erli 684-0931)

Volunteers are needed to help maintain flower beds/weed at all church sites

Painters needed to paint:

Outside windows, railing etc... at Our Lady of Mercy Church

Inside and outside at McAuley Hall

Painting windows, doors etc... at Corpus Christi

*Anyone who has a **talent** or **skill** to share please contact our Parish Center @ 274-2107*

What's The Deal With Valentines?

By Jennie Freiburger, Editor

Did you know that “St. Valentine” was really the name of 14 martyred saints of ancient Rome? The name “valentine” contains the Latin root *valens*, which means “worthy, strong, powerful,” and it was quite popular in Late Antiquity. Apparently, these men were worthy, strong and powerful when it came to their belief in Jesus and Christianity, and they were martyred for refusing to give up their faith.

As for the specific saint whose feast day is February 14, almost nothing is certain, save that he was buried at the Via Flaminia north of Rome on February 14, and that he was born on April 16. Because there was a lot of uncertainty about St. Valentine (i.e., does his feast celebrate one man, or several of the same name?), the liturgical commemoration was dropped from the Catholic calendar of saints in 1969. Despite this removal, the legend surrounding this man (or men) has grown through the ages.

One of the best-known legends regarding St. Valentine was that he was a Roman priest who was

caught marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius. These actions were considered crimes, so he was locked up. While he was imprisoned and awaiting his execution, he restored sight to the jailer’s blind daughter. The night before he was executed, he wrote a farewell note to the girl, and signed it “from your Valentine.” The first Valentine!

Well, not really. Valentine’s Day (February 14) didn’t become associated with romantic love until Geoffrey Chaucer and his friends made a big deal out of the tradition of courtly love during the Middle Ages. Here’s an example of one of those early Valentine’s Day poems from Chaucer’s *Parlement of Foules* (1382):

*For this was on seynt Volantynys day,
when every byrd comyth there
to chese his make.*

(which means)

*“For on this Saint Valentine’s Day,
when every bird cometh
there to choose his mate.”*

In 1797, a British publisher issued *The Young Man’s Valentine Writer*, which contained scores of suggested sentimental verses for the young lover unable to compose his own. Printers were making a small amount of cards with verses and sketches, and a reduction in postal rates in the next century ushered in the less personal but easier practice of mailing Valentines. That, in turn, made it possible for the first time to exchange cards anonymously, which is taken as the reason for the sudden appearance of racy verse in the otherwise uptight Victorian era.

Since the 19th century, hand-



written notes have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. The mid-19th century Valentine’s Day trade was a harbinger of further commercialized holidays that would follow in the U. S.

In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts in the United States. Such gifts typically include roses and chocolate packed in a red satin, heart-shaped box. In the 1980s, the diamond industry began to promote Valentine’s Day as an occasion for giving jewelry.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the U. S. Half of those valentines are given to family members other than husband or wife, usually to children. When you include the valentine-exchange cards made in school activities the figure goes up to 1 billion, and teachers become the people receiving the most valentines.

And that may be more than you wanted to know about Valentines!

(info compiled from Wikipedia.com and Catholic.org)



An example of a Victorian Valentine

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Upcoming Events

- 02/03.....Blessing of Throats
8:30 a.m. @ QM Church
- 02/11.....Marriage Liturgy
4:30 p.m. @ CC Church
- 02/11.....*Under The Sea* Dinner
5:45 p.m. @ Founders Hall
- 02/22.....Ash Wednesday Masses
8:30 a.m. @ CC Church
5:00 p.m. @ QM Church
7:00 p.m. @ OLOM Church
- 02/24.....Soup Supper
5:45 p.m. @ McAuley Hall
- 02/24.....Rosary & Stations
6:40 p.m. @ QM Church
- 03/02.....Soup Supper
5:45 p.m. @ McAuley Hall
- 03/02.....Rosary & Stations
6:40 p.m. @ QM Church

(more calendar information
inside on page 9!)

Come Join Us Under The Sea!

The Region Two Annual Marriage Liturgy & Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2012. Mass will take place at 4:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church, followed by an *Evening Under The Sea* beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy's Founders Hall. This very festive (and free!) evening will include fine dining, music, and lots of fun! This event is open to all married couples of our parish. Make sure not to miss this entertaining event by calling the Parish Center, 274-2107, by Wednesday, February 8 with your R.S.V.P.

We look forward to seeing you...Under The Sea!

You know, Ollie...I just love these
Under The Sea decorations...they
seem so lifelike... I almost feel like
we're really in the ocean!