

HAPPENINGS AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

Church of Saint Mary

Summer 2006

Volume 10, Issue 2

A Letter from Our Pastor

My dear parishioners:

During these days of summer, the life of the parish has been filled with various activities. Thanks to all who have helped in making the activities possible and enjoyable. As the beginning of another school and parish program year draws near, I hope your summer has been a pleasant and enjoyable one.

One of the highlights of the summer has been our Vacation Bible School during the week of July 10th. I want to thank Linda Schoonover, the Children's Ministry Board and all the volunteers who joined to make this a successful experience for our young people. Following the program in the summer of 2005, Linda conducted a survey of families and based on those results she and her group worked this whole past year to revise, if not recreate, the whole VBS program. Congratulations on a job well done!

It has been a joy to have Brian O'Brien with us. If you like to plan ahead, mark your 2007 calendar for Saturday, May 26th at 9:00 a.m. That is the time and date for the Ordination of Brian and Gary Kastl to the priesthood and also twelve men to the permanent diaconate. Brian and Gary will be ordained to the diaconate this fall, October 28th at St. Meinrad's Seminary. I have a board meeting there starting the day after, so my plan is to be present for their ordinations. The excitement is already building! Do keep them in your prayers.

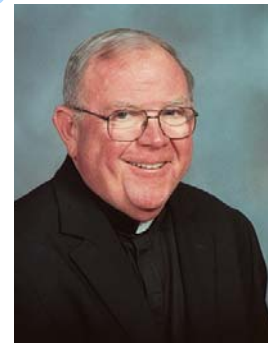
Do you know someone, not of our faith, whom you would consider inviting to RCIA this year? Attending RCIA is not a commitment to become a Catholic; it is rather an opportunity, through prayer and study, for people to learn more about our faith and discern whether the Lord is calling them to the Church. In addition, we are also in need of parishioners who are willing to be sponsors for inquirers. If you have any questions or simply want to discuss the

RCIA program, please call Arleen Stegge at 749-2561 x 122, the staff person responsible for this.

Are you developing the habit of looking at the parish web site to learn what has and will be happening in the parish? I ask that question because one of the efforts of our parish staff has been to improve communications within the parish (which was encouraged by the parish survey and the focus groups that met last fall). Our web site is an effective tool in helping us to communicate. Each week's bulletin is there, this issue of HAPPENINGS, as well as information about registering for various programs. Check it out!

Finally, a word of thanks to all who continue to give so generously of their time, talents, treasure and prayers on behalf of the parish. June 30th was the close of another fiscal year. On your behalf, I want to thank members of the parish administration and staff

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School of St. Mary
Dinner Auction
Saturday, October 28, 2006

Enjoy a Buffet Dinner

Silent and Live Auction Tables - 50/50 and Raffle Winners are announced

Maybe see a "Wedding Chapel." Or even see "Elvis."

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

We are currently in the process of securing silent & live auction donations and event sponsorships to underwrite this event. For information or to make a donation, contact Paula Beaver at 749-9361.

A Letter from Our Pastor . . . (continued from Page 1)

Finally, a word of thanks to all who continue to give so generously of your time, talents, treasure and prayers on behalf of the parish. June 30th was the close of another fiscal year. On your behalf, I want to thank members of the parish administration and staff for making successful efforts to stay within our budget once again this year. In addition to meeting operational expenses, we were able to make some prepayment on our debt (now at about \$180,000.00), replace some additional aging heat and air units, and also to install energy efficient windows in the Office Annex building.

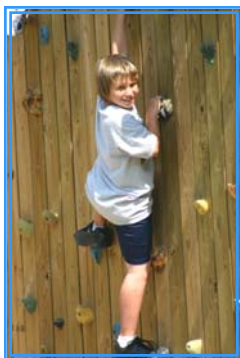
The auditors will soon begin their work and when the audit is completed it will, as always, be available to anyone who would like to review it.

Let us pray for one another and especially those who carry the cross of chronic or terminal illness.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Some Vacation Bible School Photos





CHURCH OF SAINT MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FALL PROGRAMS

Linda Schoonover, Director of Religious Education
749-2561, ext 123 • lschoonover@churchofsaintmary.com

PRE-SCHOOL RELIGION CLASSES: Classes are held during the Sunday 10:15 a.m. Mass for three- and four-year olds. We meet in the Marian Center pre-school area and use a bible story curriculum where children learn about God's love. In addition to classroom activities, the children take non-perishable food items to the food barrels and visit the chapel for prayer each week. Classes will begin August 20. Your child must be three or four by September 1 to register for these classes.

RELIGION CLASSES: Classes are held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Kindergarten through 10th grade students beginning September 10. In addition to the basic religion class curriculum, students have the opportunity to participate in other activities such as: stewardship activities, service projects, rosary and reconciliation services, family activities and liturgical experiences.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: Children who are eligible to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (usually second graders) participate in a parish-wide preparation program. This involves a series of parent sessions scheduled throughout the year, a children's retreat experience for each sacrament, and a family teaching Mass. Attendance at each event is required. The children receive their preparation lessons in either the parish Religious Education classes or Catholic school religion classes and come together to participate in the retreats and teaching Mass. **AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF FORMAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE BEGINNING THE SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM.** This year the children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 6 and First Communion on the last weekend in April. The first parent session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, at 6:30 p.m. in Beckerle Hall.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN: Children age 7-14 who desire to join in full communion with the Catholic church, either by baptism or profession of faith, participate in a process which mirrors the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Children in this program attend Religious Education classes with their age group **and** meet on Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning in September. Children who participate celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass along with any adults who are joining the Church.

Older children who have not been baptized or have been baptized in another faith denomination, as well as children who may have been baptized Catholic but have not attended church nor celebrated any other sacraments since their baptism, are candidates for this program. Children who have completed the initiation process are expected to continue their faith formation in parish religion classes, Catholic school, and/or youth group. **Please call to register.**

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES: There are several areas in the Religious Education Ministry for parents and adults to share their faith with our children.

1. Classroom teachers & aides (full-time & part-time)
2. RE administrative & special projects helpers.
3. Team-member for Children's Liturgy of the Word (A program which allows young children to leave Mass during the readings and homily, and experience the Liturgy of the Word at an age-appropriate level; children return to Mass for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.)
4. Member of the Children's Ministry Board (An advisory group for RE programs and planning group for Vacation Bible School, family social and liturgical events)

R.E. registration forms are available in the Community Center at the back of church or on the church website.

HOSPITALITY: WELCOMING COMMITTEE NOTES

Can you give a few minutes to help extend the warmth of our parish community? Your gift of time and a smile will help provide God's welcoming presence in our church. As Welcoming Committee members, you can serve either as a Greeter at Mass or when new members register at St. Mary.

St. Mary has a reputation of involved and generous giving and each month we register new members who may not be familiar with the ministries and activities we serve and enjoy. As a member of this team, you will be instrumental in orienting members to parish organizations, activities and services.

NEW, OLD MEMBERS INVITED

Are you a new parishioner? Or maybe you're not so new? Want to learn more about what goes on at our Church? There's a lot!

A good way to learn about your parish would be to join St.

Mary's Welcoming Committee. Our church and school have grown to their present stature because of parishioners (past and present) who through strong commitment to faith desire to pass their Catholic heritage to future generations.

GIFT OF HOSPITALITY

Won't you be part of the next generation of dedicated St. Mary parishioners who will pass on your love of God and parish life? Hospitality is one of the gifts many Christians enjoy sharing with others... and it is a cornerstone of a good stewardship parish.

When you sign the Stewardship of Ministry form to serve, check #105 (Newcomer Welcoming) and/or #706 (Mass Greeter), an orientation meeting and tour will help you learn all we do as a people of God.

The Welcoming Committee's purpose is to provide an inviting, hospitable atmosphere and sense of warmth for

members of our parish family. We want every-one to be comfortable in our church home. The members of the **Welcoming Committee** – as Mass Greeters or for New Members – play an important role in building our community and the support of the parish.

Although evangelism is commonly understood as movement out into one's community, it also has everything to do with creating a warm-hearted welcoming community. We all will be richer by serving Christ in this way... being Christ's welcoming presence.

“Hospitality is a cornerstone of St. Mary's commitment as stewards of the Church.”

“Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Rm. 15: 7

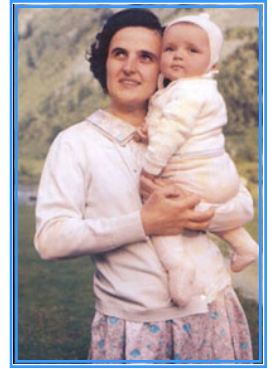


A DAY IN OKLAHOMA CITY

One of the many activities enjoyed this summer was a day trip to Oklahoma City to the new Historical Museum, Old Saint Joseph Cathedral for Mass, the Oklahoma Bombing Memorial and a buffet lunch at Remington Park Casino.

FIRST YEAR OF ST. GIANNA MINISTRY OFF TO A GREAT START!

The St. Gianna Sewing Guild had a great turnout for their first “Meet and Greet and Knitting Refresher.” There are currently 16 members who have contributed 104 gowns, 56 hats, 30 blankets, 42 burial pouches and numerous booties to the Perinatal Bereavement Program at St. Francis Hospital for the burial of infants that die at, or shortly after, birth. What an amazing accomplishment for this new ministry which began in May of 2005!!



Diocesan coordinator Susie Spanier recently hosted a “thank you” luncheon at her home for the Sewing Guild Members with the perinatal nurses from St. Francis Hospital. This was a great opportunity to learn how much these handmade gifts are needed and appreciated by the grieving families. A reporter from the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic attended the luncheon and an article was published in the April 30th EOC.

Plans are underway to expand the Sewing Guild to serve St. John Hospital later this year. In addition, information on the St. Gianna Sewing Guild will be available on the Church of St. Mary website sometime this summer. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about this wonderful ministry, please contact Kelly Wilhelm at 402-9757.



Parishioners recently gathered for St. Gianna’s “Meet and Greet” organized by St. Mary coordinator, Kelly Wilhelm. Seated (l-r) are Gertrude Lovoi, Kelly Wilhelm and Jeanne Bates. Standing (l-r) are Ellie Tonquest, Maureen Uhren, Barbara Whiting, Helen Madden and Cecilia Elliott.

At St. Gianna’s April Luncheon, Barbara Whiting, Mary Tracey, Maureen Uhren and Kelly Wilhelm display sample gift boxes for bereaved families.



HUNGER IN AMERICA

BY HILARY ELIAS, JUSTICE & PEACE
MINISTRY

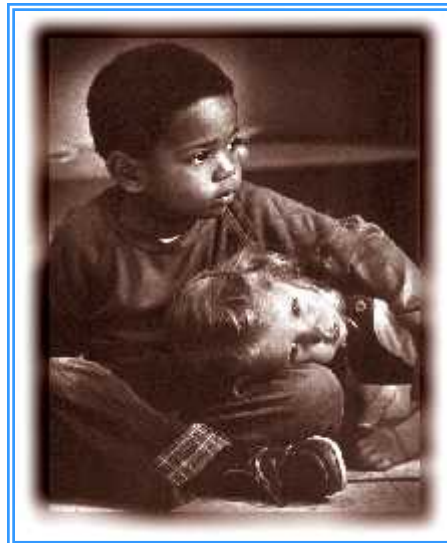
In the last three months, over 274 families have come to the pantry here at St. Mary. Thanks to you, our parishioners and the Tulsa Community Food Bank, we were able to help all of them. Most of our clients are the working poor. They work for minimum wages — usually between \$5.25 to \$7.00 per hour, so even if there are two people working, they are unable to pay rent., utilities, gas or buy food. Some of our clients, about 60%, receive food stamps, but most only receive supplemental help and their food stamps last only for 3 weeks or less. Over 1/2 of food stamp recipients are children and another 9% are age 60 or older.

According to a U.S.D.A. report, the average food stamp application process requires at least 5 hours of client time and at least two trips to the local welfare office in order to negotiate the application process — a daunting task for many working poor parents. “Recertification”, a process of periodically renewing a household’s eligibility for food stamps, occurs every 3 to 6 months. Low income senior citizens faced with high prescription medicine costs are some of the most tragic cases of non-participation. They are often forced to make difficult choices between buying food or their medicine. Instead of supplementing their fixed income with needed food stamps, many seniors often misunderstand eligibility guidelines. Questions about income limitations, asset tests, and where they should go to receive the benefits often keep them from applying. Many eligible adults who choose not to apply do so because “being on food stamps has a stigma” and they are embarrassed.

Food stamps are only accessible to people that live at-or-below the poverty line and transportation can be a costly burden. In many parts of the city, public transportation is very limited.

Many of our clients prefer coming here to our pantry because we care about the whole person. They can visit and tell us “the rest of the story” and sometimes we can help. Loss of jobs due to illness and a loss of transportation account for over 65% of our clients. Helping with medications and sometimes advising them of the free clinics or dentists who give of their advice and services pro bono, is enough to get them back on track.

“If you don’t have a working vehicle, it is nearly impossible to hold a job —”



If you don’t have a working vehicle, it is nearly impossible to hold a job — variable hours (our buses don’t run 24-7) and the fact that our buses don’t travel along all major roads. Many times our clients have to walk one or two miles after a long bus ride and are, therefore, late to work and out of a job once again.

BEING POOR

- Being poor is . . . having to keep buying \$800 cars because they are what you can afford and then having the cars break down because there is not an \$800 car in America that’s worth a darn.
- Being poor is . . . Needing that 35-cent raise.
- Being poor is . . . \$6 short on the utility bill and no way to close the gap.
- Being poor is . . . Hoping your kids don’t have a growth spurt.
- Being poor is . . . Not taking a job because you can’t find someone you trust to watch your kids.
- Being poor is . . . Knowing how hard it is to stop being poor.

At the moment, we have one mother with six children completing her GED and hoping to attend TCC in the fall. It has been a long tiresome road for her, She is diabetic and her husband is on kidney dialysis, but she has finally realized that an education is the only hope for her and her children. We have also assisted two other moms complete their 2-year program at TCC. There are two young men that are now working and have hopes of attending Tulsa VoT ech in the fall. Thanks to the money you donate, we have helped them with food, bus passes, a little bit of advice and a lot of support.

Your donations are so instrumental in changing lives — thank you so much for all that you give!

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

BY WALTER STOUT,
MUSIC MINISTRY

CHOIRS ON VACATION

As usual, the **ADULT CHOIR** is on (a much-deserved) summer break until the Sunday following Labor Day. New members are always welcome — watch the weekly bulletin for announcements of the start of their fall rehearsals.

This fall, the **ADULT CHOIR** will be participating in the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass on the first weekend of each month.

The **YOUTH MASS CHOIR** is also on

a summer holiday and will resume their monthly Mass participation in September. This group is open to all youth (middle and high school) and adults interested in singing at the Sunday 6:00 p.m. liturgy on the first (and sometimes on the second) Sunday of each month.

The **HANDBELL CHOIR** ended the year welcoming two new members to the group. New members are always encouraged to join. If you would like more information, simply contact me at 749-2561 x 120.



NEW HYMNALS IN THE RACK

As you no doubt have noticed, the new *Worship* hymnals have been placed in the pew racks. You won't notice any difference in the hymn section; however, the lectionary readings in the back have been updated to reflect the 2002 revision by the U.S. Council of Bishops. Slight changes in the responsorial psalms have also been made.

Of the 600 copies ordered, 362 were paid for by donations from individual parishioners (single and family), the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights. Thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity!

“ABD” *(all but dissertation)*

On a personal note, I am pleased to announce that I have completed all the course work and performance requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Oklahoma at the close of the spring semester. This changes my status to “candidate for the degree” by the university. The final step of my degree will be the writing and defense of a dissertation document. As of this date, my topic has not been nar-

I've been approached by several people about the possibility of making a first or additional donation to the fund. Envelopes for donations can be found in the Community Center at the registration table, in the Parish Office, the Office Annex as well as the Book Rack outside the Marian Chapel.



“ envelopes for donations can be found in the Community Center at the registration table ”

rowed or approved, but I hope to be diligently working on it this fall with my eye on completion (defense) in 2008. Again, I want to express my deep gratitude to Msgr. Dorney, Fr. Joe, my colleagues on the staff and the parish for the continuing support in my academic pursuits. My professors and student colleagues in Norman have often expressed great admiration to the parish for that kind of support!



Congratulations,
Walter

Church of Saint Mary

1347 East 49th Place
Tulsa, OK 74105-4779

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www.churchofsaintmary.com

MASSES

Weekend: Saturday Vigil — 5:00 p.m.
Sunday — 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.
12:15 p. m. & 6:00 p.m.

Weekday: Monday: 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday through Friday
6:30 & 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days:
6:30 & 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
or as announced

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

PARISH AND ANNEX OFFICES

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
and 1:00—4:30 p.m.
(closed 12:00 noon—1:00 p.m.)

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Dennis C. Dorney

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Joe Townsend

SENIOR PRIEST

Rev. William J. Swift

DEACON

Rich Bender

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Kathy Desruisseau

PASTORAL MINISTRY/COUNSELING

Virginia Lane

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Arleen Stegge

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Linda Schoonover

YOUTH MINISTRY

Candice Calhoun

MUSIC MINISTRY

Walter Stout

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Karen Hiller

JUSTICE & PEACE MINISTRY

Hilary Elias

DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Gayle Long

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office	749-1423
Annex Office	749-2561
Fax	747-9532
Rectory	749-1266
School	749-9361
School Fax	712-9604
Preschool	743-4030
After School Care	630-2822

SCHOOL STAFF

PRINCIPAL/SCHOOL MINISTRY

Suzanne Nelson

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Carla Lechner

SCHOOL FUND RAISER DIRECTOR

Paula Beaver

AFTER SCHOOL CARE DIRECTOR

Margaret Garbade