

Carpenter's Connection

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

November, 2007

A WORD FROM FATHER REINERSMAN.....

Dear St. Joe Parishioners:

When people ask me, "How's it going at St. Joseph?" I usually say, "I am still connecting the dots." What I mean is that once in a while the next step, or "dot", is very obvious. At other times the next "dot" is not so apparent. That's when I have to check in with one of my many "bosses" (e.g. Carol Breitenstein, Dennis Brennan, Lee Kessen) to see what effect a particular action or decision will have. Once in a while, I don't even know where the "dots" are that I'm supposed to be connecting.

Obviously, it is important to know where you've been and where you are before you can figure out how to organize yourself to get to where you want to be. If you are the "new guy on the block" this can be especially challenging. I have had invaluable assistance in connecting the dots from many people here at St. Joe, such as the staff, parish council, worship committee, finance committee and others. One particular effort of the whole parish has been helpful in answering the question, "Where do we go from here?"

In 2004 the parish started a process to help us determine

where we are, decide where we want to be in the future and clarify how we get there. Called the "Parish Revitalization Plan" (PRP), it helped identify our strengths and limitations. The first step of the PRP was a Parish Life Survey of over 1,000 parishioners conducted in February of 2004. This survey was then used by focus groups to discuss various aspects of parish life. Some recommendations of the focus groups have been implemented; e.g. new sound system in church, Sunday evening Mass directed toward young people, new church roof. Others are in process.

Also as part of the PRP, the Planning, Development and Maintenance team, comprised of parishioners with expertise in construction and facilities, met with Rick Wolnitzek, of H-W Architects, to consider plans for meeting the space needs of the parish that were expressed in the survey. They examined possibilities for parish offices, putting all classrooms under one roof, additional classrooms, separate rooms for parish school of religion, additional meeting space, renovating restrooms, a multi-purpose building, additional parking, a senior center. This part of the PRP presents some very exciting possibilities. It also presents considerable challenges.

We are still some time away from implementing any dramatic plans regarding our facilities. But, the PRP helps us focus on the future, while maintaining our ongoing mission. It should help us concentrate our resources and organize short-term projects according to a long-term plan. Of course, we're counting on the Holy Spirit's guidance too. But it's nice to know we have something to help us "connect the dots".

I just remembered a favorite little plaque of mine. It shows a flock of geese flying in formation; one goose looks at another and asks, "Now that we're organized, where are we going?" With the help of a lot of dedicated parishioners we are first deciding where we are going so that we know how to organize ourselves.

Fr. Gerry Reinersman

Inside this issue:

In Appreciation of....	2
Character Awards	3
Thanksgiving Prayer	3
Ask The Deacon	4
Parish Mission	5
New Parishioners	5
Mass Schedule	5

In Appreciation of.....

During the fall's unexpected extreme heat, the air conditioning in church was left on during the week so that school classes could come to church throughout the day to escape the severe heat. Quite a few students wrote thank you notes to Fr. Reinersman for this. Many notes also gave words of welcome to Fr. Reinersman. Fr. Reinersman read every note and appreciated each one too.

All of the notes were very well written. Some notes were especially funny. A few are quoted here for your enjoyment. Italics is added for emphasis:

Dear Fr. Reinersman,

I would like to thank you for keeping the air conditioning on so we could use the church for classes. It was great. We could *consecrate* more there. We appreciate it a lot. I hope you are enjoying St. Joes. We love when you come and visit.

Dear Fr. Reinersman,

I am an eighth grader here at St. Joseph. I would like to thank you for letting us use the air conditioning in the church. It's something all of us eighth graders can appreciate. Lastly, congratulations on becoming pastor of the church. *I hope you make the most out of it.*

Dear Fr. Reinersman,

Alleluia! Thank you so much for letting us use the air conditioner. It was so comfortably cool in the Church. Your generosity was greatly appreciated. *You are so nice to spend money on people you barely know.* I hope you enjoy the parish.

In the *Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II names three attitudes, absorbed by our society without its even realizing it, which are rooted in the culture of death and hostile to a culture of life.

The first attitude he names is an extreme personal autonomy. This attitude asserts that moral questions of right and wrong depend on an individual's own preferences and circumstances, that there is no objective moral yardstick such as the Ten Commandments. This attitude tears away at societal cohesion and any responsibility of the social order to protect the rights of defenseless and its most vulnerable citizens. Respecting the lives of the weak and helpless – unborn children, the disabled, the dying, and victims of violence – contributes to a just society where all can flourish.

The second attitude considers some lives are not worth living. This attitude is blind to the inherent value of all human life. Often shrouded in "quality of life" language, this way of thinking considers a person's "usefulness", consciousness, and / or "burden to society". This line of thought logically leads to euthanasia and infanticide. Catholic moral theology allows for consideration of the nature of an illness and the means for alleviating pain, but never allows for the direct taking of a life.

Finally, John Paul II, speaks of our culture's attitude that we must avoid suffering at all costs. Among other problems with this attitude is that too often sacrifice, hardship and inconvenience are considered "suffering". The term "death with dignity" is used to rationalize direct hastening of death. John Paul II, himself, taught us that to understand death with dignity, we must first accept and protect the dignity of life. The value of human life does not change according to health or other circumstances. Rather, human dignity springs from its source – the loving action of God the Creator.

To counter attitudes that are contrary to a culture of life we must first be aware of them in ourselves. Then we need to speak out in defense of a culture of life when we have the opportunity.

A Great Big "THANK YOU!" to Don Schmidt

Don Schmidt has very generously given of his time preparing parish Lectors. This is has been a great gift to the whole parish and extremely important for good liturgy. Don has decided it is time to pass on this responsibility to someone else.

Nick Jerdon has stepped forward and agreed to take over Don's responsibilities. Their generosity gives us a great example of stewardship for the benefit of the whole parish.

Thank you, Don for giving your time and talent.

Two Students Win Character Award

Out of over 130 nominations, two of our St. Joseph students recently received the YMCA Character Award. The award focused on the four characteristics of: Caring, Respect, Honesty, and Responsibility. Each nominee had to write an essay on the importance of these “Character Values”.

Jenna Sharp, who is an 8th grader, was awarded this prestigious award. Jenna’s volunteer involvement with the Arthritis Foundation, successful fund-raising campaigns, Arthritis Advocacy in Washington, D.C., and the content of her essay helped her win the award. Jenna’s efforts in Washington, resulted in Jim Bunning and other Kentucky legislators supporting the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act.

Katy Brewer, a graduate of St. Joe, who now attends Notre Dame, also won the award. Katy’s volunteer camp counseling at Camp Ernst helped earn her the award. Katy’s essay on the “Character Values” drove home the importance of living your life with traits of Caring, Respect, Honesty, and Responsibility.

Both girls celebrated with their families on November 1st at a Gala at the Millennium Hotel in Cincinnati

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thanksgiving Prayer

*Thank you God for all the wonderful blessings,
For our daily meals, for clean drinking water,
For sunlight and for the cool breeze.
I'm thankful for my family, my friends, and my health.
I'm thankful for my friends, to love and be loved and for freedom.
I'm thankful to be employed;
I'm thankful to be alive and praise you for all these wonders.
I'm thankful that you have been so gracious
To give your only Son to us
Who gave his life and bore the Unbearable For us sinners.
On this Thanksgiving Day, I take the Opportunity to thanks for countless
other things you provide us with on a daily basis.*

Amen.



“In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

From Our Deacon.....

Q. *As a new convert to the Catholic faith, I've wondered why so many people arrive late and leave early at Mass. Is this acceptable?*

A. Nope. While some folks do have legitimate reasons for arriving late or leaving early; job conflicts with mass times, care-giver to the sick, removing a fussy child, etc., might be a few valid reasons (sorry folks, sports events really don't make the list), most simply have no real excuse.

ARRIVING LATE

When we arrive late for Mass, we forfeit almost any opportunity to put ourselves into a good frame of mind and heart for the Eucharist. We miss the chance to speak to the Lord in private prayer before Mass begins. We pass up the chance to recollect ourselves and to ask forgiveness for our sins that hinder us from opening our hearts to the redeeming love Jesus wants to share with us in and through the Eucharist.

Even more seriously, we may deprive ourselves from listening to the Word of God. If we were invited to a talk given by our favorite athlete or author, we'd make sure we didn't miss a word. Yet when the Lord comes to us in the power of the Holy Spirit to speak to us the words of eternal life, we find ourselves a few blocks away from church, perhaps with music or news bombarding our senses.

Thankfully most of the congregation is there for the presentation of the gifts and the Eucharistic prayer. Participation in the Eucharistic prayer requires attentive listening to the Word of God. The Mass, after all, is not like a football game with two parts interrupted by a half-time show (the homily). Rather, the Mass is a single act of worship. By listening to the revealed Word of God in Scripture and by reflecting on its meaning for our lives,

we are prepared to enter, heart and soul, into Christ's ultimate act of love for us — his saving death and glorious resurrection. We are prepared to experience, all over again, the depth of his love for us and for the whole Church to whom his love unites us.

LEAVING EARLY

Perhaps most Catholics don't take much notice of people leaving early because they're accustomed to it (sad), but visitors and new Catholics find it very disconcerting because it doesn't happen in other Churches.

The practice is probably a hangover from pre-Vatican II days when one's Mass obligation was met as long as one was present for the offertory, the consecration and the priest's communion. Hopefully we have grown out of such legalistic behavior and have a better understanding of why and how we gather for worship as a community of faith.

Let's be honest. Walking out before Mass has ended is just plain bad manners, as it would be if someone were to get up and leave a dinner party as soon as they had finished eating without any thank-you's or farewells.

Besides being socially unacceptable, the practice of not staying for all of the Mass is theological inappropriate. The fact that the term 'Mass' is derived from the dismissal (the Latin *ite Missa est*) suggests that this part of the Mass is very important. The dismissal is not just a way to end the celebration or to say farewell to those who have gathered, although both of these are included. As the General Instruction puts it, the dismissal of the assembly 'sends each member back to doing good works, while praising and blessing the Lord'. (GI 2000 #90)

The Concluding Rites of the Mass, though brief, remind us that we are all

expected to do our part in carrying on Christ's mission of proclaiming God's word and of serving others. The announcements following the Prayer after Communion offer the assembly opportunities for living out the commitment which Eucharist entails during the coming week.

At St. Joseph's, when the mass schedule was "tight", I could emphasize (a little) with folks leaving a little early – the parking situation arriving and leaving could be somewhat problematic to say the least. Now that our new mass schedule alleviates that problem, there are really no free passes. Unless, of course, people have better reasons than being with Christ and His Church for just one hour a week. That really can't be the case though, can it?

Have a question pertaining to the Faith?

**Call Deacon Tim Schabell @
441-5110 x53**

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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We're on the Web!

● www.stjoeschool.net

OUR PARISH MISSION

The people of St. Joseph's Parish strive to be a dynamic, Catholic faith community, following the example of Jesus Christ through liturgical, communal and personal prayer. We value education, especially education in the faith. Through parish ministries and organizations, we serve others by offering our gifts of time, talents and treasures. We seek to fulfill this mission with the help of Christ, Who leads us to oneness with God.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

*Have a Safe, Spirit-Filled
Thanksgiving*

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 6:30 & 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday & Friday: 6:30 & 9:00 a.m.
Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 7:30, 9:00, & 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 Noon
7:00 p.m.
Holyday Eve: 7:30 p.m.
Holydays: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Welcome New Parishioners.....

John and Carol Masus
Wilder

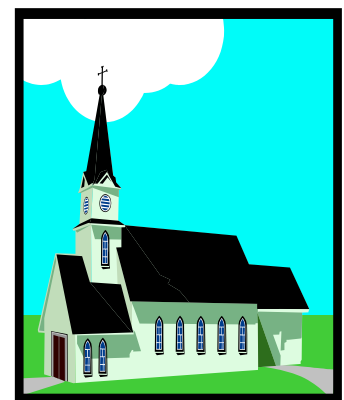
John and Sue Lamping
Cold Spring

Wayne Johnston and Family
Ft. Thomas

Judy Martin
Cold Spring

Magdalen Kachler
Bellevue

Kenneth and Ximena Burton
Alexandria



The Carpenter's Connection is an official publication of St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, KY. The primary purpose of this publication is to provide short informative articles about parish news, such as fundraising activities and current events. Deadline is the 25th of the month at the rectory. All articles should be parish related and have the name and number of a contact person.