



From the Heart



HEART OF JESUS, KING AND CENTER OF ALL HEARTS

A quarterly message from Sacred Heart Church to all of our members

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From the Heart

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Parish Vision Statement Sets Course for the Future

by FR. JOHN SAUER

Last May, I was making my move to Sacred Heart after 11½ years at the Cathedral and a wonderful sabbatical. One of my favorite authors, the Jewish writer Chaim Potok, begins one of his books, "All beginnings are hard. Especially those you make alone." Transition is not easy and beginnings can be hard. Learning new names, finding out how things work, meeting with leadership groups, visiting our assisted living facilities, celebrating Mass – all of these activities filled my first months here.

Normally priests make the transition to a new parish in July. This gives us a month to settle in before a lot of meetings and activities start. It was a benefit to begin at the end of May since I got a great overview of all that goes on in our parish. It was off to the races and never let up. One of the great gifts of this year is to know that, although beginnings are hard, I did not make this one alone. The effort of so many of you made the transition easier and I thank you for it.

We have done a lot this past year to set the stage for the future. Our parish has great life and energy and this is an exciting time. Three elements are part of our future.

This first is the Vision Statement which our Pastoral Council created after consultation and much discussion. It was presented to the parish during the weekend of May 16/17. It states: **Drawing our life from the Eucharist, our parish family will fully live the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer, faith formation and outreach.**

This Vision Statement will guide our planning for the future. It seeks to build on those things we are doing well – prayer, faith formation and outreach by rooting them in the Eucharist and the mission of Jesus Christ. Recently there has been a shift of emphasis when we talk about what it means to be Church. In the past we talked about the mission of the Church. Today we tend to say that the mission of Jesus has a Church. Our new vision statement reflects that understanding. In the coming months we will begin looking at the ministries and activities of our parish to see how they line up with the vision statement and to identify areas that might be lacking. It will be an exciting time and I look forward to all of us working together on this.

To help us live this vision we identified staffing as one area which needs attention. Since my arrival I have been the only pastoral staff person for the parish. Both Teresa and Paula actually do a fair amount of pastoral work through their respective jobs but we identified the need to have an additional person to help us in this area.

I am pleased that we found Sr. Sarah Hennessey, FSPA to fill this role. We had a whole slate of wonderful candidates so the decision was difficult but we felt Sr. Sarah was the best fit for Sacred Heart and Holy Trinity parishes. She will do many of the things that Deacon George and Deacon Jim did. She will not be able to do weddings, baptisms or funeral services but will help in a variety of

VISION STATEMENT

Drawing our life from the Eucharist, our parish family will fully live the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer, faith formation and outreach.

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Why is Sacrifice Essential to Stewardship?

by JOE STILES

We are all called to “holiness.” But what does that mean? I think it means being a faithful disciple of Jesus, being in a loving relationship with Him. And how does one become a good disciple? Through sacrifice. By surrendering oneself to God’s will. This is what “stewardship of time” is all about—giving God His rightful place in our lives.

Here’s how Pope Benedict put it in his homily on Palm Sunday:

“Those who wish to keep their lives for themselves, to live only for themselves, to keep everything for themselves and exploit every possibility; those people lose their lives. They become empty and boring. Only by abandoning ourselves, only in the disinterested giving of ‘I’ in favor of ‘you,’ only in the ‘yes’ to the greater life, which is of God, do our own lives become broader and greater. . .



“...giving
God His
rightful place
in our lives.”

“Love means the abandoning of self, the giving of self, not wishing to possess oneself but becoming free of self; not closing in on oneself (what will become of me?) but looking ahead towards others: towards God and towards the people He sends me. . .

“Sacrifice and denial are part of a just life. Those who promise a life without this ever-new gift of self are deluding others. Without sacrifice there can be no fulfilling life. . .

“The glory of God, His lordship, His will; these are always more important and truer than my thoughts, than my will. What is

essential is . . . to learn this just ordering of reality and accept it intimately, trusting in God and believing that He is doing the right thing, that His will is truth and love, that my life becomes good if I learn to adhere to this order.”

Fr. Sauer

– CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other areas which will, in turn, free me for those other sacramental and ministerial roles. I look forward to her presence among us.

Finally, we are finalizing plans for the new offices to be added to the west end of the parish center. After reviewing a variety of options, this was the most cost effective and offered us the best final product. We hope to begin construction yet this summer.

As you can see, a lot has happened in the last year. We are in an excellent place from which to move into the next phase of our parish’s life. The strength of our stewardship giving is allowing us to do all of these wonderful things. Thanks to all who support our parish with their prayers, their treasure and time. Without all of us working together we would not be accomplishing the great things we are.



Catechism In Stone

by KYRO R. LANTSBERGER

Our Lady of Grace

At the parking lot entrance to St. Mary’s School there is a statue of Mary, Mother of Jesus. The statue features Mary with arms extended downward with open palms. She stands on a globe, a snake under her foot. This particular image of the Blessed Virgin Mary is classically titled, “Our Lady of Grace.” Based on the writings and descriptions of St. Catherine Laboure, a French mystic and religious sister in 1830, this image of Our Lady embodies many themes of scripture and tradition.

The arms of the Blessed Mother are extended: both in a maternal gesture of embrace, they also pour forth the graces of God to those devoted to her. She stands over the serpent, evoking the image in the Book of Revelation of the woman versus the dragon as well as the title of Mary as “the new Eve.” The first Eve fell to the temptation of the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and Mary, as the New Eve, became the Mother of the redeemed human race by her obedience to God.



Stewardship Begins at Home

by ANGIE & JOHN AHLBERG

have you ever thought about how our principles of stewardship as a parish at Sacred Heart can be cultivated early and frequently with our children? For us, we believe it all starts at home.

With young children, explaining what “time-talent-treasure” means is a good start.

Encouraging young children to take an active role in prayers for meal time and shared family



readings during advent or lent are ways for them to express themselves in faithful ways. Because we have four kids it is often hard for the younger ones to be heard in the din of household conversation. When we pray together as a family this allows time for their voice to be heard. Encouraging this faithful expression at Saint Mary’s school, REP classes, Edge, or Young Life, these kids can take a next step. At this level, sharing of talent becomes natural whether it is singing in groups, helping out at charitable events like working at community

kitchens, or visiting folks in assisted living care facilities; all lead to the sharing of

talent.

Lastly, we encourage the principle of stewardship of treasure. Just some loose change given at school to help with victims of natural disaster or some other special cause really instills that we must give from the heart. We all know it really makes one feel good to help out. We just need to remember to say thanks to our children for their efforts by letting them know that they are doing good deeds for Christ!

If we can as Catholic adults encourage and reinforce these stewardship tenants, it can only help us when they become older adolescents and adults of our parish, or some other parish they end up in, and are asked to contribute from the heart selflessly. Stewardship can then come naturally.

Meet Our Newest Staff Member

by PAULA TRENDA

Join us as we welcome Sr. Sarah to Sacred Heart and Holy Trinity. She will begin her work with us on July 1st.

Sister Sarah writes:

“I grew up as a Quaker in North Carolina in a warm and faith-filled family. I met my first Catholic sister while I was studying Spanish in Mexico during college. After just a few days, she asked me, “Do you think God has a call on your life?” I was dumfounded. What did that mean? But her words started a fire in my heart that wouldn’t go away through seven years of discernment and struggling with God. I taught in a Quaker school and contemplated her question by trying to discern the path that would respond to my desire to have Christ and the people of God at the center of my life. How could I be most “Sarah”? Gradually, I fell in love with the Eucharist and Our Blessed Mother Mary, which resulted in a genuine conversion to Catholicism.

“Within a few years I entered the order of that sister I had first met, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in LaCrosse. Now in temporary vows, I have been in my community for seven years and I find that each day brings a new blessing and a new challenge in living that call on my life. I am excited to meet each of you as we journey together to be

Church and to live out God’s call.”

As the Pastoral Associate for both Sacred Heart and Holy Trinity, she will assist with pastoral care, sacramental preparation including RCIA, Marriage Prep, and Pre-Jordan, work with the Liturgy & Music, and MORE!

Sr. Sarah is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration which is based in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She has a B.A. in Religious Studies from Guilford College and a Masters of Arts in Theology from the University of St. Thomas. She has gifts in the areas of pastoral ministry, music and liturgy and Spanish ministry. We are delighted to welcome her. Please watch for information in the bulletin on a welcome weekend for Sr. Sarah.



Sr. Sarah Hennessey, FSPA

Parish Nurse Caring and Grief Ministries

by MARY TRENDA, RN – Parish Nurse | marytrenda@yahoo.com

A parish nurse is a registered nurse who initiates a health care ministry in a church setting, to assist parishioners in their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. The goals of a parish nurse are to reflect God's love and bring holistic health to God's people in the parish and to utilize education, knowledge, expertise and talents in the interweaving of the disciplines of pastoral care, community nursing and awareness, social work, wellness, prevention and personal growth. Parish nurses are not licensed to do hands-on care or any invasive procedures. This is where the parish nurse becomes the advocate in a caring partnership and liaison with community health services.

The Sacred Heart Pastoral Care Team meets quarterly and oversees and reviews the functions of Parish Nurse /

Caring / Grief and Elizabeth Ministries.

Caring Ministry is the heart of Parish Nursing at Sacred Heart. The purpose of 'Caring Ministry' is to create a 'Catholic Christian Community of Service' with volunteer parishioners meeting individual needs.

Grief Ministry is the soul of Parish Nursing at Sacred Heart. Contact with the bereaved is made by mail, phone or in person, depending on need and situation. Those who have lost a loved one are never forgotten.

Sacred Heart is looking for an RN to become a parish nurse certified during 2009-10. After 16 years, I would like to 'pass the torch' to someone with new ideas and lots of enthusiasm to carry on Parish Nurse Ministry at Sacred Heart. If interested, please call me at 451-6832.

A note to Sacred Heart Parish

Dear Denny, Parishioners and Social Justice Members in Owatonna,

I have a great honor to say a word of thanks to you for your sympathetic consideration in supporting us in different projects, namely the orphan children and St. Monica's School. I appreciate you very much for your financial support which enabled the children to get enough food, school uniforms and shoes.

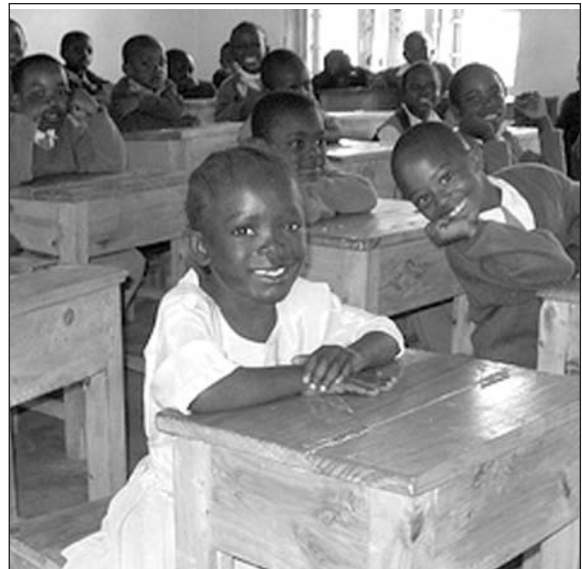
Besides that your support helped us to buy some construction materials for St. Monica's Primary school. Third grade classroom has been built because of your financial assistance and this classroom in the door has been named as **Sacred Heart Parish. The year 2008 was very successful because I got support from you for the children and for the school. The truth has been shown in my last newsletter.**

Therefore I humbly ask you to help us financially so that I can buy enough food for the children and the school as well. I will be travelling to the US on May this year. I will appreciate you very much for your generosity and sympathetic consideration to the orphan children and to the St. Monica's Primary School. **At the school, we have 110 children staying in the Hostel. Please help us.** I am looking forward to hearing a word from you soon. I enclose a report on exactly use of funds from you through Njombe Development Office. I wish you all Happy Easter.

– Father Augustine Mbiche – Father in charge of the orphans and the Director of St. Monica's School.

Father Mbiche will be at Sacred Heart Church May 30-June 7 and also in August.

**To learn more contact Denny Werner at 451-0748 or dmwerner@charter.net
Pamphlets about this ministry are located in the Narthex.**



Saying Farewell

by JERRY KENT, Administrator | jkent@stmarys-owatonna.org

Parishioners of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's as well as all parents of St. Mary's School:

This has been the best job in the world. After 25 years of administration and 9 more in the classroom, even the best job needs to be turned over to someone with more energy to take it to the next level. I was given great gifts from the Holy Spirit by being at SMS during these many years. My teaching years were fun and exciting and many great friendships were made with students, staff and parents as well as many others in this great Owatonna community.

I ventured out of the school to other opportunities in 1979, but soon realized a mistake had been made. When I saw a

school bus drive by my new place of employment on my first day, I cried. It took me five years of searching to find my way home and back to St. Mary's. I thank Father James McCauley for his persistence over a two-year period to convince me to return. This is an awesome school because of the dedicated staff, parents and parishioners who provide strong support. This school is committed to providing strong academics as well as quality teaching of our Catholic faith and values. This school has grown in its commitment to stewardship. I see our students doing a tremendous job of reaching out to others throughout our community and beyond. This faith-filled community has helped guide these

students to be good stewards. I ask that you continue to support SMS both with your prayers and financial assistance. Embrace my successor to help guide and direct this fine school, which you have been blessed to have in your midst on this original site since 1877.

I look forward to the new opportunities that God will lead me to discover. It will be very difficult, however, to top this small piece of heaven on earth at St. Mary's.

Peace in Christ,
Jerry Kent
Administrator

St. Mary's to Kick-off Capital Fund Drive

by MIKE RANDALL

The long-awaited capital campaign to expand and update St. Mary's School will be kicked off this September. Plans are underway to launch a \$3 million fund drive to build a new addition to the school and update the current facility. The addition will include a welcoming and secure entrance, new administrative offices for both St. Mary's and the REP program, new classrooms for preschool and kindergarten, and improvements to the parking lot and outdoor play area.

One of the goals for the campaign will be to provide a secure entrance to the school. Once school starts, the inside doors will be locked and visitors will need to check into the office and receive a visitors pass. The new administrative offices will allow the school and REP staff to share office space, creating a more collaborative work environment.

Additionally, providing new classrooms for preschool and all-day kindergarten will allow these programs room to grow, providing a strong enrollment base for the school's future. It will

Artist rendering St. Mary's School renovation



also create modern, flexible learning spaces for the two programs that serve as key entry points to the school for families. Finally, the parking lot will be reconfigured to provide a safe, traffic-free play area for our students.

Planning for this campaign is being coordinated by a steering committee whose members include: Dave and Sharleen Berg, Dave and Cindy Emanuelson, Jon and Peggy Hanson, Tim and Diane Holland, Tricia and Jay Johnson, Mark and Martha Kearin, and Jerry and Michelle Redman. Anyone interested in finding out more information or helping should contact one of these committee members, or Mike Randall at St. Mary's School.

A Vision for Sacred Heart

by BILL LAWRENCE

A number of months ago the Parish Council undertook an important task of developing a vision for Sacred Heart. Over the last several years, the parish has gone through a number of changes. Some examples include a new priest, new volunteers, the rectory renovation, new ministries, an explosion of new members, and moving to Stewardship as a Way of Life. A lot of change in a very short time.

The Parish Council looked for something to help guide them through all this change, and it was recommended that we develop a vision statement to help guide our efforts. We contacted Deacon Justin Green from the Diocese of Winona and set about creating a vision of what Sacred Heart would look like in the years to come.

In February, members of the Parish Council spoke to a number of parishioners asking "What you would want Sacred Heart to look like in 5 to 7 years?" We then took those snapshots and combined them together to form our first draft. After some refinements, we are now pleased to share our effort with all of you and for you to share your reactions and feedback to our latest draft.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH VISION STATEMENT:

**Drawing our life from the Eucharist,
our parish family
will live fully the mission of Jesus Christ
through prayer, faith formation and service.**

Each of the lines of our vision statement has special meaning designed to reflect the feedback we received.

The last line reads,
"through prayer, faith formation, and service."

When we looked at all the activities, ministries and efforts that we perform and accomplish at Sacred heart, they can fall into one of three different categories. Some examples are all of our faith formation efforts (Generations of Faith,

RCIA, St. Mary's School, REP, and Marriage Preparation to name a few). Examples of our service efforts include the Social Justice Committee, Women's Council, and the Giving Tree at Christmas time, etc. And not the least, prayer. Examples include Adoration, Easter services, Respect for Life.

Another key phrase is
"will live fully the mission of Jesus Christ"

Our vision would be that every member of our parish family would have Jesus as the center of our life. In everything we say or do, in the actions we take and the decisions we make.

Next,
"our parish family,"

We wanted this vision to describe a picture for more than the members of Sacred Heart because our parish family includes those who are members, those who are not, and those who visit us from time to time.

And finally...
"Drawing our life from the Eucharist,"

The Eucharist is the gift that Jesus gives us, and it is the gift that we receive when we celebrate His life.

To be successful, a vision needs to be leader initiated, and the Parish Council has tried to develop a vision that would help guide us all in our work. We also hope to continue to use the vision to help us make decisions and plan the future. It

should help us decide what we should start doing, keep doing, and stop doing.

To be successful, a vision also needs to be parish supported, so we invite all of you to help support us in creating this vision by sharing your feedback and responses to the Vision Statement. It is our latest draft, which means there is still room for improvement. Please contact any member of the Parish Council and share your reaction to our vision statement.

Finally, we hope that our vision will inspire us all to do good work...His work. We all hope it will provide a clear and compelling picture of what Sacred Heart Catholic Church aspires to be over the next several years.

Thank you and God Bless.

Surfin' to Sacred Heart

by KAREN SPIELMAN

Have you ever wondered what the Mass schedule for a Holy Day was, but didn't have a bulletin at home to find out? Have you ever wondered what events in your parish would interest you? Are you interested in volunteering but don't know what opportunities are available or skills are needed? Maybe you are thinking about setting up Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) but you aren't sure how to do it.

You can find these answers and much more on the Sacred Heart web site! The site,

www.SacredHeartOwatonna.org provides a wealth of information about our parish. Visit the site for information on Mass times, news and events (i.e. the proposed building plans), publications (i.e. weekly bulletin and quarterly newsletter), parish history, parish staff information (including office hours and contact information), Hispanic ministry, ministry directory (which lists over 60 ways to get involved in our parish!), employment and volunteer opportunities, parish forms (i.e. EFT, stewardship forms, marriage and baptismal forms), Faith Formation, calendar of events (which contains much more than just the mass schedule!), and many links to other Catholic web sites.

Come and check us out online ~ it's easy to navigate and fun to explore!

SACRED
HEART
CHURCH
COMMITTEES
AND
MINISTRIES

june

- 1 Pincohle Club 12p.m.
- 2 Respect Life 12p.m.

Events Every Week in June

Wednesday

Men's Bible Study 6-7a.m.

Thursday

Eucharistic Adoration 8a.m.-
Midnight
Legion of Mary 8a.m. & 3:30p.m.

Friday

Cenacles of Life Prayer Rosary to
end Abortion 12-1p.m.
Jr. Legion of Mary 2:30p.m.

july

- 7 Respect Life 12p.m.

Events Every Week in July

Wednesday

Men's Bible Study 6-7a.m.

Thursday

Eucharistic Adoration 8a.m.-
Midnight
Legion of Mary 8a.m. & 3:30p.m.

Friday

Cenacles of Life Prayer Rosary to
end Abortion 12-1p.m.
Jr. Legion of Mary 2:30p.m.

august

Events Every Week in August

Wednesday

Men's Bible Study 6-7a.m.

Thursday

Eucharistic Adoration 8a.m.-
Midnight
Legion of Mary 8a.m. & 3:30p.m.

Friday

Cenacles of Life Prayer Rosary to
end Abortion 12-1p.m.
Jr. Legion of Mary 2:30p.m.

ST.
MARY'S
AND
R.E.P.

june

- 17 Set up day for CYO Rummage Sale-REP
- 20 Drop off items 8a.m.-12p.m. - REP
- 22 Drop off items from 8a.m.7p.m. - REP
- 22 St. Mary's School Board Meets 7p.m.
- 23 Drop off items for CYO Rummage Sale 8a.m.-12p.m.-REP
- 25 CYO Rummage Sale 12p.m.-7p.m.
- 26 CYO Rummage Sale 12p.m.-7p.m.
- 27 CYO Rummage Sale 8a.m.-12p.m.
- 28 CYO Rummage Sale clean up from 9a.m.-2p.m.

july

- 6-11 Senior High Summer Festival at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter
- 20-24 Junior High Summer Festival at Stout Univ. in Menomonie, WI.
- 27-31 Vacation Bible School- Crocodile Dock 9a.m.-12p.m. Sacred Heart P.C.
- 31-Aug 9 Mission Trip to Cortez, CO

august

- 30 Dinner for Mission Trip Stock Holders



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Bits and Bytes of Catholicism

by KYRO R. LANTSBERGER

Social networking sites such as “Facebook” have taken an aspect of internet culture that was formerly dominated by teens and youth and extended it into professional circles and adult users. The ease of use of these contemporary sites allows one to easily search for old friends and acquaintances, as well as finding new friends based around one’s same hobbies and interests.

Many of these new sites facilitate new groups forming around common interests. In terms of faith sharing, one can find groups based around particular

forms of prayer and spirituality. Certain religious orders have online networks of those who seek to manifest the charism of the order in their daily lives. Devotees of different saints also have come together to share prayer requests and discuss the lives and works of their patron.

Like everything else online, one must always be aware of privacy issues. Make certain that you understand the privacy settings of whatever site you use so that you do not inadvertently share information that you only wish to be seen by friends and family.

Send your newsletter articles and photos to: oneillgraphics@mac.com
Bulletin Announcements: bulletin@sacredheartowatonna.org
All bulletin materials are due by Monday, 12 noon for the upcoming weekend

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m