

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2009

BE CALM!

Way back in the 12th century a monk, whose name was Guerric, preached a sermon that has something to teach us even today. Although he was a learned and holy abbot, his topic was simple enough; he was teaching a group of monks about looking for and finding God.

He began his sermon by telling the Gospel story about the three women who on Easter morning had made their way to the place Jesus had been buried. When they arrived at the tomb, they were troubled because they found the tomb empty. Then, just as the women were making for home, they meet the Lord along the way.

After he had told that story, Abbot Guerric then spoke personally to the monks, "You know how it is, my dear brothers. Some days we go to our morning prayer of lectio, and the Lord doesn't seem to show up. We go to Mass, and he is seemingly nowhere around. We approach the tomb of the altar in church, and it seems completely empty. We sit in church; we feel that we are completely alone, maybe even abandoned. Then as we walk down the garden path to go to work, lo- all of the sudden there is the Lord- When we least expect Him."

Does this sound like your experience? Haven't you hoped to find God in one particular place or in some very specific activity, only to feel nothing? Haven't you also had the experience of coming on some terrifically beautiful sunset or mountain range and all at once being overwhelmed by God's presence? I think that this is our common human experience. We

know that there is a God, but we are not at all certain just how and where to find him.

Our brother Guerric knew all about the struggle to find God. In fact, he wrote one of his fellow monks a letter in which he confessed that when he was young

he thought that it was his job to find God. As Abbot Guerric grew older and perhaps a little wiser, he realized that the purpose of life is not to search for and

to find God, but rather the task of life is to sit still long enough and quiet enough so that God will come and find us.

I know that I have found Abbot Guerric's wisdom to be true. I have searched for God most of my life. I've traveled far and been in many monasteries and convents, spoken with many experts and teachers of prayer and prayer practices, lived in the desert of Israel as a hermit, spoken with Hindus and Buddhists, Jews, a few Muslims and Christians of many denominations, all as part of my continuing search for the mystery which is God. In the end, it is God who has patiently searched for me. It is God who waits for the best times to, as Isaiah put it, "Open our ears that we may hear." It is God who seeks us.

Prayer is about being calm enough and quiet enough and still enough to pay attention enough to be in the presence of the Living God. Are you searching for God? Do you want to improve your prayer life? Start by being calm ...

fr Mark

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In God We Trust

*Adapted from International Stewardship
Council – Parish Stewardship*

The words on the back of our currency and coins are good words to live by: “In God We Trust.” However, during tough economic times these words are often forgotten.

Nowadays our choices seem to become more limited and decisions about economic choices become more difficult to make. We may lose our jobs, have our work hours reduced, or our pay cut back. How we deal with these issues, speaks volumes about our Trust in God and how we exercise good stewardship over our lives of faith.

Jesus told his apostles not to worry about their lives (Mt. 7:25). He reminds them that their heavenly Father knows what they need (Mt. 7:32). Sometimes these words of Jesus appear to be small consolation in times of financial stress. Stewardship teaches, however that God will provided for those who love him.

Jesus urges his followers to seek the Kingdom of God first, before all else, and all their needs will be met (Mt.6:33).

—Kathy Mack
Business Manager

Upcoming Adult Faith Formation Schedule

The Causes of Poverty: It's Affects on Children, and What We Can Do About It

- Monday, November 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- St. John - Day Chapel

Tony Stieritz, Director of the Archdiocesan Social Action Office, will discuss the issue of poverty, its impact on the most vulnerable, and our options for making a difference. This topic will be viewed through the lense of Catholic Social teaching as articulated by our recent Popes, Vatican II and our U.S. Bishops.

Islam and Christianity: A Dialogue Series in 5 Parts

- From 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays: October 7, 14, 21, in St. John Pavilion. The final meeting of October 28 will be at the Islamic Mosque in West Chester.

The first night will be “An Introduction to Islam”. The remaining four nights will afford time for the participants to meet in small groups - Christians and Muslims together share their experience and faith on a variety of topics. The final session on October 28 will include a tour of the Islamic Mosque in West Chester located at 8092 Plantation Drive.

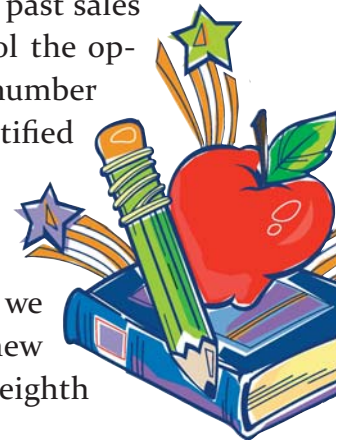
Using the Bible to Pray

- Wednesday, November 11, from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.
- St. John Pavilion

Fr. Norm Langenbrunner is a knowledgeable and gifted speaker RE: the Bible. He will present practical ways to help participants make use of the sacred scriptures in their prayer life. PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE.

From St. Gabe Consolidated School

St. Gabriel Consolidated School PTO will sponsor a candy sale during the first two weeks in October. The weekend of October 3 & 4 students will be in the Gathering Space after all Masses. Profits from past sales have afforded the school the opportunity to purchase a number of furniture items identified by administration and staff as replacements for broken or damaged items. This past summer we were able to purchase new desks for both of our eighth grade homerooms.



The school will host MadCap Puppets in October as well. Students in grades 1-4 will watch a presentation of Aesop's Fables and the teachers will use this experience to augment discussions in class. This assembly was donated by a member of the St. Gabe School community. Other assemblies throughout the year are funded by PTO.

Teachers have begun planning for History Week during the first week of November. Grade level teachers are meeting to flesh out plans developed during their August staff development day. Each day will be devoted to an era of history starting with recent events and traveling back in time throughout the week. Each year we try to designate some specific area of study and develop this experience through each of our grade levels. Students and parents find the events of these weeks to be a positive experience for all students.

St. Gabriel Consolidated School, your parish school, strives to provide academic and spiritual experiences for our 389 students who are mostly drawn from the parishes of St. John, West Chester, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Matthias, St. Gabriel and St. Martin dePorres.

God as “Micro-Manager”

by Jerry Barney

Eight years in the seminary afforded me the luxury of time to pray, and study about matters divine. I thought that I would graduate having all of the answers. Instead, I realized that our finite minds can never begin to comprehend God. Karl Rahner, S.J., described God as “Absolute Mystery”. St. Thomas Aquinas said that our theological language is analogous, meaning we can only conjure human images to describe our experience of God. They are valid propositions, but being human, fall far short of the reality. For example: God is a Rock (Hb. 1:12). This is true; in the sense that God is a firm foundation upon which we can stand, but our Creator is not made of granite. The statement is an analogy. It is correct, but only in a very limited way. It does not fully encapsulate God. However, sometimes we are guilty of thinking our concepts do define the Deity. Mark Twain said it best: “God made Man in his own image, and so Man decided to return the favor”.

But, what about knowledge gained by way of revelation? The word “revelation” (apocalypse in Greek) means an “unveiling”. Scripture and our Tradition have indeed discovered for us divine truths. However, St. Paul reminds us of our limitations “...at present, we see indistinctly, as in a mirror...” (back then, mirrors were made of metal which rendered a foggy image), when we reach heaven “...we shall see God face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully as I am fully known.” (1 Cor. 13:12).

I have found these insights to be instructive, especially when it comes to prayer. Often I have been guilty of trying to direct Providence. Or, in hindsight have reflected back on some painful event and tried find a rhyme or reason. Attend the funeral of an infant and you will quickly see my point. It has become clear that I can speculate, but can’t begin to fathom the Lord’s plan. Rather, I try to be mindful of God’s Grace: to persevere, to keep the faith, to follow the example of Jesus.

In summary, when it comes to my prayer life, I have stopped trying to micro-manage God, and do not find it meaningful to view God as “Micro-Manager”. Instead, I try to recognize God’s Grace to guide and to help me respond as a Christian in the midst of whatever challenges come my way. When I finally do meet my Maker and encounter what St. Thomas calls “the Beatific Vision”, then and only then, will I completely “get it.”

Campton Mission Annual Fall Food & Clothing Collection

The Campton Mission is a Catholic church serving Appalachian people of Eastern Kentucky. For many years we have assisted them with food, clothing, school supplies and funds. Our next collection will be after all Masses Saturday and Sunday, **October 17 & 18**. A big truck will be parked next to our church to receive all donations. Here is what the mission needs:

Clothing/misc.: knick-knacks, costume jewelry, women’s clothing – all sizes, esp. larger sizes, children’s clothing – all sizes including winter jackets, and men’s jeans and work clothing. Please save summer clothing until next spring when it is needed.

Food: Cereal, macaroni & cheese, tuna, spaghetti and sauce, canned meats, crackers, baked beans, pork and beans, canned soup, creamy peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cans of beef stew, Jello, pudding, and healthy snacks.

If you have any questions, call Jerry Barney at 777-6433, x 121.

Generations of Faith

Prayer, Song & Fun with Steve Angrisano

This month, our parish gathering for GOF takes place on **Monday and Tuesday, October 19 and 20**. We'll start with a pizza dinner in the Center followed by prayer, song, and fun with one of our favorite Catholic songwriters and presenters, Steve Angrisano! Steve is recognized as one of the most dynamic and effective communicators with Christian youth in the country. A singer, songwriter and storyteller, Steve creates relevant, dynamic music for liturgy and listening, proclaiming that through Christ we have the power to carry out God's work. Steve's unique blend of laughter, song, story and often hilarious audience interaction have made him a popular choice for parish missions, concerts, workshops and youth events. He's been featured at major events nationally and internationally, including two World Youth Days, four National Catholic Youth Conferences (our parish youth are going to NCYC again in November), and countless parish, school, camp and diocesan events. A parish musician, music director and youth minister for 11 years, Steve's focus is, and has always been, one of honest ministry. There is an unmistakable awareness that Steve is not a performer. What he shares, both in story and song, is a witness of the love and life of Jesus. Steve lives in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, with his wife, Jenni, and three children. Please join us and bring your children, nieces, nephews, and grandkids – and don't forget the teenagers! Register with the enclosed form or online at www.stjohnwc.org. Steve will have CD's for sale after his presentation.

HERE IS WHAT SOME OF OUR PARISHIONERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT STEVE ...

"Steve Angrisano's prayers come out in his songs. The stories he shared about his own family, about his work as a youth minister make you feel like he has a direct line to God that all of us wish we could have. When Steve sings, "Go Make a Difference. . . , " you WANT to! He is funny and entertaining to both adults and young people." – Gail

"The word enthusiasm literally means "In God or possessed by God". Steve Angrisano is filled with enthusiasm! He is the most genuine person. His sincere love of God and others comes through his music, his prayers and his life. We would like to encourage everyone to attend ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS!" - Lisa and Mavis

"Steve's music appeals to people of all ages. He tries to reach out to the young with a message that relates on their level through music. Today's young people are always walking around with an I-Pod or MP3 player, and what better way to reach out to them. He takes a very common sense approach to today's topics and relates them to our faith with his music. The songs are easy to learn and sing along with." - Beckie

"Steve is a man for all ages. He can make our faith alive. He presents the gospel message in a new refreshing way that will stay in the minds and hearts of all long after he is gone. He will leave you with God's love in your heart." – Joan

Steve is an amazing song writer and he totally said exactly what I needed (to hear) and helped my faith. – Lauren

"Steve has a wonderful way of spreading the gospel message through music, comedy, and faith sharing. I am really looking forward to having him as a guest at our church!" – Joanne

"Steve's story-sharing and songs have been a source of inspiration when it comes to what I deal with daily." – Martha

"I've been fortunate to have heard Steve Angrisano several times at national conferences. He's talented, spiritual, uplifting and entertaining. I'm sure you'll be glad you were a part of this experience." – Mary Beth

He's the man! - CJ



REGISTRATION FORM 2009-2010

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

GENERATIONS OF FAITH IS ...

- ★ FOR EVERYONE ... TEENS, SENIORS, SINGLES, COUPLES, FAMILIES, COLLEGE STUDENTS, KIDS, ETC.
 - ★ AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY
- ★ A TIME FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO SHARE FAITH AND VALUES, AND TO PASS THEM ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION
 - ★ A WAY TO BUILD UP AND NURTURE YOUR FAITH AND THE FAITH OF YOUR FAMILY
 - ★ AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS TO LEARN TOGETHER
 - ★ A CHANCE TO TAKE THE LEARNING HOME WITH YOU (TAKE-HOME KITS)
 - ★ AN OCCASION FOR PEOPLE TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER!

The evening will go like this...

In October, we will begin at 6:00 PM with dinner in the Center. Then, we will ALL move to the church for a special presentation on prayer and song by STEVE ANGRISANO, musician, composer, youth minister. **Steve will have CD's for sale after his presentation.**

In February, we will begin with dinner in the Center at 6:00 p.m. followed by a brief introduction of the topic and break-out groups. Finally, we will return to the Center for the conclusion of the evening.

Each evening will end at 8:15 PM. Every household will get a "Take-Home Kit" of related materials.

Please note...

There is no charge for Generations of Faith, but we will accept donations to help pay for dinner. We will have childcare available for infants and toddlers. Please mark the appropriate box on the registration form if you would like to use this service so we can recruit sufficient childcare providers.

Registration...

We are offering two gatherings this year. We encourage you to register now for both Generations of Faith gatherings. List each person in your household who will participate. Also, please choose which evening each person will attend. (We encourage all members of a household to attend the same evening, but it's not required. However, children in preschool - grade 6 **must** be accompanied by a parent/guardian.)

Online Registration Form...

You can also register online at www.stjohnwc.org. Remember, the registration deadline is Tuesday, October 13.

Volunteers Needed...

We need people to help with set-up, welcoming, serving dinner, clean-up, Babysitting and distributing "Take-Home Kits". Please indicate your willingness to help on the other side of this page. Need more info? Contact Kathy Guenther at 755-4974 or Debbie Kreiner at 755-4972.



REGISTRATION FORM 2009-2010

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REGISTER NOW FOR BOTH FAITH GATHERINGS TO ENSURE YOUR RESERVATION. REMEMBER, EACH GATHERING BEGINS AT 6:00 PM WITH DINNER, AND ENDS AT 8:15 PM. PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM COMPLETELY. THE INFORMATION BELOW INDICATES WHICH DAY EACH MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD WILL ATTEND AND IF YOU NEED CHILDCARE. PLEASE PRINT AND FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY!

CONTACT NAME (S) _____ DAYTIME PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

EMAIL (S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/TWP _____ ZIP _____

- GATHERING 1 ... OCTOBER 19 / 20, 2009 ... PRAYER & SONG WITH STEVE ANGRISANO
- GATHERING 2 ... FEBRUARY 8 / 9, 2010 _ LOTS OF WAYS TO PRAY

PARTICIPANT'S NAME	PREFERRED DAY FOR EACH GATHERING					
	GATHERING 1		GATHERING 2		NEED CHILDCARE?	
	M 10/19	T 10/20	M 2/8	T 2/9	X	AGE
BILLY SMITH	X			X	X	2

I CAN HELP WITH:

___ SET-UP ___ WELCOMING ___ SERVING ___ CLEAN-UP ___ DISTRIBUTING KITS ___ BABYSITTING

MAIL TO: ST. JOHN CHURCH, 9080 CINCINNATI-DAYTON RD., WEST CHESTER, OH 45069

**ST JOHN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>FY 2009-10 Budget</u>
REVENUES			
Offerings	\$1,248,000	\$ 1,320,000	\$ 1,251,000 (1)
Debt Reduction	181,000	100,000	80,000 (2)
Catholic Telegraph	2,000	2,000	2,000
Festival	160,000	160,000	160,000
Religious Education	32,000	28,000	29,000
Bequest/Gifts	38,000		13,000 (3)
St. Gabriel Tuition	3,000	0	3,000
Interest Income	19,000	24,000	19,000
Other	54,000	21,000	7,000 (4)
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$1,737,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,655,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,564,000</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries	635,000	\$642,000	\$638,000 (4)
Benefits & Taxes	182,000	175,000	196,000 (5)
Office Expense	54,000	68,000	58,000
Religious Education	62,000	77,000	66,000
Catholic Telegraph	23,000	22,000	23,000
Parish Activities	56,000	69,000	54,000
Utilities	113,000	122,000	120,000
Maintenance	119,000	112,000	107,000
St. Gabriel Tuition	30,000	29,000	20,000
Archdiocesan Assessments	133,000	145,000	136,000
Interest Expense	43,000	50,000	39,000
Land. Building and Equip.	72,000	44,000	27,000 (6)
Payment on Debt	191,000	100,000	80,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$1,713,000</u>	<u>\$1,655,000</u>	<u>\$1,564,000</u>
NET INCOME OPERATIONS	\$24,000	\$0	\$0

**COMMENTS
INCOME**

- (1)-Offerings were down \$72,000 last year. The 09-10 budget reflects no increase over 08-09 Actual
(2)Debt repayment consisted of \$100,000 from sale of property to Duke Energy for an easement:
(3)Two bequests were received one from Fr. Ray's estate \$20,000 and a gift from Boosters \$10,000 and other misc. gifts
(4)-Other includes \$28,000 Bulletin signing bonus and \$17,000 Insurance claims

EXPENSE

- (4)- Salaries are same due to no increases this year.
(5)- Employee Benefits are up due to rate increases in health care.
(6) Includes Roof Replacement for Pavilion and Carriage House(covered by Insurance Claim minus deductible);Parking Lot repairs; Drainage improvement around Office Building; Video upgrades to Church.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH
PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009**

Revenues, expenditures and cash flow are summarized as follows:

	Revenues	To Debt	Expenses	CASH FLOW
Operations	\$ 1,506,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,472,000	\$ 24,000
Debt Reduction	181,000	181,000	-	0
Archdiocesan Collections	50,000	0	50,000	0
TOTAL	\$ 1,737,000	\$ 191,000	\$ 1,522,000	\$ 24,000
Cash Balance June 30, 2007				<u>202,000</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2008				<u>\$226,000</u>

DEBT

At the beginning of the fiscal year our debt was \$746,000 we paid \$191,000 for the year ended June 30, 2009. The balance is \$555,000.

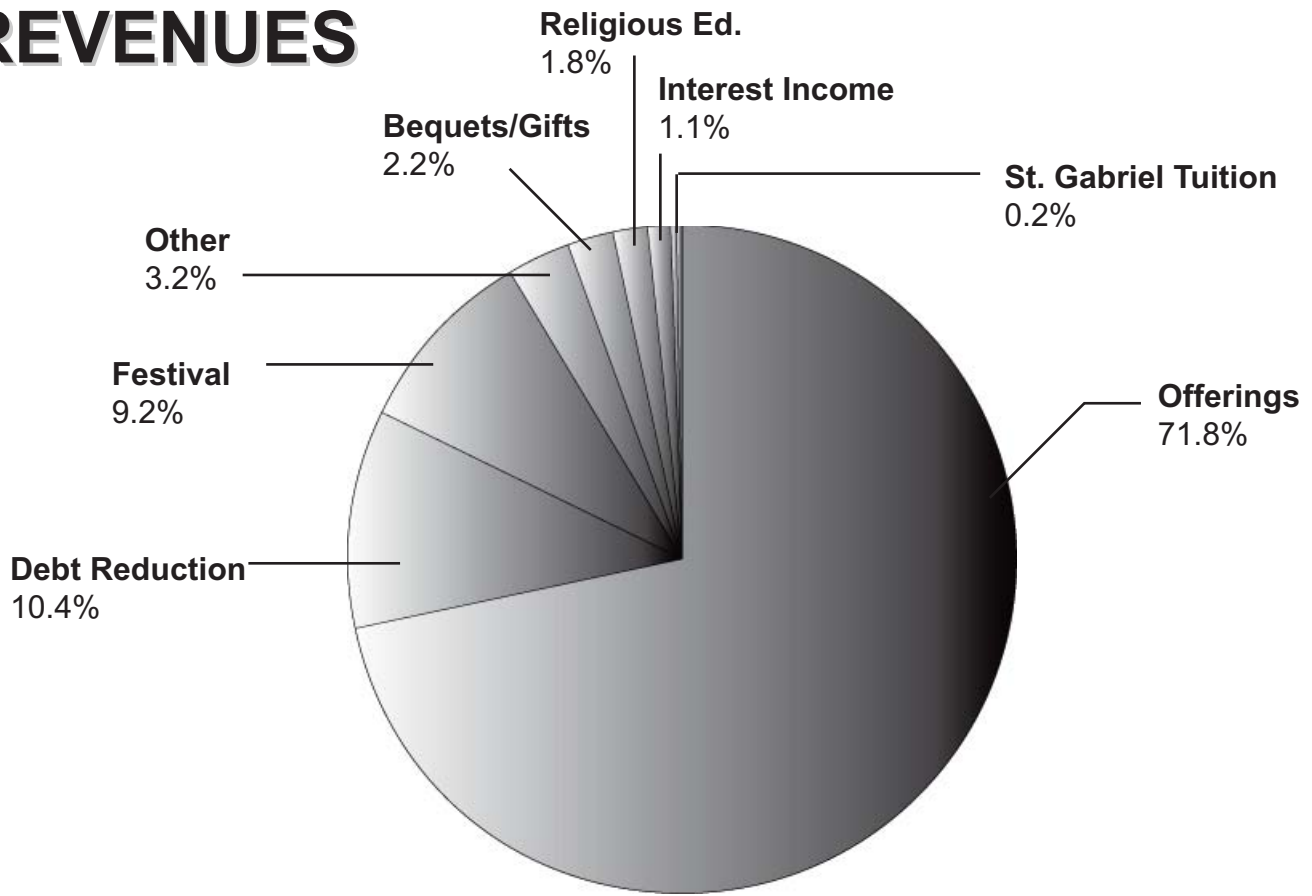
A summary is listed below.

FY ENDED	BORROWED	REPAID	BALANCE	INTEREST
	\$	\$	\$	\$
6/30/99	925,000	0	925,000	
6/30/00	1,275,000	0	2,200,000	77,720
6/30/01	0	221,700	1,978,300	148,114
6/30/02	0	228,300	1,750,000	187,199
6/30/03	0	125,000	1,625,000	119,273
6/30/04	0	172,000	1,453,000	110,331
6/30/05	0	148,000	1,305,000	98,072
6/30/06	0	145,000	1,160,000	89,872
6/30/07	0	260,000	900,000	79,393
6/30/08	0	154,000	746,000	60,143
6/30/09	0	191,000	555,000	42,750
TOTAL	2,200,000	1,645,000	555,000	1,012,867

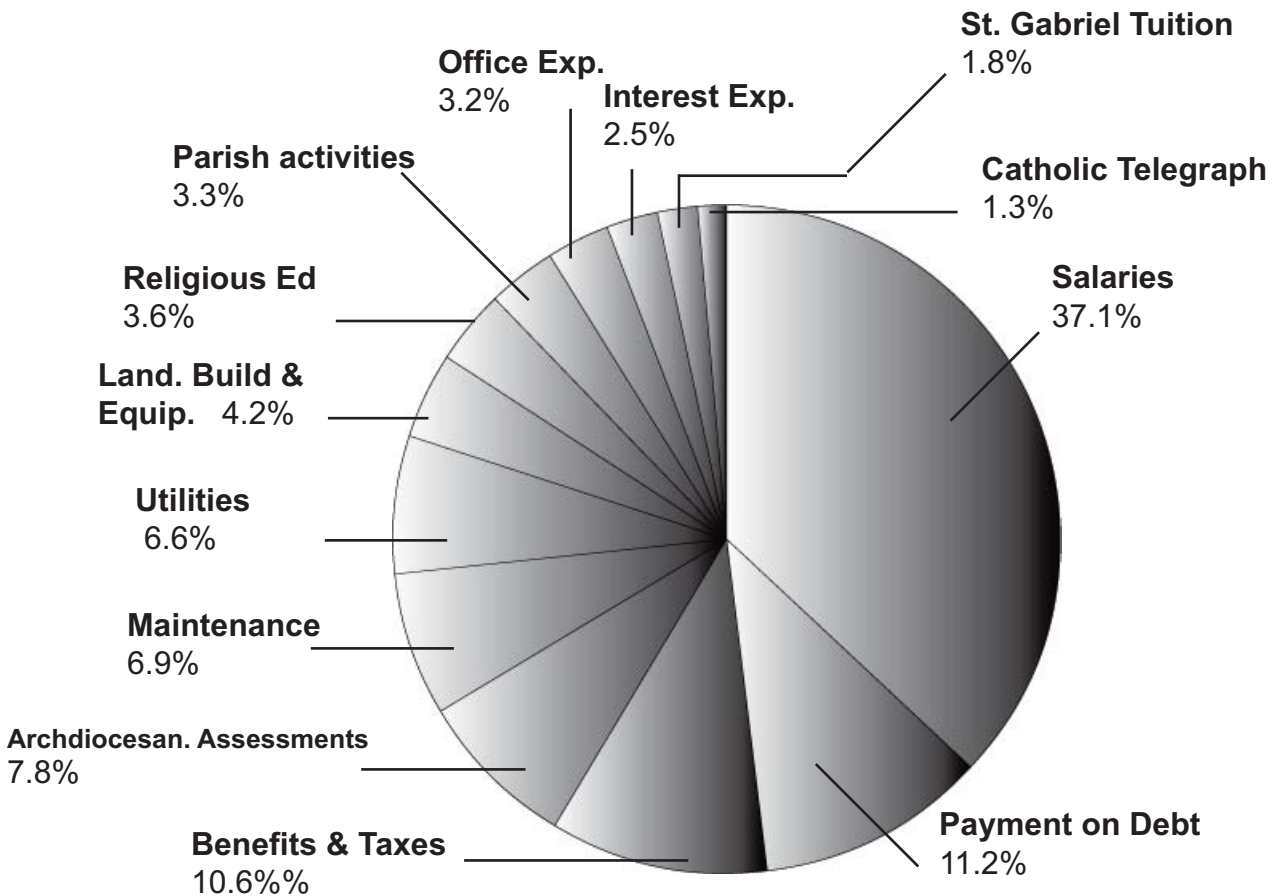
SOURCE OF REPAYMENTS

FY ENDED	SUNDAY				GENERAL	TOTAL
	BINGO	PLEDGES	COLLECTION	OTHER	FUNDS	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
6/30/01	46,500	69,417	65,783	40,000	0	221,700
6/30/02	78,500	28,993	75,066	3,060	42,681	228,300
6/30/03	56,500	2,980	56,728	8,594	198	125,000
6/30/04	50,000	0	61,771	37,098	23,131	172,000
6/30/05	74,500	0	50,717	19,055	3,728	148,000
6/30/06	25,500	0	57,462	21,675	40,363	145,000
6/30/07	53,000	0	62,122	73,803	71,075	260,000
6/30/08	17,000	0	73,438	28,862	34,700	154,000
6/30/09	2,227	0	59,339	119,434	10,000	191,000
TOTAL	403,727	101,390	562,426	351,581	225,876	1,645,000

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



Take Time, Make Time for Family Prayer

by Kathy Guether

“**Y**ou are the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. May you be the best of teachers.” Have you heard these words before? Do you believe them? Wait, wait, don’t tell me! Just take a moment or two to reflect on that statement. Whether you have taken these words to heart or not, you are teaching your child by example—they are great imitators. What example are you setting as far as prayer is concerned? Is it a regular part of your life or something that you might do occasionally? Is it part of your family’s routine? Would you like to make it so? Here are a few simple suggestions to help you get started or maybe to enhance what you are already doing.

A likely beginning place could be grace before meals. (Assuming that your family sits down to eat together at least some of the time.) It can be the simple grace that you hopefully remember from your childhood or a spontaneous prayer. Let each member share something that they are thankful for on that particular day. You might begin by having the adults lead the prayer and then let the children take turns as it becomes part of your mealtime ritual. Making time for a brief prayer before eating places the focus on gratitude and brings everyone together for a while.

Another natural time to pray is at bedtime. Let your child reflect on the day’s happenings and then make an easy transition to the time to quiet down and get ready for bed. Perhaps you can bless your child—yes, parents can bless their children! Trace a sign of the cross on their forehead and ask God to keep them safe through the night (be creative and offer words of comfort, consolation or whatever you know they need to hear).

Blessings can take place at other times: before leaving for school (if there’s not that last minute search for the missing shoe, paper, backpack, etc.), going on a trip, celebrating birthdays, or any occasion that may occur.

Start small, take little steps, and before you know it, your family will be a “prayer-filled” family.

A Prayer for a Family



We are a family.

For one another, we are love and trial strength and trouble. Even when far apart, we belong to one another and, in various ways, we remember

and pray for one another.

*Taken from Catholic Household
Blessing and Prayers*



Meal Prayer for Harvest Time



Loving God, all that we have comes from your goodness and the work of those who love us.

Bless us and the food we share.

Watch over those who care for us.

Open our eyes to the needs of the poor during this time of harvest and thanksgiving.

*Taken from Blessings and Prayers
through the Year*

Sacred Space by Fr. Don West

“**B**ut whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Mt. 6:6)

How well do you do with personal prayer? Is there a certain time and place that you have for private time with the Lord? Is there a room you can go to and shut the door and pray to the Lord?

I find it helpful to create a “sacred space” for regular time with God. I do not recommend it to be the same place you sit and watch T.V. nor should it be a place where you can be easily distracted by the phone, the family or the internet. You need to find a time when you can regularly spend time in prayer.

Make the “sacred space” special. You might find a comfortable chair and a candle to focus on and you might even have some quiet music to allow the noisy world around you to melt away. Remember prayer time is a time for conversation with the Lord. If you are doing all the talking that is not really a conversation; let there be stillness to allow God into the moment. Perhaps focus on scripture; the Psalms are a great place to begin. Set your time short and grow into the experience. Sometimes simpler is better. Try to stay consistent get into a daily habit of prayer.

The time spent in daily prayer can be very rewarding and life-giving. God has given us so much to be grateful take time to acknowledge his goodness in your life. God loves us and wants us to be his beloved children; spend time with the Lord.

Actively Living the Liturgy through Prayer by Scott Steinke

Have you ever really stopped to think about all of the many types of ways we pray during the Mass? Of course, the Mass itself is a prayer, a continued enriching celebration of Jesus Christ and his gift of salvation to all of us. Yet within the Mass, we join together in various ways to express our love for God and to reach out to him.

The term “prayer” is more than just a word or a noun. It is a living, breathing, active movement that flows in us, through us, from us, and around us. In the Mass, there is always an active movement of prayer constantly emptying from the heavens to us and from us to the heavens. All in all, at no time during the entire Mass is there a point where prayer is not in motion.

Prayer then constantly flows during Mass and it is through these different types that keep the flow actively in motion. One of those ways we pray is known as prayer of forgiveness. Right from the start of the Mass, this prayer is evident when we say the words together “I Confess to you almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters...” or when we respond “Lord have mercy”, “Christ have mercy”, “Lord have mercy”. Another type of prayer that is evident in the Mass is called prayer of praise. “Glory to God in the Highest.....we praise you for your glory.” Also we see it in the Creed as we praise God for the gift of his son. Yet, these two types do not even scratch the surface of all of the ways that are present within the Mass.

Other types are called prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of remembrance, prayer of offering, prayer of acceptance, prayer of atonement, and one that many people wouldn't associate as a type of prayer, but which is something that we do often during different parts of the Mass; it is called prayer of listening. Each of these types of prayers are worthy of great expression in themselves, but none of them stand alone without the others flowing within them and through them from the very beginning of Mass to its very end.

So when you come to Mass this coming weekend, think about these ways in which we come together and pray. And who knows, I bet you will have no problem adding a few more to the list above!

Prayer With Music

by Debbie Kreiner

One of my favorite ways to pray or to start my prayer is with music. I've always loved music and enjoy many different types. I took music lessons for a long time, sang in choirs at church and school, and as a teenager, listened to my albums, 45's, and cassettes until even my parents probably had the songs memorized. It wasn't until I came to work with the young people of this parish, though, that I began to learn much more about music. Music is the vernacular, the distinctive common everyday language, of young people. It was my language when I was their age, and they have helped me rediscover this.

Today, the musical language of teens covers an amazing range of genres. It's not just "that loud rock-n-roll" any more. Kids listen to Country, Bluegrass, Rap, R&B, Hip Hop, Alternative, Classical, Electronica, Jazz, Motown, New Age, Latin, Opera, Gospel, Christian, Heavy Metal, Dance, Disco, Punk, Blues, Rock, Broadway, Oldies, you name it, they're listening to it. They're listening with MP3 players, radios, and satellite, and they're listening together with friends or alone while they eat, read, do homework, talk, ride the bus, drive, surf YouTube, play games, watch TV, and even while they sleep. They post lines from songs on their FaceBook and MySpace, and text them to friends when their own words won't do. For young people, music is communication. For many adults, it may be a foreign language.

So, how does any of this relate to prayer? Listen to a song your kids like. Google the lyrics and read them, and then really listen to the song.

What do you hear? Warning: Sometimes this isn't easy! It may take practice. I just randomly went online and picked a song from Nickelback. They're not one of my favorites, but a lot of teens like them. In the song, "Gotta Be Somebody," they say, "...nobody wants to do it on their own, and everyone wants to know they're not alone." The

song is about finding the right someone for you, but there's a lot more to the lyrics than that. Loneliness and needing to belong is something every teenager struggles with at some time. This song not only gives a lot to talk about at REALITY or on a retreat, but it also gives us something to take to prayer. 'Lord, they tell me I belong to you, but I feel so alone.' 'Jesus, I want to feel like I can trust my friends, but I'm not sure I do.' 'Father, why doesn't anyone like me?' 'Lord, why do I feel lonely when I'm always with people? There are so many possibilities. I've even found something to pray about in songs that are morally repugnant. Once, a young man brought in a song that was about gang violence, sex, and hating police. (I think he was trying to shock me.) We talked about what kind of life, attitude, and place a song like this could come from. We prayed about people who live with violence and with this attitude about sex, we prayed for everyone who lives without hope, and we thanked God for all of our blessings. We could have found discussion topics and prayer starters in this one song to last us for weeks.

So many of us need to spend more time in prayer. We need an open line of communication with God, but we're not sure how to begin. I have certain CD's I listen to while I drive – usually when my kids aren't in control of the stereo – and KLOVE and STAR have helped me through many a long day. (You might also be surprised to know how many teens listen to these Christian music stations!) Whatever song you hear, listen with your heart, and you might find that music can be your language for prayer.

** You can read more about today's music and prayer at CornerstoneMedia.org. Our parish username is "stjohnchurch" and our password is "123456". This login is only for parishioners and not for any business or outside organization.*

Thank You for a Great Festival!



Thank you for another great festival. Thanks to all the members of the Festival Committee, the booth captains, and volunteers for their hard work to make this festival another successful one.

Thanks also to the many vendors that helped to support this event.

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Arbonne, Jennifer Powless
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Go Play Café
Graeter's Ice Cream
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Hampton Inn & Suites
Harding's Lake Monroe
Hyland Family Chiropractic
Image Makers 2000
Jag's Steak and Seafood
Jennifer's Main St. Gallery
Jet's Pizza
Jiffy Lube
Jimmy John's
Kinder Garden School
Kroger - Rt. 42/Sharonville
Kroger - Tylersville
LaRosa's Pizzeria
Little Sprouts Boutique
Longaberger - Suzy Spence
Mancino's Pizza
Martinizing Dry Cleaning - 747
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McDonald's - Liberty Centre
McDonald's - Tylersville
Meijer
Midwest Cheer Elite/Tumble Tyme
Mike's Express Carwash
Mindful Wellness Massage and Bodywork
Moeller Music Center
Mojo Running
Monster Mini-Golf
Nancy's Hallmark
Newport Aquarium
Oil Express

Pampered Chef
Papa Murphy's Pizza
Perfect North Slopes
Perkins Restaurant
Petals & Things Florist
Petz Wash
Photography by K Rae
Planes Moving & Storage
Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits
Portrait Innovations
Premier Designs Jewelry - Toni Stephens
Rave Cinemas
Reach Event Marketing
Shattered Glass Photography Ltd
Silpada Jewelry - Tina Tape
Skatetown USA
Skyline Chili
Square Framer
Stewart Tire & Auto
Tangi's Salon
Teasdale Fenton
The Back Porch Saloon
The Cupcake Factory
The Home Depot
The Little Gym
Thirty One Gifts - Angela Bulach
Tire Discounters
Trex Bicycle Store
Twin Dragon
UDF, Corp.
Village Spa
VIP Back Rubs
Vonderhaar's Catering, Inc.
Webby Dance Company
West Chester Veterinary Care
Wingate Inn
Yelton's Fine Jewelry

Fr. Ray & Me

by Tate Cooper

Yes, it has been 10 years since this church was built. Seems like just yesterday! During the weekend of October 10 and 11, at all the Masses, we will be celebrating our church's 10 year anniversary. But there's more!

On October 11th, after the 11:30am mass, everyone is welcome to come and join in on a wonderful celebration! This celebration is to rename St. John Hall in loving memory of a wonderful priest who touched many lives, not only here at St. John's, but everywhere he went throughout his life. This is none other than Father Ray Favret. St. John Hall will be renamed Favret Hall. The celebration will begin at the main church with a procession to the Hall. After the dedication, there will be a reception that follows. So, please be sure to join us for this special occasion on October 11th after the 11:30am Mass!

For nearly 15 years, I had the unique opportunity of working and having a close friendship with Fr. Ray Favret.

I worked with Fr. Ray as a Lay Spiritual Director on the Men's Christ Renews His Parish teams. Those who have attended one of the CRHP retreats will most likely tell you that it is a faith formation milestone. Fr. Ray was the life-blood of Christ Renews His Parish, and I was one of his apprentices. I would do whatever Fr. Ray asked of me without question.

I can vividly remember Ray calling me, "Ray Favret," he announced. "Tate I wanted to get your opinion on something." I would think to myself, "Ray, you have a PhD in Theology, this is your program, why would I need my opinion on anything?" That was Ray - a constant Servant of Christ. He knew that the only way to spread Christ's love was not to be Master but to be the servant.

As Ray's health declined, he moved to St. Margaret Hall in O'Brienville; however, that did not stop him from working on Christ Renews His Parish. The CRHP Team

would take turns shuttling Ray to our meetings and the Retreat Weekend. In 2007 Ray's condition had deteriorated significantly, and it was questionable if he would attend the weekend. I met with Ray the week prior to the weekend, and he assured me that he would be at the CRHP Retreat Weekend.

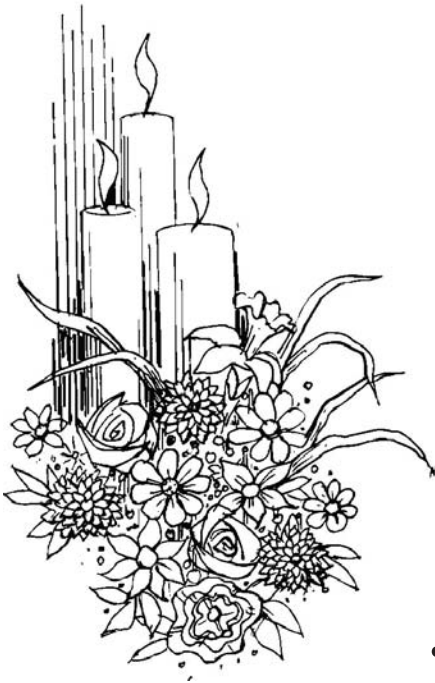
Ray waved goodbye to the attendant working the front desk that Saturday morning, as fellow Lay Spiritual Director, Gary Dietrich, picked him up to attend the weekend. Upon his arrival Ray received a standing ovation from the men who attended the weekend. Shortly after Ray arrived, someone from St. Margaret Hall called the church office looking for Fr. Ray and wanted him to return. Reluctantly, we agreed to let Ken Krusling, another Lay Spiritual Director, take Fr. Ray back to St. Margaret Hall.

Upon his return, the Supervisor of St. Margaret Hall said "Fr. Ray where were you? We have been looking all over for you!" Ray responded, "Well you obviously knew where I was, because you found me!" It reminds me of the story in the Bible where Mary and Joseph were frantically looking for Jesus, and found him in the temple. When they finally found him, he asked, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Like Jesus, Ray was exactly where he was supposed to be.

For this reason and so many others, it seems fitting that we rename and dedicate St. John Hall in Ray's honor; the very place where so many men and women of this Parish have had their faith renewed in Christ.

It broke my heart when Ray died. He was a very good friend and mentor, and I loved him. I do take some comfort in the fact that I have someone in our Father's House who is really pulling for me.

Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...



July

- *Fr. Steve Kolde on the death of his father*

August

- *Linda Tobeson on the death of her mother*
- *Kathy Mulshine on the death of her mother*
 - *Sue Adick on the death of her mother*
 - *Mike Maratea on the death of his mother*
- *Pat & John Hollan on the death of their daughter*

September

- *Rita Palasek on the death of her cousin*
- *Leslie Brankamp on the death of grandfather*

... and for all those who have lost a loved one serving in the armed forces.