

Holy Infant's *Words and Works*

Vol. 5, No. 2 Summer 2009



Founded by Paul Davis and published four times a year, the purpose of Words and Works at Holy Infant is to keep Holy Infant parishioners informed of events and activities within the parish or that affect the parish. The newsletter's goal also is to foster unity within the Church and to draw all together into a closer, warmer Church family.

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Just 'a kid from Ballwin'

By Mary Jane Zust

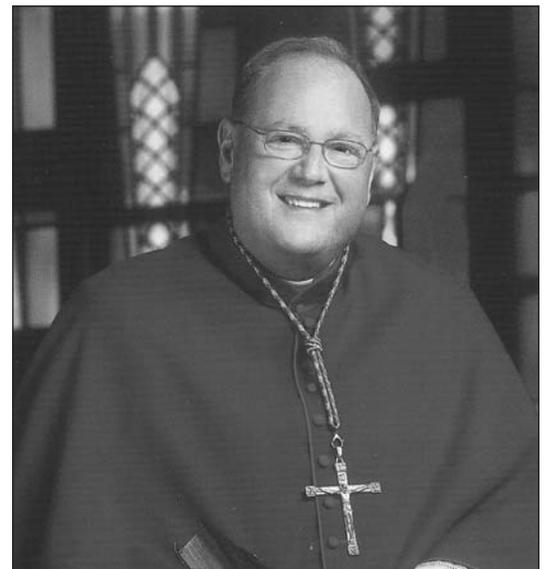
Archbishop Timothy Dolan's installation as the new spiritual leader of the Catholic Church in New York, celebrated on April 15, was a special day for the Catholics of New York City and, for many different reasons, a special day for all the people of God who gathered in and around St. Patrick's Cathedral that day.

It was a joyful and a very special day, too, for all the people of Holy Infant Parish, as the new Archbishop of New York is one of Holy Infant's very own. The day was truly special and a celebration of the heart as well, for Sister Laurentia, Mildred Brenner, Janet Gardner Kaiser, Jeanne Brenner Kaiser, and Joan and Anthony Morelli, Holy Infant parishioners, who attended the service. As they watched the majesty and splendor surrounding this remarkable man, memories flooded their hearts and at times brought tears to their eyes — mind pictures of a Tim Dolan they had known and loved as a boy, as a student, as a young priest, or even, in Archbishop Dolan's own words, as just "a kid from Ballwin."

The 1960's. Millie Brenner looks out on her back yard adjoining the Dolan yard; no fences here, just lots of kids, Ballwin kids having a good time. It's a great neighborhood, most everyone belongs to Holy Infant parish. The kids play together — don't often break the unwritten rules because, if they did, in a matter of minutes not only their own mother but everyone else's mother up and down the neighboring streets would

When Tim's home, that means a party, and at the Dolans' no one needs a special invitation.

know who just did what... It's morning now, all is quiet; suddenly doors burst open and out from almost every house along the streets of Victor Court, Nancy, Parker, Newton and Barton, spill Ballwin kids; lots of kids... There's Tim with the boys all bright and shiny, hair smoothed, ties knotted, clean white shirts; and girls, including Janet and Jeanne in their own time-frame, in immaculate white blouses and Holy Infant jumpers; all heading to Holy Infant School.... Now



Archbishop Timothy Dolan is wearing a cross that was a gift to him from Sister Emmanuela.

they're coming home; not quite so clean, ties askew, shirts and blouses untucked; hurrying now. There's Tim and some of the boys jumping the creek to get to their whiffle ball and other games faster... Tim's getting ready out there, gathering the kids for some game; yes, it's "Mass;" one he likes to play, in the yard or the basement; this time they'll let the girls give out "communion," but Tim is the "priest." Tim's always ready to help; he doesn't mind babysitting for some of the young ones while the elders bowl.

The 1970's. Into the court comes Tim, swinging the ever-present laundry bag, happy to be home for the weekend and bringing several of his seminarian friends. "TIM'S HOME. The words are a clarion call heard round the neighborhood, and before long neighbors begin to arrive at the Dolan's. When Tim's home, that means a party, and at the Dolans' no one needs a special invitation.

The 1970's. Tony and Joan Morelli, newcomers to Holy Infant Parish, can't help but notice the young seminarian who cuts grass, does odd maintenance jobs and is always helping around the church and school.

See Archbishop Dolan, Page 2

Who is Father Mark Ebert?

By JoAnn Dinkelkamp

Father Mark Stephen Ebert celebrates his birthday on June 7 and his ordination in 1976. He was the first of three sons and two daughters to Clarence and Emily Ebert who made their home within the parish of St. Margaret of Scotland. He likes to tell you that he was ordained along with Archbishop Timothy Dolan and also that his ordination coincided with the birth of Father Vatterott. He is likely one of very few who can make this claim.

What else do we know about Father Ebert? We know that he carries an Amateur Radio License and is known on the radio waves by the call sign N Ø E O F. Father has extensive radio equipment. For the most part, it is in storage along with his boy-

hood train set and a bicycle, but he has the radio system in his car so you can communicate with him when he is on the road. He also enjoys movies and often refers to old television in his homilies. We might wonder how he is going to tie Perry Mason or another character in with the Gospel but he always does. He also enjoys the music of Celine Dion and attended one of her concerts in Las Vegas.

There is one more fact you may not know. Father Ebert favors Lebanese food and frequents St. Raymond's for lunch on Wednesday. Wednesday is his free day and also the only day St. Raymond's serves lunch between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. In researching the availability of Lebanese food in the St. Louis area, he said St. Raymond's and

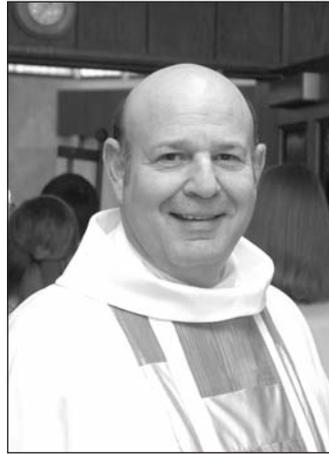


PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Saleem's were the only two listed in Yahoo and both were touted to have excellent choices and all with lots of garlic.

When asked how and when

he knew he wanted to be a priest, he responded that there was no flash, nothing spectacular, but he did play church as a small boy and he was always the priest. When he was in first grade, his teacher asked the children to draw a picture of what they would be when they grew up and he drew a picture of an altar.

His priestly assignments have taken him from Holy Family to St. Sabina to Immaculate Conception in Union, Mo.; then to St. John and James and St. Norbert. About a week after burying his mother in 1994, he was assigned to his first pastorate at St. Bernadette in Jefferson Barracks. From St. Bernadette he was assigned to St. Simon the Apostle and finally to Holy Infant in 2008.

Archbishop Dolan ... from Page 1

There he is now, busily mopping the vestibule in the old church. There's Father Schilly, too, calling Tim the Holy Infant jack-of-all-trades. Tony and Joan will become friends with the young Tim, will closely follow his religious journey and be privileged to celebrate most of its high points with him. One day they will learn that Tim has been a great help to Tony's mother, Emanuela, and sister, Sister Emanuela, on their trip to Rome. The gold cross Archbishop Dolan will wear after his New

York installation will be a gift of thanksgiving Sister had given him after their trip.

The mid-1970s. Sister Laurentia breathes a prayer of thanksgiving that there is a car and driver waiting for her at the busy, bustling Lambert Airport, and will offer many prayers later that the driver was the young priest, Father Tim Dolan. Sister, a young Mercy Sister from Ireland, is attending a meeting of her Order here in St. Louis. Father Dolan learns that she is from a quiet backwoods post outside Jack-

sonville, Fla., and that it is her first trip to noisy St. Louis. He decides he must do something about her apparent discomfort. He finds a route to her destination where he can point out the greatest number of "Catholic" edifices; so many, in fact, that Sister shouts out (a shout from Sister Laurentia is not very loud) "Why, there are so many Catholic buildings here that I feel I'm back in Ireland." Sister and Father become friends immediately and, some six years later when Sister will begin her long teaching career here, they will resume that friendship. She will enjoy and remember Father for his love of the church, his hearty humor, his infectious laugh, the many Masses he will say at the convent chapel and his healthy appetite, especially for a cup of tea and Irish soda bread.

It's 2009. Sister Laurentia, Millie, Jeanne, Janet, Joan and Tony, privileged to attend Archbishop Dolan's New York installation, have added more pages to their memory books of their dear friend. But others from Ballwin and St. Louis also have close personal ties with Archbishop Dolan, but were unable to celebrate with him in New York. They join the whole Holy Infant Community as it extends a prayerful and joyous welcome to this extraordinary man who walks with the great and the powerful of the world, who never forgets a friend and who once was, and in his heart of hearts still is, just "a kid from Ballwin."

(Memories of Archbishop Dolan were shared by Sister Laurentia, Mildred Brenner, Janet Kaiser, Jeanne Kaiser and Joan and Tony Morelli.)



Archbishop Timothy Dolan's childhood home in Ballwin.

Evangelization: Open Wide the Door to Christ

By Jeff Logullo
With Pam Miller

Jeff shares a heartfelt journey back home in this issue. Jeff has been with Holy Infant Parish for 5 years. He and his wife Sara, married outside the church on April 17, 1993. On June 17, 2004, Jeff and Sara had their marriage validated by Monsignor Dempsey. "I wanted so badly to receive the Eucharist. And every Sunday I sat in church at Holy Infant, (pretty much in the same place where I sit now!) watching and praying and waiting. Although I don't remember the exact date, I think I received Holy Communion on the following Sunday, June 27, for the first time since 1982. I can only say that I'm so happy that I am here. It's truly a blessing that I happened to be living in this parish when I began my journey home." Jeff shares that he and Sara are a family of four; Dan is 23 and Leigh is 20 – wonderful children of God from Sara's first marriage. I invite you to enjoy his journey...

How did you practice your faith as a young boy?

"I was baptized Catholic, but I can't remember ever going to Mass. My Mom took my brother and sister and me and to a Presbyterian church for a few years, but that was the extent of my childhood Christian formation."

When did your faith really give you a wake-up call?

"I'll never forget the day that I first felt truly called by the Holy Spirit. It happened when I was a freshman at the University of Illinois in Champaign. I was in the dorm room of a friend, whose name was Greg, from my hometown. It was a Sunday afternoon, and he said that he was going to Mass at 5:00 that evening. Then he said something that changed my life. He asked me if I wanted to go to Mass with him. Little did I know."

"St. John's Catholic Church is right in the heart of the campus, and it is a beautiful church. The stained glass windows are breathtaking. The church was completely filled with students. But what really grabbed my attention was the Mass itself. Everything about the Mass was so reverent, so spirit-filled, and so full of love and life."

"I was truly in the right place, at the right time. The Holy Spirit called me, and I responded with a 'yes' that was from deep within my heart. I've got to be a part of this, I thought to myself. I was baptized in the Catholic Church and this is where I belong!"

"I often wonder if Greg realized what he had done. All he did was invite me to go to Mass. But it was a bold act of evangelization that changed my life."

Where did your faith take you next?

"Soon I was going to catechism meetings (this was before the days of RCIA), and later



that year I received my first Holy Communion. I was confirmed on the following St. Patrick's Day, in my hometown church in Centralia. I was very happy, and I went to Mass every Sunday no matter where I was."

What obstacles came your way during your journey?

"Two years later I changed my major and transferred to a different school. Masses at the Newman Center of this school were very different from anything I'd experienced before. Gone was the solemnity that I'd come to expect."

"I had been warned by a priest at U of I: 'Beware the temptation that will come your way if you ever find yourself at a church that seems different from what you are used to. It will happen someday,' he said. So, even though I had been warned, I found myself sleeping in one morning instead of going to Mass. I don't think I understood what I was walking away from. But God wasn't finished with me just yet."

"By the year 2000 I had been living in St. Louis for nearly 15 years. I had been married since 1994 to my wife Sara, and for the past few years I had begun to feel a tug at my heart. I began thinking I should look into returning to the Catholic Church, but I was unsure of how to begin, and I was afraid. I remember watching Pope John Paul II's visit on a TV in the basement of a church near my office. I really wondered why I had ever left."

What led you back to the church?

"A few years later, I was in the office of my state senator in Jefferson City, visiting with his office assistant, Carolyn. On my way out of the building I suddenly heard the bells of the

church across the street, and Carolyn jumped to her feet. 'I've got to go; it's Ash Wednesday!'"

"I had no idea that it was Ash Wednesday. Her words cut through me. She looked at me, and must have seen something in my eyes. 'Would you like to go?'"

"Yes, yes I would. May I join you? And that's how I came to be standing in line, waiting to receive ashes, tears welling up in my eyes. Once again, a simple welcoming gesture, this time from a near stranger. It was February 25, 2004 — a very special date for me and what started my journey home."

Did any other miracles happen that caused you to return?

"Driving back from Jeff City my mind was ablaze with questions. What should I do? To whom could I talk?"

"You'll love this part. Not two days later I saw a bumper sticker on the car in front of me, Catholic Radio: KHOJ AM 1460. This was another evangelization moment for me because some soul put a bumper sticker on his car. I always wish I could thank that person, because that led me to find the Catholic Answers Live radio show, which helped me really learn my faith, and gave me the courage to make an appointment to meet with Monsignor Dempsey."

"What a joy it was to have our marriage (validated) in the Church; and an even greater joy to receive the Eucharist once again! I am so grateful for each person whose small but loving gestures brought me into and back to my Catholic faith."

How did you pass on your faith to others?

"My brother had been on his own spiritual journey, and was living a very faithful Christian life with his wife and three sons. I always wondered if Jon would ask me about Catholicism. One evening at dinner, he did. He asked me, 'So, why do Catholics pray to statues, and what's Mary all about?'"

"I did the best I could to answer his questions; (listening to Catholic Answers really helped here!) I offered to lend him some books to read. And that seemed to be the end of the tale, at least for a while. I knew that the Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting, and so I prayed and I waited."

"Guess what? Jon and his whole family were received into the Church at Easter Vigil this year. And all I did was answer some of his questions. God took care of the rest."

What insight can you share with our readers?

"Evangelization is something that every Catholic can do. Invite someone to Mass, learn more about our faith from Catholic radio, podcasts, and CDs, and most of all, be not afraid to share your faith when you have the chance."

Peter and Paul Community Services

Ministry provides direct outreach to poor

By Pam Miller

"Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

Saints Peter and Paul, a men's shelter, located in the lower level of the Sts. Peter and Paul Church on South 7th Street in the Soulard area, is home for the poor, homeless and needy. On any given night, 50-60 men from the Soulard area gather at this shelter for a warm meal, rest and conversation.

In December, 2004, under the direction of Monsignor Dempsey, the Holy Infant Tithing for the Poor Committee gave \$15,000 to this shelter. At that time, Gene Bestgen, a member of the Tithing Committee, remembers Monsignor Dempsey saying, "It's easy to give money but what type of service can volunteers from Holy Infant do to assist the men's homeless shelter?" In response to Monsignor's question, the shelter recommended that Holy Infant provide an evening meal to the men. Under the direction and guidance of Monsignor Dempsey, Holy Infant has been providing assistance to these men for 5 years.

Before Holy Infant provided the first meal, Monsignor Dempsey, along with the Tithing for the Poor Committee, attended an evening at the shelter to witness a typical evening meal.

What they witnessed was a meal consisting of pork and beans and wienies out of a can plus a piece of corn bread. Bestgen recalls one of the men saying, "There was no love in this meal."

Since then, Holy Infant has been providing hot meals to the men every fourth Thurs-



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Jim Miller serves dinner to the men at Peter and Paul Community Services' shelter. Looking on, at left, is JoAnn Dinkelkamp.

day of the month. Bestgen said, "After the first two years of coordinating this ministry, I had a backlog of groups wanting to take dinner to the shelter." As a result, Holy Infant now provides meals every third Wednesday of each month as well as every fourth Thursday.

Groups bringing dinner to the shelter consist of families, neighbors, friends, CRHP,

Small Church Community, Parish Council, That Man Is You (TMIY), Holy Infant Seniors, Holy Infant Choir, Confirmation Groups, Words & Works and others. Many families and groups make return visits. One might see Deacon Bill Krull talking to the men or Father Bannes serving. Bestgen said, "People want to help but often don't know how or where to start. By serving at Sts. Peter and Paul, families can work together as a team and use their imagination to create a meal. Kids love to get involved by baking cakes, cookies, or brownies."

A typical meal for the evening costs \$100.00 or less. Divided between 4-6 families, it might cost each family about \$15.00. The environment at the shelter is a low key and calm one. The men are respectful and very appreciative of what is offered to them. They will show their appreciation by way of applause, a hand shake, or a verbal thank you.

Monsignor Dempsey shared, "I really enjoy this ministry and go to the shelter whenever I am able." He added, "One of the real blessings of this ministry is that teenagers can get to see real people in need and at the same time experience the joy of helping others."

To bring the men an evening meal or to obtain information about this ministry, contact Gene Bestgen at (636) 527-5385 or bestgen-stl@aol.com



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Mary Jane Zust and Christina Miller serve dinner to the men at the shelter.

Faith questions with Deacon Jim Powers

Dear Deacon Jim,
I have a son who is a sophomore in high school. Every Sunday it's a chore to get him to go to Mass. He keeps asking "Why do I have to go to Mass every Sunday?" What should I do? Help!

Rosemary



Dear Rosemary,
 Have you thought about begging, pleading or nagging your son?

Have you thought about yelling at him "What's wrong with you? You won't get to heaven with this kind of attitude."

Have you thought about bribing him by offering money to attend Mass?

I mention these possibilities because I know they've already crossed your mind. They cross every parent's mind. The problem you bring up is a tough one.

First of all, you should be aware that your son's question "Why do I have to go to Mass every Sunday?" is really two questions rolled into one. The first part of his question is, "Why do I have to do what you tell me to do?" Children of all ages ask this question all the time. The second part of the question is, "What does going to Mass have to do with my relationship with God?"

The second part of his question is spiritual and much deeper. Is your son asking the first part, the second part, or both parts at the same time?

The polite answer to the first part of your son's question is "We go to Mass every Sunday because that's what we do as a family." Your son will respond "But why?" Please repeat, "We go to

Mass every Sunday because that's what we do as a family." Repeat this as often as necessary. You need not offer more of an explanation. It is a nice way of saying "You're going to Church because I said you're going to Church." Children do hundreds of things in families because their parents decide this is a good thing for them to do. Going to Mass every Sunday is one of them.

At some point, a high school student will want more of an answer. He will sincerely want to know "Why?" The second level of response is similar to the first, but has the authority of Jesus. Jesus said to his apostles, "Whoever listens to you, listens to me, whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." (Luke 10:16). The Church says, "We go to Mass every Sunday because this is what we do as a Christian people." We are wise to listen to what the Church teaches. Jesus was pretty clear about that. Unfortunately, some people just do not like to be told what to do.

Hopefully, your son is asking the deeper question. The full answer to "Why do I have to go the Mass every Sunday?" has to do with love. Church and prayer and Mass are all about love. We love Jesus. If you really love someone, two things will always be present. First, you want to be with that person all the time...all the time. You think about the person and don't want to be apart. A father who loves his wife and family hates that his work takes him out of town and looks forward to his return. If you love Jesus, it's important to be in his presence. Second, if you are with someone you love, you want to give them something. You don't want to take from them. You want to give. The father coming home from a business trip often brings gifts for his children. Why? Because he loves them. At Mass we give ourselves as a gift to God. I don't know how anyone can be present and give himself to God in any more perfect way than at Mass.

Deacon Jim

Holy Infant Seniors: 'A model group?'

**By Marilyn Tarleton
 with Mary Jane Zust**

The seniors of Incarnate Word Parish are interested in forming a senior group for their parish and have a committee searching already-formed groups in the area. A committee member, Ann Roberts, visited our HIS group as a guest at our Day of Reflection – our March meeting. She came away quite impressed, and the team leader invited me to present information on our Holy Infant Seniors group, especially our spiritual,

social and service themes....

On April 28, I met with their team of eleven, taking with me copies, obtained by JoAnn Dinkelkamp, of our yearly history reports, our monthly newsletters, our by-laws and a sample of our photo library. JoAnn, our HIS graphics and cheer person, added her special touch - a personalized copy of the cheer or sympathy cards she provides to our members.

The core team was impressed by what we've accomplished here at the Holy Infant



Seniors. The team is anxious to begin its planning for the needs of the seniors of Incarnate Word, and happy to profit

from our experiences.

An hour and a half later I left sharing their excitement. Members of the core team have been in contact with me several times since our meeting.

And well impressed they should be with the Holy Infant Seniors. For a complete story of the HIS – its accomplishments, activities and, yes, even its antics – watch for the next issue of Words and Works, or for information call its new president, Bob Komor, at (636) 230-9697.

Holy Infant School news

May crowning, graduations celebrated

May Crowning

May crowning is an annual ceremony during which we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thoughtfully placed flowers and decorations filled the Blessed Mother's alcove. On a beautiful spring afternoon, recent First Communicants and Confirmandi dressed in their smart outfits led the procession of the ceremony.

Father Bannes began the prayer of the rosary while Gina Randazzo and Danny Thompson gently placed a crown of flowers on the statue of Mary. Eighth

grade students voted Gina and Danny to represent their class at this event. The two represent their class based on Christian citizenship and concern and kindness for others. Maggie Hogan and John Randazzo were runners-up. Thanks to all involved who made this a very special day.



Stories By Tracey J. McHugh

Graduations

Fifty-four Kindergarten students celebrated their Graduation/Closing Mass ceremony on the morning of Wednesday, May 20th. This is the first time at Holy Infant that the Mass was completely served by a kindergarten class! They did a grand job and Sister Rosario was beam-

ing right along with the parents. Congratulations future first graders!

One hundred and six Eighth grade students waved goodbye to Holy Infant School on Saturday, May 16th with their graduation to the world of high school. Proud parents took pictures and enjoyed breakfast followed by a special video that displayed photos of their students' years at Holy Infant. The event closed with an awards presentation and Liturgy for the graduates and their families. Congratulations future ninth graders and enjoy high school!

Students receive Sacraments of First Communion, Confirmation



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Saturday, May 2nd was a very special day. The weather was sunny and warm, the air was filled with excitement and Holy Infant Church welcomed 161 first communicants from the day school and PSR.

Happy, anxious parents awaited the entrance of their precious little ones. Two by two, the first communicants entered the sanctuary in

solemnity with hands in prayer position and many with butterflies in their stomachs.

Father Ebert shared a touching story of his grandmother who made flat bread and how he "sees" her in the bread. He gave the analogy to the first communicants to help them see Jesus in the bread and wine at communion.



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

With a sponsor at their side, the Confirmandi from the day school and PSR entered Holy Infant Church to receive the rite of Confirmation. In his homily to the eighth grade students, the Very Rev. Thomas Molini, V.F., encouraged them to witness to others by sharing their gift of the spirit and to be a sign of Christ.

He then challenged them to stand witness for the Gospel mes-

sage and to be witnesses to the world. He reminded the students that they are young in years but powerful in faith, and asked them to commit to be the body of Christ in today's world through faith sharing and service work.

After the renewal of baptismal promises, the eighth grade students received the rite of Confirmation. Congratulations to the Confirmandi of 2009!

Holy Infant sports roundup

Congratulations to the seventh-grade boys and fifth-grade girls basketball teams who recently won the CYC City/County championships!



Members of the seventh-grade boys basketball team include, bottom row, Dominic Vaiana, Brett Stoffel, Austin Delrosso and Michael Marsh; and top row, coach Matt Stoffel, Austin Sottile, Stephen Powell, Andy Bauer, Jake Thomas, Alex Meier and coach Bill Marsh.



Members of the fifth-grade girls basketball team include, front row, Caroline Damico and Alexa Powell; and back row, Maria Ceriotti, Samantha Bogard, Maddie Rygelski, Emily Kreitman, Marisa Clemente, Emily Rogers, Taylor Rumping and Madison Meador. Coaches are Jeff Powell, Bill Rumping and Chris Meador.

RCIA: A dynamic faith-building process

By Kathie Hanneke

You have probably noticed the bulletin board near the entrance to the Adoration Chapel, but what is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)? Simply put, it is a process for those not Catholic who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church. Inquirers have a chance to get their questions answered and learn about: God's call for them; the Bible; the Mass; the Sacraments; Catholic traditions, and much, much, more about the Church.

We need your help in getting the word out about the RCIA process. Do you know someone who is not Catholic, but may be interested in becoming one? Have you thought about inviting a non-Catholic family member or friend to explore this faith-building process? The process is exciting and life changing. What are you waiting for? When you share your faith with those you think might be interested, ask God to guide you and give you the words to say. The RCIA sessions start in September. Call Kathie Hanneke at (636) 227-4022 for more information.

Annual picnic transforms parish grounds

By Tracey J. McHugh

The annual Holy Infant Parish Picnic transformed the school parking lot into a theme park filled with breathtaking rides, challenging games and lively music.

The dunking booth was filled with water and swim trunk clad, daring individuals who were not afraid of even the most talented pitching arm.

Children laughed and jumped in the Bounce House and nearby made lovely bubbles and danced to music.

The Full Tilt was a thrill-seekers dream that looked like a train car in a horizontal tornado. The Avalanche was non-stop spinning and caused many to think twice before entering.

During Saturday's event, a few people were delighted to share what they liked best about it.

Max Arnold, between bites of his frozen blueberry slush said, "The Cliffhanger!"

"I like the knobby ball game," said Sydney Trousdale.

Mikaela Rygelski said she enjoyed watching people get dunked in the dunking booth.

Thanks to all who worked together to make the picnic a success!



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

The annual Parish Picnic at Holy Infant included rides, games food and lively music.



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Father Tim Bannes takes a deep breath after a splash in the dunking booth.



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Kathi Shepard receives a cake from Mikaela Rygelski.

SVDP maintains active role in parish

By JoAnn Dinkelkamp

Holy Infant established the St. Vincent De Paul Society in 1960. There are about fifteen active members providing assistance to families today and many have been assisted in various capacities during the forty-nine years at Holy Infant.

Walter Batz, President, and his wife Geri have been members of Holy Infant for thirty seven years and dedicated to the SVDP for thirty-five of those years. He implemented a new program for Associate Members of the Holy Infant St. Vincent De Paul Society in 2008 whereby a member, while not participating in the groups' daily service to the poor, unites in spirit and prayer and supports the charitable activities of the Society. The Society sends a Quarterly Newsletter to these members providing brief information, honoring confidential-

ity, regarding activity in the past period. Modified activity is now provided weekly in the church Bulletin. Funding for this ministry comes from checks made payable to St. Vincent De Paul Society or SVDP with an Annual Collection at Holy Infant in July and individual donations throughout the year.

The opportunity for people in need to talk to someone in absolute confidentiality about their plight, who will not be judgmental, but will offer assistance and suggestions to them, allows a personal encounter which must seem like divine intervention. People look for peace within themselves and reassurance of their worth. The SVDP lets them know it is because of donations that they are able to assist them in their needs. This is what St Vincent De Paul is all about. About



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Mrs. Offerman and Mrs. Nord and Walter Batz of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are shown here with the third-grade class at Holy Infant.

ninety percent of those they assist are not Catholic with the remaining ten percent being members of Holy Infant Parish. St. Vincent's is here to provide assistance. Please call (314) 289-6161, ext. 2265.

And the ministry goes on ...

Mrs. Offerman's third grade class wanted to help some children at Easter so they called Mr. Batz. He suggested two families with a total of five

small children. The students each chose a child to "adopt." Their families and friends funded this effort by putting a price on various chores allowing them to purchase items requested plus Easter basket goodies. They lived the role of helping someone in need. Someday, because of this experience, some of these young people might be active members of the SVDP.

Parishioners find deals at Rummage Rampage

By Kathie Hanneke

If you saw a crowd of people standing outside the gym doors on Friday, June 19 around 5 p.m., you witnessed the beginning of the sneak preview at Rummage Rampage. Looking inside, donated treasures covered the entire gym. Goodies such as sparkling jewelry, toys, kitchen appliances and clothes galore rapidly disappeared as the shoppers scurried from one section to another. By Sunday afternoon, a large amount of items were sold and the dedicated volunteers breathed a collective sigh of relief. Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners and volunteers, the parish treasury received a wonderful boost and many people had a great time!



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Volunteers staff the tables at the annual Rummage Rampage sale at Holy Infant.

'That Man is You!' gives men leadership skills

By Jennifer Brinker

A program introduced at Holy Infant Parish – and a first for the Archdiocese of St. Louis – is helping Catholic men to be the best husbands and fathers they can be.

That Man Is You! is a 26-week leadership program for men that combines Church and biblical teachings and applications from modern social science to help men become more engaged in their faith and with their families.

The program originated in Houston in 2004 and is part of Paradisus Dei, a non-profit organization that promotes marriage and family life through programs and materials offered to parishes throughout the United States. The program runs during fall and spring semesters.

After attending the 2008 archdiocesan Catholic Men for Christ Conference, a group of men from the parish were looking for something to keep the "spiritual fires lit," according to co-coordinator Rick Effer.

"(They) asked the question, 'OK, what's next?' We all realized we needed something more," said Effer.

About 160 men at Holy Infant initially signed up, said Effer. The weekly meetings, which are held at 6:45 a.m. on Saturdays, average an attendance of about 100.



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Father Tim Bannes greets a parishioner attending a meeting of the That Man Is You! program.



PHOTO BY DON DINKELKAMP

Justin Fatica, a national author and speaker, talks to participants at a That Man Is You! meeting that took place at Holy Infant.

Each gathering includes a light breakfast, followed by a short introduction and then a mini-testimonial. The men watch a DVD on a particular theme. Following that, there is time for small group discussion. By 8:30 a.m., they're finished and on the way with their day.

"We're pretty adamant about going out and fulfilling our role of being husbands and fathers."

While there is a "nice mixture" of all ages who participate, said Effer, the majority fall within the range of mid-30s to 50s. "It's primarily men who are raising children in the home."

Weekly themes have focused on topics including the presence of God in the sacraments and seeing the face of Christ in others.

The social science part of the program delves into modern societal issues, including statistics on marriage and divorce and the physiological and neurological differences between men and women, explained Effer.

Testimonials have included topics such as service opportunities and pro-life issues. The goal is to introduce the men to different aspects of parish life.

The group also has served as a springboard for men to become involved in other activities related to their faith. For example, more than 50 men signed up to attend

the 2009 Catholic Men for Christ Conference, about double the number from Holy Infant who attended last year's conference.

"It's an overwhelming experience to see us go out into the community to live our faith," Effer said.

"We're pretty adamant about going out and fulfilling our role of being husbands and fathers."

"We're an interesting bunch," he said with a laugh. "Our natural proclivity is not to share our feelings — and I think society to some extent reinforces that behavior."

"Something like this is a safe environment that is exclusively male, which allows us the freedom to connect with what's on the inside, to connect with our emotions, our vulnerabilities and our true spirituality. The kinship with doing this with other men is absolutely irreplaceable."

A version of this article originally appeared in the St. Louis Review.

Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday Obligation

Saturday: 4 p.m. and 5:30
p.m.

Sunday: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m.,
10:15 a.m. and noon

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. and
8 a.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

Please check the bulletin or
call the rectory to check
times for Holy Day Masses

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

24 hours, 7 days a week.
Enter the chapel through the
main lobby.

Holy Infant Church

627 Dennison Drive, Ballwin MO 63021-4898

Rectory: (636) 227-7440 FAX (636) 227-4548

Website: www.holyinfantballwin.org

Pastoral Staff

Msgr. Thomas J. Dempsey Pastor

Father Mark S. Ebert Senior Associate Pastor

Father Timothy L. Bannes Associate Pastor

Deacon Kenneth Clemens Permanent Deacon

Deacon William Krull Permanent Deacon

Rectory Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Closed for lunch from noon-1 p.m.

Ministry to the Homebound

Please call the rectory if you are ill at home or in the hospital or nursing
facility and would like Communion brought to you. Volunteers also are
available to help in other ways.

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