



# Holy Cross Connections

## *Celebrating 175 Years - Jubilee 2008*



### **“Bread as Life - Bread of Life”**

*By Sister Pat Pieper*

My experience of “bread as life” began as an infant when, so my mother told me, she actually weaned me with bread soaked in soft boiled egg.

Many years later when I was a young sister, allowed for the first time to stay overnight in my parents’ home, I remember my father preparing my favorite breakfast - of course, toast and a soft boiled egg.

Throughout my life bread of many kinds and eggs have remained two of my favorite foods, carbs and cholesterol notwithstanding.

Though eggs are indeed a powerful Resurrection symbol, it is the “bread of life” that has nourished, strengthened and sustained me through these many years.

It was kneeling with the Sacred Host held in front of me that I made my first and perpetual profession of religious vows. Getting up in the middle of the night for my time of Adoration on Holy Thursday, was a deep experience in those early years lived in a large convent.

*See Bread on pg. 2*



Candles are held during the Easter Vigil of 2007.

## **Easter Blessings**

*by Fr. Jerry Stluka*

How time flies! It seems like we have barely finished putting our Christmas decorations away and it’s Easter! In fact, this year Easter comes earlier than ever. Perhaps this proximity on the calendar can remind us of the central connection of these two feasts. God becomes human in order to reconcile humanity and divinity - to reunite us with God and each other forever. The only Son of God suffers with us, dies with us and is raised to new life with us. God overcomes death with life, evil with good, sin with forgiveness. Easter completes what Christmas begins. Christ, the Light of the world shatters the darkness of sin once and for all!

Easter celebrates this greatest victory of all time: the victory of light over darkness, faith over despair, love over hate, forgiveness over vengeance, life over death. The great three days of Easter (the Triduum) celebrate this awesome paschal mystery. The Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper anticipates the Good Friday sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. The sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders find their origin in this

*See Fr. Stluka’s Message on pg. 2*

From *Fr. Stluka's Message* on pg. 1

Holy Meal. A central mystery of the Gospel, loving service, finds expression in the washing of the feet and in the Eucharistic Body of Christ broken for us and Blood of Christ poured out for us. The holy priesthood of Christ, manifested in His death-resurrection, is experienced sacramentally in the mystery of the Last Supper present among us in the Holy Eucharist.

The solemn Easter Vigil is the culmination and fulfillment of the prophetic Word of God made flesh in the Christmas mystery. The Old Testament promises of God are fulfilled in the new covenant - the paschal mystery of Christ dead and risen. The Hope of all time and

eternity dawns on Easter morning as the Son of God - and we with him - rises from the dead and empowers the Apostles, the Church - you and me - to forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Come, celebrate these central mysteries of our Faith on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Renew your Baptismal death and resurrection with our three neophytes who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil. On this Easter of our 175th Jubilee Year, we rejoice in the mystery of the Holy Cross - the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**PEACE BE WITH YOU!**

## got news?

Now that the Holy Cross Connections newsletter is one year old we want to invite you, our parishioners, to contribute to our publication. **Tell us your news!** We want to know about births, graduations, honors, travels and those things that make us a parish family.

If you have access to a computer send an email to Jack Kustron - [jack@photoj.com](mailto:jack@photoj.com). If not, drop off a note at the rectory and we'll get your news in the next edition.



## Holy Week Schedule:

*Holy Thursday* - March 20

5:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper

*Good Friday* - March 21 - Day of fast and abstinence

1:00 p.m., Stations of the Cross

2:00 p.m., Good Friday Liturgy and Holy Communion

*Holy Saturday*, March 22

8:30 p.m., Solemn Easter Vigil

*Easter Sunday* - March 23

9:00 a.m., Mass

11:00 a.m., Mass

From *Bread* on pg. 1

Though I learned to eat the staple "fufu" (cassava) while living in Congo, I was ever so grateful to the Belgian sister who taught our Congolese cook to bake bread.

Later on, as I moved around and shared life and Eucharist with so many others in different parts of our Notre Dame world, far from home at times,

the emphasis on my intimacy with Christ expanded much more to being bonded with my sisters and brothers throughout the world in this Body of Christ.

More recently, at Holy Cross, being myself an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and aiding others in this ministry, I find being His instrument in

feeding the many hungers of those who approach to receive communion at my hands, is a joyful and humbling experience that continues to deepen and broaden my love for the "Bread of Life."

So, with joy and anticipation I look forward to the Liturgies of the Triduum, beginning with Holy Thursday.

## Behind the Scenes *By Jack Kustron*

Right - Jack Balogh reads from scripture during Mass on Feb. 10.

You may have heard Fr. Jerry from time to time say that Christ is still with us and we are able to see him when we look at our neighbor. Such is that realization when you look at Jack Balogh. A man of humility with a warm smile, Jack is a guy who is willing to share his love of Christ with our parish.

A native of Columbus, Jack is a graduate of South High School, a retired Army officer and retired president of Squire Supply Co. He converted to Catholicism in 1994.

Jack and his wife Veronica have been parishioners at Holy Cross since 2002. They went through Cursillo, at the Cum Christo Center, and “it just felt natural for us to be here,” he said.

In addition to being a reader and passing the collection basket on Sundays; Jack serves as chairman of our Finance Committee. He’s held this volunteer position for the past 3 years. Along with Jack, the other members of the Finance Committee are: secretary, Stacy Mayer; Pat Kearns-Davis; Jean Finn; Richard Lumpe; Mike Agriesti and Fr. Stluka. This committee insures that there is good stewardship of the finances and according to Jack “we have an administrator – Mike Agriesti – and Fr. Jerry, who handle the day to day work.” “The board is there to act as a sounding board, to review the financial structure, and give authority to Father to pursue what he needs to in that area.” “This year, and the last few years, its been the renovation of the church.” Jack credits Stacy Mayer as the person who has done most of the work with our current capital campaign, which in conjunction with the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, has reached the one-third mark. Below you will see the latest figures in that regard.

So, know that Jack Balogh is a behind the scenes person who not only receives the blessings of being a member of Holy Cross, but also is one who is here to share his talent and service with us.

## Capital Campaign Fund - BAA, Off to a Good Start

*By Mike Agriesti*

The year 2008 marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our parish and the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our historic church building. We are the first Catholic Church with the oldest church building in Columbus.

Due to the generous, sacrificial giving of generations of parishioners and friends of the parish, our buildings have been maintained and repaired as

needed. Recently we have replaced the church steeple, copper roof and gutters/downspouts, installed a new heating and cooling system, done extensive plaster repair and painting, finished tuck pointing the entire brick exterior, installed a new hardwood floor in the sanctuary, and refinished the pews and floor in the nave. We are currently replacing the stained glass window frames and the exterior protective glass.

Our three year campaign to raise \$350, 000 to pay off the debt associated with these improvements is off to a good start. We are proud to announce that we are at 75% of our goal after the first year of this campaign and look forward to additional pledges to reach our goal.

Please consider making a pledge if you have not already done so.



### New Parish Jubilee Directory

Please sign up after Sunday Masses in March for your individual or family photo to be taken in May.

*Holy Cross Catholic Church*  
204 S. Fifth Street, Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 224-3416 –1 Office

[www.holycrosscatholic.com](http://www.holycrosscatholic.com)

**Parish Staff**

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor  
Reverend Monsignor Lawrence J. Corcoran, P.A., In Residence  
Sister Patricia A. Pieper, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate  
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

**Liturgy Schedule**

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Daily: 11:30 a.m. Monday - Saturday

**Confessions**

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.  
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Cross Connections*

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