



# Holy Cross Connections

## The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Friday, June 19, 2009

by Fr. Jerry Stluka

As we enter or leave our historic church building through the front doors, our vision focuses on the beautiful stained glass window depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As we gaze on the sanctuary surrounding the main altar, we cannot miss the striking life size Sacred Heart statue reaching out to us with compassionate, wholehearted love. The heart of Christ is certainly central to our parish life and worship.

I remember when I was about twelve years old, our new family home was dedicated to the Sacred Heart whose image was enshrined in our living room. This tender, caring love of God personified in the Sacred Heart of Jesus was always prominent in our home and central to our family life.

Over the centuries, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary has helped to replace vengeance with forgiveness, hatred with love, fear with faith and injury with healing. The human heart has often been seen as the center of life and love. The Sacred Heart reminds us that no human sin is greater than God's love — than God's power and desire to forgive. This love of God is at the heart of the Christian message. The water and blood flowing from the heart of Jesus on the cross signifies the initial sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.

In the 11th and 12th centuries, devotion to the Sacred Heart arose in Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries. From the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the devotion was practiced by different religious congregations such as Franciscans,

See *Sacred Heart* on pg. 3



## Town Hall, Full of Ideas

by Sr. Pat Pieper

Boundless enthusiasm, profound commitment and creative ideas all came together at the Parish Town Hall Meeting on May 17.

Father Jerry introduced the meeting with an overview of the diocesan and parish self-study process, and the purpose of our meeting to continue with the parish recommendations made at our first meeting last year.

Jeanne Brown, the Deanery representative from our parish gave us an update on what has transpired at the monthly meetings of the representatives from our Deanery parishes: Holy Rosary/St. John, Sts. Augustine/Gabriel, St. Dominic, St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Patrick, St. Thomas and the newest parishes, St. Mary's in German Village and Corpus Christi/St. Ladislav. The group will continue to meet in order to maintain communication and endeavor to share more resources.

See *Town Hall* on pg. 2

## Parish Newsnotes by Sr. Pat Pieper

WELCOME TO ST. CATHARINE St. Catharine's Rectory is the summer home for **Dan Dury**, as he spends his last summer assignment as a seminarian. Dan was ordained a deacon on June 6 and will complete his studies this year as he prepares for ordination to the prosthod next year.

The Convent at St. Catharine has become home for **Sr. Pat** as she moves in with the 5 Sisters of St. Francis, while continuing her ministry here at Holy Cross. **Sr. Annemary Miller**, Sr. Pat's community sister, will be joining the staff at the health center for the Sisters of Notre Dame in Cincinnati. "When one door closes, another opens."

FAREWELL AND WELCOME On May 30 we said farewell to our longtime, devoted parishioner, Eucharistic Minister and resident of

Nazareth Towers, **Joan Cooney**. Joan has moved in with her sister in Washington state. Blessings on you, Joan.

Our newest parishioner **Granuaile Ann Elizabeth Sheridan** was baptized on Pentecost Sunday. She was born at home and joins her parents **Joe** and **Susan**, as well as "big" brother **David**.

We ask God's blessing on other expectant parents in the parish: **Courtney & Mark Bockrath** **Mercedes & Ray Buck** **Anne & Ian Ruscak**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Bridgid Davis** who graduated from Watterson High School on May 30
- Our very special anniversary couples: **Betty & Dick Morbitzer** – 55 years



**Eileen & Ray Kiersh** – 45 years  
**Pat & Gary Davis** – 40 years  
**Elizaeth & Bobby Hacket** – 40 years

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK:  
We received over **50 responses** to the volunteer cards on Pentecost Sunday!

HAPPENINGS:  
**Dan** and **Karla Bednar** are working on revising and updating our parish web site [www.holycrosscatholic.com](http://www.holycrosscatholic.com). Stay tuned.

**Jan Kustron** has two paintings in the inaugural German Villalge Art League exhibit in the 3rd floor gallery at Caterina's, at 571 S. Third St.



Jeanne Brown gives an update.

The SUSTAINABLE group is contacting other small parishes and is putting in place a timeline as we move toward beginning to form a parish council.

The STRATEGIC group focused on "adding visibility" to our parish, drawing in new parishioners, and reaching out to non-practicing Catholics.

More information and requests for help will be forthcoming. Following a report from each of these sub-groups to the large group, we were all enjoying socializing over pizza and concluded within our 2 hour limit, grateful for the interaction, feeling we knew a few more folks by name and face and looking forward to continuing these endeavors.

*Town Hall from pg. 1*

We then divided into the three groups, formed at our initial meeting last year and spirited discussion followed concerning the ideas that had surfaced at that time and the practical steps needed to move ahead.

The SACRAMENTAL group has begun its work with a ministry volunteer card distributed, very significantly on Pentecost, as we encourage the sharing of our time and talent. This group is also supplying ideas for the updating of our Website.

## Behind the Scenes *By Jack Kustron*

If Viki Meyer were a cat, she would be down to one life. Thanks to God, the Columbus Fire Dept. EMT team and others, she's a breathing feeling member of our parish.

Viki has had several brushes with death. There were the 2 cases of childhood pneumonia, the near drowning episodes, the surgeries on her back, hands and knees and of course the two cardiac arrests – whew, that's more than enough for any person.

***“I just thank God every day that I'm on this side of the counter...”***  
***Viki Meyer***

Born and reared as a cradle Catholic in Louisville, KY, Vicki moved to the Westerville area over 30 years ago. Married to her husband Don for over 40 years, they parented 4 children and have 5 grandchildren. After raising the children she and Don moved to downtown about 10 years ago, and

thus began her association with Holy Cross Church. “I always wanted to live downtown in a big city and I love telling people that I'm at the oldest parish in Columbus,” she said.

She had already been active at the Cum Christo center, as well as volunteering at J.O.I.N and Columbus Right to Life when she saw a notice in our bulletin seeking volunteers at St. Lawrence Haven for Mondays. Since she was already attending daily Mass she decided to answer that call and before long was lending a helping hand every day.

On her experience at “The Haven,” Viki says “I just thank God every day that I'm on this side of the counter and not the other side.” There's a very thin line from my side to their side.” She says that “it's funny because I kind of made friends with a lot of them, because a lot of them are regulars that come down here just about every day -



**Viki waits for food at St. Lawrence Haven.**

and I say friends as far as I just give them a friendly smile or a high five or whatever, whenever they come through the line – sometimes I see them out on the street but most of the time I just see them in here.”

She views her work at St. Lawrence Haven, where 250 to 400 men, women and children are feed daily as a payback to God for the good life that He's given her.

So Viki Meyer is another Holy Cross parishioner who you might recognize in Chapter 25, Verse 40 of Matthew's Gospel where Jesus said, “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

### **Dates to Remember:**

**Friday, July 24** - Parish Potluck - 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 13** - Parish Feast Day & Celebration of Fr. Jerry's 40<sup>th</sup> Year Jubilee - 10:00 a.m. Mass followed by reception

*Sacred Heart from pg. 1*

Dominicans and Carthusians, but remained a private devotion. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, St. John Eudes made the devotion public and established its annual feast.

On the feast of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1673, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Visitation Sister, began to have visions of Jesus who asked her to promote devotion to His heart, symbolic of His love for all humanity. Those who practiced this devotion would be blessed with peace in their families, consolation in times of trouble, and blessings, refuge and comfort at the time of death.

In 1899 Pope Leo XIII solemnly consecrated all humanity to the Sacred Heart, typically portrayed as a bleeding and flaming heart, pierced and surrounded by a crown of thorns — symbolizing the burning, undying love of Jesus being poured out into all people, especially through the sacraments. How appropriate that we observe this feast on the Friday after the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

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**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.  
11:30 a.m. Tuesday - 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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