



Heart of the Matter

A Christian Community Building Households of Faith

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www.sacredheart-church.org

January 2010

Sacred Heart celebrates Christmas 2009



Children from the congregation gathered around Fr. Steve Kuhlmann, O.P., for the homily at the Christmas Eve Family Mass.



The 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Mass congregation enjoyed lively carols performed by Children's Choir.

Six begin the journey into the Church

By Mary Kay Head

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus told his followers that they would soon "be baptized with the Holy Spirit." This Spirit did indeed come upon them, empowering them to spread the Good News throughout the land. This same Spirit is still at work today, opening the hearts of many to seek the truth of God's words, to find what is missing in their lives.

Sacred Heart recently celebrated the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the Rite of Welcoming of Candidates with six individuals who have responded to the call of the Spirit. Each was introduced to the community by a godparent or sponsor, each was asked what it was he or she was seeking, and each mentioned individual needs in response.

It is always interesting to reflect upon what brings someone to begin this journey. There is no campaign to actively seek individuals to begin this process. It is truly the work of the Spirit in the hearts and minds of those who come to this point.

This year there are two catechumens (those who have not been baptized) participating. Neil Trent was introduced by John Bell and Cecelia Cordray was introduced by Ann Bell. Joining them were four candidates, Deven McDonald introduced by John Bryan, Kylee Rooney introduced by Anne Justine Morris, Dennis Bernhardt introduced by Mary Hurt, and Stephen Cravens introduced by Kristina Cravens.

After the introductions and responses, not only were the godparents and sponsors asked if they were willing to accompany the individuals on their journey of faith, but the assembly present was also asked to help through their prayers and example. The process is

based on the cooperation of the entire faith community, not on just a few members. It is an awesome responsibility, and a very rewarding experience.

A beautiful and moving part of this celebration is the signing with the cross. The godparents and sponsors take the catechumens and candidates to various areas in the church to allow each to truly stand among the assembly. They are then signed with the cross on their forehead as a sign of Christ's love, on their ears that they may hear the voice of God, on their eyes that they may see the glory of God, over their heart that Christ might dwell there in faith, on their shoulders that they might bear the yoke of Christ, on their hands that Christ may be known in the work that they do, and on their feet that they may walk in the way of Christ. They are then presented with a cross from their godparent or sponsor. Would that each Catholic Christian upon witnessing this would reflect on how their whole being is meant to allow them to follow Christ in their lives.

After the signing, all came forward to face the priest. They were then asked to accept the sign of salvation as they placed their hands on the processional cross and committed to gospel living. Each was then presented with a book of scriptures to inspire and guide them as they continue their faith journey.

These six will now participate in a period of faith formation and catechesis. They will begin each session by attending the Liturgy of the Word at one of the weekend Masses. After the homily they will be called forward and dismissed to go and continue their journey as they delve more fully into and reflect on the readings from the Mass. This will continue as

the godparents and sponsors join the group when the Mass ends. A team member will then present the Catholic teaching on a relevant topic. This format will continue until the first Sunday of Lent, when Sacred Heart will participate in the Rite of Sending.

This Rite precludes the gathering of all catechumens and candidates in the diocese at the cathedral in Jefferson City, where they will be welcomed by Bishop John Gaydos and invited to begin a period of purification and enlightenment as they prepare for full reception into the Catholic faith.

The sessions during Lent focus on prayer and discernment, a time when spiritual formation is intensified. This period includes both scrutinies and presentations. Scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance, and have a spiritual purpose. They are meant to uncover and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect, and to bring out and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. These are celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. The prayers of petition are formulated by this group as they reflect on their needs and pray for the grace to overcome whatever may hold them back from following the way of Christ. Presentations take place after the celebration of the scrutinies. First the elect are presented with the Creed, the profession of Catholic beliefs. Next they are presented with Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught to the disciples when they asked him how to pray.

The highlight of this journey is the Easter Vigil Mass as the Rite of Initiation takes place. Both Neil and Cecelia will be baptized, and all six will be

Continued on page 7

WHY CATHOLIC?

JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

Year One - Profession of Faith: What We Believe Sessions 7-12 February 14 - March 21 Sign-up January 23-24

(Multiple times and locations available for 90 minute small group sessions.
Forms will be available in church vestibule.)

Session Topics:

- * The Public Life of Jesus
- * The Paschal Mystery: Jesus' Death and Resurrection
 - * The Holy Spirit and the Church
 - * One Church with Diverse Roles
- * Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church
 - * We Believe in Life Everlasting

(If you participated in the fall 2009 sessions, you do not need to sign up again. You do not need to have attended sessions 1-6 to join *Why Catholic?* this Lent, but please sign up and leave your form in the vestibule or church office.)

Birthdays

- Jan. 1 Virginia Jackson
- Jan. 2 Alexandro Arzate, Kelsey Bequette, Missy Crane, Paula Naugle, Bill Rodeman, Tammy Scott
- Jan. 3 Nicole Hoffman, Janet Pack, Elena Sapp
- Jan. 4 John Crouch, Francis Pike, Patricia Quint, Anupam Radhakrish, Mark Tinsley
- Jan. 5 Bridget Bartlett, Reginald Cocroft, Helen Gittemeier, Robert Green, Carol Nacarato
- Jan. 6 Gerardo Arzate, Joseph Jolley, John Reiss
- Jan. 7 Connie Armentrout, Tiffany Borst, Michele Egbert, Dan Johanningmeier, Jaime Strange
- Jan. 8 Brendan Fish
- Jan. 9 Mike Inlow, Paul Kanago, Larry Longwell, Margaret St. Omer
- Jan. 10 Lawrence Blanchard, Cade Luetkemeyer
- Jan. 11 Julian Lenis, Mary Lock, Cesarine Mabengo, Corrie Tinsley
- Jan. 13 Patricia Andrews, John Cheetham, Dennis Dewey, Kenneth Mountjoy
- Jan. 14 Catherine Mayhan, Laura Pratte
- Jan. 15 Carrie Douglas, Jennifer Green, Glenda Kappelmann, Ruby Lopez, Debra Riffle, Darrell Widhalm
- Jan. 16 Katie Glaubitz, Ruth McCormack, Juan Muniz, Riley Tinsley, Austin Torres
- Jan. 17 Eugene Arens, Patricia King, Maria Rodriguez-Avala
- Jan. 18 Tristen Douglas, Daniel Nickolaus
- Jan. 19 Chelsea Bertrand, Arthur Gloe, Patricia Kelley, James Paugh, Tammy Reeder, Jennifer Ruprecht
- Jan. 20 Abigail Brightwell, Benjamin Gakinya, Annorah Harris, Lacy Priesmeyer
- Jan. 21 Richard Loftus, Timothy Pingelton
- Jan. 22 Eddie Carlos, Robert Harper, Bailey Holland, Lou Holroyd, Helen McGonigle, Marydeth Priesmeyer
- Jan. 23 Abner Brown, Matthew Quetsch
- Jan. 24 Deanna Cotter, Charlene Jayamanne, Allen Ronnebaum, Garry Teeple
- Jan. 25 Darren Bertrand, Marsela Lopez
- Jan. 26 Jon Bequette, Jeffrey Johanningmeier, Ethan Potts
- Jan. 27 Ivan Morris, August Schultz
- Jan. 28 Robert Cotter III, Joseph Doles, Samantha Kanago, Megan Reiss, Jacob Sprouse
- Jan. 29 Marcella Frazier, Robert Gerau, Richard King, Rachel Epps Loporto, Alexander Von Schoenborn
- Jan. 30 Frank Claeys, Chris Drury, Davis Graham, Ellis Graham, Alice Sinele, Grace Spell, Samuel Spell, Riley Widhalm
- Jan. 31 Ellen Cocroft, Stazi Prost

Handyman Ministry fills a need

By Donna Haley

The Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus Handyman Ministry is a very important ministry. Skilled workers from this group have completed several projects at my home. So, when asked to write an article about my experience, I was more than happy to oblige.

I've been wanting an electrical outlet on my front porch for years so that I can have Christmas lights. And this year I will have them. Last summer, Rick Clawson and Michael Schuster installed the electrical outlet by connecting it to the front porch ceiling light. In addition, I asked them to install a ceiling fan on the porch. It looks fantastic. They were very professional and polite. I felt very confident about the excellent job they were doing. I paid for all parts needed and made a donation to the Knights of Columbus for the labor. It was such a good experience that I requested another project. Rick and Michael

installed lattice work on my back deck and my potting shed.

The process for the projects included communication by phone and email. Appointments were reliably kept. The work was done carefully and with expertise.

Other benefits included a short discourse in aerodynamics by retired pilot Michael Schuster, explaining how the ceiling fan would reduce mosquitoes. I'm an educator so I was appreciative of the "lesson."

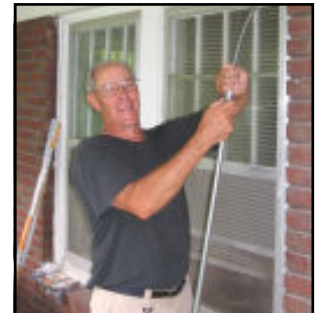
For both these projects I had tried to employ others, but no one was interested. I think this is because they were just small projects and they didn't want to take the time to figure out how to do them. I live in a home that is 90 years old and improvements can be challenging.

Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for this ministry that has been so helpful and meets a community need.

And, of course, I have other projects in mind...



Rick Clawson installs a light bulb in a ceiling fan.



Michael Schuster installs conduit for an outlet.

Heart of the Matter

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Articles in *Heart of the Matter* that address Church teachings or articles of faith are expressions of the author's opinion unless specifically noted otherwise.

Knights of Columbus Council 14414 Handyman Ministry

If you need help with projects around the home or in the yard, call Rick Clawson at (573) 491-3399 or email

ClawsonRandG@wmconnect.com.

Payment for the service is not required, but donations are accepted by the council and are used to support the parish.



Eternal Rest

Sacred Heart remembers Fr. Edwin J. Cole

By Mary Kay Head

Fr. Edwin Joseph Cole began his eternal life Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009. His earthly life began Feb. 21, 1938, when he was born to Arthur and Genevieve Cole in Arlington, WA.

Fr. Edwin once told the story of how he had written a paper in school as a young boy. His teacher, a nun, recognized a calling in the young man's words, and began praying for his vocation. In 1953, at the age of 15, Joseph entered the seminary at Conception, MO. He was ordained a priest in 1964 and took the name Edwin, keeping Joseph as his middle name.

God had many plans for this young priest; not necessarily what the young man would have chosen, but what he later recognized as significant steps in becoming the priest who so endeared himself to us.

He spent time at a monastic foundation in Copenhagen, Denmark. Upon his return to the U.S., he continued his education at the University of Kansas (probably the one flaw those who loved him in Columbia found in his past). He served in various parishes while attending the university, and later taught at the seminary. He was then assigned to St. Pius X Abbey in Pevely, MO, where he was elected abbot, a position he held for 12 years. It was during this tenure that he first came to

Columbia, as the Abbey was moved to the Our Lady of Lourdes campus.

When the Abbey closed, several of the Benedictines joined the Jefferson City diocese and continue to serve locally. Fr. Edwin moved to the St. Louis area, but later returned to Columbia to establish the hospital chaplaincy program, and soon became the pastor of Sacred Heart, a position he held for 10 years.

The parish learned that in addition to his pastoral duties, Fr. Edwin liked to keep himself in shape. He felt this enhanced his ability to serve the parish in his role as pastor. He also dearly loved music in general and his accordion in particular. He diligently practiced with the instrument, and performed with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Accordion Orchestra. At the celebration of the 40th anniversary of his ordination, he treated Sacred Heart to an accordion concert held at the Missouri Theater.



Many were amazed at the versatility of the instrument, and were thoroughly surprised by the performance.

For many, Fr. Edwin's 10 years as pastor at Sacred Heart were not enough. He was truly loved and certainly appreciated for his many talents and contributions to

the parish. It was his foresight that saw the establishment of the Sacred Heart Catholic Community Foundation, which was established in January, 1998, as a means for individuals and organizations to provide long-term financial stability for the charitable, religious, and educational programs of Sacred Heart Parish.

The Foundation currently operates endowments in four areas of focus, which parallel the parish's commissions. These began with *The Fr. Edwin Cole Endowment for the Promotion of Liturgical Arts and Preservation of Church Environment*, which serves as a vehicle for enhancing our liturgy and the sacredness of

our church space.

It was in a meeting with Fr. Edwin that the seed was first planted to create a parish newspaper. He wanted a means to communicate more fully with his faith community. This seed developed and grew, and is still growing today in this publication, *Heart of the Matter*.

Fr. Edwin loved Sacred Heart and felt the arrival of Dominican priests in the community would help to keep the parish alive in the current atmosphere in which many areas suffer from a shortage of priests to staff parishes. He willingly stepped aside and took an assignment as pastor at the Shrine of St. Patrick in Laurie, MO.

Fr. Edwin was part of a large family. He had five sisters – Mary, Theresa, Loretta, Cathy, and Francis; and 3 brothers – Larry, Richard, and Charles (who preceded him in death). He also boasted of many nieces and nephews that he dearly loved.

He will be missed by all who knew him, and especially by his Sacred Heart family who loved him so. May he now enjoy forever the presence of God as he feasts at the eternal banquet. I would believe that he also takes part in the heavenly choir, where I would not be surprised if an accordion now joins with the harps in praising God, the essence of Love.



Fr. Edwin with Paula Chapman, Curtis Bourgeois, and Larry Chapman



Fr. Cole enjoys a laugh at his departure party



“Fathers” Cole at Mardi Gras



Fr. Cole at prayer, with Deacon John Weaver and Fr. Steve Kuhlmann, O.P.



(Left) Fr. Edwin performs on his accordion



Fr. Edwin with Bishop Gaydos celebrates Confirmation



Fr. Edwin with Frs. Rob Fields, John Long, and Don Wallace



Fr. Cole with Madonna and Steve Ferris

Another Bazaar success for the parish

By Mary Kay Head

Once again, Sacred Heart will reap the benefits of the ongoing and diligent work of so many who have willingly given of their time and talents to make the 2009 Parish Christmas Bazaar a huge success. Proceeds will be between \$17 thousand and \$18 thousand. Many, many thanks to all of you who made this possible.

The grand prize at the raffle drawing, the beautiful hand-sewn quilt, was won by David and Dana Sheahan. Other raffle winners are: Patrick Rackers, \$500; Jordan Shomer, \$400; Dorothy Mountjoy, \$350; and the 'postcard drawing' winner of the floral table piece created by Louise Simon was won by Marcia Odom.

The overall chairpersons of the bazaar are Doris Crites, Pat Andrews, and Marge Roth. Chairpersons of the booths are: jewelry – Tina Marks and Rachel Techau; bakery – Jayne Burkett and Louise Simon; books – Judy Bryant and Leslie Naugle; side door café – Miriam Hankins; peanut brittle – Jean Soucek; and silent auction – Ron and Mary Freiburghaus. The quilters are Judy Bryant, Eileen Hayden, Dorothy Thornton, and Elizabeth Martin.

In addition, we want to recognize the many silent auction donors. Their contributions added to the overall success of the bazaar. Thank you for your generosity.

2009 Silent Auction supporters

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(Left) The grand prize quilt hangs in the background as shoppers search for treasures.



(Right) The ever popular jewelry booth draws a big crowd.

Sacred Heart celebrates Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



The Pedroza family and friends decorated a shrine in the Activity Building to accent the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Ruby Lopez wore dress native to Mexico.



Hispanic children donned the clothing of their native countries to celebrate.



The Hispanic children's choir sang both at the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and at Mass on Christmas morning.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Vincentian Spirituality

By Patrick Rackers

"There is no charity which is not alongside justice." These words of Vincent de Paul embody his belief that order in society is founded on the two virtues of charity and justice, and that while justice has some limits, charity knows none. This holy man was born in Landes, Germany on April 24, 1581. He founded the Vincentian Order in 1633 and died Sept. 27, 1660. On June 16, 1737, Pope Clement XII canonized him Saint Vincent de Paul, and later he was named patron of the Sisters of Charity and the Brothers of Charity. The Vincentian Family includes the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, Ladies of Charity, and the Sisters of Charity in the Setonian tradition. DePaul University, the largest Catholic University in the United States, is named for him.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 to serve impoverished people living in the slums of Paris, France. The primary figure behind the Society's founding was Frederic Ozanam, a French lawyer, author and professor in the Sorbonne. He was only 20 years old when the society was founded. Frederic Ozanam's enthusiastic hope was, "...to wrap the whole world in a network of charity." On August 23, 1997 Frederic Ozanam was beatified by Pope John Paul II. Today the Society numbers about 950,000 members in 132 countries worldwide, operating through a series of conferences. The National Council of the United States is located right here in St. Louis, MO.

The Society was officially recognized by Church authorities in Pope Gregory XVI's briefs of Jan. 10 and Aug. 12, 1845. It has been confirmed by succeeding popes down through the years. The Society makes it a required duty for every member to be involved in the "human tapestry" where the struggle for a more just world is carried out. At each meeting a brown bag is passed around the table for members to give of their own gifts for the benefit of others.

The local Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m.; at the Parish Office at our Lady of Lourdes Church. There are opening and closing prayers, including the cause of canonization of Blessed Frederic Ozanam. A Conference Agenda includes a spiritual reading, review of recent charitable work, case history reports, assignment of members to case needs, financial report, welcome of new members, the secret collection, and future plans. Charity never looks backwards, but always forward as the needs of the poor are infinite.

Those in need are served through a volunteer telephone line, 424-1022, and callers simply leave the information requested and await a return call to let them know if the need can in any way be addressed. Members respond with the resources made available through the generous sharing of gifts from those who contribute to the collection for the poor. Funds are pooled with those from other churches, individuals, and even some funds returned by those who have themselves benefitted from aid provided in the past by the Society. Home visits are scheduled and two members from the Society often visit the individual or family to offer assistance. Not all assistance is of a monetary nature.

Sacred Heart Parish now collaborates with the Conference at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, inviting members to service, to sharing, and to the giving of self to those greatly in need and often sidelined by a progress which does not help the weakest among us. Sacred Heart Parish continues with the mission

ADVICE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TO SISTER JEAN, DAUGHTER OF CHARITY, MAKING HER FIRST VISIT TO THE POOR. . .

"You will find that charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the basket of bread. But you must keep your gentleness and your smile. Giving soup and bread isn't all; that the rich can do. You are the little servant of the poor, the maid of charity, always smiling and in good humor. They are your masters, terribly sensitive and exacting as you will see, but the uglier and dirtier they are, the more unjust and bitter, the more you must give them of your love. It is only because of your love, only your love, that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them."



of the Social Concerns Committee through that portion of the collection earmarked for the poor on the fourth Sunday of each month. Of these funds, \$100 goes directly to the Loaves and Fishes Program to provide meals for the poor and homeless. The balance is combined with the collection at Our Lady of Lourdes to respond to the needs of those who call for help. In this way, a more significant level of assistance can be provided.

The foundation for this charitable endeavor at Sacred Heart Parish is the compassion and love shown for those in need over the years by Sr. Agnes Schlereth, C.P.P.S. It is a joy to be able to carry on this work following Sr. Agnes's lead. She has been an inspiration to all.

Some examples of the social concerns ministry through the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul which have occurred recently include:

A utility bill paid for a parishioner of Sacred Heart

- who was about to lose electric service.
- Four medications paid for a mother of several children.
- A \$30 gas voucher for a person to travel to a hospital in St. Louis.
- A rental deposit to prevent a homeless situation.
- Two boxes of food delivered to a mother of six children.
- A bus ticket to Texas for a person to attend the funeral of a loved one.

These are but a few examples of the work with which our parish is now helping. My own involvement consists of being a substitute telephone volunteer, called to serve whenever the need arises. A typical day includes eight to 30 calls for assistance. A computer is necessary for the screening of each call and to document the circumstances of each individual or family calling for assistance. Home visits are scheduled on a special computer program which is accessed by active Saint Vincent de Paul members. The society cannot respond to chronic situations and efforts are made to provide service no more frequently than every six months to any one individual or family unless there are special or extraordinary circumstances. We have several years of history in our archives and we can determine how aid has been provided in the past and how we might better assist with current or future needs. A period of training is required for each member to ensure that program components are followed.

The Society works with dozens of local agencies and charities such as the Central Missouri Community Action Agency; the Salvation Army; Love, Inc.; New Horizons; Department of Family Services; Voluntary Action Center; Loaves and Fishes; St. Francis House; food pantries; The Wardrobe; and many others. In addition, we have arrangements with local utility companies to accept our faxed pledges for payment, with a petroleum company to provide fuel for automobiles, with public transit firms, and with other entities that can facilitate our work. Often, working with these other agencies, we can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

Those wishing to volunteer for the home visitations or telephone service may attend any of the meetings of the Society to learn more about the organization and programs of service. The needs of the poor are great and we seek out opportunities to personally reach out to someone in need. These words – "You do not have to be Catholic for us to serve you. We serve you because we are Catholic." – were taken from the brochure of the National Council, and give clarity to the ecumenical nature of this truly charitable work.

Knights of Columbus Council 14414

The Sacred Heart Knights of Columbus council held our regular business meeting Dec. 2 and our social meeting at The Rome restaurant Dec. 16. We planned the upcoming annual Chili Cook-off, which will occur in January. (Look for details elsewhere in *Heart of the Matter*.) Parish support activity for the month consisted of two work sessions in the rectory, removing and cleaning up materials that were in the way of renovation work. The Handyman Ministry cleaned gutters at a parishioner's home, painted a wall and replaced outdoor lights at another home, and replaced a garage light at yet another home.



Sam Andrews displays the "Golden Ladle," which he won for best chili at the 2009 Knights of Columbus Chili Cook-off.

People in the Pews: Meet the Roths

By Sophie Pingelton

Jack and Marge Roth typically attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass. This jovial, ever-smiling couple can be seen frequently at Coffee and Donuts between Sunday Masses or at a variety of Social Concerns activities.

Jack and Marge Roth moved from the St. Louis area of Richmond Heights to Columbia July 4, 1999. "We had visited Columbia often, as our two children had gone to school at Mizzou, and liked it here. We had wanted to relocate to a smaller town and our daughter Karen lived here with her family," offered Marge.

Jack worked at Combustion Engineering for over 20 years as a buyer in St. Louis. Jack added, "We had a part in putting up the nuclear power plant in Fulton, among other big projects." After Combustion Engineering closed, Jack managed an apartment complex in Richmond Heights before retiring. He also proudly served in the United States Navy during the Korean War on the USS Valley Forge.

Marge retired from Emerson Electric in St. Louis, after 25 years of service as an executive secretary, as well as raising their three children.

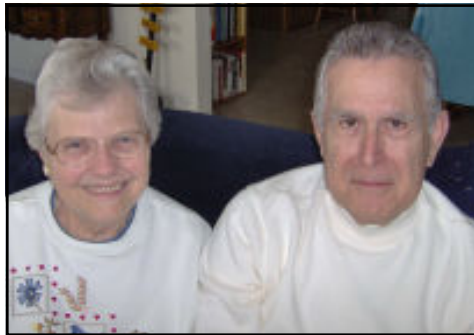
The couple, married at St. Sebastian Church in St. Louis Co., has been married for 52 years. On their 25th Anniversary, Jack and Marge enjoyed a cruise on the Mississippi River on the Delta Queen, which was "something we both had always wanted to do," said Marge. For their 50th Anniversary, they celebrated with two parties with family and friends – one in St. Louis and one here in Columbia. The children treated the entire family to a trip to Chicago, partly by train from St. Louis with daughter Karen and her family.

The Roths have three children and five grandchildren. Mike, the oldest, is an Industrial Arts teacher with a Master's from Mizzou. Mike, his wife Kathy, and daughter Allison, live in St. Louis. Allison is a senior at Visitation.

Their daughter Karen Grieshaber is a frequent substitute teacher at Columbia Catholic School and bookkeeper for husband Steve, who owns and runs Adams Locksmith in Columbia. Daughter Bailey is in the sixth grade and son Matt is in the third grade at Columbia Catholic School.

David, their youngest son, works for Boeing in St. Louis. David and wife Jennifer have two children – Clayton in seventh grade and Carli in fourth grade.

Jack and Marge enjoy traveling together around the United States. Marge offered, "We have been all



over the United States, going to Jack's annual Navy Reunion whenever we can. We have visited Washington, D.C.; Minneapolis, MN; Boston, MA; and Cape Cod, MA; among other places." She also quipped, "We enjoyed camping at different parks when the children were young. The only camping I like now is in little log buildings at a KOA."

In their leisurely travels, the couple has found pleasure in visiting eclectic museums. Marge laughed and stated, "We like to stop and see quirky things along the way. We went to the Spam Museum in Minnesota; History of Oil Museum in Smackover, AR; and the Clabbergirl Baking Soda Museum in Terre Haute, IN; to name a few." Jack added, "some stops are planned, some you see on a billboard just driving, but sometimes in just talking to the locals you can really hear about something different."

Marge and Jack are very active in the parish. Marge served as co-chair of the fabulous Bazaar Committee, putting in countless hours; she also helps with funeral luncheons. Jack helps in the counting of collections and parish recycling, and is on the grounds committee. They work together on other functions such as the Easter Banquet for the Poor and folding and labeling *Heart of the Matter*.

Marge added, "When we moved to town we wanted a smaller parish where we could really get to know people. We found that at Sacred Heart."

Third Annual Knights of Columbus Chili Cook-off

January 9, 2010

Following the 4:30 p.m. Mass
**Sacred Heart Parish
Activity Building**

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of the 2010 "Golden Ladle"
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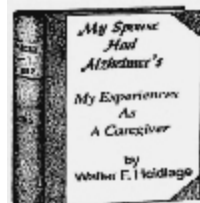
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The Door is Open!

The Knights of Columbus is an organization of Catholic men (ages 18 and over) founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. For information about Council 1529, contact Tony Speichinger (573-443-8648). Come join us!

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The Harrowing of Hell

By Carl Franks

One of my co-workers, currently in RCIA, is interested in certain aspects of the Catholic faith which may be new to her. One such doctrine which we have discussed is the Harrowing of Hell, which has aspects which are interesting, especially if we expand the investigation.

"Harrow" has its origins in agriculture, where it is a device with either sharpened disks or spikes for plowing land in preparation for planting. The Apostles' Creed, as codified in the *Catechism of the Council of Trent*, refers to Christ as He "descended into Hell." In Sacred Scripture, aspects of the doctrine are found in several passages. In Acts 2:31, speaking of King David, St. Luke writes, "Foreseeing this, he spoke of the resurrection of Christ. For neither was he left in hell: neither did his flesh see corruption." St. Peter, in I Peter 3:19-20, teaches that Christ "preached to those spirits that were in prison: Which had been some time incredulous, when they waited for the patience of God..." A little later in the same book (4:6), St. Peter writes, "For this cause was the gospel preached also to the dead: That they might be judged indeed according to men, in the flesh; but may live according to God, in the Spirit."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the Harrowing of Hell in numerous places. § 631 says that Jesus "descended into the lower parts of the earth. He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens. The Apostles' Creed confesses in the same article Christ's descent into hell and his Resurrection from the dead on the third day..." § 632 teaches that "The frequent New Testament affirmations that Jesus was 'raised from the dead' presuppose that the crucified one sojourned in the realm of the dead prior to his resurrection. This was the first meaning given in the apostolic preaching to Christ's descent into hell: that Jesus, like all men, experienced death and in his soul joined the others in the realm of the dead. But he descended there as Savior, proclaiming the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there." And, § 634 adds that "'The gospel was preached even to the dead.' The descent into hell brings the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfillment. This is the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission, a phase which is condensed in time but vast in its real significance: the spread of Christ's redemptive work to all men of all times and all places, for all who are saved have been made sharers in the redemption." Thus, the Harrowing of Hell is that doctrine which states that Christ, during His three days in tomb,

descended into Hell to free the Old Testament just who had been faithful to God in their missions.

Interesting, to be sure, but there's more to the story. The Apocrypha are those writings which were written in imitation of the style of the canonical gospels, but were rejected for inclusion into the Scriptures because of their questionable authenticity. Among these spurious texts is a certain *The Acts of Pilate* (dating from around the fourth century AD), which may also be known as *The Gospel of Nicodemus*, or found independently. In it is a fanciful description of the Harrowing of Hell which imagines what the demons experienced at seeing Christ in their realm. The following excerpt was translated by M. R. Jones:

"And as Satan the prince, and Hell, spoke this together, suddenly there came a voice as of thunder and a spiritual cry: Remove, O princes, your gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. When Hell heard that he said unto Satan the prince: Depart from me and go out of mine abode: if thou be a mighty man of war, fight thou against the King of glory... But when all the multitude of the saints heard it, they spake with a voice of rebuking unto Hell: Open thy gates, that the King of glory may come in. And David cried out, saying: Did I not when I was alive upon earth, foretell you: Let them give thanks unto the Lord, even his mercies and his wonders unto the children of men; who hath broken the gates of brass and smitten the bars of iron in sunder? He hath taken them out of the way of their iniquity... When Hell and death and their wicked ministers saw that, they were stricken with fear, they and their cruel officers, at the sight of the brightness of so great light in their own realm, seeing Christ of a sudden in their abode, and they cried out, saying: We are overcome by thee. Who art thou that art sent by the Lord for our confusion? Who art thou that without all damage of corruption, and with the signs of thy majesty unblemished, dost in wrath condemn our power?... Then did the King of glory in his majesty trample upon death, and laid hold on Satan the prince and delivered him unto the power of Hell, and drew Adam to him unto his own brightness. And the Lord stretching forth his hand, said: Come unto me, all ye my saints which bear mine image and my likeness. Ye that by the tree and the devil and death were condemned, behold now the devil and death condemned by the tree. And forthwith all the saints were gathered in one under the hand of the Lord. And the Lord holding the right hand of Adam,

said unto him: Peace be unto thee with all thy children that are my righteous ones. And the Lord stretched forth his hand and made the sign of the cross over Adam and over all his saints, and

he took the right hand of Adam and went up out of hell, and all the saints followed him."

If you wish to read more, the entire book is available on-line.

Journey

Continued from page 1

confirmed and receive first communion. With the revisions of Vatican II, this Mass anticipates and celebrates the acceptance of new members into full communion in the Catholic faith. It is a beautiful and prayerful step in the life journey of a Catholic.

After full initiation, the journey does not end. It is a lifelong process. There are a few additional sessions called mystagogy. This is a time to reflect on the process, a time for additional

catechesis, and a time to become involved in the community.

Many in this parish are "cradle" Catholics, that is, ones who were born into the Catholic faith. As such, witnessing the journey of others who are moved by the Spirit to join this faith can be very moving in itself. It presents a time not only to pray but also to reflect on our own faith journeys. We are all called to proclaim the Good News, and, in the words of St. Francis, to "use words when necessary." May we each strive to live up to the words of a well-known song, *They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love*.



Deven McDonald being signed with the cross by John Bryan.

(Left) Catechumens Neil Trent and Cecelia Cordray are introduced by godparents John and Ann Bell.

(Right) Candidates and sponsors (from right) Kylee Rooney with Anne Justine Morris, Stephen Cravens with Kristina Cravens, Dennis Bernhardt with Mary Hurt, and Deven McDonald with John Bryan.



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Parish Celebrations



Alana Amelia Chun, daughter of Terrence and Laura Chun, was baptized at Sacred Heart Friday, Nov. 27, 2009. Alana's godparents are James Reittinger and Stephanie Scott. Proxy godparents were Craig and Shana Prentiss. Pictured in front are Alana's sisters Malia and Kaila Chun, and her cousins Ben and Cole Prentiss. In back are Shana Prentiss; Fr. Steve Kuhlmann, O.P.; Laura holding Alana Amelia; Terrence; Craig Prentiss; and proud grandmother Branca Prentiss.



Reece William Borst, son of Robert and Tiffany Borst, was baptized at Sacred Heart at the 8:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Pictured are godmother Anissa Lockett; Tiffany holding Reece's sister Brooke; Fr. Steve Kuhlmann, O.P.; Reece's brother Evan; sister Alyssa; and Bob holding Reece.



Madelyn Elizabeth Nardoni, daughter of Nick and Jennifer Nardoni, was baptized at Sacred Heart at the 4:30 p.m. Mass Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009. Pictured are Fr. Steve Kuhlmann, O.P.; godfather Tim Nardoni; Jennifer holding Madelyn; Nick; godmother Natalie Bell; and Deacon John Weaver. (Madelyn's name was misspelled in the December issue; we regret the error.)

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Mission Statement

The mission of *Heart of the Matter* is to be a communication tool for Sacred Heart Parish. It is our goal to inform, to instruct, to evangelize, and at times, to amuse readers. We rely on God's grace and on the efforts of many volunteers to fulfill this mission. *Heart of the Matter* is published monthly by Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1115 Locust St., Columbia, MO 65201, 573/443-3470.

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