

The Shepherd's Call

Vol. 18 No. 11 December 2011

SPEAK TODAY, SHAPE TOMORROW

By **Mary Losik**

In August Good Shepherd began a nine-month process to formulate a strategic plan for 2012-2017. What is a strategic plan? It's an instrument that forges a direction, perhaps a "vision," for the parish for a future period of time. It answers the questions of: Who do we want to be and how are we called to be church? It acts like a "glue" between the many moving pieces (ministries, programs) that make up Good Shepherd, aligning our goals and helping us to all move in the same direction.

The best plans involve lots of people and their insights. Two questions were posed to capture both who we are now as a parish and who we want to be in the future: 1) What do you most appreciate and value about Good Shepherd? 2) What is your greatest hope for Good Shepherd or what's important to our future? A sweeping invitation went out to all parish members by mail campaign to all homes, by e-mail, frequent bulletin invitations, website presence, write-in ballots in the narthex and personal invitations. In all, 137 independent members and all 7 councils and the Oasis youth group participated.

Overall, the message was resounding. We like who we are but we can be better. There are programs and ministries that need growth, more options and perhaps a diversity of expression. Specifically, here's what you said:

1. Most appreciated and valued at Good Shepherd: Our parish highly values our strong sense of community and welcome, our commitment to service, our meaningful liturgy and worship, meeting a wide range of spiritual needs, our staff, our school and youth/adult education and formation programs.

2. Most hoped for in the future: We want to build on our foundational strengths including more community-building opportunities, increased inclusiveness, more communal prayer experiences, an expansion of outreach and social justice activities, and an expansion of teen and children's programs, adult formation programs and social pro-

grams including young adults and seniors.

2011-2012 Timetable

August-October — The input stage, hearing from parish members, is complete.

November-December — Council leadership and staff was presented with the first findings. Behind the scenes, preparations are being made for writing the plan; that is, synthesizing your feedback into a common direction and organizing that feedback into council-specific critical issues (the opportunities and concerns important to our future, whether they be gaps in current ministries and programs or opportunities yet to be realized).

January 8 — Full team (see team members listed below) meets together for the first time to a) review and revise a new draft Vision and to study the current (2012) Mission and Values for relevance as we form our future, b) identify all-parish Priorities and c) receive training about writing council-specific plans and expectations.

January-March — The seven councils write their plans.

April 22 — At this second meeting, the councils review and ratify the 2017 Mission, Vision and Values discussed at the previous session, identify mutual themes/ trends between the seven councils and ways to work together to better fulfill the plan. Then, finally, these members will ratify Strategic Plan 2017.

May — Strategic Plan 2017 will be presented to the faith community.

The whole strategic planning process is a time for prayer. We pray continually that the Holy Spirit be with us every step of the way, that individuals respond to what is in their hearts, that the team hears their wisdom and crafts a direction that brings us closer to God's Plan for Good Shepherd. We ask that you join us in prayer over the next five months until completion:

Dear God, what we speak today shapes our tomorrow,

Which is filled with possibility.

What dreams we voice now, God,

Lift Good Shepherd toward its future

In a shared spirit, we build a place of blessing, for You, each other

and the world around us. Amen

Planning Team: **Marilyn Breitenstein, Mary Losik, Mary Mueller**

Writing Team:

PAC: **Judy Desch, Theresa Hursh, Rita Hyde, Carol Koch, Larry Livingston, Ed Lowndes, Chris Masoner**

Council Chairs and Co-Chairs: Caring Ministries — **Lisa Englert, Mary Kay Allen**; Christian Formation — **Rachael Wohletz, Terri Marshall**; Facilities — **James Mulick, Jim Harvey**; Outreach — **Kathleen Rundle, Marilyn Breitenstein**; Social — **Staci Burson, Pam Melo**; Stewardship — **Scott Anderson, Dave Kelley**; and Worship — **John Jones, Annemarie Gremminger**.

Staff: **Fr. Jim Ludwikoski, Debbie Carmody, Steve Lemons, Mary Losik, Ann McGuff, Mary Mueller, Candi Phillips, John Rudzinski, Martha Tady, Penny Volmer.**

Preparing for Christ

By **Martha Tady**

Many thanks to all who came and helped prepare the church for the season of Advent. To the Knights of Columbus who assembled the Christmas trees over our choir. To the Worship Council and their spouses, grandchildren and friends who came to place Mass cards, make decorations for the trees, remove plants from the sanctuary and hang banners. For all the people who gathered pine cones and donated trees, birds and lights. To **Jack Carson** and **Jim Hill** who prepared the tree stumps.

A special thank you to **Linda Dunechoo** and **Maggie Heeter** who shared the bounty of their yards and supplied all the dried floral material to design and build the large floral arrangements. It takes many hands and hearts to prepare the church. We thank all of these people who gave of their time and talents to give us the beautiful, prayerful Advent environment.

SCHOOL NEWS

An Evening of Carols

By Samantha Roy

On a cold Tuesday evening the Good Shepherd School families filled the church for the annual Christmas concert. The accompanists for the concert included Kelley Mitchell and **Molly Frank**. **Tom McAnerney** was the sound technician. Jeremy McDonald, the music teacher, conducted the program. **Father Jim** began the event with a prayer.

The kindergartners performed next, singing *A Prayer to Jesus*. The crowd enjoyed their enthusiastic singing. The performance continued with the beginning and intermediate band. The choir sang several songs including *Lullay Alleluia* and *Still, Still, Still*. **Hailey Conway**, a sixth-grade choir member, said, "My favorite song we learned was *Lullay, Alleluia*; the melody is beautiful and it sounds great when we all sing it."

The classes filed onto the stage to perform various songs including *The Little Drummer Boy*, *Songs of Shepherd Children* and *Mary, Mary*. **Marianne Michaels**, an eighth grader, said, "My favorite song to sing and learn was *Carol of the Bells* because it was a complicated song with the four-part harmony. It sounds very cool when the harmony comes together in the end."

The concert closed with all the middle school students singing *Peace, Peace*, while the rest of the children sang *Silent Night*. As **Mrs. McGuff** said, "What a great way to spend St. Nicholas Day, our church overflowing with Good Shepherd students, parents and grandparents singing: *Peace, Peace, Peace* with *Silent Night*! Our faith comes alive in song. Thanks to all for making for a wonderful Christmas Concert evening together."



Important lessons in economics

By Renée Hance and Michelle Tyler

How can Good Shepherd's teachers show their students what it's like to have a job, earn a paycheck and manage their time? One way is to give the students hands-on experience. To do this, the fifth graders take a field trip to a make-believe city called Exchange City. This hands-on field trip is priceless because many of the real-life skills the students learn at Exchange City cannot be taught in classrooms. The students learn that different jobs require different responsibilities, which lead to different salaries. They also learn that being organized and working as a team are key to a business's success.

Before the field trip, fifth graders prepare for their visit in the classroom. There are lessons on how to use a checkbook, how to set prices based on the economic concepts of supply and demand, and the difference between wants and needs. Then students apply for a job. The city has a city hall, a bank, a distribution center where all supplies are purchased, a radio station, a newspaper, a public works department, a café, and several retail stores that create and sell merchandise.

Each student fills out a job application and is hired for a certain position with a specific company. A few days before the field trip, the students work with the other people from their business to write a business plan.

Creating this plan gives the students the opportunity to calculate how much money they will need to borrow from the bank to start their business, what kind of raw materials they will need to order from the distribution center, what they will charge for the goods or services their businesses will offer, and how they will advertise. While they create their business plans, students also try to estimate how much of the loan they will be able to pay

back during their visit.

During the visit, students work at the jobs they were given to earn paychecks.



Students working in the bank use computers to make loans for businesses to start, deposit paychecks into students' checking accounts, and apply loan payments to the appropriate businesses. Employees in the café prepare snacks and beverages to sell. In the newspaper, students work as reporters to write articles and sell advertisements. The retail businesses are full of students busy making crafts to sell. At Exchange City, the kids really are in charge. They make the decisions necessary to run their businesses.

The energy on the bus ride back from Exchange City to school is always subdued compared to the energy on the ride to Exchange City. After weeks of preparation, the fifth graders from Good Shepherd School

have received a hands-on education in basic economic principles. In starting their own businesses they learned basic law of supply and demand and how that affects prices, how specialization resulted in increased productivity, the costs and benefits of saving versus borrowing, as well as how to balance a personal checkbook. Many of

the students agree that what they learned at Exchange City will help them throughout their lives.



What do you want for Christmas?

By Father Jim Ludwikoski

I think everybody likes presents! Certainly Christmas is the season of gift-giving.

Why is this? Maybe these are stereotypes, but for women, I think it's a sign of

thoughtfulness and attention from another. From "their" man, it may translate into romance. For men — "He who has the biggest toys at the end wins" — it is a sign of

accomplishment, of success, of having the ability to purchase something that makes another happy. For those who are frugal, it is acquiring something that is without cost to them. For those who are collectors, it is another special piece to something they enjoy. For children, it's a sign of love and affection from the ones they look up to the most, their parents. And you can probably think of other reasons.

St. Nick's visit to Good Shepherd

By Steve Glary

It was a dark and stormy night, when we woke to prepare for Santa's arrival Dec. 3 at Good Shepherd. Not the kind of Saturday you want to get out of a nice warm bed for, but **Rick Cekovsky, Dion Gartner** and **Don Taylor** all made that trek through the heavy downpour of rain to prepare Breakfast for Santa and his important visitors.

Each year the Knights of Columbus at Good Shepherd sponsor Breakfast with Santa. This year the hearty breakfast included biscuits and gravy, French toast strips with syrup, a variety of muffins and butter, with orange juice, coffee and hot chocolate. The participants had their photos taken with Santa, ate breakfast and enjoyed the Christmas caroling of the Shepherds of Faith, who provided live entertainment for the 400-plus people who attended. All the Knights asked in return was a new, unwrapped toy which is donated to St. Benedict's Early Education center.

St. Benedict's is a Catholic Charities organization. It offers quality, affordable early education and care to prepare children academically, emotionally and socially for a lifetime of learning. It is located in the heart of the low-income, racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood near Central Avenue in Kansas City, Kan.

St. Benedict's serves children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years. The center's

summer program provides education-intensive activities to children up to 12 years. St. Benedict's Early Education Center is licensed for 91 children, with services for Spanish-speaking clients, if needed. They ensure

daily learning activities in all developmental domains such as oral language, literacy, phonological, motor, mathematical, thinking and social skills. The Knights have donated to St. Benedict's for many years.

Toys and games for more than 100 children and over \$250 in cash donations were collected this year. Every year Catholic Charities is grateful to the families of Good Shepherd who come out to enjoy the festivities and donate a toy to make a small child's Christmas a little merrier.

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all the people involved in the success of Saturday's breakfast. Special thanks to the Shepherds of Faith for their wonderful music, and **Tom Guthrie** for his donation of most of the decorations and all of the inflatable displays that were used, as well as acting as Santa's main helper during the festivities.

Even though the day started dark and

stormy, wet and cold, for the participants and those who will benefit from their donations, the day ended with warm hearts and full bellies. Merry Christmas to all, from the Good Shepherd Knights of Columbus.



But I think it is more than this; after all, material things are called the "Goods of the Earth." I think it is that we are Incarnate, that God made us flesh and spirit. Certainly we are meant to have the necessities of life — material security, a roof over our heads, an education, a satisfying job, etc. Relationships — loving and being loved — are essential. Certainly material things help us to connect to one another. Presents touch a part of our infinite "wants."

Even more so, from a religious perspective, we come to realize that material things are from the Ultimate Maker, our God. When we appreciate what our Blessings are, we should naturally turn to Him in praise! As from a line in the musical *Godspell*, "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so bless the Lord, Oh praise the Lord for all his love!"

Our theme this year is "Be Rich in God's Love!" We are rich, starting with the very gift of Life. Wow! Then we add the gift of Family, who bring us to the unearned and free gift of Faith. Amazing — and thanks, God! Then we recognize the gift of Church, the Family of God. Glorious!

Within the Church, we have a treasure chest filled with Scripture, Tradition, the papacy, the saints, the tradition of both the East and West, the doctors of the Church, various traditions of spirituality (the Franciscans, the Dominicans, the Jesuits, etc.), doctrines and teachings of the Church, etc. This gold and jewels — or maybe I should say this gold, frankincense and myrrh — are presents, overflowing!

Yes, it's very nice to receive presents, especially at Christmas, but let us remember what makes us the most rich — being a son or daughter of Jesus Christ!

Welcoming Christ in the migrant

By Marilyn Breitenstein

War, persecution, famine, environmental disasters and other factors continue to force people to flee their homes for a chance at survival. In 2011, the total number of refugees worldwide is estimated to be over 12 million (with an additional 34 million internally displaced persons). Over half have been warehoused in the desperate conditions of refugee camps for over five years.

Just as on the road to Emmaus where Christ's disciples met him in the guise of a stranger, this year's theme for National Migration Week, Jan. 8-14, helps remind us that Christ makes himself present to each of us in the lonesome traveler, the newcomer and the migrant. We are called to open our hearts and provide hospitality to those in need. It is our duty to create a space of welcome and acceptance to the migrant who finds himself or herself far away from home and in a vulnerable situation.

The United States was founded by people fleeing religious persecution and has been inhabited since then largely by immigrants. Yet today, the United States finds

itself at a critical juncture regarding its openness to newcomers. We live in an age when strangers in our midst have become a source of suspicion and fear. Jesus' command for us to welcome these strangers as we would welcome Him is at odds with much of the prevailing sentiment expressed today. The historically generous American spirit has been replaced in some quarters with calls for isolation and restriction. In this fearful environment, how is a Christian to respond? Christ's call is unchanging: We are obliged to welcome the stranger, knowing that "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

What can you do?

Catholic Charities is one of the main agencies that the US State Department uses to resettle some of the most vulnerable refugees, working to help them reunite their families and establish a new life here in our area. Most of these refugees come only with the clothes on their backs and little knowledge of the new world they now live in. Catholic Charities needs your help to serve the refugee community.

- Donate blankets and warm clothing
- Donate teaching tools such as flash cards or funds to help purchase Rosetta Stone software
- Volunteer to help organize clothing donations
- Adopt a family
- Include migrants and refugees in your prayers
- Become more familiar with the plight of refugees worldwide and advocate on their behalf. (<http://usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/>)

To volunteer, provide donations or learn more, contact **Marilyn Breitenstein** (Good Shepherd) 913-707-6846 or email at marilyn.breitenstein@gmail.com or **Chis DiMaso** (Catholic Charities) 913-906-8982 or email at cdimaso@catholiccharitiesks.org.

Delegates advocate for El Salvador

By Bob Werly

Just as Good Shepherd has established a long-term relationship with its sister community in El Salvador, we also hope to establish a relationship with our representative in Congress.

Four parishioners who visited El Buen Pastor last summer recently met with staffers in Kansas United States Representative Kevin Yoder's Overland Park office.

Teresa Aley reviewed El Salvador's recent history and our support of El Buen Pastor. This included photographs of the new playground made possible by Good Shepherd. She also invited Rep. Yoder to meet with the El Buen Pastor delegation that will visit us in September 2012, for the 25th anniversary of our twinning.

Bob Werly described the current struggle involving gold mining and the environment, and the killings which have resulted. Bob also emphasized that contrary to much anti-Americanism around the world, El Salvador is pro-American and thus provides an opportunity that should be nurtured.

Anna Kinkade told of the challenges young people in the country face on several fronts — in achieving an education, providing income for their families and protecting themselves from youth gangs.

Teresa provided facts on immigration from El Salvador. A quarter of the population — 2 million people — are in the United States. The money they send back to their families is a substantial source of revenue for the country.

Father Jim ended the meeting with a pastoral overview. Intervention for forgiveness and healing is happening at various levels — the Church, assisting at the parish level and Bishop Rosa Chavez at the national/international levels. Forgiveness can only happen when the evil is identified. Lay people — especially mothers and wives of those who were killed or disappeared — are very involved also, seeking transparency for the crimes against their loved ones. Faith and hope are powerful in the ordinary people.

Rep. Yoder's staff members listened attentively, asked questions and took notes. The purpose of the meeting was not to take a position on any specific upcoming issue but to develop an ongoing communication that may prove beneficial in the future.

November outreach

By Mary Morin

Top ten ways in which Good Shepherd parishioners showed their generosity in November:

10. 4 turkeys baked for food kitchen Thanksgiving dinner
9. 15 finished prayer shawls blessed
8. 26 men served at Shalom House
7. 26 bags of groceries collected in Thanksgiving offertory collection
6. 80 teens fed dinner on 2 Sunday nights
5. 182 toiletry bags assembled with the help of the Shepherd's Staff Club
4. 210 coats and sweaters donated to Uplift and Cross-Lines
3. Over 300 bags of groceries filled for the Catholic Charities truck
2. 400 people served at food kitchen
1. \$1,000 from the fiesta donated to help El Salvador flood victims





Spotlight on Stewardship

One man's commitment to action

By Ray Abraham

To understand the commitment of **Anthony Puthoor** (formerly Anthony Lonnapan*) to the Catholic faith and his passion for stewardship you should know his history as a Catholic from India. As I got to know Anthony it became immediately apparent to me that he was extremely proud of his Catholic heritage and truly devoted to living the Faith. Early in the conversation he expressed these personal convictions — “Faith without action is not being a disciple of Christ,” and “Always praise God by voice and by action, as we can never do enough as compared to what Jesus sacrificed for us.”

Where did this love of faith come from? Well, how about St Thomas the Apostle! Over 2000 years ago St. Thomas arrived on the southern-most coastal area of India in what is now the State of Kerala and began his mission of converting the population to Christianity. Kerala is where Anthony was born and as such he feels a special connection with the Apostle. India has very diverse religious groups and each group customarily remains committed to their family's historical religious affiliations. With that being said, Anthony gives a tremendous amount of credit to his maternal grandmother as one of the driving forces for his Catholic commitment. As an example, she required all family members to be home each evening at 6:00 and to come prepared to pray the rosary while kneeling. Anthony says, this was a “home rule and no exceptions were tolerated.”

In addition to his family's teaching of the Catholic faith, Anthony attended Mass and Catechism classes every Sunday. He earned a Jesuit scholarship enabling him to attend high school at St. Joseph's high school and also to attend St. Joseph's College for his undergraduate studies. The Jesuit education furthered his Catholic experience in both knowledge and deeds. Always up for challenge, Anthony joined the Christian Students Association which routinely ministered to those in the various villages or slums regarding drug/alcohol addictions, education and health issues. Anthony was particularly suited for this mis-

sion as he is able to speak five different state languages of India. During this time an event occurred that still weighs heavily on Anthony. That event was triggered by a water dispute between two Indian states. Violence, including burning of villages, looting and other horrific crimes, was occurring, and in the midst of it all a group of eight students led by Anthony were there to minister. Anthony states, “This was a major event that really set the tone for my life.”

After graduating with a degree in computer science, Anthony worked in Europe and traveled extensively. He came to the



United States in 2000 and moved to Overland Park shortly after that. His first order of business in Kansas was to become associated with a Catholic Church. Luckily for Good Shepherd, Anthony met Fr. Francis, who provided a warm welcome, and Anthony lights up as he speaks of the sense of community he felt at Good Shepherd. Upon joining Good Shepherd, Anthony became very involved in several aspects of our community. Anthony has been a member of the Worship Council, Social Council, a Hospitality Minister, a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Knights of Columbus for many years. It has also been through Anthony that Good Shepherd has been able to host

Fr. Poly as a visiting priest.

One project of which he is particularly proud is his involvement in facilitating a relationship between Good Shepherd (Shawnee) with an all-girls' school in India also named Good Shepherd. This relationship evolved into coordinating financial assistance and other support such as letters, cards and prayers from our parishioners to the young girls in India.

Anthony's good deeds and outward expression of his faith don't stop at Good Shepherd. He attends a daily Mass at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in downtown Kansas City where he assists with the altar service and sacristy needs. He also participates in a weekly faith service at Prince of Peace parish in Olathe which is geared specifically for the Indian Catholic community.

In 2003, while on a return trip to Kerala, Anthony met his wife, **Catherine**. They have a 5-year-old daughter who attends Good Shepherd School and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a second child in June. Anthony credits Catherine for supporting him in his stewardship involvement and recognizes that without her support it would be difficult.

Anthony has always placed a high importance on Catholicism, family and stewardship and all have proven to benefit both him and others along the way. Thankfully for the Good Shepherd community, he says that the connection he and his family have with Good Shepherd keeps them here despite living more than 15 miles away.

I believe Grandma succeeded in her mission.

**In regard to his name change from Lonnapan to Puthoor: In 2010, Anthony and Catherine obtained their permanent U.S. citizenship which prompted them to utilize their true last name of Puthoor. In Indian culture, the father's middle name (Lonnapan in Anthony's case) is typically used as the children's last name. To eliminate confusion on IDs and documents they decided to use his father's last name of Puthoor.*

AN AMAZING WEEKEND FOR RCIA

By Debbie Carmody

Gorgeous weather! A spectacular harvest moon! Incredibly faith-filled people! According to **Tony Williams**, catechumen, the retreat in Atchison Kansas on Nov. 12-13, was "amazing."

The Benedictine Sisters welcomed us to Sophia Center on Saturday afternoon. Everyone settled into comfortable, bed-and-breakfast-style rooms before heading to the Abbey Church of the Benedictine monks. Twenty-four catechumens, candidates, sponsors and RCIA team members placed their trust in **Bill Carmody**, who led us through the entire building of precious art and artifacts, deftly weaving the past and present history of the monks in Kansas.

Personal stories made the space come alive and **Anne Heaton**, sponsor and wife of catechumen **Alan Heaton** found it helpful with her understanding of how history shapes both a solid and ever-changing Church. "We both truly enjoyed listening and thought the tour was fantastic." Bill credited his former history advisor, Fr. Peter Beckman, O.S.B., who provided insider tidbits that made the tour so credible.

Dinner from the Sister's favorite pizza place followed the tour and then we crossed campus to join them in Evening Prayer. With unrivaled hospitality, Sister Michaela Randolph, O.S.B. and Sister Eleanor Suther, O.S.B., seated us in exquisitely crafted choir stalls, assigned mentors and invited us to join them in their ancient and beautiful prayer. **Ralph Olson**, RCIA catechumen, felt closer to God as he prayed alongside his sponsor, **Penny Volmer**. "I'm a pretty shy fellow and I enjoyed getting to know everyone better. Prayer in the chapel was so beautiful."

The evening was capped with a little food, a little sharing, practice for the upcoming Rite of Welcome and a bedtime blessing for the catechumens, candidates and their sponsors by the RCIA team.

The next morning we gathered for Morning Prayer with the Sisters, Mass and the first RCIA dismissal for Breaking Open the Word with **Dave Mertz**. We then enjoyed a tour of the Sister's beautiful home and a breakfast brunch. **Bernadine Asher**, team member, commented on the "genuine hospitality of the Sisters." **Grace Doren**, RCIA

candidate, said, "The peaceful environment was such an inspiration for us just to sit back and let God be with us and guide us."

Throughout the retreat, we had been keeping ourselves mindful of the Communion of Saints with repeated emphasis on its multi-faceted definition that includes those who have gone before and those present to us now. On Saturday afternoon, each person was invited to choose a scroll that contained the name and story of a saint in our Catholic tradition. This was to be their secret companion for the weekend, a prayer partner and a messenger of wisdom for their journey of faith.

After brunch we returned to Sophia Center for our closing activity. We divided into groups and took turns telling others about our saint companion. Many felt that the saint "found" them and that the choice was not totally random.

"The theme made the saints real," according to **Dorothy Williams**, RCIA candidate. Penny shared that it "created a great platform to discuss ordinary people who had EXTRA-ordinary faith." Because of the Sisters, the saint companions, and each other, our Communion of Saints very tangibly contained members of the Church through all of time.

With that inspiration, we all returned to



Grace Doren is blessed by her sponsor Dave Doren, with outstretched hands coming from others in the congregation. The choir sang "Receive, receive the sign of the Cross."

our homes. **Susan Wilson**, RCIA team member, summed everything up with this comment: "The retreat was wonderful. Even better than when I was in RCIA to become Catholic. Such a marvelous group of good hearted people! On the drive home, I asked Grace how she liked the weekend. Her enthusiastic response, 'It was wonderful!'"

VITAL STATISTICS

New Members:

Billy & Michelle Morris
13511 W 78th Ter.
Children: Cole, Quinn

Antonio & Gabriela Orizaba
11920 W 77th Ter, Apt J
Children: Antonio, Rodrigo, Danitzi

Jose & Marina Orizaba
11920 W 77th Ter, Apt J
Children: Santa Carolina, Joseph, Jr, Alex, Jonathan

Carl & Susan Pigg
16539 W 80th St.

Nicholas & Molly Root
3031 S 63rd St.

Wayne & Sarah Rasmuss
6813 Mill Creek Rd.
Children: Audrey, Wayne

Larry & Milly Norris
10402 W 71st Pl.

Judy Kotecki-Martin
1007 S 56th St.

Bill Beacom
11151 W 76th Ter, Apt 26

Laura Schope & Tyler Birmingham
10901 W 88th Ter, Apt 708
Children: Danielle, Jackson (due 1/9/12)

Adam & Melinda Kerstetter
7102 Larsen Ln.

Heather MacPherson
10308 W 73rd Ter.

Baptisms:

Easton Andrew Bowers
Parents: Drew & Katie Bowers

Cassidy Quinn Richter
Parents: James & Marci Richter

Jonathan Gerardo Orizaba
Parents: Jose & Marina Orizaba

Antonio Orizaba
Parents: Antonio & Gabriela Orizaba

Alexandra Grace Dawson
Parents: William & Jennifer Dawson

Quinn Marie Morris
Parents: Billy & Michelle Morris

Vocation Committee promotes awareness

By Jon Schnieders

At the beginning of this year, the Archbishop urged all parishes of the Archdiocese to form vocations committees to help promote awareness of each person's vocation, and specifically to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Out of that request by the Archbishop and the Office for Vocations, a committee was formed

in our parish.

The mission of our parish's Vocation Committee is simple:

1. Create awareness and encourage all vocations: single, married, ordained and religious — with special emphasis on encouraging vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our parish.

2. Support the current vocations.

3. Promote prayer for vocations.

Our hope is that by carrying out different programs and practices that our parish awareness will be stirred and that we will recognize and encourage a positive response of those having the charisms for ordained and religious life. Also, we are relying on the power of prayer, by all parishioners, to implore the Holy Spirit to bring vocations to our parish and the Church as a whole.

The members of the Committee are **Father Jim, Jon Schnieders** (chair), **Steve Imm, Renee Schmit, Mike Baska, Anna Kinkade, Marcos Navarro, Pat Hayden** and **Todd Taylor**. Please feel free to give any of them your comments and suggestions.

Two projects that the committee has completed so far are placing the Prayer for Vocations cards into each of the hymnals, which we now use at the end of each Mass; and distributing "Prayer Cards" for each of the priests, deacons and seminarians of the Archdiocese. Our plan is to re-distribute these cards every three months. We ask that you make a daily effort to pray for this person; or if you have not participated yet, you can take a card at the next distribution and join us in praying for these men.

The next project that the committee will be launching is the "Traveling Cross for Vocations." This is a family-centered program where each week a different family will make a special effort in the home to follow a daily program of prayer, discussion and action related to vocations. There will be a parish vocations cross and daily guide that the family will keep in its home and use during the course of the week. We hope that this program will bring dialogue into our homes about each person's vocation and how one goes about discerning God's call, as well as continue our prayer efforts. We will initiate this program the weekend of Jan. 7-8. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex after all Masses. We encourage all families to participate.

We ask all parishioners to join us in our efforts for vocations. Pray. Encourage our children, and all people to be open to God's call. Give encouraging support to our current vocations, so that all can know the value that they bring to our Church.

The night pilgrimage

By Ellen McAndrews

"A dream is a wish your heart makes, when you're fast asleep." Cinderella may have had a good understanding of dreams. If God is in our hearts, is he wishing something for us?

Dreams have been quoted in Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and many of Jesus' parables. Our dreams are a scripturally sound path to hearing God's voice, and this fall nine women gathered at Good Shepherd weekly to learn how to listen to His voice in their dreams.

Last Spring, during the "Women's Day of Reflection," Cori Purcell, spiritual director, teacher and retreat guide, presented an overview of dream work. Many of the participants were eager to learn more, so **Debbie Carmody**, member of the pastoral team, arranged for a six-week course this past fall. Participants were encouraged to record their dreams and bring them each week for discussion. The course combined learning that is experiential in nature to work dreams individually and in a group setting. Using Jungian principles, scripture, prayer and a dream work model designed specifically for use in Christianity, dreams both large and small were discussed.

Cori had been working her own dreams since the late 1980s and then received her Dream Work Leader training at the Haden Institute in September 2008. She said, "Dreams come with the purpose of healing and wholeness; they are a symbolic language in which God invites us to participate in becoming whole by responding to the message in the dream. Once we learn that everyone and everything in our dream is a part of us, we can begin to relate and integrate the meaning of our lives."

Dena VanWalleghem stated, "I was not

comfortable at all with this form of spirituality. However, the overall message of the workshop, that God sends dreams to bring us healing and wholeness, was profound. The dreams I had that seemed so scary and ugly were actually beautiful messages from a God who loves me so much. I think the most difficult thing for me will be learning what God is actually telling me in my dreams."

"Cori emphasized that dreams are always given to us for our instruction and to help us become a better person. Like the Psalm says, 'God gives to His beloved in sleep.' In helping the class untangle what our unconscious is telling us in a dream, we were instructed, entertained, sobered and felt loved," emphasized **Bernadine Asher**.

Sheryl Blay had this reaction to dream work: "Cori offered a multitude of ways to get beyond the surface of the dream such as mapping, role playing, analysis and dramatic re-enactment, to name a few. Still, working a dream is WORK. Consistent journaling is recommended, but it takes time and commitment."

Cori offers the workshops in parishes upon request. The introductory course is generally offered once a year in the fall and other courses as needed. "The Night Pilgrimage has recently been released as my first book on dreams and spirituality and this came out of my work with various church groups. It has been meaningful for me to watch as those who work their dreams find the immanent God deep within their daily lives," Cori concluded.

"Have faith in your dreams and someday, your rainbow will come smiling through. No matter how your heart is grieving, if you keep on believing, the dream that you wish will come true."

George Carroll — a saint

Compiled by Penny Volmer

He lived among us right here in Shawnee until recently when God called him home, but only after a lifetime of doing God's work and sharing his love for us all. We want to share his story with you as a beautiful, loving and simple tribute to such a dear man! George was a powerful witness of God's Love and Grace at Shawnee's Garden Terrace Senior Facility. George was a true witness of the dignity of man and his apostolate of the kind word and smile. He showed many how God's Light can shine brightly on all we meet no matter what physical limitations or other impairments are ours. He was the embodiment of love of God and love of neighbor, even at the end of his life.

Good Shepherd Caring Ministry has had the privilege of ministering to residents of the Garden Terrace Senior Care Facility by administering Holy Communion, praying the Holy Rosary, celebrating monthly Masses, and visiting with residents. Our volunteers give of themselves and expect nothing in return; however, God has many hidden gifts waiting to bless those who go there.

One man, George Carroll (96 years young), embodied Christ's twofold command: love of God and love of neighbor. It has been said that "Love leaves a legacy." Well, George certainly left a legacy everywhere he went. George did God's work every day of his life. In his hometown in New York, he was Eucharistic Minister and all around helper to his parish. Every day, he spent time setting up for Mass and working around the church.

He managed the altar boys in the late '50s and early '60s when his sons were involved. In the 1990s, after his wife's death, George became even more active, chauffeuring priests and nuns to visit the home-bound and elderly (many of whom were considerably younger than George even then) and making visits on his own. He was always a devotee of Our Blessed Mother and was a member of the Legion of Mary and Marian Prayer Society of St. James Parish.

After George came out to Kansas, he moved into the Grand Court Independent Living apartments in Overland Park and became a member of Nativity Parish. He served as a Eucharistic Minister for them in the assisted living portion of Grand Court for many

years.

A measure of George's impact and place in the hearts of his Long Island co-parishioners was seen at his wake and funeral Mass. Firemen in NYC took the day off and came out to Seaford and other people living in Suffolk County came in. A Filipino Priest who



had been attached to St. James but was now living in upstate New York found out about the Mass and requested permission to con-celebrate.

When he moved to Garden Terrace, he continued his Eucharistic Ministry and good works. George always sat front and center for the distribution

of Holy Communion, and for the Rosary. He prayed devoutly, knowing all the words; he offered his assistance when we were short-handed and was able to lead the prayer services with us. As a witness to his deep and abiding faith in Jesus and Mary he talked openly about his faith and shared it with all who wanted to hear. Consequently, many people sought him out for spiritual guidance. His faith was strong and visible in a quiet sort of way. He spent most of his time in prayer.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: "Holy living consists in doing God's work with a smile." George's face always shown with a broad, joyful and contagious smile. He gave his smile to all he met and had a kind word for all. His door was always open. Staff members, volunteers and friends stopped by often to talk, to listen and to learn. Many people have experienced a deepening of faith in God while in George's quiet little room at Garden Terrace. Many people had life-altering experiences while finding faith through George, a very humble disciple of Christ. How blest we have been to know Saint George!



PAC meeting notes

By Ed Lowndes

The Pastoral Advisory Council met Nov. 30. Attending members were **Fr. Jim, Rita Hyde, Larry Livingston, Theresa Hursh, Judy Desch, Carol Koch, Chris Masoner and Mary Losik**. Theresa led the opening prayer based on corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Lisa Englert and Mary Kay Allen from the Caring Ministries Council reported on that council's activities. They include: grief support sessions; All Souls Day Mass, with a reception after Mass that was very well attended; meals for the Oasis teen group; the Butterfly Program, in which volunteers visit with individuals that are dying and have no family or friends. The council has several new participants which is very positive.

Fr. Jim provided this month's Spiritual Formation, which was a devotional on what it means to have enough and how to be satisfied with the many gifts we have.

The Facilities Council reported that roof repairs have been completed as well as several other smaller projects. Repairs to the concrete in the area east of the church will be made in the spring.

Worship Council reported that the preparations for Advent were completed and attention has now turned to preparing the church for Christmas.

The Social Council has been working on the council's strategic plan and will have a Christmas celebration at its next meeting. The Spirit Café will not be held in December but will return in the New Year.

The Stewardship Council reported the annual pledge drive is off to a good start.

The PAC reviewed the Council Chair/Co-Chair Development training meeting that focused on the upcoming strategic planning process.

The next PAC meeting will be Jan. 26, 2012.

Boxes and boxes of food were hauled to the Catholic Charities truck for delivery to Wyandotte and Johnson County pantries on Monday. In this STUCO led contest of classrooms, 4,150 cans were donated. Eighth graders counted cans and "decked the halls" with them as they came in. They boxed them for pickup and carted the boxes to the truck too!