



The Proclaimer

VOLUME 24, NO.3

FALL 2004

IMPORTANT DATES

October

- 17 Youth Group meeting 6-8pm
- 20 Devotions by Prayer Network
- 25 Bereavement Mass 7pm
- 27 Devotions Rosary

November

- 6 Engaged Couples Conference
- 6-7 Hospitality Weekend
- 9 SVDP meeting
- 13-14 Hospitality Weekend
- 16 First Reconciliation
- 21 Youth Group meeting 6-8pm
- 22 Bereavement Mass 7pm
- 25 8:45am Mass

December

- 4 *3 1/2 Stories of Christmas*
with Frank Runyeon
- 7 Vigil Mass at 4pm
Immaculate Conception
Masses at 9am and 7pm
- 10 Blood Drive
- 11-12 Hospitality Weekend
- 12 SVDP Wrap Party
- 24 Christmas Eve
Mass 4pm in Church & FLC
Midnight Mass with Music
Ministry starting at 11:30pm
- 25 Christmas Day
Masses 9:30 and 11:30am.
- 27 Bereavement Mass 7pm
- 31 New Years Eve
Mass at 4pm

January

- 1 New Years Day
Mass 10am
- 1-2 Hospitality Weekend
- 4 SVDP Meeting
- 15-16 Men's CRHP Weekend
- 19 Mass for the Unborn
- 24 Bereavement Mass 7pm

A Salesian Reflection

by Fr. Jim Sanford

The other day a parishioner teased me that I named my dog after St. Francis de Sales high school. That is not correct! I named my dog after the saint, not the school. St. Francis de Sales is a secondary patron for the diocese of Toledo. In fact, his image is carved into the front entrance of our Rosary Cathedral on Collingwood Blvd. He is also the patron saint of the deaf and of journalists. My congregation, the Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, was founded by The Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary. They were the only orders founded by St. Francis himself. Part of our mission as "De Sales Oblates" is to share our particular charism with our parishioners. Therefore, as your pastor, I feel that it is part of my duty to share with you some of my thoughts regarding Salesian Spirituality. I hope that I'll be able to use this column for this purpose.

I'd like to make it clear that in no way am I trying to make everyone love a certain high school on Bancroft Street, but as a graduate and former employee of that institution, I hope that you'll understand my

love of the school and belief in its mission. We are certainly blessed in Toledo to have six fine Roman Catholic high schools.

Francis de Sales was a Christian Humanist. In other words he saw the positive qualities in being human and being made in the image and likeness of God. Far too often during his time, as well as in our own era, people tended to find fault before they recognized the good in themselves and in others. One of his mottos: "Be who you are and be that well," is an accurate reflection of his attitude toward Christian living. He argued in his numerous letters and books "within every true vocation is an opportunity to grow in holiness." I've often run across people who are down on themselves and don't believe that they are worthy of being called "holy." Yet, we are all holy. We are all sacred in the eyes and heart of God.

So, the next time you feel a bit upset with yourself just remember that God still loves you. God finds you beautiful and God will help you to turn away from sin and live an even holier life. My life as an Oblate has given me numerous opportunities to be upset with

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Letters to the Editor are always welcomed and encouraged.

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myself, but having a Salesian charism has helped me to focus more on Christ and improve as a person. My study of Salesian Spirituality has taught me to be more optimistic and to cherish moments of prayer in a sometimes-busy schedule. I named my dog "Frankie" as a reminder for me to try to be as holy and optimistic as his namesake. I realize that sometimes my "Irish temper" gets the best of me, but having a companion named **Frankie** helps me to re-focus and stay grounded in my faith.

We all need little reminders to stay holy. Mine just happens to be my dog's name. Try to think of some possible holy word or name that you can repeat often to help you continue to live a positive and devout life!



Two Generous Widows

by Mary Ann Niedzielski

The newly renovated church has been the subject of many conversations in the parish. "Everything looks so nice," said **Mary Rode**. "I really like the tile under the pews and the color of the carpeting". **Mary Gerken** is very pleased with the new ramp. "The new ramp opens up the sanctuary to

everyone, making it so much more accessible". **Don Curtis** likes the new look. "It's a smarter, more functional design, with a great combination of warm colors." While you are enjoying your bright, new surroundings, you might be interested in knowing how these improvements came about. The freshly painted walls and ceiling, the new flooring and furniture, and the new crucifix might not have happened were it not for the generosity of two deceased widows: **Helen Bauman and Ermina Van Etten**. Both loved the St. Pius X community, and both bequeathed money in their wills for the betterment of the parish.

Helen Bauman, the widow of **John Bauman**, was a parishioner for many years, residing first on Marlow St. and later on Algonquin Parkway. Helen and John were the parents of two daughters, both of whom preceded them in death. There were no grandchildren. After John died, Helen felt it was important to remember St. Pius in her will. The bulk of her estate went to the parish. **Helen Perz**, a former neighbor, recalls that Helen Bauman talked to her several times about the importance of including the parish when writing a will.

Ermina Van Etten, who lived to see her 100th birthday, led a very frugal existence in her one bedroom apartment in Hampshire Heights. She was always involved in parish life. Known for her baking skills - she was often called "the cookie

lady" - and for her energy and enthusiasm in taking part in parish activities. Ermina left much of her estate to St. Pius, designating a portion of the money for a new crucifix. St. Pius has had the good fortune to be the beneficiaries of these widows. When you are enjoying the church's new decor, you might want to remember Helen and Ermina in your prayers.

From the Director of Religious Education

By Anne Etue

Things are moving full steam ahead in this office. Our Parish School of Religion classes began on Sunday, September 19, which was Catechetical Sunday throughout the United States. We meet from 10:30-11:45 a.m. in the School. At this writing we estimate having about seventy students in our program. We have a wonderful staff of volunteer Catechists who are really committed to our students. They are: **Amy Kochendoerfer** (Grade One); **Tracey Rudnicki** (Grade Two); **Kathy Axe** (Grade Three); **Nichole Bundy** (Grade Four); **Aili Meyers** (Grade Five); **Sharon Turby** (Grade Six); and **Aaron Radlinski** (Junior High). We are very grateful to these dedicated folks.

Our RCIA meets on Saturday mornings from 10:00-11:30 am in the Parish Center. We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic tradition or a baptized Catholic who would

like a "refresher" course to join us.

We are very pleased to welcome back **Frank Runyeon** to St. Pius X Parish as he has a real treat for us! Frank will be performing his *3 ½ Stories of Christmas*. This is a hilarious Christmas presentation. "Celestial choirs... The shadow of wings... A flash of white light... AND...he appears! And he's not quite what you expected. Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time: from the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem; from the origin of Santa Claus to the secret of the Christmas angel himself!" This is really a fun family event as Frank interacts with the children in the audience. Mark your calendars for this wonderful holiday celebration! *3 ½ Stories of Christmas* will take place on Saturday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Our Parish School of Religion families will sponsor a dessert smorgasbord in the Family Life Center following the presentation. You will have the opportunity to meet Frank Runyeon in person. Please plan to join us!

For more information on any of these programs, please call Anne Etue at the Parish Center (419-535-7672 x223).



Bridge Marathon

By Gert Streicher



The Bridge marathon group has a rather lengthy history at St. Pius X Parish. It was started in 1963 by **Dorothy Downs** and later was in the very capable hands of **Helen Spillane** for almost 25 years. During Helen's time, there were three flights: the afternoon and evening sessions for ladies and a mixed evening group. These groups raised money for card tables and chairs) for the church and school.

I have been a member since the 70's and was Helen's assistant, and am now in charge. Our most recent project is the school Endowment Fund that was established to help raise teachers' salaries. Some of our money was diverted from this goal when a new roof became a priority of the parish.

Seven tables of ladies met at Inverness Country club in mid-September to begin the new season. Look for a new apple on the Tree of Life in the narthex sometime in the fall. These trees, added since 2002, represent proceeds given to the Endowment Fund. If you would like to help our group raise money, you can purchase an Entertainment 2005 book from **Michelle Mininger** (419-474-1088).

Summer Fun Aplenty



August was a month full of fun filled activities at St. Pius X parish. Back by popular demand was the **Beer and Brat / Wine and Cheese party** held in the courtyard on September 11.



The courtyard was transformed and the weather cooperated while over 120 parishioners and friends engaged in spirited conversation and enjoyed music provided by **Bob Lemle**.



No sooner was the courtyard cleared than the barbeque pit was fired to cook the festival pig for the annual **Parish Pig-Roast**.



Parishioners' young and old enjoyed the culinary delights of master chefs **Gerry Tremblay, Larry Hack and Dave Latta**.



Parishioners brought a dish to pass and enjoyed sharing a meal with fellow parishioners and friends of St. Pius X Parish.



Reverse Raffle Huge Success!

The Athletic Association would like to thank everyone involved in the 2nd annual Reverse Raffle. 225 tickets were sold with about 170 or 180 people actually attending.



The food was wonderful; the games were fun; the evening was a great success! The actual amount of profit is not yet determined, but is sure to be as much as, if not greater than, the \$5000 raised last year.



This money goes to the students in the form of subsidies for CYO team sports and in keeping down the cost of uniforms.



The final three winners in this year's raffle were **Marilyn Gerathy, Kevin Quinn, and Bob Eber**. They agreed unanimously to split the total amounts of the first, second, and third place prizes. Each went home \$1083 richer!