



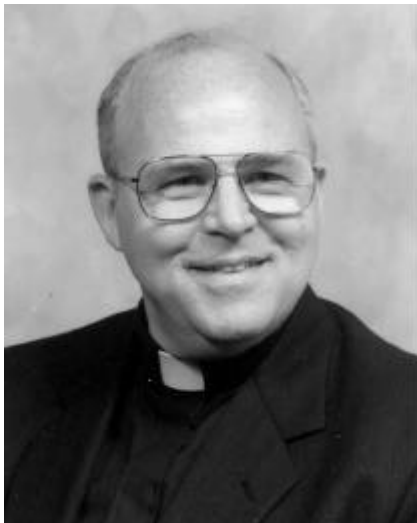
# The Proclaimer

VOLUME 27, NO.3

FALL 2007

## In My Dreams

By Fr. Dick Morse, OSFS



I grew up in a small, upstate New York town with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all within a mile or two of my home. Most of them had lived their whole lives there. No doubt about it, our family had roots! Today this is less common. We live in a highly mobile society where people move frequently and often far from any relatives. As a result, many have no roots. They lack a sense of belonging and suffer a feeling of loneliness and isolation. They see themselves as standing on the outside looking in, wishing for friends and companions on their life's journey. In a very real sense, they are spiritually and emotionally homeless. Fortunately, this is one area where we can make a

difference. At the same time, another area is making those already here feel a welcome part of the community.

At a recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting, one of our members expressed a concern about our young people being attracted to Cedar Creek Church when it moves into the neighborhood. She wondered how to address this. As I reflect on these concerns, I think we already have the answer. From the time I arrived here in July, I have been impressed by the friendliness and welcoming spirit of our people. You know what is most important - the love we have for one another. In my dreams, I see this as the key both to retaining and growing our membership. We will have many things to address as we continue our journey together but none will be more important than making people feel wanted, accepted, and loved. Other faith communities may have more money, provide more services, and accomplish things we cannot. But I believe we have what every person needs most - a love for people and a joy that is surely a sign of the presence of God.

The challenge before us is to build on this love and joy and to extend it to more and more people both within and outside our parish community. I challenge every parishioner to reach out to your family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Invite them to a weekend Mass with you. Bring them to social events of the parish and introduce them to your friends. Let them see and experience for themselves what we have here at St. Pius. Welcome them to make St. Pius their home. Expose them to an environment that is welcoming, accepting, and caring. I can think of no better marketing tool or strategy than personal example and personal invitation. I dream of every one of you bringing one new member into the Church and one former member back to the Church. I dream of us welcoming the spiritually and emotionally homeless to make their home with us while creating an environment that both our young and old will find difficult to leave. Finally, I dream of becoming what Jesus expected of us - a missionary community bringing the Good News of God's love to all we meet. My dreams will become a reality when, as we sing in church, "All are welcome in this place!"

ST. PIUS X PARISH



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Letters to the Editor are always welcomed and encouraged.

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**Buildings and Grounds**  
**Report**

By Dave Wolfe, Chairman



The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been actively involved in the recently completed projects in the parish including the basement kitchen, the bath rooms in the school, and the school roof. We have been busy managing and observing the work as it progressed. We wish to report that the projects were finished ahead of a very aggressive schedule and on budget. We want to thank committee members **Len Puclicki**, **John Ziegelhofer**, and **Duane Hoschak** for their personal involvement in the projects. We also thank **Lynn Gochenour**, another member, for her organizing of the color selections. Their attention to detail made the job a much easier task.

I would like to note the close involvement of my Parish Finance Council colleagues whose vision led to the completed projects. Finally, without the vision and patience of our pastor(s), principal, and head of maintenance, the project would not have been possible. We, as a committee, will be meeting soon to discuss possible projects for 2008 and

our list of needed parish improvements. If you would like to join our committee, please call Dave Wolfe at 419-531-9958

**Wine and Cheese 2007**



The 5th Annual *Wine and Cheese; Beer and Brats* get-together was a rousing success in spite of the very rainy week preceding the party. Although we were not able to use the St. Francis courtyard, the Family Life Center was magically transformed into an outdoor setting! Lighted trees were strategically placed around the perimeter of the room by **Todd Richard** and **Gwen Raupfer**, and more lights were strung up high. With dimmed overhead lighting and the canopy in the corner over the table for **Bob Lemle's** audio equipment, it was easy to pretend we were outdoors! Our chef, **Jim Dandar** and his wife, **Angel**, did a great job buying and preparing the food. **Sue Little** planned the table decorations and **Jane Butkowsky** supplied the door prizes. **Lon Hoepf** helped with buying supplies, and he and **Ed Raupfer** did the heavy cleanup on Sunday with the help of other committee members. Thank you all!

## School News



TUITION ASSISTANCE and  
ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

**Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** -  
*Elder Beerman Community Days:* The school will be selling coupon books for \$5 that contain a \$10 off coupon for any purchase over \$10 and several other percent off coupons. The entire \$5 goes to our school's tuition assistance program. Books are available at the school office and after select masses.

Go to the web site by entering:  
[www.communitydayevent.com](http://www.communitydayevent.com)  
and look up our school for more information.

**Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** -  
*Learning Express:* Get a jump on your holiday wish list with great educational, fun and developmental toys. 20% of the day's sales will go to the school. There's a special bonus - free gift-wrapping by our very own staff, school parents and special friends. Flyers with more information are available by the school office.

**Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** -  
*Max & Erma's:* Take your family to dinner, or make it a girls or guys night out, sorry kids! Just present our St. Pius

flyer (available by the school office) and the school enrichment program will receive a check for 20% of the sales generated by our families and friends. Bring flyers to work. Make copies and hand them out to neighbors and all your social groups. The more the merrier! Look for the flyer on the school website.

If you have questions, call Teri Giacci, Marketing Director, at 419-283-1744 or e-mail her at [giaccifamily@hotmail.com](mailto:giaccifamily@hotmail.com)

*Disclaimer: St. Pius X School supports many causes. Families are not obligated to participate in any or all-fundraising opportunities.*

## New Faces



**W**e extend a warm welcome to Mrs. **Laura Wright**, the new first grade teacher at St. Pius X School. Laura graduated from Genoa High School in 2002 and received her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Lourdes College in December 2006. She did her student teaching at Oregon School and later worked at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School before coming to St. Pius.

In the future, Laura plans to attend Lourdes College again to pursue her Master's Degree. For now, she is enjoying her time at the new house she bought with her husband, Francis. In her free time, Laura loves to play the piano.

## The Annual Pig Roast

By Gerry Tremblay



**W**ith the great leadership skills of **Dave Latta**, our annual Pig Roast turned out to be a success. Despite Mother Nature's response of an all-night rain, several men endured the continual downpour to ensure that **Gertrude** (pig #1) and **Tricky Dicky** (pig #2 named in honor of our new pastor) were properly cooked and ready to serve. Although the turnout was less than in past years, a goodly number of people enjoyed the feast and shared in some wonderful camaraderie. Everyone brought a dish to share providing more than enough food for those attending. A marvelous time was had by all!

## From the Director of Religious Education

By Anne Etue



I can only start this article with a deep and profound sense of gratitude to the people of St. Pius for all of your prayers, support, cards, and visits while I was in the hospital. You will never know how very much that meant to me. And the wonderful welcome I have had in returning has been very gratifying and humbling. I thought I was ready for a break – be careful what you wish for! I am back in the office up to six hours a day. We are on task with PSR and RCIA and now I need to get into sacramental preparation gear. I am still somewhat energy-challenged but we take it one day at a time. I would like to thank Lisa Baumann for stepping in for me and carrying out the programs for the rest of the last school year. She did an incredible job!

### PSR

We have a great group of kids in our PSR. We have welcomed several new families with children all across the age groups. To date we have 67 students in PSR and continue to get calls from new families. Our Catechists are doing a terrific job. They are: **Matt Nicholas**, Grade One; **Kathy Axe**, Grade Two; **Jennifer**

**Kluczynski**, Grade Three; **Tina Nicholas**, Grade Four; **Nancy Lawrence**, Grade Five; **Sharon Turby**, Grade Six; and **Aaron Radlinski**, Junior High.

### RCIA

We have four Candidates for RCIA at this time and a fun group it is with very lively and spirited discussions. If anyone would like to join us, just come to the Parish Center on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We are in the Inquiry period, which is sharing with the Candidates some of the beliefs, and practices that make us Catholic.

### Sacramental Preparation

We have the date in place for our second grade students to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on November 14. We also have dates set for our meetings for First Eucharist preparation. This Sacrament will be celebrated on May 3. It is an exciting year for our second grade students and their families.

We are putting together the calendar for Confirmation preparation meetings for our eighth grade students. Confirmation will be celebrated on March 15 at Rosary Cathedral. We will be celebrating the sacrament with students from Trinity School in Assumption and Pope John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg. This will be a new way of celebrating and we look forward to the opportunity to join with two other parishes at the Cathedral.

If any second grade or eighth grade student in the parish is not in our parish school or Parish School of Religion and needs to celebrate these sacraments of initiation, please call me at the Parish Center (419-535-7672 x223) or at my home (419-868-6622) to register.

### Roving Reporter



**Question:** If the Church were to make one significant change, what would you hope it might be?

**Judy Crandall:** As I considered this question, I thought about how so many people have been hurt by leaders within the Church. We have been hurt by dishonesty and the unwillingness of the Church to accept responsibility for the actions of some of its priests and bishops. So the change I would like to see is for the Church to speak openly and honestly about all things. (No cover ups, please.) We need to regain our trust in our spiritual leaders.

**Jim White:** If the Church were to make one significant change,

it would be to reconcile the differences with other Christian faiths that have splintered from the Roman Catholic Church over the years. Many of these Protestant religions seem to be relatively close to our teachings and practices in many, though certainly not all, areas. I believe that pursuing such a "reformation" might lead to meaningful discussion and resolution of many other issues of the day (e.g. celibacy of the clergy, etc.).

**Mary Ann Niedzielski:** One of my hopes, and I have many, would be that the clergy and laity of a diocese would be asked for their input and advice when a new bishop is being selected to serve them as pastor and leader. This would not be that difficult to implement and would help greatly to bring solidarity to the local Church. Nor would this be a radical, untried initiative. In the Church of the first three centuries, no church leader was chosen without the involvement of the local community.

**Ron Moening:** My significant change would be to give more decision-making authority to the laity. I am talking about areas of administration, not areas of doctrine or liturgy. For example, I think an elected Board at St. Pius should have significant input on whom the pastor is to be (although final authority for appointing the pastor should rest with the bishop and provincial). But, I think this lay board should make decisions regarding capital improvements, hiring of personnel, fund-raising, and matters like that. I think it

should function the way other nonprofit boards function, and there should be a Business Manager who reports to the Board. I do believe the pastor should be a member of the Board but not have the power of the veto. I expect the Board to be small (3-5 members).

**Diane Saccone:** I would hope that the Church would change the rules regarding ordination: first, by removing the male dominance within the Church and allowing women to become deacons and priests; second, by allowing priests to marry. This change would address the priest shortage, which is at a critical point. Demographers predict that in the foreseeable future more than half of our nation's 19,000 parishes will have no priest.

### News from the Pews



**Phil and Jane Flis** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Aug. 24, 2007. They are the parents of **Nancy, Mike (Robbin), Dan (Nancy), David (Margaret), and Matt (Michelle)**, all graduates of St. Pius X Grade School. The couple has five grandchildren. They have been parishioners since June 1958.

On Sunday, Oct. 21, a nice representation of parishioners from St. Pius X went to Sacred Heart Church in Hudson, MI to help **Fr. Richard Eberle** celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest. The church is very beautiful and well restored for a 100 year old building. The Mass was well attended as was the pot-luck immediately following the ceremony. St. John's Church in Point Place was also well represented.

**Anne Etue**, we are sorry to say, has been through another setback since she wrote her article on a preceding page. On Wednesday, Oct. 17, she had emergency surgery because of severe infection in her artificial knee. Fortunately for all, the company that manufactured her first artificial knee was in Toledo that day, and was able to supply the one part needed for the completion of the surgery. The surgeon also found a baseball sized growth near her right hip and removed that as well (MRSA staph infection...a very drug resistant type, while the knee had a regular staph infection). She is receiving IV treatments to cure both types, and has been transferred to UT Medical Hospital for physical therapy to assist her in learning how to walk again with new knee parts. Her room number is 6180 and phone number is 419-383-4852. Hopefully, she will have been discharged before this issue goes to print.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

...The Roman Catholic denomination is the largest in the United States (sixty million)? ...The second largest denomination in the United States is non-practicing Catholics? ...In any given Catholic parish in the continental United States, approximately fifty percent of the churches' registered parishioners do not attend Mass on any regular weekly basis? ... There are innumerable inactive Catholics who are not connected to any parish?

How can we reach out to these people? First, we need to pray for them.

Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think they are excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons. Many non-practicing Catholics carry with them a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church and are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected. You can make a tremendous difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would

like them to come back home to our Church family Here at St. Pius X parish, we are beginning a special program entitled "Catholics Returning Home." to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church. The first six week series will begin Thursday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office meeting room. Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested. Anyone wishing to attend this series or to obtain more information may call the parish office at 419-535-7672 and leave your name and number. A team member will return your call.

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