



The Proclaimer

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SUMMER 2006

Father Jim's Thoughts

By Fr. Jim Sanford

Do some of you remember the old torch song, "Stormy Weather"? The lyrics mention how "it's raining all the time." Well, for some reason when I first reflected upon this past summer all I could think of was this mildly depressing statement to bad times. But, in spite of all those water-saturated summer days these past three months have been anything but depressing.

Because of your generosity, and with the bequest of a loving parishioner, a lot of improvements have been happening at the parish. Our parking lots have been resealed and relined. The doors between the narthex and worship space have been completed with etched glass. Our sacristy has been remodeled. The Family Life Center has had the walls repaired and painted. Three more classrooms have been repainted, re-carpeted, and fitted with new and much improved lighting fixtures. Also, the rectory has had a new furnace installed (you don't want me to freeze next winter – I hope!).

We've also hosted the diocesan Y.E.S. Program, run another successful Summer Bible Camp, and had a great Courtyard Party and Pig Roast Picnic.

The argument can be made that a lot still needs to be done to our property and more ministries should happen on our property. Similarly, I believe that the same position can be taken about our personal and communal spiritual journey. Hopefully, we can proudly recognize all of the good that we've done, yet also accept that we will only reach perfection when we are one with God in eternity. In the mean time we should make every effort to improve our prayer life and make every effort to grow closer to Christ.

St. Francis de Sales often counseled people about how to mature spiritually. He tells us: *"There are many who would like me to tell them of techniques and methods and secret ways of attaining spiritual perfection. Yet I can only tell them that the sole secret is a hearty love of God and the only method of acquiring that love is by loving. You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by*

running, to work by working. If you really want to love God, go and love God more. Never look back; move forward constantly."

Obviously, St. Francis de Sales gently encouraged people to simply get out there and love! Change is inevitable. All we need to do is learn to flow with the movement of God's creation. We may be imperfect in how we love, but it is always good to make the effort!

This past summer I was blessed with numerous opportunities to witness St. Pius Parishioners doing what St. Francis de Sales advised: getting out there and loving God by loving one another. It always does my soul good to experience the Holy Spirit at work within this community. Keep up the good work!

If you've been away from us for a while please come on back. The church is filling up and the property is being well used. In spite of stormy weather (literally and figuratively) we keep on "learning to love by loving."

**Editor's Note: Important Dates and Pius People will no longer be included in the Proclaimer. They will however be published regularly in the bulletin.*

ST. PIUS X PARISH



THE PROCLAIMER
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Letters to the Editor are always welcomed and encouraged.

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School News

By Deb O'Shea



My first year at St. Pius has come and gone and some of it is a blur, it went so fast! I still have a sense of wonder as to all of the good will and kind gestures I have experienced here. That does not say that there was never an “issue” to solve in the past year, however. The totally awesome result of the “issues” that appeared at my feet is the new relationships that I have built with the community of St. Pius.

Some of the highlights that are close to my heart include the “Precious Pumas of God” and the “Singing Pumas”. These two singing groups are an extension of a hobby of mine – my love of singing and making music. Another musical highlight would have to be the Stations of the Cross musical that the eighth graders and the Singing Pumas shared with all of us during Lent. I love to see and hear the students singing – full of their love of God! An additional highlight would have to be the Pancake Breakfast that St. Pius pulled together in support of Colleen Kummer and her struggle with a brain tumor. I experienced so much support and volunteerism through this experience. I couldn't mention highlights without bringing up the St. Pius in Wonderland Benefit Auction in March. The

time and energy spent securing the success of the auction was definitely overwhelming for me. Now that I have survived St. Pius in Wonderland, I look forward to the “experience” I have achieved, which can only propel St. Pius to new “heights” with next year's auction.

I can't say enough about the teachers and staff at St. Pius. I truly believe we have a “topnotch” assemblage of adults facilitating the education of the students at St. Pius.

The students never cease to amaze me. I love to be around the young – they help me feel young! After a year's time of daily interacting with the students, I can truly say I know each student by name. That is the epitome of why St. Pius X School is what it is today – the best-kept secret in West Toledo where everybody is a somebody.

My hope for this next year at St. Pius is to build on the relationships I have begun with staff, parents, and students. I want to make St. Pius the best that it can be. Last year I had a theme for the school year, which was called “Above All”. Knowing that God is “above all” and He can guide us every day of our lives if we remember He is “above all”. This year I have entitled my theme “I Can Only Imagine”. There is a popular song by this name and it has inspired me to “imagine” not only what heaven will be like (as the song describes) but to also “imagine” the best for St. Pius. Let's look forward and “imagine” all that we can be!

New Faces from Many Places

By Mary Ann Niedzielski



During the past year or so, many new families and individuals have joined the St. Pius X community. Most have come as a result of the closing of parishes in the diocese. Some, whose children had attended the former Ladyfield School, sought a parish that provided an elementary school with a solid reputation.

Most visible as newcomers are the deaf community, who chose St. Pius as their parish when St. Louis Church closed. They attend the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, sitting together as a group in the left front of the church. Most fascinating to watch is their signer who signs the readings, homily, prayers, and hymns.

Margie Kolinski and **Beverly Broyles** are members of this community. Although they miss St. Louis Parish, they say they are happy to be at St. Pius. Margie and Beverly serve their new parish family as Eucharistic ministers. **Theresa**

and **Charles Sears** are other new faces from St. Louis. Married 53 years, Theresa and Charles have two daughters, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Frank Urbaniak comes to us from St. Stanislaus Parish. Father-in-law to Pat Urbaniak, our music director, Frank shares Pat's enthusiasm for music. Within a short time after registering at St. Pius, Frank joined the Resurrection Choir. He contributes a strong voice to the music ministry at funeral Masses, as well as the monthly Mass at Holly Glen. Frank also is a very helpful volunteer at parish funeral luncheons.

Our parish Folk Group has three new faces, **Sue Nowak, Kay Shrewsbury, and Marilyn Zielinski**. They chose to be part of the St. Pius community after the closing of St. Mary's forced them to find a new parish home. Kay said that she and Sue decided on St. Pius after one visit. "We were impressed by the welcoming atmosphere, the friendliness of the people, and the parish's hospitality to the deaf community."

Doris and Jack Myers come from St. Jude's Parish, which closed in December. Doris immediately signed up to serve her new parish as Eucharistic Minister and lector. "I did that at my former parish and wanted to continue," she said. Doris and Jack are beginning to feel at home at Pius, although they miss St. Jude's where they were members for forty years. Jack recently joined the ranks of the parish ushers, and Doris lent a

hand at the parish rummage sale.

The **Jones family, Dale, Lori, and Zoe**, were quick to make St. Pius their new home. Former parishioners at St. Agnes, all three are very much involved in the life of the parish, each contributing time and talent to the community. Dales serves as lector, Lori, as Eucharistic minister, and Zoe, as altar server.

Also from St. Agnes are **John and Lorie Davis** and children. Lorie has been a great help at the school, jumping right in shortly after she arrived and taking charge of the Market Day operation. Daughter **Holly** will have a leading role in the school musical this fall.

St. Pius has been blessed by these newcomers, as well as many, many others who have not been mentioned. We regret that parish closings throughout the diocese forced them to find a new Eucharistic community, but we are very pleased that they chose St. Pius as their parish family.

A belated welcome to all of you, and thank you, too, for your presence.



Service Shockers

By Katie Litle



After graduating from Defiance College in 2004, **Katie Litle** (St. Pius-1996; Notre Dame-2000) took a position as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) representative to work at Defiance College promoting service across the campus and the community. AmeriCorps is referred to as the domestic Peace Corps in which people commit themselves for a year of service while living at the poverty level. Through the *McMaster School for Advancing Humanity*, three faculty members, 22 students, and Katie participated in months of learning to get ready for their two week stay in Cambodia. “However”, Katie said, “nothing could have prepared us for what we experienced while we were there.” Here are some of her thoughts...

“Cambodia is recognized as a third world country based upon its economic resources, level of income, and poverty. For those of us who visited the country, we would, instead, call it a *fourth* world country because

it’s hard to imagine that any other place like this exists in our world.

The purpose of our trip was to construct soccer fields for some of the rural schools. Soccer fields, Cambodian style, consist of two goals made of steel welded together and cemented into the ground so they cannot be stolen. When we arrived at the different schools, we found it very hard to communicate. Once the principal was aware of the good we were trying to do, he was quick to choose a location. The first place was an open field located above an old garbage dump. As we were digging the holes, we continued to dig up garbage. The smell got so bad that we had to take turns digging. At recess, children came up curiously, wondering what all these “white” people were doing. Once they saw what we had in mind, they were eager to help in any way they could. When the goals were completed, we brought out soccer balls that we donated to the school, and, VOILA!, a soccer field was born. We may not have been able to communicate with these children face to face, but we sure could communicate through the simple sport of soccer. These schools were the poorest of the poor and had no running water or electricity. Teachers made about \$30 a month and many only had 6th grade education. Children used trees as restrooms; meals were not provided, so classes were only half days.

In addition to this project we ventured out into the city where

homeless people, beggars, and prostitutes lined each corner. The mothers with newborns were the ones who really broke your heart. The hospital visit opened my eyes to the truth this world tries to hide. The AIDS ward was filled with babies and children all under 5 who had lost both parents and were now orphaned. Although they were in a room that was located directly next to the dump, had very few toys, and only mats to sleep on, their smiles never faded as we spent an hour playing with them. With tears in my eyes I left, knowing that they had only months to live.



The people whom we met while we were there had story after story about members of their families who were killed off by the Khmer Rouge. It was not until I walked through the ‘killing fields’, Chong EK, that the emotion of what took place really sank in. Pieces of clothing and of bone could be seen as they had started to emerge from the fields. Mass graves were beneath my feet and it was hard to fathom that this had taken place only 30 years ago. An entire population was wiped out and now the country depends on its ‘MTV generation’ as they call it, to rebuild the country.

There were many aspects of Cambodia that made me emotional and many photos taken that will never capture the truth of what I saw and felt, but for the Cambodian people it is all they know. We all challenged ourselves to live two weeks in a world filled with poverty, disease, and crime but also much hope. While there we met a man named Pheakday who served as our guide. He was well-educated, studied in China, and got his degree in business. However, he chose to return home. When we asked him why he came back his response was, 'I want to make Cambodia the great country that it once was. I want people to see my people and all of the good that we have done to contribute to the world. I stay because I am part of that. I will not leave because I have hope!'

I guess in some ways I thought that we could change this and that we could make a difference. In some small way I think that we did. I changed *myself!* I opened my eyes to another world out there that is different from the one I know. I will continue to share stories to educate people about Cambodia and its people. And I will challenge people to become global citizens and to take interest in global issues!"

Editor's Note: Katie has just accepted a full-time staffing position at Defiance College where she will serve as the Coordinator of McMaster Leadership Programs and will begin studying for her Masters Degree.

2005-2006 St. Pius X School 8th Grade Student Scholarship Awards



St. Frances de Sales High School

Rev. George Shugrue Scholarship (\$1000.00 renewable) – Daniel James White

Academic Scholarship (\$500.00 Renewable) – Daniel James White

Francis de Sales Scholarship (\$1000.00 Renewable) Max Alexander Wagner

Endowed Scholarship – Christian Nicholas Mocek

St. John Jesuit High School

*Berchman Grant –
Leroy Johanna Parke III*

Notre Dame Academy

*Marian Award (\$500.00) –
Julia Celeste Hauser*

*Honors Scholarship (\$750.00) –
Julia Celeste Hauser*

St. Ursula Academy

Academic Scholarship (\$3000.00 renewable) – Rachel Morgan Kalinoski

St. Angela Merici Scholarship (\$1000.00 Renewable) – Rachel Morgan Kalinoski

Alumnae Scholarship (\$900.00 Renewable) – Rachel Kalinoski

Central Catholic High School

*Troy Simon Scholarship (\$500.00) –
Kaitlyn Rose Johnson*

Legacy Grant (\$1000.00) – Lauren Ashley Downey

Legacy Grant (\$1000.00) – Sean Patrick Richard

Legacy Grant (\$1000.00) – Kaitlyn Rose Johnson

Legacy Grant (\$1000.00) – Morgan Montgomery Burns

Class of 1949 Bishop Robert Donnelly Scholarship (\$1000.00)

Morgan Montgomery Burns Laurie Ann Walters Scholarship (\$500.00) – Morgan Montgomery Burns

Greater Beneficial Union (\$350.00) – Kaitlyn Rose Johnson

Bavarian Sports Club (\$50.00) – Kaitlyn Rose Johnson

Cardinal Stritch High School

Stritch Legacy Scholarship (\$1000.00) – Aaron Joseph Zalewski

St. Pius X Leadership Award

*Daniel James White
Rachel Kalinoski*

St. Pius X Parent Association Scholarship

*Haley Marie Murrell
Leroy Johanna Parke III*