

Lourdes Life



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Newsletter

November/December, 2009

God Created Advent



Think back to your first love. Did you keep it to yourself? Did you hide it under a rock? Probably not. More than likely you wanted to shout it from the mountain tops or carve it into a fence post complete with an arrow piercing a crudely etched heart. At the very least you shared your feelings with the target of your affections in the hope they might reciprocate. And, if you were lucky, that love blossomed into a caring, mutually fulfilling, and loving relationship.

Fr. John Foley, S. J. made this insightful observation: "Love always wants to share itself." Reflect on that for a moment. Now let your mind wander back to before the beginning of time. God was there. God was perfect love. Perfect love felt compelled to share itself. God wanted to shout out His love from the mountain tops and carve an announcement of His love into a tree. But there was a problem. There were no mountains and there were no trees. Perfect love wanted to share itself— but how?

God needed a mountain. God needed a tree. And so creation began. God impregnated His love into the stuff of creation. By the force of His spirit, galaxies erupted, planets dotted the cosmos, stars illuminated the night, and the sun warmed the day.

God surveyed all that he had made and saw that it was good. You

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Communion Ministry

Long-time parishioners helped pave way to parish stewardship.

By Audrey Truax

Long, long ago in the Land of Lourdes before Stewardship officially became a "Way of Life", many people had already been committed to living and loving the journey.

Two of these people are long time parishioners Barbara Gorman and George Brinkhaus. This is Barbara's twenty-fifth year to coordinate the communion ministers to Baptist Hospital East. Preferring to focus on the history of the ministry, Barbara had this to share:

In its infancy, the parish took Communion to the hospital twice a week. The other days were serviced by the Ursuline Sisters. Eventually, the sisters asked if the parish could assume total responsibility. With Barbara as chairperson, thirty ministers initially began this ministry. Since that time, the hospital has grown and so has the ministry. Currently, close to seventy people are involved. This is due in large part to Barbara's gift of identifying and inviting "new recruits" and her thoroughness in training. Patients say the

ministry brings them comfort and peace. Barbara says, "Sometimes you get to be a listening ear and ministers definitely feel it is a calling."

In 1974, Father Gerst asked George to begin taking Communion

to our homebound ministers. Then in 1983 Father Osborne requested that George take Communion to one person at the Twinbrook Apartments. Today, about seventeen residents there receive Communion weekly.

In the mid-1980's, George began a Communion ministry to St. Matthews Manor and Twinbrook Nursing



George Brinkhaus & Barbara Gorman

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Dear Friends,

Sometimes when I'm asked to write a letter or a column for a parish meeting, I feel like just writing in big letters

. . .THANK YOU!!

. . .and just letting those two words be the whole column!

THANK YOU . . . for all the love and sacrifices parents give to each other and to their children.

THANK YOU . . . for all the beautiful faith and prayers of our senior parishioners who often endure sicknesses and loneliness with brave spirits and courageous smiles.

THANK YOU . . . for all our teenagers and young adults who resist the always-present temptations of drugs and shallow relationships and who stand up for the values and behavior that make us all proud.

THANK YOU . . . for the courage so many show by truly living stewardship, even in very challenging economic times, when it would be very easy to be selfish with resources of time and talent and treasure.

THANK YOU ALL . . . for the pride you take in your parish and for your love of our rich Catholic faith.

. . . and above all . . .

THANK YOU, GOD, for being always faithful to us and patient with us! Continue to guide us on our journey on this earth and give us the wisdom and determination to follow you courageously!

THANK YOU!!

Father Nick

God Created Advent

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would think this would have been enough. And God was pleased, but God wanted more. God needed more. The mountains, the rocks and the trees were unable to recognize and respond to all the love that God poured into making them. As inanimate objects they were exactly that—inanimate, lifeless, and incapable of returning love.



So God thought long and hard and came up with a plan. He would establish a process by which life might emerge from the primordial soup. The plan worked. Slowly but surely life crawled from the seas. Over the eons a very interesting thing happened. This marvelous plan gave rise to human beings.

Placed in the core of these conscious, rational, thinking beings was the capacity to receive His glory. Planted deep in their core was a longing to know and to connect with their Creator. At last, these were beings that could actively and knowingly respond with thanksgiving and love to the Creator of the universe. And God was very pleased.

So pleased was He that he created a perfect garden for them, gave them a few simple instructions and ask of them only to enjoy all He had created. But, as humans are want to do, they decided to go their own way and violated His instructions, and desecrated their gift.

We are the descendants of those first human beings. We are the heirs, despite our inherited fall from grace, of a long history of divine providence. We daily reap the benefits of divine love.

Fortunately God's love was greater than the transgression. He understood that we did not comprehend the meaning of true love or know how to truly love. We needed to be saved from ourselves. We needed a tangible example of love. So, in the due course of time, God become one of us. He would personally show us how to love Him and how to love each other.

The question then this advent season is how will we respond to His love for us? Will we allow His grace to fill the hollow spaces deep within? Will we be open to conversion and reconciliation with our God and our fellow sojourners? Will we be patient enough to allow His love to settle our ever worrying lives? Will we be ready to carry His love out into a world desperately in need of conversion, repentance, and reconciliation? Will the commemoration of His birth change anything?

Marriages

Joyce Umerley & David Jordan
Brittany Schafer & Chris Ziaja

"Smiles and Warmth" Help Bring New Parishoners

By Julianne Biblehauser

"...I give thanks to God through Jesus Christ for all of you because your faith is heralded throughout the world."
(Romans 1:8)

Zoveyda Sanchez, a Puerto Rican native, joined Lourdes this past September with her son, David Bauer Sanchez. Having spent 23 years of her life in Caguas, which is in a valley in the center of the island, she immigrated to the US seeking more independence and better opportunities.

Serving as Holy Name Parish Preschool Director, Zoveyda has found much personal fulfillment and satisfaction in her work.

"As a mom, it is interesting to see myself, now," she said, "I'm in charge of other people's kids." Many of her preschool clientele come from the Backside Mission program, a ministry of Epiphany Church, which serves Churchill Downs backside workers. Zoveyda earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico.

Looking for a home parish, she felt very comfortable with OLOL and felt welcomed by the parishioners she met who greeted her with smiles and warmth. Growing up in the Catholic faith, Zoveyda feels it is important "to be active and help others." She serves on the Gardening Committee and Childcare Committee (for evening meetings) at OLOL.

Born in America, David, 4, is proud of his new

church, enjoying the preschool program during Mass with his new friends. When passing by OLOL, Zoveyda says he often spots the church from the car window, asking, "Mommy, is that *my church*?" His mother feels content and proud that he recognizes this connection.

In Puerto Rico, Zoveyda had English instruction from elementary to the college level.

Thus, there was never a language barrier. There are some differences between Catholic churches in Puerto Rico and the US. According to Zoveyda, the commitment here is a different, a positive one. Stewardship is not very visible in her native country. She finds the members much more active in American Catholic churches. She does miss some of the customs of her native church, like the "Via Crucis". During Holy Week, the parishioners perform outside dramas representing the Stations of the Cross. This is a beautiful Puerto Rican custom, according to Zoveyda, who portrayed Mary in "Via Crucis" in her hometown.

At Lourdes, we are blessed to have such diversity in our parishioners. Enrichment can be found in how we respond to this diversity. In worshipping together, we can learn how our differences and similarities complement one another. We each come from different backgrounds and often partake in different customs and traditions in worshipping God and ministering to others. With open minds and Christian hearts, our faith will surely grow in response to all we share and learn from one another.



Zoyveda Sanchez came to Lourdes with her son, David.

Communion Ministry

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homes on the first Friday of each month. He is currently the chairperson of Visitation to the Sick and Elderly. This is a ministry to our parishioners residing in nursing homes throughout the Louisville area. George also oversees the homebound and nursing home ministries. For the past ten years, George has led Communion services Monday through Friday at our parish and has been a lector since the mid-1970's.

Barbara and George, we are blessed and honored by your commitments and by those countless other ministers that you continue to invite along the way. It truly takes a village.

Baptisms



Camille Young
Mathieu Hauber, II
Henry Hauber
Nicholas Jett
Caralyn rondot
Rowan Kavanagh
London Numoz
Troy Freshmann

Inside Look: Chili Supper and Fall Festival



Your Stewardship Makes a Difference!

By Marge Borders

Dan Conway, who spoke at all our Masses the weekend of Oct. 24 and 25, has been writing stewardship reflections for more than twenty years. In Aug 2008, in his newsletter, *The Good Steward* he wrote:

“ . . . Disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be stewards of the future, a future that is full of hope. The future appears hopeless when we cannot imagine anything beyond the present, when we have no vision, no way of affecting change. The future is full of hope when people of faith join together to imagine, and then begin to build, a better world, trusting in the providence of God but not hesitating to act decisively and take risks for the sake of the Kingdom. . . . As individuals and as communities of faith, we can make a difference. We can work to provide our children and grandchildren with a future that is filled with hope — and with justice, peace and charity. Certainly, we will face many obstacles, but the powerful gift of Christian hope is the knowledge it provides us that although we won't win every battle, the war has already been won! As stewards of a future that is full of

hope, we can imagine the Kingdom that is coming, and we can work to make it happen — here and now. . . . May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ help us to be faithful stewards of the future he has promised us. And may the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with courage, empowered by hope, to imagine and then begin to build the coming Kingdom of God.”

When we believe that what we do makes a positive difference, it gives us the strength to look forward. When we look forward with hope, we can see the significance of our efforts. Our baptism calls each of us to faith-filled service and our Lourdes parish mission calls us to bring forth the Kingdom of God. So with our beliefs, our strength, our dreams, and our hopes, we begin our planning for the future with our 2010 Stewardship renewal.

By now you have received your stewardship renewal packet. Please prayerfully reflect on your commitment and involvement for the upcoming new year. Recommit yourself to the disciplined life of ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE. Your involvement and support does make a difference! Please promptly return your 2010 Stewardship Intention Card.



Youth Ministry is Alive and Kicking

By Chris Kolibaba

Youth ministry is beginning to take off at Our Lady of Lourdes. At our first event, the Fall Kick-Off on September 20, we had over a dozen junior and senior high youth investigate the possibilities that youth ministry can hold here at the parish. Pizza, prizes and good times were had by all in the youth room, and Fr. Nick graced us with his presence. This past October 18, for our Senior High Youth Group Bonfire, we had seventeen youth enjoy a crackling bonfire on the parish softball diamond. We roasted hot dogs and played soccer and corn-hole under the stars. And this is just the beginning, too. We have much more in store—more regular meetings, regional events, service projects, parish liturgies, and a mission trip is in the works. Youth ministry is happening here—but we also need your help, too. Your junior and senior high youth can encounter a great experience of church, but we need adult and parent volunteers to help make it happen. Once you are ready to answer the call, please contact Chris at the parish office.

Here are some of our upcoming events for November and December:

Thursday, November 19–Saturday, November 21: National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) at Kansas City, MO—Please pray for the OLOL group!

Sunday, November 29: Junior High Youth Group (5:00—6:30 p.m.); Senior High Youth Group (7:00—8:30 p.m.)

Friday, December 4: Breakfast with Santa Set-Up: Jr. and Sr. High Volunteer Event (6:00—9:00 p.m.)

Saturday, December 5: Breakfast with Santa: Jr. and Sr. High Volunteer Event (10:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon)

Sunday, December 6: Senior High Regional Youth Mass at St. Aloysius in Pewee Valley (5:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 20: Advent Youth Involvement Mass at 11:30 a.m. Liturgy
(Youth Ministry will be needing volunteers for this Mass—lectors, servers, cantors, Eucharistic ministers, etc.)

Sunday, January 3, 2010: Regional Youth Mass hosted at Our Lady of Lourdes (5:00 p.m.)
(Youth Ministry will be needing volunteers for this Mass—lectors, servers, cantors, Eucharistic ministers, etc.)



Blessing of the Animals

Every year, to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Lourdes has a service to bless the animals along with all of the grade school students in the 4th grade and younger.



Students and Teachers Keep Busy in the Fall

By Sheila Hiestand & Pat Hoffman

No one would suspect these fall days are getting shorter by the amount of activity taking place at school. Our Open House, that took place on October 21, saw a record number of prospective parents checking out the many opportunities Lourdes has to offer. So, thanks to everyone that helped make this Open House such a success.

Several of our teachers have been busy outside the classroom as well. Ms. Mary Montana, 5th and 6th grade math, has been chosen to sit on the Archdiocesan Math Textbook Review Committee. And, 7th and 8th grade math teacher, Mr. Beavin, presented a program detailing the new Math Curriculum Framework to Archdiocesan teachers.

Our Kindergarten through Third Grade took part in a CLEAN HANDS UP program on Wednesday, November 4. This program, led by students from Bellarmine's Nursing Program, instructed our students in the proper way to wash hands. By using a black light and sparkling hand lotion, the children were able to see for themselves just how thorough their hand washing needs to be.

Kentucky author, C.C. Payne, visited the fourth and fifth grade students on November 5. Ms. Payne lives in Danville, Kentucky and her book, *Something to Sing About*, takes place in Franklin, Kentucky.

Health Day was held for students on Thursday, November 12. Once again Dr. Terry and Patty McKenna organized our students' annual checks including visual and hearing tests, and weight and height measurement.

Thursday, November 19 will be the date for OLOL's second annual student walk. This year students will walk to raise money for Hand In Hand

ministries.

Upcoming field trips for students include visits to the Portland Museum, The Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center, and Trinity High School to watch their Drama Department's presentation of *Romeo and Juliet*.

The Catholic High School Placement test will be given on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 – 12:30 at the school of your child's choice. The cost is \$15.00.

Should anyone have issues they would like addressed by S.A.C., please feel free to contact any of the committee members or Mrs. Glaser so that the issue may be placed on the agenda. We continue to work toward making Our Lady of Lourdes the best school possible, and your input is greatly appreciated.

Welcome! New Parishioners

Jason Brauer & Melissa McVicar and David

David & Karolyn Alvey

Penny Cook

Jimmy Escola

Sasha Stare

Joshua & Elizabeth Grizzle and Abigail

Brian & Kim Huseman and Kate

Donna Jimenez and Miguel

Chris Kolibaba

Walter & Sue Schnurr

Luke Rodot & Laura Woods and Caralyn

Avis Surrell

Justin & Andrea Vetter and Emily

Angela Garr and Dennis

Marisol Jimenez and Vanessa & Kiara

Scott & Kim Rector and Molly

Keving & Amber Burke and Jessie

Bert & Anne Hughes and Ava & Eric

Chris & Gina Noonan and Clay & Jacob

Richard & Jennifer Owens

Stephan & Stephanie Heitz

and Lillian & Spencer

Eric & Kristen Riley and

Brenda, Logan & Bianca

Chris & Gail King and Molly,

Madeline & Elizabeth

Mathieu Hauber & Elizabeth Kotheimer

and Athena, Mathieu, Alyssa & Henry

Young Parishioner Gets National Recognition

This article was written by Jill Rauh in the newsletter for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, part of the U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops. It is re-printed with permission.

What happens when, on the one hand, you have young people with gifts and talents to share, and on the other hand, you have Catholic Campaign for Human Development-funded groups diving headfirst into inspiring projects to improve their communities?

Answer: You have a situation ripe for partnership between students and funded groups through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest and Program.

Take, for example, Clare Hagan, the winner of this year's contest, who was practically born singing. "For as long as I can remember, I've been singing," she explains. "I can't remember when I didn't want to be a professional singer when I grow up."

Last year, Clare's eyes were opened to poverty in the United States when she started to hear stories about the recession. "I heard on the news how everyone was being laid off," she says, "and it isn't just one person being laid off—it's a whole family losing their income."

A story by her seventh-grade teacher, about teaching in an inner-city school that was falling apart and infested with rats, also made an impression. "I could have been born into that situation by the luck of the draw, but I wasn't," Clare remarks.

Then, as part of the Multi-Media Arts Contest and Program, which she entered through her parish, Clare learned about Women in Transition (WIT), a group funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. A grassroots organization run by and for poor people, WIT works on issues of economic human rights, such as affordable housing, minimum wage, classism, and health care. WIT also has a skills-building program in which women pursue GEDs and develop reading skills while they learn about pioneering women in history.

After the visit, Clare was inspired. "They aren't just handing out money. They're showing people how to get skills they need. It's not just a short fix," she says. The community organizing efforts left an impression, as well. "They're also passing fair laws, not bad ones," Clare says.



Clare Hagan

One story she heard at WIT was about a greedy landlord who was collecting federal funding to provide low-income housing while neglecting the dilapidated buildings. Clare describes her reaction to stories like these: "It made me say, 'Wait a second, you aren't supposed to be doing that. Just wait a minute.'"

So she wrote a song. "Complacency's End," this year's winning entry in the Multi-Media Arts Contest and Program, is about not letting unfair things happen, but instead working together to make things right. Clare's song says,

"We may look small to you now but we're changing the rules.
You don't have to be scared, but don't be fooled
We got our hearts set and now we're gonna change the world."

Because after all, Clare says, "the reason we're put here is to make the world a better place."

Deaths

Dorothy Brown
Juanita Baker
James Nalley, Sr.
Frank Kilroy
Betty Oerther
Mildred Motter
Robert Bauman
Sareta Young



Lourdes Life

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Our Lady of Lourdes Church
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Coming Attractions . . .

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November 19

7:00 p.m., St. Cecilia Hymn Sing, St. Aloysius Church
in Pee Wee Valley

November 21

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Christmas Bazaar.
9:00 a.m., Fall Clean Up Day-LOTS of volunteers needed.

November 22

"Fall Festival of Hymns" at Lourdes at Bellarmine
University Choir and Lourdes Parish Choir.
Christmas Bazaar continues in the Cafeteria after the
Masses.

November 26

9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Celebration Mass. Choral prelude
at 8:30 a.m.

December 3 & 10

7:00 p.m., The Psalms of Advent in the Parish Center.

December 5

7:00 a.m., Men's Prayer Group in the Parish Center.
10:00 a.m.-Noon, Breakfast with Santa in the Cafeteria.

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Masses at
8:15 a.m., Noon, and 7 p.m.

December 15

7:00 p.m., Parish Reconciliation Service in church.

December 24

5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Services. Prelude
begins one half hour before each Mass.

December 25

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Christmas Day Services.
Prelude begins one half hour before each Mass.

January 1

9:00 a.m., New Year's Day Mass.

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