

St. Kieran
St. Isidore
St. Lawrence
St. John Vianney
SS. John and Paul
St. Francis-St. Maximilian
St. Clement of Rome
St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Mary Mystical Rose
Capuchin Retreat House

North Macomb News

Rev. David Buersmeyer, Vicar

July 2010

www.nmvonline.org

Fr. Jerry Machlik - Beloved Pastor, Shepherd, Inspiration and Friend

On May 25th Fr. Jerry Machlik, the founding pastor of St. John Vianney Parish, lost his two year battle with cancer and passed away. His death caught some by surprise, as many did not realize the seriousness of his illness. Over the last two years, he rallied and won many battles against this disease. It was Fr. Jerry's choice to keep his illness private, selflessly not wanting to worry his parish family. The staff and parishioners of SJV were like his family; having little family in the immediate area, Fr. Jerry gave 100% of himself to his parish community.

In 1979 Cardinal John Dearden asked Fr. Jerry to investigate the potential of establishing a parish in the rural, but rapidly growing area of Shelby Township. Now, more than 30 years later, stands a beautiful worship facility that is the spiritual home of more than 3400 families. During those years, Fr. Jerry shepherded and nurtured this community with his love and dedication. He shared in the joy and sorrow of thousands as he baptized, married, buried, and prayed with so many who needed his comforting words.

In a recent interview of some members of the St. John Vianney staff, they reflected on Fr. Jerry's impact on their parish. Many of these women have been with Fr. Jerry for a very long time. Pat Boik, who has worked at SJV for 24 years, said that one of Fr. Jerry's greatest strengths was comforting families struggling with a serious crisis. He always had the right words to say. He would never say no to a family in need, particularly for a funeral, whether they were parishioners or not. "The only requirement he had for a funeral is that the person be dead," Pat said with a smile, "From the homilies he gave at those funerals, you would think he knew the families forever."

Other traits that the staff admired were Fr. Jerry's unselfishness; such as the time he went to comfort someone in the hospital on Christmas Eve. Pat remembered the time her mom was rushed to the hospital and she called Fr. Jerry to tell him she would not be in. A short while later he arrived at the hospital and Pat asked him what he was doing there. He replied, "You can't go through this alone." He was always there when needed, without being asked.

The staff recalled his great sense of humor and his easy going nature. Carol Gammicchia, who knew Fr. Jerry for more than 22 years, only saw him get angry twice. Carol wanted others to know his human side. How he would often call and tell them to "put the coffee on" as he was bringing dessert for their 3 PM break, or "turn the oven on, I'm cooking lunch." He was lovingly referred to as the "Costco King" as he often shopped there and enjoyed providing for others.



"Well done, my good and faithful servant"

Matthew 25:23

Another great asset of Fr. Jerry was the teamwork environment he encouraged among his staff. Fritzi Bohlmann, the pastoral associate stated: "Fr. Jerry never micromanaged us, he allow us to do our jobs and expected us to keep the ship afloat. He trusted us to do what was needed and carry on."

To the staff he was an important part of their lives. He was more than just a boss, more than just a priest. He made sure that they all put their families and life events first, trusting that the work would be done. During his illness, when he couldn't make it into the office, he made numerous calls to check on things and give direction. His last Mass was on Palm Sunday, and Fritzi said: "He was determined to be involved in Holy Week."

When he came home from the hospital for the last time, the staff and their spouses took six hours shifts, staying around the clock with him. His sister, who came in from California, and a few close friends were with him at all times as well. Sue Sharp, one of the staff secretaries shared: "We wanted him to see a familiar face whenever he woke up so he would know he was not alone." In addition to the staff, during his illness many parishioners took turns driving Fr. Jerry to Ann Arbor for treatment, cooked meals for the families of his caretakers, and made every effort to keep Fr. Jerry comfortable.

Carol said that the last call she received from him was just before he came home from the hospital. He knew that he was going into hospice care and Carol asked if there was anything she could do. He said: "I need a lot of people." Carol said she doesn't think he wanted to be alone, he may have been afraid; he didn't want to die just yet.

Continued on page 2

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stjohnvianneyshelbytwp](http://home.catholicweb.com/stjohnvianneyshelbytwp)Rev. William Sinatra,
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Late Monday evening on May 24th, Fr. Doc Ortman, the associate pastor at SJV, called the staff to say that Fr. Jerry had breathed his last breath here on earth. They all rushed to Fr. Jerry's home, where for several hours they shared stories, prayed, and cried together. They each said their final goodbye to the man who was so special to all of them. During this time, George, Fr. Jerry's faithful companion, quietly sat at the foot of the bed and just watched his beloved master.

When asked what they thought Fr. Jerry's legacy to the parish would be, they all agreed that it would be the outreach to the community that Fr. Jerry felt was so important. Whether through the Christmas Giving Tree, MCREST, or helping anyone who came to the parish in need, Fr. Jerry has taught them how to care for their brothers and sisters in need. Pat also said that they promise to keep the family atmosphere alive at St. John Vianney. "Fr. Jerry would want us to continue to welcome, serve and celebrate."

As the office and home are readied for Fr. Tim Mazur, who will begin his assignment as pastor on July 31st, the staff knows that for some it will be a long grieving process. Fr. Jerry has taken the faithful of St. John Vianney this far on their journey to the kingdom, now it is time for another pastor to lead the way. "There will be no other Fr. Jerry," said Fritz, "but we are looking forward to working with Fr. Tim." Fr. Tim told the staff that the only immediate change at SJV is him. He loves the teamwork of the staff and he admires the loyalty that they have for Fr. Jerry, each other and the parish.

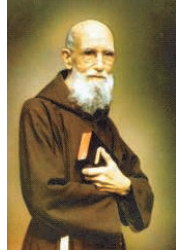
Sue said that there are times when she still expects to hear Fr. Jerry's voice, or see him come into the office. Pat shared that while he was ill and absent, his presence was always felt. For her the finality of his passing has finally hit. Despite their grief, they are ready to move on, to welcome their new pastor, and continue on with the vision and in the manner that Fr. Jerry would have wanted. They will "keep the faith."

By the way, many have asked about Fr. Jerry's dog, George. He is now being lovingly cared for by his breeder and is surely being watch over by his loving master as well.

Linda Maccarone
NMV Editor

*Please continue to keep Fr. Jerry
and the St. John Vianney Parish
Community in your prayers.*

Please Join Us!

**St. Bonaventure Chapel and
Solanus Casey Center****July 23rd-July 31st****Mass and Novena for the
Cause of Venerable Solanus
Casey and Celebration of the
Guild's 50th Anniversary.**

Schedule of Masses & Novena:

July 23..... 12:15 PM

July 24..... 4 PM

July 25..... 9 AM, 11 AM, 1:30 PM

July 26-31..... 12:15 PM

The Guild's 50th Anniversary Dinner will be held on Sat., July 24th at 6 PM at The Ark of St. Ambrose in Grosse Pointe Park.

Tickets are \$50 per person (reservations only), call Mary at 313.579.2100, ext 169.

**St. Lawrence CYO Opportunities
For Neighboring Parishes**

St. Lawrence Athletics would like to invite its neighboring parishes to participate in its CYO Athletic Program. In particular, we are presently looking for 5th and 6th grade girls for our fall soccer program and 7th and 8th grade boys for our fall football program. In addition, we are also looking to fill existing volunteer coaching vacancies in the football, cheer, and volleyball programs as well.

St. Lawrence Athletics is proud to extend its athletic program to our Catholic community throughout the school year, and invites anyone interested in further information and opportunity, concerning all the sports we offer, to access our website at www.mightymustangs.com.

Interested parties should contact the St. Lawrence CYO Athletic Director, Greg Mangold, at 586.978.3887 to register, or for further information.

Articles for the North Macomb Vicariate's **August issue are due by July 19th**. Please email your article to NMVNews@yahoo.com or admin@stthereseparish.ws. If you have any questions please call Linda Maccarone at 586.254.4433

Men's Spirituality Night

Friday, July 16th at 7 PM
St. Therese of Lisieux Parish

The evening will begin with Mass at 7 PM, followed by pizza, beer, pop, coffee and cookies, and then by guest speaker, Dr. Ed Hogan. Dr. Hogan is a Theologian and Director of Formation for the Diocese of Saginaw. He is also the father of six children and an adjunct professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. The topic will be **"Finding Your Masculinity in Christ"**.

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased by calling the parish office at 586.254.4433.

Dinner & Support For Widowed

Friday, July 9th, 5 PM

Widowed of all ages are welcome to attend a social hour at 5 PM and dinner at 6 PM on Friday, July 9th at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd. in Troy.

The family style dinner is \$14 per person, pay at the door (cash only). Bar drinks and desserts are extra. Stay and enjoy cards, games and conversation until 9 PM. RSVP by July 7th to Mary Ann at 586.939.5270 or Bonnie at 586.786.6374

"Beginning Experience"

Weekend for the Single & Divorcee

A healing weekend designed for widowed, separated, and divorced adults who wish to let go of the past and create a peace-filled future is offered by trained teams of people who have "been there."

A "Beginning Experience" weekend will be held August 6-8th. Register by July 23 for this incredible weekend of hope, healing and charity. All faiths are welcome. For details call Dee at 313.215.5165 or Mary Kay at 248.330.4103.

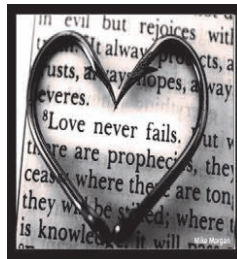
Parish American Red Cross Blood Drives

Thursday, July 8th at St. Therese of Lisieux from 2-6 PM. Call parish office to schedule your appt. - 586.254.4433

Sunday, July 11th at St. Lawrence from 7:45 AM to 1:30 PM. Call Amanda at 586.247.5436 or Joanne at 586.566.6652 to schedule your appt.

You may also register at the American Red Cross website: www.redcrossblood.org.

Save a life the easy way, donate blood!



Marriage Encounter Weekends

Now...Two great options to revitalize your marriage! Get your best friend back and gain back the intimacy that you may be missing.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a 40 year old marriage ministry, would like to give you the opportunity of a lifetime! Enjoy a weekend with your spouse in one of our

two different settings:

Parish Weekend Encounter: No overnight stay. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Leave each night to return home.

Overnight Weekend Encounter: A complete get away at a hotel/retreat house. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

The Marriage Encounter weekend is a positive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It's a chance to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. It's a time to share their feelings, hopes and dreams with each other.

It is not a retreat, marriage clinic, group sensitivity, or a substitute for counseling. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Marriage.

Upcoming Parish Weekend Encounter:

August 27th-29th at St. Lawrence Parish

Upcoming Overnight Encounter:

Sept. 17th-19th at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, Detroit
Nov. 5th-7th at Center Pointe Marriott, Auburn Hills

Register at: <http://wwme-detroit.org> or call Bill & Carol Higgins at 284.528.2512.

Class Reunions

St. Ignatius Grade School—Detroit. A committee is planning an "ALL CLASS REUNION PICNIC on Sunday, August 22nd, at Stony Creek Metro-Park. For Further information, please visit the website:

<http://stignatiuscommittee.web.officelive.com> or call Dan Scenga at 586.850.2976.

1968 Regina H.S. Reunion—September 26, 2010 at Regina High School, 13900 Masonic Blvd., Warren, MI. From 1-4 PM. For additional information contact Pauline Kulwicki at 313.745.1819 or email at pkulwick@dmc.org.

Assumption Grotto, August 14th. Contact Cindy (Chida) Rieth, at 586.247.2854

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