

Celebrating Eucharist So As to Become Eucharist

We begin June this year with the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. It is a feast that helps us focus on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. As Catholics we are pretty good about honoring that real presence in the consecrated bread and wine. At times, however, we miss the deeper transformation that is occurring. Bread and wine are transformed so that we can be transformed. The “material stuff” of the Eucharist is not simply bread and wine, but our lives as they are here and now. That is what is offered in and through the bread and wine. We do not stop at the consecration of the bread and wine, as important as this is, but continue to communion. Let’s think a bit about what the Lord is doing in every Eucharist.

The Opening Rites (Entrance Song and Procession, Penitential Rite or Sprinkling Rite, Gloria, Opening Prayer) take us from our individual journeys and through song and prayer unite us into a community of prayer. Singing is so important for this. Any type of voice, any pitch, on tune or a bit off tune, when blended with many others forms a unified voice that is very beautiful. Yes the music ministers and priests have to keep working on not dominating through instrument (organ, piano, guitar, drum, etc.) or voice (especially at the microphone). Yes, it helps when it is a song or refrain that has become more familiar and is easily sing-able, but so often all of this does come together into a unified whole.

If successful, the Opening Rites have helped us become a communion, an assembly together, not just individual prayers. But now we need to be further shaped into an assembly of the Lord’s own people; to be a community formed by God’s Word. The Liturgy of the Word proclaims out to us hundreds of words—first reading (from the Old Testament or, during Easter, the Acts of the Apostles); sung responsorial psalm; second reading (from one of the New Testament letters or books other than the gospels); and finally the high point, the gospel (from Matthew, Mark, and Luke in successive years of the three year cycle, with John inserted into several places). Each Sunday we get hundreds of words proclaimed to us, but we are listening not only with our ears, but our hearts for the one Word; the living Word, Jesus, to speak to us; to shape something in our lives in a new way; to give us a word of hope and encouragement; or a word of chastisement and challenge, or a word of comfort and compassion. It takes practice to not get caught up in all the

words being proclaimed and thereby tune them all out. Ideally we have read the readings sometime earlier. Such preparation makes active listening at the time of the Liturgy of the Word much more fruitful. But even if this is our first listening, we are still invited to trust that the risen Lord, in his living Word, can speak to our lives and hearts through some image, thought, idea, or word that we hear and connect to.

Think of the process in this way: we are various handfuls of “flour” thrown together. To help that flour (us) be joined together some water is added to blend us together (Opening Rites). But that is not enough. That flour and water

combination now has to be kneaded, rolled, and “punched” again and again to be suitable dough for the bread. The Liturgy of the Word is that time of kneading, rolling, “punching”, which shapes our lives, even if only in small ways, into suitable material for the “bread” of the Eucharist.

Thus it matters whether we listen and reflect on God’s Word at the time of the Liturgy of the Word. Yes, lectors have to be vigilant to proclaim those words slowly, clearly, smoothly, and if unable to do so, need to serve in other ways.

Yes, cantors have to enunciate the refrain and words of the psalm so that we can understand them. Yes, deacons and priests need to prepare homilies that are understandable, applicable to life, and which open up the richness of the readings. But each of us, as well, has to be willing to be shaped by God’s Word and listen with our hearts and not “tune out.” Trust that God has a word for you in the midst of all these words. Listen not simply for historical meaning of a passage, but for what words provoke some thought and reflection on your life. Go with such reflections and see what God might be saying to you.

Gathered from our individual journeys into a community; shaped more specifically into a community of God’s Word through the Liturgy of the Word; now we can be the bread that is transformed into Christ’s real presence through the Eucharistic offering and praise. As one of the newer Eucharistic prayers puts it “Christ opens the Scriptures for



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Continued from page 1

us, Christ breaks the bread." Our limited, sometimes broken and fragile, sometimes hopeful and joyful, lives that we have brought to the time of Eucharist now become the vehicle through which Christ becomes present in his Body and Blood.

Think about that reality. Your life; my life, as they are right now, but opened to Christ's Word and leadership, are the "stuff" that makes Eucharist possible. We are not mere onlookers. It is our lives gathered and formed by Christ which make that specific Eucharist possible. Whatever unity with Christ, which takes place at that time, comes from our specific though transformed lives. Wow! Christ uses our lives to become Eucharist to the world! To actively participate in this transformation is to consciously place in the symbols of bread and wine all that we are offering to God that day.

Then, wonder of wonders, if we have allowed our lives to be the stuff that has been kneaded into the bread of life, we now, literally, become one with each other in the act of receiving the communion now present. Although we are allowed to go to the tabernacle, if we do not have enough communion for the Mass, the instructions strongly discourage such an approach. The instructions say that people have a right to receive from the communion consecrated at that Mass. Why is this? Because the intent of communion is not an isolated or individual reception of the Lord's body and blood. Rather, the intent of communion is a sharing in the unity that Christ has formed among this people here and now. So, yes it matters if we receive communion at that Mass we are participating in. It also matters, if we are properly disposed to receive communion at each Eucharist. If our lives are significantly, seriously or grievously, out of step with God and God's people, then we are asked to first go to the sacrament of Reconciliation so that we can be ready to fully participate in the Eucharist that day by receiving communion.

We are the Eucharist. Receiving communion is integral to the Eucharist, even its high point, but only if we recognize what has been transformed. Not simply bread and wine but all of us, as we are, shaped by God's Word, offered to the Father by Christ. Sent forth by the Spirit to be the body and blood of Christ, broken and poured out for the good of the world.

Fr. David Buersmeyer, Vicar

Articles for the North Macomb Vicariate's **July issue are due by Monday, June 14th.**

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**

Sacred Heart Major Seminary is Coming to You!

Have you ever wanted to be able to better explain the Catholic faith or enrich your knowledge of why we believe what we believe? Sacred Heart Major Seminary is now offering a two-credit **Introduction to Theology** course this coming fall, on-site, at **St. Therese of Lisieux Parish!** Covering the major doctrines of the Church, the course will be held **Thursday evenings, 7-9PM, from September 9th - December 16th.** Credits can be applied toward catechetical certification or other pastoral programs or degrees.

An admissions representative will be at **St. Therese of Lisieux on June 13th from 10:30AM - 1PM** to take applications and conduct interviews. For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at Sacred Heart Major Seminary at **313.883.8520** or email: **fromm.tamra@shms.edu.**

Directed or Private Retreats: July 6th-13th Capuchin Retreat Center

This week begins on Tuesday evening and ends the following Tuesday morning. There are staff members available for directed retreats for any number of days during that week or for a private retreat, with the opportunity for Mass each day and an open kitchen with three meals. This week is open to both men and women, couples or individuals. Please contact the office for more information, **248.651.4826.** The Capuchin Retreat Center is located at 62460 Mt. Vernon in Washington Township, 48094.

Class Reunions

Assumption Grotto, August 14th. Please contact Cindy (Chida) Rieth, 586.247.2854

St. Ignatius Grade School Reunion Picnic, August 22nd, , Stony Creek Metro Park. For more information visit: <http://stignatiuscommittee.web.officelive.com> or phone Dan Scenga, 586.850.2976



Friday, June 25th,
6PM-12AM
Saturday, June 26th,
5:30PM-12AM
Sunday, June 27th,
12:30PM-8PM

Live Entertainment Every day ~ Talent Show/Cash Prizes ~
Authentic Dinners/Outdoor Grill ~ Beer & Alcoholic Beverages ~
Pies/Shortcake ~ Ice Cream/Shakes ~ Family Fun ~ Bingo/Vegas/
Raffle ~ 50/50 ~ Dunk Tank ~ Theme Baskets

SS. John & Paul Parish
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, June 13th, 8AM to 2PM

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are strongly encouraged. To schedule an appointment please phone: **586.781.9010**. SS. John & Paul is located at 7777 28 Mile Rd., between Mound & Campground Roads.

Parenting Young Children

Systematic Training for Effective Parenting

Explore techniques to help your child grow up to be self-reliant, respectful, self-confident, responsible and cooperative.

FREE parenting class for parents of children, ages birth to 5-years, are being offered at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, 48115 Schoenherr Rd., in Shelby Twp (254.4433). Classes are held on **Tuesdays, July 6th-August 24th, 6:30-8:30PM**. **Free childcare** is provided.

The book: ***Parenting Young Children***, by Dinkmeyer & McKay, will also be provided. To register call **CARE, 586.541.0033**. Visit our website: www.careofmacomb.com.

St. Mary Mystical Rose Vacation Bible School

June 14th-17th - 6PM-8PM

"High Seas Expedition - Exploring the Mighty Love of God!"

\$10 per child, Pre school through 5th Grades

For more info or to register phone: 586.784.5966



St. Mary Mystical Rose Youth Group

3rd Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, July 31, 2010

4-Person Scramble Shot Gun Start @ 1:30 PM

Timberwood Golf Club

Cost: \$75 per person, \$145 for 2 golfers, Includes Dinner

More info: Laura Weaver, Youth Minister- 586.531.6520

2010 Timothy Award Recipients of the North Macomb Vicariate

The Timothy Awards honor those teens in our parishes that display leadership, commitment, and Christian Service to our communities.

St. Francis– St. Maximilian

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|---------------|--------------------|
| Adi Bucec | Christopher Nowak |
| Tyler Bucec | Megan Nowak |
| David Carlson | Stephanie Seefried |
| Daniel Sturza | Jennifer Williams |
| Lisa Socia* | |

St. Isidore

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Ashley Byarski | McKenna Brohl |
| Amanda De Rey* | Rachel Rarick |
| Christopher Righi | Emily Ward |

St. John Vianney

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|--------------|----------------|
| Becca Hardy | Nina Lucido |
| Sara Mattina | Andrew Mooney |
| Alyssa White | Troy Wilkenson |

Sts. John & Paul

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|------------|----------------|
| Eric Goble | Marina Leander |
| Evan Mahon | Olivia Picklo |

St. Therese of Lisieux

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jordan Belanger | Alina Eisenbach |
| Sean McQuade | Tara Orbacki |

* Denotes Award of Excellence

Congratulations To Our Teens!

Art & Orchard 5k Fun Run

Saturday, June 12th, 8AM

All net proceeds from this race will be donated to help support our local Samaritan House.

Race Course: Macomb Orchard Trail, 29 Mile Rd., finishing at the Washington Township Hall.

Entry Fee: \$18 p/p. Make checks payable to RWB Parks & Recreation. Registration can be done online: www.rwbparksrec.org.

Packet Pick up: Friday, June 11th from 5-8PM in the lobby of the Township Hall, otherwise prior to the race beginning 7AM.

Race Day: Meet at the Washington Township Hall located at 57900 Van Dyke, 48094. You will be bused to 29 Mile Rd.

Awards: Overall Male & Female Winners, along with Age Division Winners.

Website: www.samaritanhousemichigan.org