



# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church AMEN! Newsletter May 2007



## From the Pastor's Desk Fr. R. Marc Sherlock

*"Belonging leads to believing!"* On Tuesday, April 17, our Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Evangelization & Catechesis Commission listened to a presentation by Frank Donaldson from the Institute for School and Parish Development [ISPD]. He spoke about a process for Long Range Parish Planning and Total Stewardship. One of his key points was that making more parishioners feel like they belong can strengthen their faith. We are giving serious consideration to using this firm to assist us in implementing a process for planning and stewardship.

I have been asked by our seminary to be the supervisor for a seminary intern. His name is Robert "Rob" Muhlenkamp. Rob is from Coldwater, Ohio and will be with us from September 2007 through May 2008. If you are interested his picture is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area along with all the seminarians in our Archdiocese.

I wish to congratulate Eric Limbert & Gina Seiter who were welcomed into the Church at our Easter Vigil Mass, our tenth grade parishioners who received the Sacrament of Confirmation, our second grade parishioners who received First Communion and all in our parish who are graduating from high school and college.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer months and please remember our need to participate in the Sunday Eucharist continues even in the summer!

**BAPTISMS** – Tyler Jackson, Nicholas McGraw, Anderson Mohler, Landon Turner, Carrie Subler, Eric Limbert, Gina Seiter, Alexandria Rammel, James Henry, Laura Sojda

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS** – Donna Baker, Ryan & Susan Ranly, Matthew & Krista Folkerth, Debra Bizer, David & Dawn Crawford, Eric Limbert, Gina Seiter

**WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS OUR DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES** – Ed Broerman, Ann Palotas, Valerie Hind and Herman Lafferty.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!** - Andrea Alvarez, Patrick Berbach, Craig Bruns, Kevin Cox, Matthew Dansereau, Michael Dever, Lee Dynes, Jake Dziedzic, Rebecca Griffin, Zach Gulker, Nicky Hanus, Andy Lammers, Samantha Lang, Casey Layer, Joe Linsenmeyer, Jr., Nick Makley, Stephen McKeta, Lauren Miller, Phillip Monnier, Johnny O'Brien, Andrew Ortel, Amy Pottenger, Daniel Quinn, Andrea Ratermann, Christopher Renner, Lauren Sharpe, Keith Shaw, Ashley Smith, Daniel Smith, Eric Tudor, Melanie Vagedes, Chelsea Walling, and Tyler Walker. Best wishes for a bright future! We are proud of you!!



## THE BUCK STOPS HERE *by Cindy Griffin, Editor*

A few years back, I began taking Fridays off from our Internet business because I needed some time to get things done at home. Little things like laundry and housework had become mountainous because of the time crunches associated with having four kids and being very involved in volunteer work. Fridays became THE DAY for catching up with everyday stuff and extra projects like painting and closet cleaning. Much to the disdain of my friends, my Fridays were never used for golf games or lunches out or any other social activities, just chores. After a few months of this, I discovered that I worked diligently and productively on Fridays and in SILENCE. No TV or radio, just me and the voices in my head. Don't call the white coats yet, I'll explain about those voices in a minute!

God speaks to all of us in many ways. It may be through a rainbow or a song or the innocent comment of a child. These things help us to hear the message that the Almighty is sending us. We pray but we don't sit in the quiet and listen for God's half of the dialogue. Often times we clutter up our lives with so much noise that we don't hear Him. Where do we actually have quiet in our lives anymore? Not in our homes (the

ever-there TV), or our cars (cell-phones, CD players, AM, FM), or working on the computer (MP3's). Not on walks (iPods), or in elevators or offices or shopping (piped-in Musak). Why can't we seem to spend any time in quiet? Are we afraid of what we might hear God say if we are quiet and attentive? Ah...here's where I get back to the voices in my head. When I am quiet, I hear the voice of God. I can open myself to hearing whatever it is that I'm supposed to hear if I don't have the constant chatter of others going on around me.

This summer, try to take some time off from the noise and just listen to the quiet. Drive to work with no radio playing. Take a walk with the dog and don't be plugged in. Sit on your porch and listen to the crickets. Maybe it will just give your ears a welcome break. Maybe you will begin to hear the voice of God, too!

**"Why can't we seem to spend any time in quiet? Are we afraid of what we might hear God say if we are quiet and attentive?"**

## WOMEN OF SPIRIT *submitted by Amy Puthoff*

On Thursday, March 15, the Women of Spirit welcomed Tatiana in Concert. For those of you who were able to attend, what a show! Not only is Tatiana a talented singer but a gifted story teller. She shared with us her life in Croatia during the war, her life as a teenage pop star and finally her conversion to Christianity and the call to share her beautiful gifts with all of us. Tatiana and her group are located in Cincinnati so we'll look forward to future visits. The Women of Spirit also provided refreshments during the Ohio Valley British Brass Band concert on Sunday, April 22. The concert was a mix of classical as well as marching band music some of which was arranged by the performers themselves. This is the second visit by this group and we're looking forward to seeing them again.

Please join us for future Women of Spirit programs this year.

Reach Out – Service Project - Summer 2007 - Reach Out is a clinic associated with Miami Valley Hospital which serves adults and children who are uninsured. Funding for this clinic is tenuous so the WOS are working together with the Director to provide assistance where needed. If interested in helping, please contact Jeanne Fairbanks (667-1564) or Patti Bunce (667-6095).

Creation Spirituality Day of Prayer – Will be held Saturday, October 13. Sr. Mary Raymond will lead our group in a day of prayer at the Transfiguration Center in West Milton. If interest in helping, please contact Judie McKittrick (339-9355) or Kathy McGrath (667-4932).

Fall Camping Weekend – Fall 2007 – We are in the early planning stages for this annual event and chair people are needed. If interested, please contact Amy Puthoff (667-6294).

The Women of Spirit would like to remind all the women of St. John's parish that we want to know what you think! Please feel free to join us at any time for as little or as long as you can. The group has a revolving membership and open to any woman in the parish who enjoys fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn more about themselves and their faith. For more information on any Women of Spirit event or planning meeting, contact Amy Puthoff at 667-6294. Our mission statement is to support, encourage and empower one another as we travel the spiritual journey, nurturing and celebrating our relationships with God.

## THE PENNY *submitted by Joanne Turzinski*

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend.

The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live.

The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so she was enjoying herself immensely!

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had

dropped, and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure!

How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer!

She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it!

God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS still in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him.

For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me.

Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

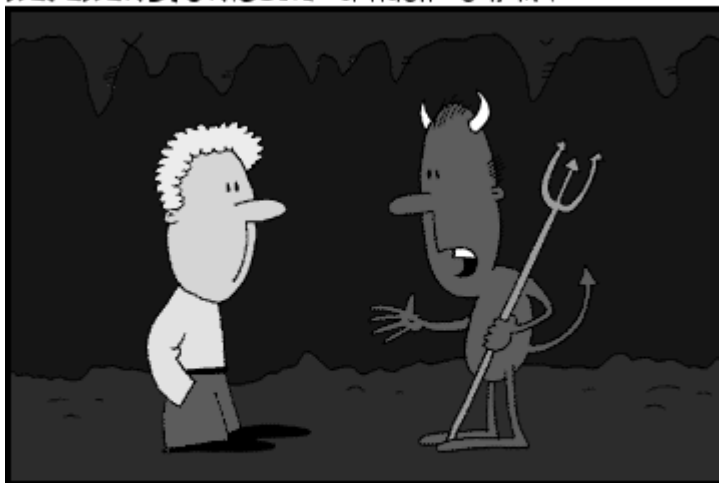
When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change.

I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

And, God is patient...

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NO, WE DON'T GET CABLE DOWN HERE, BUT I THINK WE HAVE SOME JERRY SPRINGER SHOWS ON TAPE SOMEWHERE

**Parishioners! Got a story to share? E-mail your ideas for the AMEN! newsletter to [cgriffin@coax.net](mailto:cgriffin@coax.net) Deadline for the August issue is August 1st.**

## DIALOGUE WITH DAN *by Dan Thomas, DEC*



### The Logic of Grace

A Native American and his friend were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square. It was during the noon lunch hour and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening.

Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all of this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said, "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment, and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes, beneath the branches, and sure enough, he located a small cricket. His friend was amazed. "You must have super human ears!" "No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for. It depends on what is important to you. Let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discretely dropped them on the sidewalk. Then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed every head within 20 feet turn and look to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs.

We hear what is important to us. We see what we value. We smell what we like. We tune in to what we seek. There are two "logics" that compete for our attention today: the logic of consumerism and the logic of grace. The logic of consumerism teaches us that everything is a product, something that can be easily exchanged. We see only its surface, not where it came from, how it is connected to everything else. We ask only how does this fit into **my** life. Each of us is alone, responsible for him or her self, separated from others. I choose what I want irrespective of anything or anyone else. My role in society is to consume, that is the extent of my responsibility. I'm told not to engage with persons or things.

The logic of grace is very different. It is not "I chose," but "God gives." I can't earn God's love or pay for it. I can only accept it as gift. I engage with reality, with life, with others. I participate, take part in, celebrate life's beauty and can't possibly repay God and others for all that has been freely given to me without demand or cost.

Stories of people, places and things connect us with them, bring us together. Things and people have rough edges that don't fit perfectly together because each is uniquely itself. These teach us about our identity, about Catholic identity, about human identity. Listen to the stories of others, of our faith, of our God. Then become vulnerable to what God speaks, what God asks, what our call in life is.

What is it that I hear? What sounds pierce my world? What is there room for in my life?

## ANECDOTES FROM AMY *by Amy Schmidt, Business Manager*

There is a big difference between giving and sacrificing. Giving from a heart that is overflowing feels so good. Sacrificing does not feel good. Don't confuse the two – they are diametrically opposed. One emits a signal of lack and other emits a signal of more than enough. One feels good and one does not feel good. Sacrifice will eventually lead to resentment. Giving from a full heart is one of the most joyous things you can do, and the law of attraction will grab hold of that signal and flood even more into your life.

### BUILDING FUND AND ARCHDIOCESAN LOAN INFORMATION 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2007 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 06/07

Building Fund Balance as of 01/01/07	\$ 11,288.66
Pledge Income	25,665.26
Interest Expense	(10,929.00)
Loan Payment from Bldg. Fund	(18,000.00)
03/30/07 Balance	\$ 8,024.92
Additional Loan Payments from Parish funds	\$15,000.00
Outstanding Building Debt as of 03/30/07	\$585,000.00
 Total Pledges Due:	 \$ 43,398.00

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## SALUTATIONS FROM SALLY *by Sally Minnich, ECP Director*

The Easter season and spring bring signs of new life. Of course the classrooms are always lively as the children discover new things each day, but they have witnessed new life in a special way this past month. After examining the tiny plants inside a bean seed with a magnifying glass and then planting some in a cup, they have watched the roots, stem, leaves, blossoms and finally the tiny beans emerge. We are thankful to Saunder's Seed who donated the seeds. They have also been witness to another miracle as they patiently watched the eggs in an incubator for three weeks until four fluffy chicks hatched. What an exciting event that was! We are grateful to Susan North, an alumni parent, who provided the eggs and incubator for us. The older children will also have the opportunity to meet more animal babies when they take a field trip to Aullwood Farm later this month.

As we sort through the pictures we have taken throughout the year, we are amazed at how much the children have grown and changed since September. We would like to help preserve some memories of these precious years for the children and their parents. The younger children have made various handprint and footprint pictures each month that have been placed in a booklet for each family to enjoy. They have recently made a plaster handprint complete with shells that can be hung on the wall or used as a stepping stone in the garden. The older children have planted perennial seeds that will remind the parents of how their children are blooming just as the flowers continue to blossom year after year. These gifts will be presented at our Parents' Day Program on May 9. We are grateful to Cathy McGraw who is preparing a DVD of pictures for us to

share at this event even though she has no children in the program this year.

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to two of our teachers. Debbie Roth has been teaching fours and fives for ten years and has worked in the office for five. She will be going back to school to pursue a career in church ministry. We will miss all of her contributions to our program, especially her good ideas for classroom activities and games and her comprehensive computer skills. De'Anna Daniel has taught threes and fours for seven years. She will be spending her extra time helping to care for her brother who was paralyzed about a year ago. We will miss her enthusiasm, creativity and sense of humor. We wish both these special ladies the best. We would appreciate your prayers as we seek to find replacements.

Our program is sponsoring a breakfast in the banquet hall from 9:00 to noon on Sunday, May 20 with the proceeds going to a fund to help De'Anna Daniel's brother with the mounting medical expenses. Since this will be published after the event, we would like to thank everyone who supported the family by coming to breakfast.

As the year comes to a close we would like to thank all those who helped make the year a success. We appreciate the support of the parish family, the parish staff and all of our parents who helped in a myriad of ways throughout the year.

## ANECDOTES FROM AMY

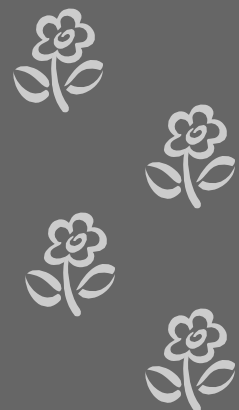
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In February of this year, we made an effort to reduce our by sending letters to parishioners who have registered in the parish since our pledge drive in 2005. These 79 letters sent provided information regarding our Phase II Building and our current debt and asked those to consider participating in our debt reduction. From this effort, we received a total of \$850.00 in new pledges.

Letters were also sent out to 14 parishioners whose pledges had fallen severely behind. Of these, three families left the parish, resulting in a loss of \$13,000 in pledges. We have received no other re-

sponses as to the arrearages.

We continue to receive donations from those who have not pledged which is enabling us to meet the interest expense and these additional payments. We ask those participating to keep your pledge payments up to date. If you have not made a pledge, please consider doing so. If you would like more information or wish to make a pledge, please contact Amy, 667-3419.



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## It's round-up time!

Our Vacation Bible School this summer is "Avalanche Ranch - A Wild Ride Through God's Word"! We're lookin' for a few willin' cowboys who'd like to help us out - we need kid wranglers (crew leaders), kid corrallers (station lead-

ers), shepherds for the li'l lambs (pre-school), baby-sitters, and many more! Our participating cowpokes age-range is 4 years old (completed one year of preschool) through 4th grade and the dates for VBS are July 30 - August 3. Watch the bulletin for more details in the coming weeks or contact Jane Collinsworth at 335-5713 or email

[dcollinsworth@woh.rr.com](mailto:dcollinsworth@woh.rr.com). Join the stampede and have a rip-roarin' time with our young cowpokes!

