

Inside this issue:

The Buck Stops Here	2
Meet Chris Coleman	2
Women of Spirit De-	3
Young Adults Wanted	3
Raising Our Roof	4
Stephen's Ministry	4
Nothing Ordinary About Ordinary Time	5
Welcome Home!	5
Staff Notes	6,7
Stand Up and Be Counted!	7



amen!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK BY FR. GENE VONDERHAAR

In the month that that I have been the administrator of St. John's, I have noticed several positive aspects of the parish; the warmth and friendliness and welcoming of the people; the many different ministries that are present in the parish; the sincerity and quality of worship at the liturgies. These are all characteristics of a faith-filled parish. However, as in most parishes, there are areas that need to be worked on. My orders from the Archbishop was to maintain the parish in its present form and try to bring about a healing of the wounds suffered this summer. With God's

help and the cooperation of everyone, we can all be open to God's love for each of us. Let's allow God to do what He does best – heal us and bring us the happiness that He wants us to have.

Some background info on Fr. Gene:

Born April 28, 1933 in Reading, OH

Ordained to Priesthood May 30, 1959

Assignments:

Teacher at McNicholas High School – 1959-1972

Associate Pastor at the following parishes – 1959-1972
Guardian Angels, Cincinnati
Christ the King, Cincinnati
St. John Vianney, Cincinnati
St. Andrew, Milford
St. Matthew, Norwood



Fr. Gene Vonderhaar

Principal at Lehman High School, Sidney – 1972-1976
Administrator at St. Teresa, Covington – 1972-1974
Associate, Holy Angels, Sidney – 1975
Associate, St. Mary's, Pi-qua – 1976
Pastor, St. Rita, Dayton – 1976-1988
Pastor, St. Patrick, Troy – 1988-1995
Pastor, St. Remy, Russia – 1995-2003
Retirement??? from Administration – 2003

Temporary Administrator – St. John the Baptist, Tipp City – August 11, 2003

COFFEE & DONUTS

- ◆ September 7th—Ladies of St. John
- ◆ October 5th - Stephen's Ministry
- ◆ November 2nd - K of C

AIRSHOW 2003...A BIG SUCCESS!



Four days times two shifts times twelve workers per shift times two booths equal 192 workers needed for this year's Airshow! Sound like higher math? Yikes! This was double the number of workers needed in past years because of the extended airshow schedule due to celebrating 100 years of flight in the birth place of aviation. How are we going

to fill 192 spaces??? We need God's help here! Said DRE Nelda Schwab.

Nelda e-mailed the Prayer Circle and asked them to pray that we would be able to find so many workers.

"The answer to their prayers was a wonderful faith experience. Every day people were calling or knocking on my door asking to work. So many came forward that

each day I called people to say: 'We have all the workers we need tomorrow; you can still come though if you want to.' Isn't that every recruiter's dream!"

Nelda continues, "Perhaps an even more important answer to prayer was the spirit that prevailed those four days. Those who chaired the booths set such a very positive tone. In many cases, it was a family event.

One or both parents and one or more children came to help. Some who signed up for the morning, stayed for the whole day. A heartfelt "Thank you!" to the many volunteers. And let us thank God for answering our prayer in such a marvelous way!"

Editor's note: \$5,652.45 profit was made on this effort! Congratulations to all those who volunteered.

Editor's Notes—The Buck Stops Here

Cindy Griffin

As I sit here at my desk, I am so excited to be writing to you as the new editor of the AMEN! Newsletter. For those of you who don't know me, let me take a few lines to introduce myself. My husband Bill and I and our four children have been members of St. John's since January of 1990. I've been involved in numerous ministries in the parish including RCIA, Festival Committee, Worship Commission and Music Ministry.

Writing has been a secret passion of mine for many years and I am finally getting an opportunity to create something that (hopefully) all of you will want to read. In saying that, please let me know if you like the new format and ideas that we will be presenting and feel free to pass on new ideas to me. In addition, you may submit articles and updates to me by e-mail- cgriffin@coax.net -or by placing them in the collection

basket. Articles can also be snail-mailed or dropped off at the rectory.

The AMEN! will be published four times a year - November, February, May and August (yes, we know it's now September!) - and we will also be posting each issue on the parish website <http://www.stjohnthebaptist.cc>. Our hope is to eventually cut down on costs of postage and paper by only mailing the newsletter to those who do not have internet access. Sometime soon we will ask you to send us

your e-mail address. You will receive a notification each time a new issue is posted to the website. These e-mail addresses will not be shared, sold or spammed and your privacy will be respected. And speaking of the website, did you know you can find our weekly bulletins there? Now, if you are out of town, you're not out of touch.

Whew! Lots of new and exciting things going on in the parish. We hope you enjoy this issue. Read on and find out!



Meet Chris Coleman!

Our New Seminarian Arrives

When someone new comes to town, our human nature "kicks in" and we want find out who this person is and why they are here. The same goes for this new person in town. I want to know who the parishioners are and how the parish community celebrates life.

I come to St. John's as a pastoral intern and feel blessed to receive this appointment from the Archbishop and to be with all of you. Although I am not new to a parish staff, I am new to the pastoral position that I will be functioning in at St. John's. You will most likely see me assisting with the weekend liturgies in areas such as preaching and presiding at Liturgy of the Word with Communion on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will also be working with the various committees, commissions and councils as well as assisting the pastor/administrator in his role. Since I have not received Holy Orders, I will not be celebrating the sacraments.

Upon ordination to the transitional diaconate scheduled for April 2005, I will return to the parish that summer and will be assisting the pastor with preaching, baptisms and marriages outside of the Nuptial Mass.

So, let us get on with more of the "scoop." I grew up about one hour east of Tipp City in London, OH. I graduated from Miami University with a major in Paper Science and Engineering. After college, I worked in chemical sales and marketing selling chemicals to the paper industry for ten years. During this time, I went to graduate school and received a MBA with a focus on marketing from Xavier University. I am currently working on a Master in Divinity (one of the requirements for priesthood ordination) and a Master of Arts in Theology at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mt. St. Mary Seminary.

I entered the seminary in August of 2000 to discern if I have a calling to the priesthood. This question had been on my mind for several years and the only way to answer it was to enter seminary formation. During the last three years, not only have I studied theology, I have worked in various parish assignments such as teaching confirmation, working on a RCIA team, working in a community soup kitchen, working with the Archdiocese's Youth Ministry program, and just this summer worked as a hospital chaplain.

I love to play golf and love to fly planes. Although my pilot's certificate is still in my pocket, it is hard to enjoy that sport on a seminarian's budget. Many in the parish know that I love music and that I am an organist as I have provided music for the parish on several occasion over the last few years. I have been a church musician for 22 years and a director of music in a parish for 11 years. I love music and I have told Jim Wolf not to worry - I'm not here to be the organist!!

Over time, you will know that I love to laugh with and enjoy people. I also love a good practical joke on occasion. I struggle with those who are struggling and love to give a helping when I can.

My immediate family includes my mother Barbara who lives in London, OH and my sister's family Paula, Doug, LeeAnn and Julia Black who are parishioners in this parish. My father has been deceased for 9 years.

One of the most asked question I get is "Why do you want to become a priest?" Many answer that they want to serve the Lord. Due to our baptism, we all are called to serve the Lord. The reason why I want to become a priest is that I feel a calling for a deeper relationship with the Lord and my goal is to become a holy priest. I look forward to walking that journey with the wonderful people of St. John the Baptist parish.

WOMEN OF SPIRIT by Amy Puthoff

Have you been searching for a group of women with whom you can identify? A group that is supportive of you and empowers you to be your best? Well, you've found it in the "Women of Spirit". The "Women of Spirit" is a new ministry within the parish with roots that span a few years. The idea for this group began with a small group of women who wanted to meet together and explore their spirituality in a nurturing, creative and fun environment. Their ideas have come to fruition! The mission statement of our group is "to support, encourage, and empower one another as we travel the spiritual journey, nurturing and celebrating our relationships with God."

We believe we've gotten

off to a great start with our first endeavor, a day of reflection entitled "Weaving our Spirits" held Saturday, July 12 at the Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal in Ludlow Falls. Thirty women spent the day together learning about themselves as well as each other through a program lead by Jane Steinhauser and Alexa McGrady. The beautiful and relaxing environment of the Transfiguration Center allowed them to spend time sharing thoughts and opinions as well as prayer and meditation ending with a lovely outdoor Eucharistic celebration.


Our next activity will be held this fall on Thursday evening, October 23 at the Transfiguration Center. We welcome Bobbie Pred-

more, Chaplain at Children's Medical Center, Dayton. She will speak on "Taking Care of Your Spirit". We promise an evening of humor and insight. Watch the bulletin for more details.

The "Women of Spirit" want to provide a variety of activities both spiritual and social (sometimes at the same time) throughout the year for the women of St. John's parish. Does this sound like something you might be interested in, please join us. If you have ideas for future programs and/or you would like to join one or more of the planning teams, please contact Kathy McGrath at 667-4932 or Amy Puthoff at 667-6294.



WOMEN OF SPIRIT TEAM: (l-r) Lucy Wolfe, Suzy Wilson, Rose Denney, Alexa McGrady, Janie Thompson, Jeanne Fairbanks, Kathy McCrillis, Jane Steinhauser, Amy Puthoff, Kathy McGrath and Carol Green.


Did you know...
That the average
St. John's
parishioner is ONLY
36
years young!
And some of us are
way above average!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY By Lara Homan

The Archdiocesan Young Adult Ministry Team of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati was formed in June 2001 under the direction of Mary Anne Reese, the Archdiocesan Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry. The majority of the team is made up of young adults and represent the three regions of the Archdiocese: Cincinnati, Dayton, and Northern. The team develops and implements Archdiocesan ministry with adults aged 18 to 39 by assessing needs, developing strategies, goals and objectives, and implementation.

During the past two years, the team has promoted several Charis young adult retreats at

Milford Spiritual Center, organized a "Serve in the City" mission experience, and held a Singles Blessing at St. Monica/St. George parish in Cincinnati. Last fall the team promoted the first Ohio Young Adult Conference in Cleveland. The Cincinnati Archdiocese had the largest representation of young adults outside Cleveland. We helped people connect for carpooling and overnight accommodations and also held a social gathering the evening before the conference. This year's conference in Cleveland will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2003. The team's biggest project right now is

planning for a Cincinnati Archdiocese Young Adult Conference for the summer of 2004. You can visit the website at www.catholiccincinnati.org/yamin to find pictures from last year's conference and information on upcoming activities. You can also sign up at the web site to receive a free monthly E-zine newsletter.

If you would be interested in serving on this team or helping with a specific project you can contact Mary Anne Reese at mreese@catholiccincinnati.org or parishioner Lara Homan at lhoman@juno.com.



RAISING OUR ROOF

Through the generosity of parishioners we have collected a total of \$429,435 towards our Phase II building project as of August 5, 2003. Of this amount, \$395,616 has come from pledges and \$33,819 has come from donations and memorials. The balance to be collected from the pledges is \$533,374 bringing the total amount raised thus far to \$962,809. Thanks to all the parishioners who have so generously supported and continue to support the "Raising Our Roof" project. We ask for everyone's continued support and prayers for the success of our project.

While the contract for the sale / leaseback of the Broadway Chapel and Center has not been signed yet, the buyer says he still intends to purchase the property. As such, the Building Steering Committee is moving forward with the next step in the process. A revised Financial Assessment has been submitted to the Archdiocese requesting approval to hire an architect, so we can complete the detail design phase, and we are awaiting the Archdiocese's response. In the meantime, the realtors continue to market the Church and Center. We're hopeful a contract for the sale of the Church and

Center will be signed soon.

In addition, the committee is discussing whether or not to retain Brightman & Mitchell as architects for the project and possible design changes to minimize heating & air conditioning costs and keep parking as close as possible to the church.

If you have any questions or would like to become involved in the "Raising Our Roof" project, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

Phase 2 Building Steering Committee

Father Gene Vonderhaar
Steve McCrillis, Chairman

Bruce Batty, Karen Beagle, Joy Blaul,
Mike Droesch, Mike Stucke, Dottie Zimmerman



Thanks to Barry Ruitter

09-26-2001

We built our new church out of all the study reports that we did on building it.

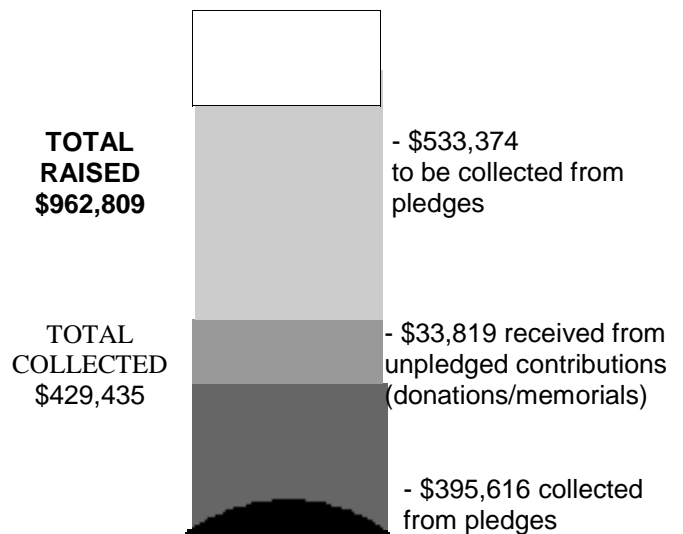
STEPHEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Submitted by Carol Maxwell

Stephen Ministry was founded by Kenneth C. Hauch, PHD who is a pastor and clinical psychologist. The purpose for Stephen Ministry is to provide Christian caregiving to those who might have an emotional crisis in their lives or simply need a confidential listener to be there for them. We learn to trust that God will provide guidance and healing for those in need of care and those providing it.

Contin'd on page 5

GOAL—\$1,000,000



Amounts as of August 5, 2003

Did you know...about Welcome Home?

- ◆ Did you know that our Welcome Home program was started almost 10 years ago by a group of your fellow parishioners?
- ◆ Did you know that approximately 15 people have returned to the Catholic church through our Welcome Home program? Many of whom are active members of St. John's parish.
- ◆ Did you know that people who have been away return with about a 5th to 6th grade knowledge of the Catholic church?
- ◆ Do you know what you

can do to Welcome someone Home to the Catholic Church?

The St. John's Welcome Home program consists of three team members who conduct six-week sessions twice a year to welcome back any inactive Catholics to the church in a nurturing, non-judgmental atmosphere. The idea behind these programs is to ease the transition for a non-active Catholic with a lot of questions and perhaps some issues to a comfortable and active Catholic in their parish. These programs include sessions on Reconciliation, the Mass and changes in the Catholic church since Vatican II along

with a tour of our church building. They are encouraged to participate in mass and all sacraments. All participants meet our pastor and are introduced to the various ministries available through our parish. If we are unable to help, we refer participants to individuals who can assist them with any impediments keeping them from fully participating in the Catholic church. All team members are available throughout the year for one-on-one sessions. Watch the bulletin for our next scheduled program this fall. Now, to answer that last question...Do you know what you can do to Welcome

someone Home to the Catholic church? Tell your non-active family and friends about our program. The best way to get anyone to participate in an activity is through a personal invitation. No one is obligated to join St. John parish, they can feel free to join the parish of their choice. Bring them along with you to mass. Tell them what you like best about the Catholic church and your parish. Offer to attend the Welcome Home sessions with them. We are all evangelists of our faith. Take a few minutes to contact those people in your life or feel free to ask any of the team to do it for you, they are Amy Puthoff at 667-6294, Mel McKittrick at 339-9355 or Jerry Leonard at 667-5519. It's the best gift you'll ever give!!!

STEPHEN'S MINISTRY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4


In the late eighties several members of our parish introduced the program to St. Johns. Father Tony supported them one hundred percent and even took the course himself. He felt it would be the answer to the problem of a priest not having enough time to give to all those people who had a need to be heard and comforted. The group has continued since that time.

Stephen Ministry is not simply a Catholic organization. In Tipp City the Tipp United Methodist Church also has an active Stephen Ministry group. We often combine the two groups when we have an outside speaker in to talk to us about related topics. This year the two church groups will meet together for the fifty hours of training classes on Monday evening 7:00PM to 9:30PM at the K of C. Hall. Our supervision and continuing education group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00PM, also at the K of C. Hall. We always welcome former members who would like to review any class.

We ask for your prayers that we may always be aware of the presence of God in this ministry, as we will also pray for you.

• **CHURCH CHUCKLES** •

This chuckle concerns a certain well-known choir director at St. John's. Several weeks ago, he forgot to alert the congregation ahead of time as to which verses of the closing song he would be singing. Not wanting the people to be lost, he decided to shout-out the next verse number in the middle of the song.



"SIX!" he yelled.

After mass, many parishioners came up to tell him how amused they were to hear him yell "SEX!" right there in church.

Nothing Ordinary About Ordinary Time!

The purple of Lent, the white of Easter, the red of Pentecost - all seem to draw our attention with their pageantry. But in the dog days of summer, the church is decked in green and our eyes become accustomed to it's plain-ness it's

normalcy, it's *ordinariness*. The word "ordinary" makes us think of common or mundane but actually the meaning comes from the word "ordinal" or "counted time". In the Church's liturgical calendar there are two periods known as Ordinary Time. The

first is the period between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday; the second and much longer is that between Pentecost and the first Sunday of Advent. It is the longest portion of the church year.

The Lectionary read-

ings for this period generally follow a continuous pattern and allow for homilists to develop a thematic approach to their preaching. This year we are reading Cycle B so we will hear John's Gospel.

AMY'S ANECDOTES FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

By Amy Howe

Hello all!

This year is flying by (and as I get older, they fly by much faster!) Life has been very busy here in the Rectory. Updates to our parish census records are winding down as we prepare the final notice to those who have not responded. I am still getting used to our new accounting program, which will be wonderful once I get the hang of things! Many thanks again to Rick Mains who has provided his expertise and support in implementing this change.

Welcome to Father Gene Vonderhaar! His willingness to step in during our time of need is greatly appreciated. So much for retirement!

The hiring of Ron Martin as Business Manager has been a tremendous asset. This is one busy office and it is a welcome relief to have someone here to help us. His no-nonsense approach coupled with his sense of humor makes working with him very enjoyable.

I am also excited to have Seminarian Chris Coleman join us. Chris' sense of humor fits in perfectly with the rest of the staff and I welcome having him here. It is a great benefit to both our parish and to Chris as he learns about parish life and his "priestly duties."

While I have become very attached to the Broadway properties, I am eagerly anticipating moving in to our new facility. Preparation for this change has not come easy for many of us, but I am convinced that this will be a great benefit. Not only in terms of saving money by not having to maintain and provide utilities for all of our current buildings, but also providing us with the space we need to be able to offer some really awesome programs. Our physically challenged friends will finally be able to attend functions without having to worry about steps! It will also be so nice to have all of the offices together and be able to have access to the other staff



members and supplies! Although, I really don't know what Erma, Sally and Nelda will do when they no longer have to trek through the rain and snow to pick up their mail and make copies!

I wish to thank each of you for your friendship and support. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the true generosity and talents we have in this parish. Please know that you are welcome to stop by the parish office at any time. I ask you to continue your prayers for our parish and for each other. It is only through our support of each other that we can accomplish what we have set out to do.

Love, Amy



VBS GOES H2O!

BY JULIE LAWSON



S.C.U.B.A. (Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure) was the theme this year for V.B.S. One hundred ten children went swimming "Deeper with God." Many thanks to the youth and adults who made this another wonderful experience of singing, praying, laughing, talking, sharing and playing together. This year we also had a Parent Program on Thursday evening at the Hyatt church. The children performed the songs they had learned and presented the shoes and socks the children donated throughout the week for our mission project.

Thank you to the following

adults who were station leaders and helpers: Sandy Hoy, Leah Trent, Brenda Maus, Paulette Kolakowski, Beth Roth, Jane Collinsworth, Tracey Murray, Michelle Dever, Irene Crawford, Jeanne Koch, Patty Cahill, Kim Gobreski, Melissa Keller, Barb Trick, and Marie Crumrine.

Thank you to the following youth who were leaders and assistants: Raul Alvear, Katie Blair, Brooklyn Cox, Erin Dever, Ray Dukes, Matt Gaier, Allison Haley, Kathryn Haley, Lauren Haley, Paul Haley, Tricia Haley, Matt Hamberg, Kelly Hanus, Zaera Hernandez, Matt Kolakowski, Casey Legner, Allison Lehmkohl, Auira Lewis

John McCrillis, Ariel Miller, Megan Miller, Chris Noone, Claire Noone, Michelle Pelishek, Saira Rendren, Ana Rivas, Shane Trent and Roxana Velasquez.

Thanks also to Rebecca Schinaman for donating Beanie Babies for the children and to Father Rick for donating the drinks for the week and to Troy Christian Church for sharing their decorations with us.

I am thankful to all who make this such a great success for all of our children!

NELDA'S NOTES by Nelda Schwab, DRE

Through the years you may have observed various movements sweeping like wild fire across the country and around the world and have recognized God's Holy Spirit at work. Some of these movements are Crusillo (with it's many spin-offs, especially Christ Renew His Parish), Renew, the Charismatic Renewal, Little Rock Scripture Study, Small Christian Communities (or small faith sharing groups) and Just Faith. These movements seem to be God's Spirit blowing refreshing breezes; they are rivers of life-giving waters.

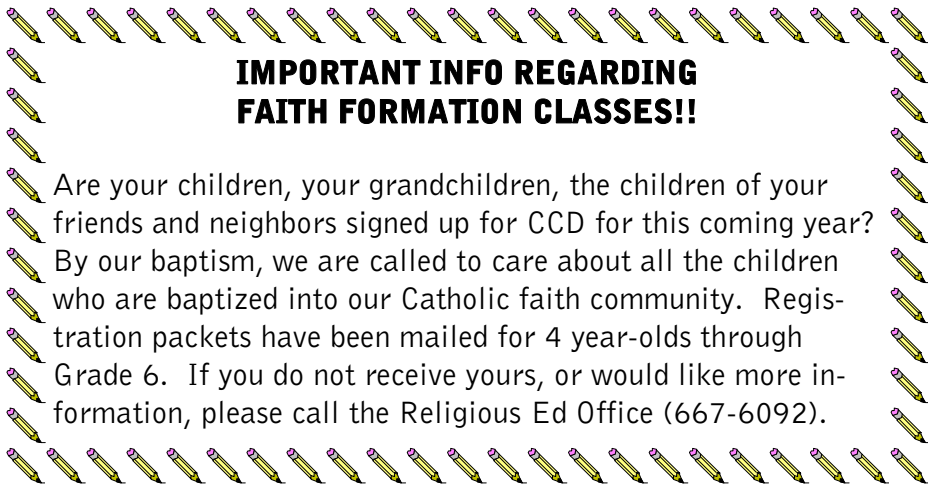
CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH: A River of Living, Life-Giving Water flowing through St. John's Parish for the past decade . A team from the parish plans and gives a weekend retreat which many here at St. John's have found to be truly renewing. If you have

not participated in a Christ Renews weekend, is this the year for you to do so? Mark your calendar now: Women's Weekend—February 28-29. Men's Weekend—March 13-14.. Please call Mike Stucke (669-1204) or Jeannie Hughes (669-4688) for more information.

SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS: When others share with us how and where they see God at work in their lives, we can more easily see God's hand in our own lives. We find support in our faith through meeting with others who are called to live the Christian life. Currently, St. John's has several faith-sharing groups that are meeting on a regular basis. If you would like to be involved in a group or if you want to gather a group of people together on your own and you need help locating materials, please call

Nelda (667-6092). **JUST FAITH:** This movement is already making a major difference in the lives of persons in our archdiocese, our country and around the world. Our parish is destined to be next! In small groups, participants study Scripture and Church teaching in regards to issues such as justice and peace. For more information, call Todd Rook (669-4441) or Nelda (667-6092).

PRAYER CIRCLE: Do you have a need that you want members of your faith community to remember in prayer? Do you wish that with one phone call or with the click of a mouse you would be able to ask dozens of fellow parishioners to pray? Do you know that you can do this by calling Laura Rook at 669-4441 or emailing her at terook@bright.net? If you want to receive emails or a call to pray when others are in need, just ask Laura to include you in the loop of the Prayer Circle. If you have stories of answered prayer that you would like to share with the readers of the AMEN!, please send them to the editor by e-mail cgriffin@coax.net.


IMPORTANT INFO REGARDING FAITH FORMATION CLASSES!!

Are your children, your grandchildren, the children of your friends and neighbors signed up for CCD for this coming year? By our baptism, we are called to care about all the children who are baptized into our Catholic faith community. Registration packets have been mailed for 4 year-olds through Grade 6. If you do not receive yours, or would like more information, please call the Religious Ed Office (667-6092).

**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!
PARISH CENSUS UPDATE**

We continue to work on updating our parish census records. To date 39 additional parishioners responded leaving 220 to receive a final notification regarding their status. It is our intent to mail these final attempts within the next two weeks. Many thanks to Bruce Batty and Pat McNulty for assisting with the follow up calls!

RON'S RUMINATIONS NOTES FROM RON MARTIN, BUSINESS MANAGER

The last few months have been very challenging indeed! I have been working on tighter control of our budget and have incorporated the use of purchase orders to help in facilitating this control. I have also worked with staff on various personnel forms and procedures to keep us in line with the current changes in laws and regulations.

We are in the process of changing our general ledger software to a program that will provide simplified accounting and allow us to consolidate some of our 500 plus accounts! It is my goal to have our chart of accounts flow with that of the diocese. It is also my desire to have all finances of the parish including fund-raising, festival, etc. changed over to the new system. This will enable us to provide the parish with finance reports that you can read and understand!

As most of you know, I have a long history with Tipp City. Although I am supposed to be retired, I do enjoy being back St. John's.

Order Form for 2004 Entertainment/ Gold C Books

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I will pick up my book(s) after mass on:
Aug. 23/24 Oct. 4/5 Sept. 6/7 Nov. 15/16
Please send form and payment in a separate envelope marked Entertainment Books thru the Offertory
basket or bring into the Rectory office.

New 2004 Entertainment books are coming soon! These fantastic buy one - get one free coupon books will be available for purchase from Aug. 23rd through Dec. 15th, 2003. Entertainment books include coupons for hotels, car rentals, restaurants, fast food restaurants, and entertainment. These books are \$35.00 each and expire on Nov. 1, 2004. This year we will also be selling the Gold C books for \$10.00 each and expire on Sept. 30, 2004. The Gold C coupon books are a smaller version of the Entertainment book. They include many of the Entertainment coupons for fast food and entertainment. These books make terrific gifts for relatives, friends, and teachers. Order your books today and they will be available for pick-up after all masses on the following weekends: August 23/24, September 6/7, October 4/5, and November 15/16.

Call Paulette Kolakowski at 667-4751 or the Rectory with any questions.

2004 Entertainment Books

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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