



SACRED HEART CHURCH

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In Residence
Father Vincent Juan

Deacons
Gil Parra
Bill Riehl

School Principal
Theresa Sparks

Religious Education
Kristin Hansen

RCIA &
Youth Ministry
Rita Spillane

Administrative Staff
Barbara Valentini

The Seeds Sown Bear Fruits of Christian Stewardship . . .

"...but the seed sown on the rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Matthew 13:1-23

This issue of "The Spirit" continues to focus on our clergy, our religious leaders, and our parishioners whose "rich soil" has positively impacted others.

When we think about how we commit our lives to be consistent with the message of the Gospel, it's often difficult to understand how we can meet the high standard of compassion that is defined by the Gospel. Are we the shallow earth that flowers and then withers with time? Are we the barren earth that impedes the growth of life? Or are we the rich soil that promulgates compassion for the human condition which in turn helps pave our way to a spiritual journey that is consistent with Christ's message?



A Faith Journey to Detroit



Christian Rogers is a remarkable young man whose convictions and actions reflect an understanding of what it means to "serve for the greater glory of God." Christian is a graduate of Sacred Heart School and is currently in his senior year at Jesuit High School. Many of you will remember Christian speaking at Sacred Heart during several Masses this past spring. He appealed to parishioners to donate money to support a service learning project that he and eight other students at



Jesuit were doing as their senior project.

It involved working in one of Detroit poorest neighborhoods. Approximately 80 students from Catholic high schools from all over the country volunteered to work in a Jesuit-sponsored program called Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA). While the program has several projects throughout the country, Christian and his friends decided to go to Detroit because it seemed to be the greatest challenge for them.

Christian, along with his friends, worked with Father "Tim" in one of Detroit's most dangerous areas (including what Christian refers to as the "drug Wal-Mart." Christian never felt threatened because of Father Tim's wonderful rapport with the community. Father Tim uses donated dollars to fix up abandoned houses which he purchases for the housing of former offenders. The money raised by Christian and his friends was used to purchase building materials. In a sense, Father Tim's project is similar to "Habitat for Humanity" in that volunteers use their time and skills to rebuild houses. In addition to fixing up houses, the program involves having the volunteers talk with convicted felons.

For Christian, the experience was one he will never forget. Of course, he was surprised at the level of poverty. He visited one neighborhood which is considered to be the poorest of the poor. He was amazed at the number of abandoned houses and how many people tried to live in them despite their broken down conditions.

Christian worked hard during the day. One of his biggest struggles was with mastering construction skills that he had to learn on the job. In the evenings, he would meet with other

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Serving the Lord in Many Ways . . .

Ushers - Fred Pisacane



Many of our Sacred Heart parishioners come from other places before they end up at 39th and J Street. One of those people is our head usher, Fred Pisacane. Born in Italy, Fred grew up in Queens, New York City before beginning his long career in mining and metallurgy that took him to several states all his working life. Upon retiring in 1989, Fred and his wife Myra moved to Sacramento to be near friends. Fred began attending Sacred Heart shortly thereafter, when his mother moved into Mercy McMahan Terrace. He has made many friends here, and attends the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. As head usher, Fred is responsible for recruiting people to help with taking up the collection. Fred found himself the head of this ministry after many years of helping out, recalling that he received a message from Sr. Martin telling him “You’re head usher now.” Although in years past, the usher job was usually performed by men, it is becoming more common for women to volunteer to help as well. Fred welcomes the participation of any

parishioner in this ministry. Since people are already at Mass, it is a job that can be done without an extra commitment of time. So look for Fred, or one of his assistants, at Mass if you want to help out in an important task.



CCD Teacher - Gayle Kuzmich



Gayle is a teacher in our CCD program, preparing 2nd grade students who attend non-Catholic schools to receive their First Reconciliation and their First Holy Communion each May. Gayle and her husband, John, have been parishioners at Sacred Heart for 17 years and have two daughters who attend Sacred Heart Parish School. Gayle first began teaching in CCD while her children were in the program, before they began attending SHPS. CCD Director Kristen Hansen needed an instructor and so Gayle volunteered.

She has continued to teach, even though her own children are no longer in the program because she finds the experience of teaching the youngsters so rewarding. Gayle said that working just one hour a week with these children helps her learn more about living her faith. She said the greatest rewards are the small ones, such as when a parent tells Gayle that a student will share with the parent a lesson that Gayle had taught. The biggest frustration that Gayle said she has is that some parents look on CCD as solely the Church’s responsibility and they do not spend any time teaching the faith at home. Volunteering for CCD has given Gayle, who describes herself as “not a talker,” a way of expressing her faith in actions that enrich her relationship with Christ, as well as enriching the faith of the children who are the Church’s future.



Altar Society - Vivian Buletti



Vivian is president of the Sacred Heart Altar Society and agreed to be interviewed only if the focus was on the Society and not on her personally. Vivian points to the over 200 members of the Society as the “real workers” in fulfilling its mission of keeping the altars at Sacred Heart Church beautiful. The Society takes care of flowers, altar linens, vestments—essentially, as Vivian says, “Taking pride in how God’s House is cared for.” A member of the parish since she was 5 years old, Vivian found herself president of the Altar Society several years ago when the then-president had to step down, even though Vivian herself had been a member for only a short time. But answering the call to serve has given Vivian many



years of good friendships and good feelings. The Altar Society has evolved with time while still providing the needed care of the altar. No longer the province of housewives who did not work outside the home, the Society has as members men and women, young and old, working and retired. Because the Society has so many things to care for, it provides opportunities for anyone who has a little bit of time and wants to help with keeping the Church beautiful. For anyone who wants to participate, the Altar Society is a great place to help the Church in a visible way.



... Through Various Ministries

Eucharistic Ministers - Tom & Shirley Wolfanger



The Wolfangers have been members of Sacred Heart Parish since 1990 and both are Eucharistic Ministers, Shirley at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays, and Tom as a minister to the homebound, especially the residents of Saylor Lane Healthcare Center and Mercy McMahan Terrace. Married for a mere 58 years, Tom and Shirley are true partners in sharing their love of the Faith with others. They began their ministry in response to a sign-up card in the pew one Sunday when various ministries were seeking new volunteers. Their simple willingness to help out in some way has become for them the embodiment of the adage that sharing your faith with others gives as much to you as to others, Tom especially says that he has been privileged to bring the

Eucharist to the sick and dying, giving them spiritual comfort. Because many of the people who live in Saylor Lane or Mercy McMahan are not in contact with their former parishes, Tom also brings a Sacred Heart Bulletin, to make the residents feel a part of parish life. He works closely with the staff of each facility to insure that no one is overlooked. Even residents who physically can no longer take communion can be comforted because Tom always will say a prayer with them. Having shared their faith through being Eucharistic ministers, Tom and Shirley hope that their example will inspire younger parishioners who will find the same joy that Tom and Shirley experience in serving others.



Lectors - Anne Hasbrook Smith



Because her father was a lector, Anne chose to volunteer as a lector as a way of keeping connected to her dad, even though she had long since moved from Michigan where she grew up. Responding to a request from Sister Martin, Anne began lectoring several years ago, long before she and her husband Glenn became parents to their now 6 year old son Jack. Anne prepares by spending time a few days before Sunday reading the assigned Scriptures and trying to determine how best to convey the meaning when she reads aloud. Anne says she does not get nervous when reading (except if she has to start the congregation in singing the Gospel Acclamation) because she knows the message is the focus of everyone's attention, not the

messenger. When asked if there was an occasion she ever was embarrassed while reading, Anne recalled how Jack, as a two year old, decided that Mom needed the accompaniment of his break dancing while she was standing at the ambo! Despite the distraction, Anne continued with her reading despite hearing chuckles from those in attendance. Anne's advice for anyone considering volunteering to lector is "Do it! It's a wonderful way to serve and enrich your faith."



A Legacy of Family Values

Carmen and Tim Rogers were not surprised when their son Christian told them that he wanted to participate in the "Young Neighbors in Action Program," a Jesuit sponsored program that sends volunteers to work in Detroit. They are used to both Christian and his sister Marika giving of themselves to others by doing volunteer work. Having empathy for others and working quietly behind the scenes are part of family traditions that have been passed on from generation to generation from both Carmen and Tim.



Carmen explains that her parents spent their lifetime quietly helping others. They wanted "to be under the radar" and never sought recognition for the good works they did. They were humble in their approach to assisting others and taught their children empathy and compassion for others as a way of life. Carmen and Tim have passed these values on to their children through their own example and by sharing rich family stories with them.

Carmen and Tim also attribute their children's caring attitudes to the Catholic schools they have attended. The values emphasized by the dedicated teachers, counselors, and religious leaders at Sacred Heart School, *Continued on page 4 . . .*

Sharing His Gifts with Others - Father Vincent



Father Vincent Juan is a gifted individual who has graced Sacred Heart Church with his insights, compassion, good humor and musical talent. As a priest in residence, Father Vincent has realized part of his vocation by being a priest for His people. Highly motivated and deeply moved by events in his own life, Father Vincent (inspired by the book “The Mustard Seed”) has learned to grow and blossom wherever he has been “planted.”

Father Vincent Juan was first attracted to the priesthood at the early age of eight or nine. Born in April of 1973 in Quezon City (Manila), Philippines, he is the oldest of three children. His two younger sisters are married and have families of their own. As a child of devout Catholics, Father Vincent attended Mass regularly and found himself, as a young boy, particularly interested in the Homily. He dreamt of someday being a priest who would stand up in front of everyone and preach.

He says, “One day, my Mom volunteered me to be an altar server. At that time, I was quite small (well, smaller than today) and I found it difficult to hold up the communion plate during communion, so I served for about three times and then quit. After that, I didn’t want to be a priest anymore because it was hard!”

Father Vincent had several opportunities to attend the seminary instead of High School, including the offer of a full college scholarship as long as he entered the seminary. However, he turned down the offer and instead studied Business Administration at the University of Santo Tomas (Manila) and graduated in 1994 with a BS Degree in Commerce with a major in Business Administration.

Father Vincent’s calling came soon afterwards when he began working at the Philippine National Bank. He recalls, “After working for about a month, I felt a certain vacuum inside, an empty space within me that I could not explain. There also seemed to be an inner force driving me to attend daily Mass. I could not explain what was happening but I was happy and at peace with it. At Mass, the Gospel seemed to speak to me and the homily also seemed to be addressed to me personally.”

“Sunday, June 19, 1994 was the turning point in my life. After Mass, I came home very happy but I did not know why. I was in my room when suddenly, a thought came into my mind, ‘Vince, why not give priesthood a try, anyway it was your childhood dream?’”

The rest is history. Father Vincent studied in the seminary for eight years, three years at San Carol’s Seminary in Manila and five years at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park. In May 2003, Father Vincent was ordained a priest by the Most Rev. William K. Weigand. Following three assignments, including 3 years in rural Burney, he was given the opportunity to do further studies in Canon Law.

Currently, Father Vincent serves on the Diocesan Tribunal while he is in Residence at Sacred Heart. We, at Sacred Heart, have been fortunate to be on the receiving end of Father Vincent’s talents and insights. His beautiful voice and musical talents enhance the sacredness of our Mass experience especially when he reverently sings the Consecration. No one will ever forget Father Vincent’s heart moving homily on forgiveness when he shared his family’s loss over the tragic death of his father who died at the hands of armed robbers.

We are grateful to have Father Vincent at Sacred Heart and we thank him for the contribution he makes to the spiritual life of the parish and for choosing to share his gifts and lifelong experiences through the ministry of priesthood.



A Legacy Of Family Values

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Jesuit and Christian Brothers High Schools have had a significant impact on both of their children. Marika currently serves as an “ambassador” to elementary schools from which Christian Brothers recruits new students. In addition, she is involved in helping at the Sacramento Food Bank and with the beautification of Oak Park through its clean-up program. When Christian told his parents that he wanted to do volunteer work in to the inner city of Detroit, Carmen and Tim were not worried about his safety as they trusted the program sponsored by the Jesuits to ensure his well-being. They feel the education their children receive at both Jesuit and at Christian Brothers is an extension of their home environment. They have confidence the values and the activities provided by their children’s Catholic education will help preserve and reinforce their family legacy of reaching out to others.

Sister Mary Martin Still Reaching out to Others



For over 30 years Sister Mary Martin has blessed the Sacred Heart Parish with her presence and her selfless service to our parishioners, our religious ministries and various other programs that are part of the Sisters of Mercy's mission. When she retired over two years ago, she stayed on in the parish to help whenever and wherever needed. Her presence after her retirement was a comfort and joy to those who knew and appreciated her lifelong dedication to serving Christ through her service to others.

In January of 2011, Sister Martin moved to the Mercy House in Auburn. The beautiful grounds and the company of other dedicated Sisters of Mercy have been a daily joy for her. She spends her time in spiritual reflection and with helping other Sisters of Mercy in their daily readings of the scripture. On a daily basis, she visits Sisters in the infirmary and reads the scripture to them. When one sister commented that she reads so well, Sister Martin quipped, "Well, I should; I've been doing it all of my life!"

Sister Martin continues to serve her religious community well. She brings joy, love and comfort to those who surround her. Her health continues to be good although she is still nursing a sore shoulder where she has had difficulties with tendonitis. Her wonderful humor is intact and the distinctive Irish lilt in her voice is a source of delight for those who have the privilege of knowing her.

Sister would love to hear from members of the parish. Please feel free to call her at (530) 887-2077.



Behind the Scenes: Preserving Stained Glass Windows



One of the most notable features of Sacred Heart Church is its stained glass windows. They were produced by the Harry Clarke Studio in Ireland. Clarke was one of the most famous Irish illustrator and designer of stained glass windows of the 20th century. During the daytime hours, as we sit in the pews or wander through the church we can readily view and appreciate the artistic representations of some of our Catholic Saints and of various symbols of faith as they are illuminated by natural light.

However, as beautiful as our stained glass windows appear to be from inside the church, the protective covering on their exterior does not allow us to appreciate their beauty from the outside. In addition, the Plexiglas (Lexan) that was installed in 1978 to protect them has aged and it obscures the clarity and intensity of the colors.

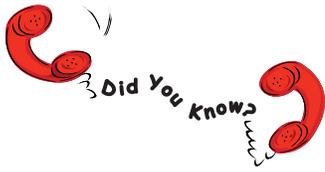
With new technology available, Fr. Walton decided it was time to replace the old protective coverings. He appointed two parishioners, Frank Mugartegui and Don Baumgartner, to work with Bill Cummings, a nationally recognized stained glass consultant and docent for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, to evaluate the windows and recommend a retrofit.



When Frank and Don agreed to help with the project this summer, they did not realize just how complex things would be. The job sounded simple enough. They visited the Cathedral in downtown Sacramento and saw how magnificent the retrofit had made the windows look from both the inside and the outside of the church. They learned about a new protective glass technology that does not discolor with age and allows the glass to breathe. They knew contractors would be hired to do the retrofit, and their job would only be to assist Bill Cummings with his evaluation of the windows.

It did not take long for Frank and Don to realize that although this evaluation seemed simple at first it would develop into what Frank calls, "a nightmare!" In particular, they did not realize that, in order to retrofit the windows, an examination from the inside was necessary. Trying to figure out how to reach the high windows of Sacred Heart church was a major problem. Removing the pews was not an option and scaffolding was thought to be cost prohibitive. With some ingenuity and lots of bravery, Bill Cummings volunteered to do his evaluation by climbing up a ladder that was to be placed on plywood that would be balanced on the pews. Frank and Don's job would be to hold the ladder. Fortunately for all involved, this plan came to an abrupt halt when Bill developed vertigo.

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■ Our oldest parishioner Lucy Buljan died at the age of 107. Lucy was very active at Sacred Heart attending daily Mass, participating in the Legion of Mary, counting the Sunday collection, and serving in the Altar Society. May she rest in peace.

■ Olivia Sison, daughter of Joe Sison & Sharon Rich and a Sacred Heart altar server, is the California winner of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award, sponsored by the National Association for Gifted Children. Olivia is one of only 50 children nationally (one per state) selected for the award. Congratulations, Olivia! We are very proud of you.

■ Bishop Francis Quinn celebrated his 90th birthday on September 11th.

■ Patrick Domek (Sacred Heart School Class of 1998) has returned to Sacred Heart School as a member of the faculty.

■ David Doll, a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, was part of an 8 person team that successfully completed a 3,005 mile, cross-country bicycle race, Race Across America. The race began in Oceanside, California and ended in Annapolis, Maryland. The team finished the race in 6 days, 16 hours, and 7 minutes.



Changes in The Mass Happening in November

For many people, change does not come easy. Change requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. Many people find comfort in the familiar routines and known ways of acting. But change is also an opportunity to stop and reflect on what we are doing and to come to a better understanding of God, Who does not change.

Pope John Paul II announced a revised version of the *Missale Romanum* during the Jubilee Year 2000. The final Latin edition of the revised text was published in 2002. Since that time, an extensive process of consultation on the English translation of the third edition of the *Roman Missal* has followed and is now ready for implementation on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, in parishes across the United States.

Naturally, people may be curious about what exactly is changing. The structure of the Mass (the order of the elements, the actions of the priest, and so forth) remains unchanged in the new edition of the *Roman Missal*. However, the translation of the prayer texts will change to more closely reflect the original Latin texts. In some cases, new options for prayers may be available, and some old options may no longer be used.

In the third edition of the *Roman Missal*, almost every prayer in the Mass—those spoken by the priest and those spoken by the people—have been retranslated from the Latin to English. Some prayers now recited by memory will need to be relearned, and the familiar language of many prayers recited by the priest will change.

In preparing the new translation, the translators were asked to make the English texts conform more closely to the Latin originals and to retain traditional theological vocabulary that communicates important concepts of the faith. The language that the people will hear and pray is more formal and somewhat more complex than the language of ordinary conversation. It conveys rich theological concepts and retains biblical language and images.

Some of the differences will be obvious immediately, for example, the people's new response to the priest's greeting, "The Lord be with you" will be "And with your spirit." We will have to learn new musical settings for the various parts of the Mass. We will learn new words for common prayers, such as the Creed. Those of us who began saying the Mass prayers by heart long ago will need to rely on printed texts again, at least for a while. In the early months of the transition, we may find it more challenging to pray with one voice as people adjust to the new texts and gradually commit them to their hearts.

Times of change are always a challenge. But from this challenge can come a renewed reverence for and appreciation of the Mass and a deeper appreciation of who we are as the Body of Christ, gathering to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.

Father Walton

Behind the Scenes: Preserving the Stained Glass Windows

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By the time Bill was over his vertigo, Fr. Walton had found a way to pay for the scaffolding. After months of planning, the scaffolding was finally put up on October 17th. Bill did his inspection on the 18th, and on the 19th the scaffolding was taken down. Sometime in the future you will be able to admire the result of all these adventures. In the meantime, now, when you gaze upon the beautiful Rose Windows in the transept, from either the inside or the outside, you will know what went on "behind the scenes."



The Sacred Heart Family

In Memoriam . . . January - June 2011

"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Mary Kress
Theresa Plesha
John Stephens

Violet Desmond
Alfred Calais
James Harrington
Marianne Linggi

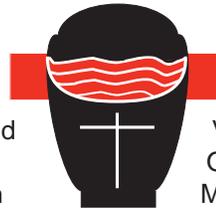
Genevieve Romani
Gerry McNulty
Richard Evans

Baptism . . . January - June 2011

"You have put on Christ, you have been baptized." (Rite of Baptism)

Brooklyn Hana Nauman
Emma Grace White
Elise Lorraine White
Kolton Michael Jeremiah
Josephine Dominguez
Maliya Elizabeth Lemus
Kendall Gonzalez
Aubrey Rose Leonard
Samuel Oxsen
Genevieve DuChien
Finnian Penney
Caden Jay Rendel
Isolde Selene Hale
Henry Michael Sherman
Maryam Mae Sisitki
Ryder Minh-Khany Jones
Victoria Lazio
Makala Victoria Barraza
Dylan Robert Hayes
Audra Inderbitzen

Koapaka Dalton Satterfield
Bernardo Trey Lovato
Hailey Anna Rose Kulich
Avery Valine
Samuel Joseph Girard
Isla Joy Gonzales
Andrew Marin Ortega
Sophia Domingo
Matthew Domingo
Aiden Jeffrey Tverberg
Mario Joseph Zago
Tyler Graham
Mackensi Aeryn Daro
Teagan Jean Callens
Claire Elizabeth Lacoste
Samuel Antonio Bunting
Alexandra Kate Avina
Isabella Grace Avina
Matthew Scott Avina
Elliot Macon Steele



Victoria Muro-Valenzuela
Owenyth Natalie Hastings
Miles Christopher Hastings
Gavin Nicholas DeBoo
Estelle Elizabeth Luu
Olivia Michelle Toney
George Macko
Kendall Rose Parsons
Jose Roberto Valadez
Liam Kai Mollerus
John Lucas Ostrowski
Cameron Jessica Samms
Ava Lauren Samms
Brynn Marie Mason
Madeline Gonzalez
Charlotte Recker
Noah Michael Owen
Mable Beatrice Mullen
Alice Mae Grow
Maley Anne McCusker

Marriages . . . January - June 2011

"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life." (Rite of Marriage)



Edmund Zilaff & Kathryn Van Stavern
Donald Miller & Nicola Landerfelt
Michael Fazio & Elena Virgadamo
Matthew Aguiar & Joanna Nelle
Michael Paul Skikos & Mong-Yin Liu
Matthew Nelson & Joanna Schaedler
Matthew Gallegos & Marisa Garcia
Joseph Linn-Galan & Jennifer Clark

RCIA 2011

"You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ." (Rite of Baptism)

Earlene Gordon
Sherrie Ellis
Nicola Miller
Christopher Adams

Michael Tate
Esther Ramirez
Rita Rosalie Fernandez
Ali Vinyard

THE SPIRIT

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A Faith Journey to Detroit

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high school participants in the program to discuss their experiences. All of the volunteers were housed in a local high school. Some volunteered in orphanages while others worked in food banks and other programs for the impoverished. Sharing experiences with youth throughout the country was insightful for Christian, but it was his experience in talking with former offenders and convicts that left a deep and lasting impression on him. It was their openness and their honesty that most moved him.

When Christian was asked about what message he would like to give Sacred Heart parishioners about his experience, he said that he wanted parishioners to know two things. First, he wanted to thank everyone who donated to the project. Second, he wanted everyone to know that “people are basically good---no matter how bad they appear to be. They can turn around but they need to know someone cares directly or indirectly for them.” Christian explained that while he did not have direct contact with the people who will eventually live in the house he helped build, “one day, a person will look up at the ceiling and say, ‘Wow someone really cared.’”

Two other experiences helped shape Christian’s thinking about his volunteer work. While in Detroit, he went to Mass at Father Tim’s parish. While only a handful of people attended the Mass, Christian found a deep meaning in the parishioners’ interaction with each other and in their involvement in the Mass. Father Tim used the local culture to show what God is teaching in the Gospel.

The other experience relates to a poet who talked with the volunteers. Christian referred to the poet’s work as “slam poetry.” The poet ranted about the conditions in Detroit. It was the repetitive line about “keep breathing” that most moved Christian. “Keep breathing...don’t give up...one breath at a time.” Don’t be overwhelmed with what seems to be impossible, “Take one breath at a time.”

Christian loves the Jesuit aspect of life that “man is for others.” Next year, after he graduates from high school he plans to go to a Jesuit College.