



St. PETER'S CATCH

Quarterly newsletter of St. Peter Parish

Winter 2005-06

CHURCH OF ST. PETER

3501 OBERLIN AVE.

LORAIN, OHIO 44053

282-9103

Society fulfills charity mission

By Florence Ellis
St. Peter's Catch Writer

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, people throughout the nation wondered how to help the victims, many of whom were poor.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul did not wonder. It has been helping the poor for nearly two centuries.

"The Society of St. Vincent de Paul did not 'go in' to aid hurricane victims," reads a notation on the Society's national website. "We were already there. We have been serving the poor of New Orleans and the surrounding area since 1852."

On a local level, the St. Vincent de Paul Society right here at St. Peter Parish likewise has "been there" for the poor since 1934 — back when Father A. Ferrari was pastor, back when the church was located on 17th Street, back when "It Happened One Night" and "The Thin Man" were playing on the silver screen.

Last year more than \$12,000 was spent on helping the poor in the Lorain area, according to James Watling, president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Peter Parish.

The group helps with various needs of the poor — including food, rent, baby cribs and prescription drugs, noted Watling, who took over as president last January. Other officers of the group are: Dick Meck, vice president; Dianne Meck, secretary; and Mick Weber, treasurer.

Father Kenneth Wolnowski, pastor, praised the way the society meets the demand for baby cribs.

Instead of buying the cribs one or



Patron St. Vincent de Paul inspires work of the society which bears his name.

two at a time, he said, they buy them in bulk to get a better deal, and store them in the parish garage until needed.

"They do a great job," he said.

The Society can trace its origins to 1831, when a young student named

Frederic Ozanam left his hometown of Lyon, France, and began his studies at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Frederic and a few other students — all practicing Catholics — revived a student organization, and met weekly to discuss various topics. Soon a student challenged the group, asking what good works the Church was doing.

Frederic and five of his friends later met in the office of Emmanuel Bailey, editor of the "Tribune Catholique." It was on April 23, 1833, Frederic's 20th birthday, that the "Conference of Charity" was founded to help the poor. A short time later, they changed the name to "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul," after their patron.

St. Vincent de Paul, who was born in 1581 in France, was chosen as patron of the organization because of his considerable charitable work. He was founder of the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, Confraternities of Charity, and Ladies of Charity. He was known as "The Apostle of Charity" and "Father of the Poor."

In the United States, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established in St. Louis, MO, at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, in 1845. The vision of the Society remains the same today as when it was founded:

"To embrace the world in a network of charity."



INSIDE: Local President James Watling answers questions about the group's work. **Turn to page 4**

Message from Fr. Ken



How do we share our faith without becoming obnoxious? In an article in "American Magazine" (Sept. 19, 2005), Martin Pable, O.F.M. Cap., an author and retreat director, gives the following suggestions:

- We need to be prayerful persons ourselves, who nourish our faith with the Scriptures and the Sunday Eucharist.
- We are devoted to our families and are conscientious in our work.
- We treat people with dignity and respect.
- We share our time and resources with the less fortunate.
- We avoid negative speech and backstabbing.
- We try to create a positive and peaceful environment.

The next skill in sharing faith is the ability to listen well:

Someone confides a worry about health problems, a son or daughter's behavior, tensions in marriage, the downsizing in a company or possible layoffs, grief over the death of a loved one or a broken relationship, a teen is left out of a peer group.

We make the person feel understood and accepted.

We might share something of our own story that relates to theirs. "You know, I've been through something like that in my own life," and then we could share what helped — our faith in God, a prayer, hearing or reading a Biblical passage, listening to a Christian song, or participation in a Sacrament. Then we explain how it helped.

So, we do not advise, argue, boast. We share our experience, we give the other person a chance to respond. We can promise to pray for them, invite them to talk some more, exchange phone numbers. If the openness or interest is there, we could invite them to a church service or gathering.

Whatever results, the encounter was an experience of shared grace.

Students involved in Mass, music, missions

By Emily Fabanich
St. Peter School Principal

Now that the 2005-2006 school year is off to a great start, I'd like to share the many and varied events and activities that have taken place.

At the time when our children were just getting used to their back-to-school routine, Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast, rendering thousands homeless and "school-less." Mrs. Jennings, our gym teacher, heard that the US Probation Office in Cleveland where her husband, Travis, works was collecting money and purchasing supplies to be personally delivered to the Southern Louisiana District. The students and their families were motivated to help and collected \$1,400 in one day, \$700 of which went directly to Louisiana and \$700 went to Catholic Charities Relief Fund for Katrina.

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Presently our students and families are collecting for special therapy for Preston Drain, the two-and-a-half year-old son of Jeff and Heather (Cassidy) Drain. Preston has a birth defect that affects his ability to sit up and to walk. Studies have shown an improvement rate of 80 percent as a result of this therapy. The students got to meet him and are eager to help.

We have begun involving the children of the parish in weekend Masses. Every month a designated Saturday 4 p.m. Mass is led by students of a particular grade, both in PSR and the Day School. On Sept. 24, the Third Grade students served the parish as lectors, cantors, ushers, greeters, etc. On Oct. 29 it was the Fourth Grade's turn. On Nov. 12 the Mass had participants from the Fifth Grade. This type of service and involvement is important. They are capable to serve as children and as the future adult leaders of our church.

Our Choose Life! class, taught by Pat Borke of Cleveland Right to Life began on Sept. 26 and ended on Oct. 31. Many topics pertaining to the gift of life were discussed in Grades Six, Seven, and Eight, giving the students the knowledge to understand that all life is precious. The final day of class each student was given a "Life is Precious" wrist band from Noel Kukucka of our parish Respect Life group.

Our Second and Third Grade Fall Music Program, directed by our music teacher Miss Gardner, was performed on Oct. 26. Inventions Rock! included a variety of musical styles and lyrics telling the stories of many significant inventors throughout history.

We took time to honor our parishioners and school family members who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces on Veterans Day, November 11. The Italian American Veterans, under the leadership of Francis Manacci, presented the flag and we acknowledged the veterans present at the assembly, prayed for the deceased, and honored those still serving all over the world.

Ready to plan centennial celebration

By Fr. Kenneth Wolnowski,
Pastor

St. Peter's Parish Council has been brainstorming about possible activities to take place in 2009, when we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary.

Here are some of its recommendations:

- **Mass:** An anniversary Mass inviting our bishops and former associate pastors, former faculty members, and sisters of Notre Dame who were once assigned to the parish. The liturgy should be especially festive, and should include the adult and children's choir, the contemporary ensemble, representatives of the school and the Parish School of Religion (PSR), etc.

- **History:** Conduct interviews, collect stories of interest for the development of a DVD to be sold as a memento; collect memorabilia for display; focus on the past, present and the future. (Mementos could include coffee mugs, hats, shirts,



wooden replicas of the church). Open the last time capsule; make a new one, develop a Power Point presentation.

- **Pictorial directory:** Should be started early so it can be completed by 2009.

- **Social:** A banquet with a prominent guest speaker (with invitations to the bishops, former associate pastors, nuns, teachers, mayor, etc.); plan entertainment; hold an appreciation dinner for all volunteers.

- **School:** Recognition of the Sisters of Notre Dame; exhibits, special events, open house, etc., to be conducted throughout the year.

- **PSR:** Special event/celebration.

- **Youth Group:** Special event.

- **Banner:** Design a new parish banner, inviting ideas from the school art instructor, families, etc.

- **Garden:** Construct a centennial garden in front of the church, with park benches set on bricks with engraved names of donors.

- **Public Relations/Publicity:** Newspaper articles, etc.

- **Pilgrimage:** A pilgrimage to Rome, featuring an audience with the Pope.

- **Festival:** Special centennial events to be added to the summer parish festival.

All of these ideas are tentative, Your ideas and suggestions are most welcome. Volunteers will be needed to work on committees, in order to move any of these possibilities forward.

If you would like to help in any of these areas, or would like to form or chair a committee, please call the Parish Office at 282-9103.

Catechists continue education

By Sister Rosemary Janezic, SND

All catechists of the St. Peter Day School and Parish School of Religion are required to take three courses toward Basic Certification. They are: Faith Formation, Catechetical Process, and Beliefs and Traditions.

On Oct. 8, 14 of the Parish School of Religion teachers attended a diocesan workshop at St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Sheffield Village, called "Sharing God's Word with People with Disabilities Retreat and Workshop." Retreat presenters Father Joseph McNulty and Dennis McNulty, do diocesan work with persons with disabilities, while workshop presenters Joan M. Killoran and Kathleen DeMumbrum, are special education teachers and consultants for children with behavior and/or learning problems.

Thirteen parishioners, including 11 catechists, recently attended another workshop aimed toward advanced certification in Catholic Social Justice Teaching at St. Joseph Parish in Amherst

There, diocesan presenters explored the Biblical roots and Church teachings on social justice; considered ways to expand social justice in parishes, and created a social justice plan for the parish.

Gift cards benefit school

The "Gift Card" program is celebrating its first-year anniversary this month. Many parishioners and parents are participating, but many more are invited to participate.

New merchants added to the list include Dick's Sporting Goods and Walgreen's.

The gift cards are used like money at participating establishments, and are good for everything the establishments sell.

The cards are sold every weekend in the church commons after each Mass, and at the Parish Center office during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

They are also available at the school office during the school day. Many parents send their order form in with their child, and the orders are filled daily and sent home with the child, or picked up in the school office.

Revenues gained from the selling of the gift cards are used to support the school scholarship fund.

Parish aids hurricane victims

The parishioners of St. Peter Parish recently donated more than \$14,000 to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Here is the letter of appreciation sent to Father Ken:

Dear Father Wolnowski,

We are appreciative and thankful to you and your parishioners for their generosity in the amount of \$14,145.01 that has been expressed to the victims and evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. The good people of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland are always caring and loving in their compassion and support for all people in need.

Tens of thousands of members of our community have contributed in excess of \$650,000 to the victims of Katrina. Catholic Charities and the Diocese have been able to forward every penny of the gifts received to those people in need in the Gulf Coast area through Catholic Charities USA as agent of the US Catholic Bishops.

On behalf of the hurricane victims and the Bishops and Catholic Charities Directors of the affected areas, would you please extend to your parishioners the deep gratitude for their generosity and prayerful support during this difficult time for so many.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

J. Thomas Mullen
President, Catholic Charities

Most Reverend
Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop, Diocese of Cleveland

'Network of Charity' reaches out in Lorain

By Florence Ellis
St. Peter's Catch Writer

To find out how the St. Vincent de Paul Society's "network of charity" is working here in Lorain, President James Watling answers questions about the local group's work:

Q Can you briefly describe the work St. Vincent de Paul Society does in the area?

A: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is composed of and administered by lay people. We offer help to all people regardless of race, creed or color, funding rent, prescriptions, food, utilities and baby cribs. We also deliver food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and supply fresh food weekly to the Catholic Charities, Eighth Street, Lorain.

Q How is the organization funded?

A: Our funding comes from the poor boxes, benefactors, memorials, S.V.d.P. quarterly collections and "Blanket Sunday" contributions. (Used to purchase new baby cribs and bedding).

Q How much money did the Society spend on the poor last year?

A: More than \$12,000 has been spent in the last year to help the poor.

Q How many members does the Society have?

A: There are two spiritual advisors and 14 active members.

Q How does one become a member?

A: Interested people can contact a current member to express their desire to become a member.

Q What geographical areas are served by the parish Society?

A: St. Peter's Conference covers the parish territory, but, when needed, covers all sections of Lorain.

Q When does the organization meet?

A: Closed meetings are held at the Parish Center the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Q How did the Society help the victims of Hurricane Katrina?

A: We are working with another local conference to send aid to a S.V.d.P. conference in Mississippi for the relief of hurricane victims.

Q How does the Society know which people need help?

A: Some of our clients are referred by another agency that is aware of our work, but the majority of our clients call the Parish Center directly, requesting assistance.

Tapestry celebrates life in Christ

By Father Charles Henkle,
OFM Conv.
Associate Pastor

Many people have asked about the meaning of the appliqué on the chasubles and stole I wear for various liturgical celebrations. They are called the "Tapestry of Life," and they tell the story of a great year of Jubilee. It is a time of starting fresh, and of new beginnings, a time for conversion and a time of unity.

The story starts with sin and the sorrow it brought. The **THISTLE** symbolizes sin. The story seems beyond hope. However, the hand of God is still very much in control of the events in His creation, as well as in the events of our lives.

God's love, together with our faith, will bring us peace, represented by the **OLIVE BRANCH**. The only true way to receive peace is to know the depth of God's love for us. God sent His only son, Jesus; Jesus gave his life for us. The **GRAPES** symbolize the blood Christ shed for us.

The **CHALICE AND HOST** symbolize Christ's body



broken and sacrificed for us, which we celebrate in the Mass as Holy Communion.

The **DOVE** symbolizes the Holy Spirit. We are baptized not only in life-giving waters, but also in the cleansing **FLAMES** of the Spirit. This confirms God's presence within us.

God's **HANDS** embrace the world in great love, giving us a chance to be gathered up in the harvest, like the **WHEAT** that will be harvested at the proper time. The **FISH** reminds

us of our baptismal call, gathering many to come with us in our pilgrimage of life.

The **ROSE**, with its **THORNS** and the **CROSS**, is our continuing reminder of the beauty of Christ's suffering for our salvation. We see then Christ as our King wearing the **KINGLY CROWN**. Our struggles in life unite us as a family, and make us stronger by the sharing of our strengths, our gifts with others. To sustain that strength, we look to the **TRINITY**, which supports us in perfect unity, symbolized by the **CLOVER**.

The whole concept of the image of the Tapestry of Life means that we should weave our lives together as one. We are all meant to be part of God's master plan.

We're committed to protecting God's children

By Rosemary Janezic, SND
Director of Religious Education

All of us want a safe environment for our children. The media presents a sad picture for today's society, and the values we hold close to our hearts are often threatened and disregarded.

We are disheartened by the abuse prevalent in today's society and wonder how we can create a safe environment for the children of the present and future generations.

Because child molesters appear to be normal, trusted individuals such as family members, relatives, priests, teachers, coaches, bus drivers and even junior high school students, we need to be able to recognize the warning signs of an abuser, and to plan ways to minimize abuse in our own

environment.

Through the Virtus Workshop, participants become more aware of those warning signs and plan ways to create safe environments for the children of our parish and community.

Virtus Programs are a national ministry for the protection of children, and were begun in 1997 — prior to the Church crisis and the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The word "virtus" derives from Latin, and means valor, moral strength, excellence and worth.

The Virtus Workshop runs for two to three hours, has two videos, each followed by a question-answer session. Participants continue follow-up training with 24 additional bulletins to read and respond to

questions, either by e-mail or postal mail.

All paid parish employees and volunteers who work with children at least four hours a month or four times a month, are required to attend the workshops and to read the "Policy for the Safety of Children in Matters of Sexual Abuse," and the "Standards of Conduct for Ministry," and be fingerprinted.

To date, 172 paid employees and volunteers in St. Peter Parish have attended the workshop — 54 in the Parish Day School, 53 athletic coaches, seven in scout programs, 44 in the Parish School of Religion, and 14 in staff and parish personnel. They are creating a safe environment for the children of our parish and community — the children of the present and future generations.

Ministry Fair

**By Sr. Annamae Murphy, SND
St. Peter Administrative Assistant**

The "Ministry Fair" — another first for St. Peter Parish — was held the weekend of Sept. 17 and 18. The chairpersons of the various parish committees artistically displayed the work of their committees.

Many parishioners visited the displays after the weekend Masses, and besides receiving information from the committee representatives, they also enjoyed visiting other parishioners while enjoying refreshments.

Everyone agrees that the "Fair" was professionally conducted and informative, and many parishioners volunteered to join some of the committees as a result of their visits to the displays. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Giving Tree

St. Peter Parish "Giving Tree" project marks its 14th year of outreach to the local community this month. The project,

which reaches out to people through various agencies in Lorain, gets underway on Nov. 20, according to Sr. Annamae Murphy, SND.

The "Giving Tree" project, with its familiar Christmas trees in both the commons and the church entrance, has added a new agency this year, "Blessing House." This agency was recently established as a safe haven for young children. It joins five other agencies in Lorain whose young clients benefit from the "Giving Tree."

The "Giving Tree" project coordinator is Patti Betka, a St. Peter parishioner who has spearheaded the program for the past several years.

The Christmas trees will be decorated with paper ornaments, which contain gift requests. Individuals and families purchase the requested items, wrap them, and return them the weekend of Dec. 10 and 11.

"St. Peter parishioners live the spirit of Christmas by sharing with children what God has given to them," noted Sr. Annamae.

Share talent, share faith

**By the Rev. Dr. Ralph J.
Krupp, deacon**

I wonder how many people rushed out and bought the latest best-seller and have not even opened it up? One must enter into a book to gain the most pleasure and benefit.

Our St. Peter's Church is the same. To gain the best benefits of our wonderful Catholic faith, each of us has to do more than get baptized and make First Communion.

The best way to be aware of and feel God's presence is to become engaged, to do something. There are many opportunities to serve each other.

See anyone on the St. Peter staff to find what you can do with the amount of time you have and the God-given talent you possess.

St. Peter's Catch is brought to you by the Parish Staff; and Florence Ellis, writer; Carol Hayward, designer. Please send comments to cahaywardcatch@yahoo.com