

THE FriarCrier

St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215-2652 | (614) 224-9522 | Dominican Friars: Province of St. Joseph

Pastor Begins New 5-Year Strategic Planning and Stewardship Program

Our Pastor, Fr. André-Joseph LaCasse, O.P., on the weekend of January 30-31, 2010, introduced a new five-year strategic planning and stewardship program entitled, "Christ, The Sure Foundation." Father explained in his address to parishioners attending all the Masses that weekend that in January 2009 in anticipation of the retirement of our building and restoration debt, he invited parishioners who had knowledge of strategic planning and stewardship, finance, and capital repairs to join a committee that would begin to explore the future stability and prosperity of the parish.

Father reminded all the parishioners that it is nice to build and restore and even better to be debt free; but what has now been built, restored, *(continued on page 2)*



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St. Patrick Church 2009 Christmas Décor

Above: Blessed Sacrament High Altar banked with poinsettias
Left: Holy Family in Nativity Scene



Strategic Planning

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and paid for, must now be maintained and even improved. Our pastor explained that reflecting on the success of the monthly envelope program that was used to pay off our capital building debt, the Strategic Planning and Stewardship Committee concluded this was the best avenue to accomplish the important goal to provide for our parish stability.

Accordingly, Father introduced a new five-year strategic and stewardship plan utilizing a new envelope entitled, "Christ, The Sure

Foundation," and hopes to raise \$1.9 million. Finally, in the conclusion of his address to the parish community, Father said, "I realize that in these uncertain economic times, it may be difficult for some to make an additional financial commitment to St. Patrick's; however, I am confident that all of us together will be able to secure a firm foundation for St. Patrick Church for generations to come." All parishioners were encouraged to fill out a pledge card and return it to St. Patrick's. ♥

March for Life

For only the second time in 15 years, our annual bus trip to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life needed two buses. We partnered the second bus with Columbus' St. Catherine's Parish. Of the 102 adults and students that went, 77 were from our parish. Fr. Thomas Blau, O.P., accompanied us on the trip this year. His suggestion to use the Veritas Youth Group banner proved to be extremely valuable for

keeping our large group together.

By most accounts, this year's crowd seemed larger than in recent memory. Some estimated over 400,000 people. For the students, the annual trip is an opportunity to experience an event with more like-minded people than they may perhaps encounter for the rest of their lives, so it usually leaves a lasting impression that convinces them that they are not alone in this battle and encourages them to be more committed than ever to respond to God's call of defending



all human life in all of its stages from conception to natural death. ♥

Big Band Swing Dance

February 13, 2010

Below: Pete Garrity doing his disco move to Big Band Orchestra Music!



The Grace of the Dominican Novitiate

By Br. Cassian Derbes (Dominican Novice)

Standing on the hillside of the small town of Fanjeaux in southern France, looking south onto the landscape before him, Saint Dominic of Caleruega saw fire come down from heaven. That fire ignited in his heart a burning love for the Truth and lit the path that he was to walk, imitating Jesus Christ.

Dominicans seek to live in the image of Saint Dominic, who, finding himself amidst a population riddled with heresy, sought to bring the shining light and the saving grace of the Truth to those in darkness.

The weekend of December 12-13 the Dominican novices of the Province of Saint Joseph (of which Columbus is a part) visited Saint Patrick's Church. The novices—as the name itself suggests—are just beginners in religious life. Eleven men, responding to a call to consecrated life, first spend one year in the novitiate in Cincinnati before beginning formal studies for the priesthood in Washington, D.C. Novices spend the year in intense prayer and retreat. These men, under the guidance of the Novice Master, are instructed in the rule of life, the history of the Order, and begin to live communal life. They live poverty, chastity, and obedience. The year in the novitiate is a trial: the novice is tested in the intensity of the life—with an extensive regime of prayer, study, and common life. It is a retreat: into a monastic silence and reduced contact with the outside world. The contemplative life serves as a foundation for listening for the word of God and disposes the soul to receive God's freely bestowed grace.

A novice learns to pray the Divine Office, which brings him to the Chapel four times a day for Matins, Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline, which is to say prayer: morning, mid-day, evening, and night. Additionally, the community is



together every day for Holy Mass, the Rosary, and silent meditation. The Divine Office is sung, and for this reason novices have choir practice four times weekly to learn the beautiful and ancient custom of chant. The foundation of contemplation is assiduous study—silent daily study—and the novice is encouraged to read diligently at his own initiative. Furthermore, he is assigned apostolic work once a week, whether that is to teach, to bring Holy Communion to the home bound, or to work with the poor.

The novices travel to various parishes in the Province to preach—so that you might hear from the youngest members of our Order—and to beg, which is what Saint

Dominic did, for your support.

These young Dominicans are a sign of prayers for vocations

answered. Without a doubt, the universal Church and the Order of Preachers needs good priests and cooperator brothers—vocations that come by God's grace, and vocations that are sustained by your generous financial assistance.

Our Province has been blessed with eleven novices. Increasingly large class sizes are a sign of God's blessing

upon the liveliness of the Dominican Order—an Order, in the image of Saint Dominic, which seeks to set the world on fire with a love for Divine Truth. ♥

On behalf of all the Dominican novices, we wish to thank St. Patrick Parish for their generous donation of \$8,612.47 for this year's Novice Collection.

Little Margaret's sponsors annual Baby Bottle Campaign

By Rebecca Smith

Little Margaret's Charity recently sponsored the annual Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) Baby Bottle Campaign. All proceeds benefit the lifesaving work of PDHC, a network of pregnancy resource centers located in central Ohio.

PDHC is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981 with the intention of providing abortion-vulnerable and abortion-minded women with life-affirming options. PDHC's free and confidential services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, assistance via e-mail and online chatting, pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, material aid, and referrals to hundreds of community organizations and resources. PDHC serves thousands of women, men and babies each year.

Members of Little Margaret's Charity distributed approximately 400 baby bottles after Masses on the weekend of Jan. 9-10. Parishioners, both families and individuals, took the bottles with them. Those participating in the campaign were instructed to fill the bottles with monetary donations. On the weekend of Feb. 6-7, members of Little Margaret's Charity collected the bottles and returned them to PDHC.

PDHC will assess the donation and inform Saint Patrick Church how much was donated. Previously, Saint Patrick Church has donated \$3,000-4,000 annually through participation in the Baby Bottle Campaign.

Little Margaret's Charity seeks to promote charity in regard to pro-life matters, food and homelessness by supporting local charities and agencies that regularly strive to meet the needs of the community's poor and disadvantaged.

Throughout the year, Little Margaret's Charity sponsors toiletry drives benefiting J.O.I.N. and St. Stephen's Community House, the Giving Tree, and the Fifth Sunday Little Margaret's Collections. Proceeds from the collections are donated to area charities including Columbus Right to Life, Ohio Right to Life, Bethesda Healing Ministry, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, Community Kitchen, Inc., Food Kitchen at Holy Family, and the Women's Care Center.

To find out more about PDHC, visit www.pdhc.org online or call (614) 888-8774. To find out more about Little Margaret's Charity, contact Fr. LaCasse via the parish office. ♥



The Williams Family proudly displaying the PDHC bottles

Trivia Night

Winning Table:
Rick and Susan
Bartold, David and
Traci Roush, Mike
and Cristina
Randall, and Rob
Whitworth



Cranks Creek:



God Alone

By Anna Higgins

Just before Christmas I went with the Veritas Youth Group to Harlem, Kentucky for a mission trip we call Cranks Creek. While we were there, we built stairs and ramps for people with disabilities; we went Christmas caroling in one of the nursing homes; and we also gave out toys, clothing, and food to the poor. I met many great people that I was blessed to be able to help out.

On the first day, I was assigned to the muddiest job of all jobs. Being a total and complete “girlie girl,” I was not excited about getting dirty. I wanted to quit and it was only my first day. My teammates, however, would not allow it. They kept my spirits high and inspired me to eventually put my whole heart into helping the awesome family we were building the staircase for. I am also proud to say that I took second place in the “muddiest person” contest. I was constantly being reminded during the trip of how little those people down in Harlem have but how happy and joyful they are. They had

God alone and were completely satisfied.

The second night down in Kentucky, the leaders of the mission taught all of us a lesson. Upon entering the building we were given a number and you were told to sit at the table or floor in accordance with your number. There were three numbers, each one representing a socio-economic class in the world. Number 1 was the wealthiest; number 2 was not wealthy but able to make it through each day; and number 3 represented the people in extreme poverty. I was one of the number 2's so I watched some of my friends live the better life and some of them sit on the ground.

The different groups also ate the same way that they were numbered. People at the number 1 table received a full meal and second helpings of things such as chicken, pasta, and french fries. The number 2 people ate plain beans and plain rice along with water and a piece of fruit for dinner. Number 3 people only had half a bowl of rice. Dan DeMatte, the leader of Veritas, led all of us to believe that this was our dinner and that we could live without more food for just one night. Sitting at the number 2 table, I saw both extremes. Most of the number 1's wanted to share their food and give it to their friends, but they weren't allowed. They had to eat their food or it would be thrown away. Most of the number 1's were very mad at Dan and didn't like their situation and what they were being taught because they thought it was a

“stupid” lesson. Sitting in the number 2 group, I felt a little angry at first but I decided eventually that I was blessed to be a number 2 and not a number 1.

After dinner we all went up to the chapel for night prayer. It was the quietest walk of 60 teenagers going upstairs that I have ever experienced. Everybody was either mad, sad, or upset in some way because of the dinner lesson. After night prayer, Dan told us that of course that wasn't our only dinner and we were going to go upstairs and eat dinner like normal. Right away everybody's mood perked up.

Before we went to eat, we talked about how we were feeling and what we might have learned. I learned that every night I look in the fridge and complain about “not having anything to eat” when the fridge is full of food. I am actually immensely blessed even to have food to eat every day. I take it for granted, and so many people in the world are starving while I never go without.

My mission trip down to Kentucky was one of the most life-changing events I have ever experienced. I learned that my mission did not end in Harlem. Every day is a mission to evangelize, to help others, and to follow God's will for me; and Jesus is always there to help each mission be a success. Harlem, Kentucky is also not my last traveling mission. I plan on scooping up every opportunity that comes my way. I have always known the word mission, but now it means something to me and it is forever a part of who I am. ♥

Strengthening the Families of
St. Patrick Church

Families on Mission

In October, the Office of Religious Education began a new ministry within our parish called **Families on Mission**. The goal of this ministry is to equip married couples and parents with the tools necessary to make their families a “community of life and love” as Pope John Paul II indicated is the essential mission of the family. We, the people of God in the 21st century, find ourselves at a time in the Church when there is a desperate need to emphasize the importance of Marriage and Family Life, to develop and strengthen the Christian Family, and to be a light in the darkness of American Culture by displaying God’s plan for marriage and family life. As a response to this need, it is only appropriate to set time aside as married couples and parents to allow ourselves to be formed by the light of Christ and the teachings of Holy Mother Church.

We are blessed to have this ministry at St. Patrick Church. We should hold **Families on Mission** in high esteem and treat it as something of great importance because it is a response to one of the greatest needs in American Culture and Christian Marriage.

Families on Mission takes place once a month in Patrick Hall during CCD, from 10:30-11:30. Coffee and doughnuts are provided before and after the event. The monthly presentations are made by different married couples in our own parish and directed by Dan DeMatte, Director of Religious Education. The basic format allows for a teaching, questions and answers, and small group discussion. To accommodate for children, **Families on Mission** offers a play area set up in the back of Patrick Hall for your children.

Thus far, **Families on Mission** has had a wonderful turnout. Each month we have well over 100 parents present. We continue to encourage all married couples and parents to participate in

this ministry. We especially encourage married couples to come on May 2nd where we will discuss building a Family Mission Statement to help your families create a roadmap to help one another grow in holiness.

March 7	Responding to the Culture Crisis
April 11	Keeping the Spirit of Love Alive
May 2	Becoming a Family on Mission

In addition to this, the Office of Religious Education has facilitated the publication of a spiritual and catechetical guide for families to use at the dinner table. This resource was built with the hope that it would help families encounter the Holy Family of Nazareth and see how they lived their call to holiness together as a family. The families of St. Patrick will be going through the book during Lent, and we pray that this resource will help our families discover how they are called to imitate the Holy Family. The book is designed for the dinner table and allows for parents to facilitate faith discussions with their children. Each day consists of a short reading and reflection followed by casual discussion questions.

We believe that this book will awaken and deepen the faith of the entire family and so we encourage all families, with children of all ages, to use this resource.

The resource is divided into four week-long sections: Jesus, Our Lady, St. Joseph, and Family Conversion. Obviously Lent is more than four weeks long. This resource was not written specifically with Lent in mind; however, it lends itself well to this season and this time of family conversion. The goal of the four-week journey is to bring the entire family into a deeper unity with the Heart of Jesus Christ. If you would like a copy of this book, or multiple copies, they are available for free in the parish office. ♥

Blessed Margaret’s Children

Blessed Margaret’s Children is a new ministry of the parish that was founded on the premise that all of God’s special children must receive ongoing catechesis insofar as they are capable, including the reception of the Sacraments of the Church. Working under the direction of St. Patrick’s Office of Religious Education, Blessed Margaret’s Children strives to support the catechetical needs of each of God’s children with special needs. The Second Vatican Council’s universal call to holiness applies to all baptized Catholics, including those with special needs.

This year, we have five children in the program. Three of the five are preparing to receive either First Holy Communion or Confirmation. There are also nine wonderful adults who are working hard to make this ministry a success. This ministry relies on a close working relationship between the parents, teachers and aides. The child’s needs are assessed and an appropriate lesson plan is prepared. Each child is coupled with an aide who presents an appropriately modified lesson and accompanies the child in the typical classroom.

Words cannot describe how beautiful of a blessing this ministry is to St. Patrick’s. Because of Blessed Margaret’s Children, we have seen the children of St. Patrick grow in their Sacramental life. There are few less precious sights in this world than a child with special needs walking up to the altar and receiving her First Holy Communion, or a mother and father huddled in the Shrine of Blessed Margaret with Fr. LaCasse as their special needs child received a special blessing of Blessed Margaret on the day the 2nd graders celebrated their First Reconciliation.

Please continue to pray for these children and their catechists! ♥



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

This past fall, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine introduced a new catechesis program for our 3- and 4-year-olds called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children that is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in their special CCD room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful hands-on materials that they use in order to truly grasp the lessons being presented to them. You may be wondering how these materials help the religious life of children. If an adult hears a beautiful passage from the Bible, the adult might take a Bible, find the passage, and read it slowly again and again. He or she may think deeply about the words and perhaps speak to God in a thankful or hopeful prayer. But a little child, too young to read, needs another way. In their classroom the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the material for that text and working with it—placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of

the Good Shepherd, setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist.

As the CCD year has progressed, two things have distinctively stood out to me about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. First, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is deeply and beautifully rooted in the parables found in the Bible, the truths presented in the liturgy, and the holy mysterious of the rosary. The lessons the children are

receiving are authentic and deep for their age level; and because of the mode of presentation, they grasp these lessons beautifully! Second, I am inspired by the peaceful and contemplative nature of the classroom. Believe it or not, our 3- and 4-year-olds are the most well-behaved class! Even in their wild and crazy toddler years, this peaceful approach to catechesis calms the child and allows the life of Christ to penetrate their minds and hearts.

Next year, we will have two more catechists trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and we will extend this program to reach our 5-year-olds as well. These catechists, and the catechists who were trained and help in the class this year, have all made a great time commitment to the enrichment of our children. Please remember to thank the Lord for our catechists and to pray for them! ♥

St. Nicholas Party

On Saturday, December 5th, Saint Patrick Parish held its annual Saint Nicholas Day party in Patrick Hall. Around 10:00 in the morning, 75 children arrived at the event, along with their parents. The kids all waited (the nice waited patiently, and the naughty, anxiously) for a chance to tell the good bishop just what they wanted in their Christmas stockings. There were coloring pages and various other crafts to occupy the attendees before Saint Nick arrived (and some remarked that he bore an uncanny resemblance to Chip Roberts). Each child received a holy card and medal—and of course there were cookies and punch provided, and other goodies.

A special thanks to Kay McGovern and her stalwart team of helpers for organizing this bit of Advent mirth for Saint Patrick young 'uns! ♥





Cranks Creek: Learning how others live

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Meet Your New 2010 Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is composed of twelve parishioners who serve three-year terms. They are a consultative group that serves as a vehicle of pastoral advice, dialogue and communication with the pastor, parish staff, parishioners and the various organizations of the parish. The Council meets once a month from September to June. The Parish Secretary can put you in contact with any members of the Pastoral Council. ♥

Front Row: Left to Right

Cathy Conway: Worship Chair
Rita Salvatore: Social Concerns Chair
Maria Sylvester: Secretary
Fr. LaCasse, O.P.
Jenn Eppick: Bereavement Chair
Betsy Hudelson: Education Chair

Back Row: Left to Right

Ed Merklin, Jeff Moore, Dale Kinsley:
Hospitality and Social Events Chairs
Mark Clark: Maintenance Chair
Louis Matt, Jr: Chairperson
Rich Bartold: Vice Chairperson