

THE FriarCrier

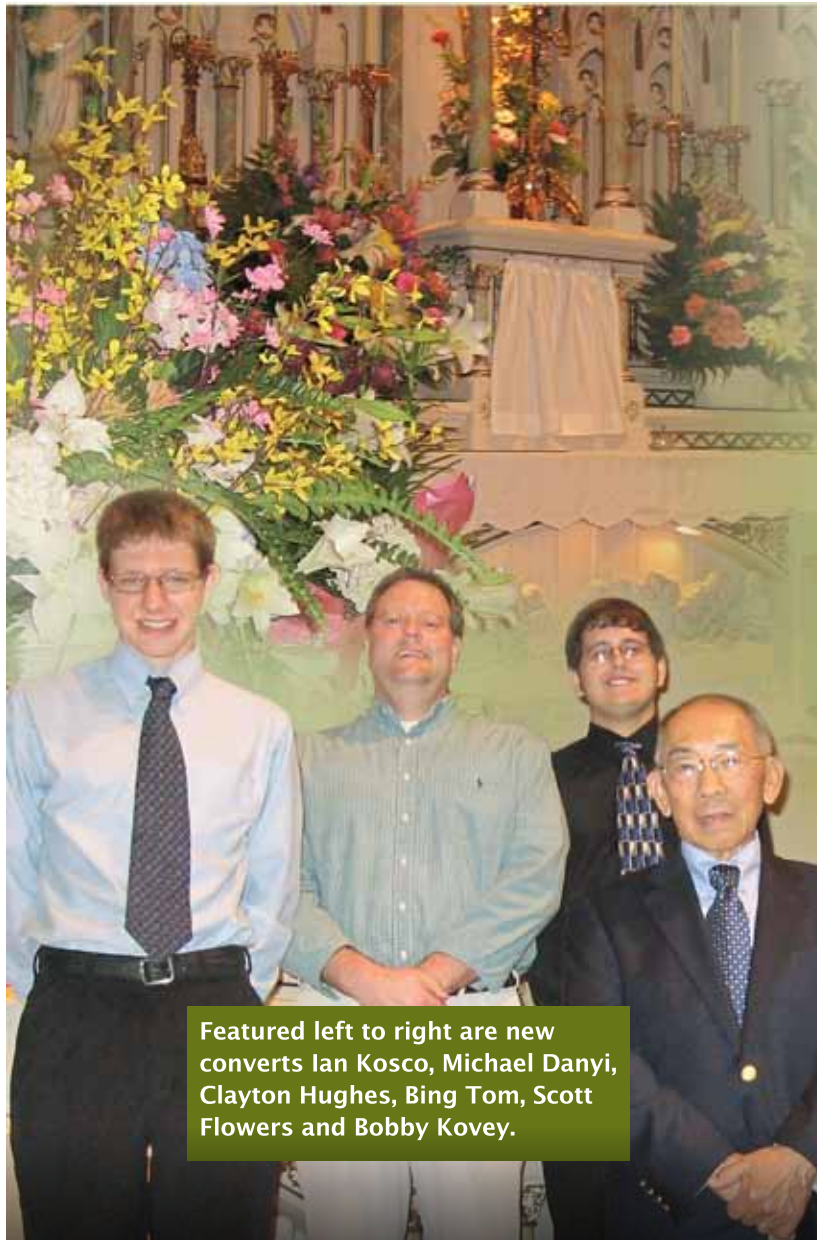
St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215-2652 | (614) 224-9522 | Dominican Friars: Province of St. Joseph

Celebrating the Easter Vigil

Unseasonably hospitable temperatures and a slight breeze warmed the late evening air on April 3. More than 300 people gathered in the delightful spring weather for the 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil. This year's RCIA participants along with their families and friends were the first invited to the inner courtyard for the lighting of the Easter Fire. Other parishioners joined them, filling the courtyard and overflowing into the corridors. Windows were thrown open so all could participate. The Easter Fire was lit and the priests and servers exited Patrick Hall into the courtyard.

Nearly two feet up into the sky, the Easter Fire roared, representing Christ Risen from the Dead.

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Featured left to right are new converts Ian Kosco, Michael Danyi, Clayton Hughes, Bing Tom, Scott Flowers and Bobby Kovey.



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Easter Vigil

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Parochial Vicar, Fr. Thomas Blau, held the Paschal candle as Pastor, Fr. André-Joseph LaCasse, began with prayer, "Dear Friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord: if we honor the memory of his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating the mysteries, then we may be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever in God."

The pastor blessed the Easter Fire, saying, "Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this fire + holy, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light."

The pastor then marked the Paschal candle with a stylus, reciting, "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all times belong to him, and all the ages, to him be glory and power, through every age for ever. Amen."

Incense grains at four corners of the cross were placed in the candles as the pastor spoke, "By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen."

The Pascal candle was lit as Fr. LaCasse prayed, "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

Fr. Blau carried the Paschal candle, leading the entire congregation through the darkness and back into the church, stopping thrice to sing "Christ our Light." Each time, the people responded, "Thanks be to God!" As parishioners lit their taper candles, the church began to glow with the Light of the Risen Christ. The Paschal candle was placed near the ambo in the sanctuary; and seminarian and Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Adam Pasternack, sang the Easter

Proclamation, "Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!"

And so began the Easter Vigil. St. Patrick Church was blessed to welcome six men into the Church at this Holy Mass. After making a Profession of Faith and being received into the Holy Catholic Church, they received the Sacrament of Confirmation and participated in the Holy Eucharist for the first time.

When asked what it means now that he has entered the Holy Catholic Church, **Michael Danyi** answered, "Because my wife is Catholic, I felt very strongly that I wanted to have a family united in faith. Now we can begin our journey together in faith, raising our children Catholic, sharing in the traditions and guidance of the Church."

Clayton Hughes commented, "I am getting married next year in the Church. I prayed about it and felt God calling me to become Catholic. I talked to the pastor and he said that if God was calling me to do it that I should not turn away and to go for it. I can now fully participate in Mass with my fiancée. We can both grow together spiritually and get married and later raise our children in the Church."

*Christ yesterday
and today, the
beginning and the
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and all the ages, to
him be glory and
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every age for ever.
Amen*



Bing Tom candidly explained, "My wife and kids are Catholic and I want God back in my life. I wanted to be closer to God."

Scott Flowers recounts "I originally started taking RCIA classes just to learn about the Catholic Church. The more I learned, the more I realized I found a Christian denomination that said what I believed. I finally feel like I belong somewhere."

Bobby Kovey observed, "Each time I went to Mass it felt more and more like home...the traditions, devotions and family atmosphere. Now being in full communion with the Catholic Church, my faith is fully realized."

Ian Kosko remarked, "What made me truly desire to enter the Church was learning to say the rosary every day. This prayer gave me so much peace while I was trying to understand God's will."

Two St. Patrick RCIA candidates

were received at Ohio Dominican University (ODU). Rebecca Snyder, who was baptized at the Easter Vigil at ODU, stated, "Becoming Catholic has made my life so much richer and fuller. I am so glad that I made the decision and can now fully participate in the Holy Eucharist." ♥



The Paschal Candle in the Sanctuary: Announcing to All: Christ is Risen from the Dead! Alleluia!

Congratulations Are In Order

Michael Melliore: Newly Appointed Leader of Altar Boys



Fr. LaCasse has recently appointed Michael Melliore as Altar Boy Leader. Michael is replacing Peter Fernandez, who after four years of faithful service is graduating from High School and moving on to college. Michael will be working with Eric Kinsley as Altar Boy Leaders, and will continue to do all scheduling and training of all 95 altar boys, and work closely with Fr. LaCasse, Director of Altar Boys. ♥

Evan Feeney and Sam Konopka: Serra Award Winners



Fr. LaCasse has recently named Evan Feeney (left) and Sam Konopka as the recipient for this year's Serra Award. The Serra Award is presented to two servers from each parish each year by Bishop Campbell. The award was bestowed upon Evan and Sam on Sunday, May 9, at 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral. Evan and Sam were chosen by Fr. LaCasse based on their overall performance and dedication to the ministry of serving at the altar. ♥



First Communion Retreat: Children learn to serve within the Body of Christ.

All of our second graders participated in a retreat the week prior to their First Holy Communion. The group of 35 children were broken up into four groups which participated in different activities: Last Supper Reenactment (pictured above with foot washing), tour of the sanctuary with a Friar, Mass Trivia, and a station for Catechesis and Crafts. ♥



10 Years Strong, and Still Preaching On

By Judy Leddy

May brings to a close another year of youth ministry at St. Patrick Parish and marks the 10th anniversary of active youth ministry in our parish.

In 2000, Fr. Jordan Lenaghan began the youth ministry program. Initially, the program was geared toward high school students involved in sports. The group was named "Catholic Athletes for Christ." Monthly group activities included guest speakers on various health topics, ice skating, hiking in Hocking Hills, attending various sporting events as well as spiritual activities. Eventually, the group evolved to include all high school students.

Fr. André-Joseph LaCasse arrived at our parish in 2002 and took over the reins of the group. He brought several years of youth ministry experience from other parishes. Wanting more involvement from the youth, Fr. LaCasse instituted an advisory council with some of the high school students. In addition to a new name, Generation Y.E.S.! (Youth Encountering our Savior!), the students made recommendations for activities including meeting twice a month. Along with continuing the social activities, they wanted more spiritual activities. Students attended youth conferences at Franciscan University Steubenville, holy hours, overnight "camping" and hiking, canoeing, cookouts and a host of other activities. The annual parish Swing Fling got its start with Gen

Y.E.S.! A group of students took ballroom dance lessons and wanted to use their new skills so a yearly event was born. Student leaders gave presentations on various saints with special connections to teens.

In 2004, at the request of parents and middle school students, a middle school youth group began. L.I.G.H.T. for Christ (Living in God's Holy Truth for Christ) was formed. This became just as successful as Gen Y.E.S.! Just two years ago, the two groups took on new names. The Senior High Youth Ministry is now called VERITAS (Truth in Latin), and the Jr. High Youth Ministry is now called CARITAS (Charity in Latin).

Fr. Darren Pierre joined our parish when Fr. LaCasse became our pastor. Fr. Darren took over the youth ministry programs. In 2008, Dan DeMatte was hired as the Parish Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry.

Since its inception, our high school students have had numerous opportunities to learn more about themselves and their faith. The core of youth ministry has always been focused on Jesus along with developing a strong faith and relationship with Him. Students have welcomed family and friends who are not parishioners to join. The youth ministry here at St. Patrick's has always been a beacon of light welcoming all. It is a safe and comfortable environment for socialization and strengthening each

member's faith and relationship with God. Several members are in formation for the priesthood or consecrated life; others are open to these possibilities. With each transition of leadership, the youth ministry has maintained its focus on God and faith.

The graduation Mass and brunch is our parish community's opportunity to recognize our high school students as they transition to adults.

This year, 23 seniors who have graduated from area high schools and home study programs were recognized. Families and friends joined them for a brunch prepared by parishioners, led by Joan Hoy. Over 200 people attended the brunch in Patrick Hall.

Here are some thoughts from a few of the graduating seniors:

Lisa Ball (Columbus School for Girls), said she would like to encourage students to join YM here at St. Patrick's. "It is great fun and easy to fit in." When asked what her favorite activity was, Lisa replied that, "There are too many great things to pick just one!"

Marisa DePalma (Bishop Ready), has loved being involved in YM. "I have grown so much. I have gotten to know others my age and we are very close," she says. Marisa feels that this has been an opportunity for her and her friends to grow together in their faith.

Peter Fernandez (St. Francis DeSales), said that YM has been a good experience to get to know others from different areas. Peter suggests attending YM with a friend the first time you go.

Justin Hayes (St. Charles), has been involved in YM since the 7th grade. Justin said he enjoyed socializing with others and the personal interaction. His favorite activity was Cranks Creek. Justin said, "It felt good helping others."





By Marian Hyden

On Sunday, May 23, the Marriage and Family Life Ministry of Saint Patrick parish hosted Cat.Chat (short for “Catholic Chat”), a family-based organization dedicated to catechizing young children in the Catholic faith primarily through stories, songs, and Don Bosco-like performances (juggling, unicycling, etc.). The “Cat.Chat Man” is Canadian Gerald Montpetit, husband of Denise and father of five children. Following a death in the family and especially the bereavement of one of their nieces (aged 4 when her mother died), the Montpetits resolved to do something to strengthen the faith of young children through their ministry. Cat.Chat is aimed at children aged 3-11—to educate children and ignite their love for Jesus Christ through fun activities. In their visit to Saint Patrick’s recently (where they were met by an audience of around 200 people), the Cat.Chat Man was accompanied by his children as well as by Moses the Cat. There was live music, unicycling, singing, and dancing, all of the activities somehow conveying Catholic doctrine. Children as well as parents were invited up on stage at different points during the evening, and at the end of the show the younger children did a dance with pom-poms on stage with the Cat.Chat gang. There was a coloring contest for different age-groups: Orla Gerrity won the 3-5 year-old category; Josh Rainer won from the 6-8 year-olds; and Grace Hyden took the cake from the 9-11 year-olds. Fr. Tom Blau, associate pastor, won the independent Friars’ coloring competition, though he was quickly accused by other friars of going outside the lines. Following the activities, popcorn and lemonade were provided, giving parents a chance for some chat of their own. ▼



Alive In You

By Anna Higgins

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, I (along with many members of the Veritas youth group) was nailed to the cross. To clear things up, after lying on a wooden cross, blindfolded, and feeling the wood shake as the hammer came into contact with the wood, I rose without a scratch, but one thing that stayed on that cross were my fears and failures. By experiencing what was called the "Cross Walk," I was enabled to physically go through all five sorrowful mysteries of the rosary acting as Christ. Of course I was in no way physically injured; but with the dark cloud of doubt hovering above my soul, my whole life was washed away. Immediately after being nailed to a cross, I was thrust back into my life and welcomed with an embrace by those around me. I was completely speechless. No words were forming in my mind, but for some reason my inability to form words was alright. I could have never been prepared myself for the next words I heard: "He still would have done it even if it would have been ONLY for YOU." That was it. Those simple words, plus a loving hug, were enough to break the act I had fooled myself with for so long. The tears came and didn't stop the rest of the day. That was the point in my life where I realized that something had to change. I heard God's voice and for once, I listened. For so many years I had heard His call but brushed Him aside, and that Saturday I had finally had enough. I started on my journey to get rid of the old me while experiencing small group sessions, personal prayer time and all the fun activities. During the weekend I learned to live in such a way so that through me, others would see Christ.

There are many things that I loved about the Spring Retreat, but my favorite part of the experience was



Veritas Leader Dan DeMatte working along side of the Blessed Virgin

Small Group. A small group session is when you gather with a small group of girls to talk, pray, laugh and come to know Jesus more through others. I believe our group had the best leaders and I really loved how the six other girls and I were completely open and not afraid to tell the truth. One of the best things that happened in small group was the chance to get prayed over. On Saturday night everybody in small group was invited into the middle of the group circle one by one and was prayed over by everybody else in the group. This experience was really great and it helped me not feel as alone. Hearing some of the other girls asking for the same things I felt in my heart was very relieving. Small group also opened up my relationship with one of my best friends and brought it to such a deeper level. Now I know that I can go to her with anything and she will always be there for me. I am truly grateful for her and feel immensely blessed to have her in my life forever.

Another big factor that went into making this retreat so meaningful to me was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration gave me a chance for some personal prayer time in front of Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist and journaling time. It was nice to take a break, sit down and just be with Jesus. One thing that was



With Jesus on the cross nearby, ministering to teens seems much easier!

offered during the Adoration time was Reconciliation (the sacrament of Confession). When Dan DeMatte, our youth group leader, mentioned there was going to be Confession offered, I winced on the inside. I really had no desire to go to Confession. But before long, I found myself walking over to the waiting area and then sitting in a chair waiting for a priest to be ready for me. Next, I saw myself walking over to the first available priest, sitting down and greeting him. By this point, my mind had caught up with what my body was doing. I sat there for five minutes until I took a deep breath and took the gentle hand that the Blessed Virgin Mary was offering me. She guided me to her son through the priest and I began my confession. I had no idea the amount of things that had gathered on my soul and weighed my shoulders down for so long. I stood up after giving a completely honest confession and wanted to do a cartwheel! I felt extraordinarily light and had the sensation that I was walking on clouds. Nothing could bring me down, and nothing since then has. I defeated my old self and I am confident that I can do all things through Christ.

Although participating in serious activities is great and a big part of going on retreat, I am also glad that the retreat leaders took into account



The Lord frees us from the burdens of sin and death with confession and lightens our load.

that we are still kids and all kids need play time! Most of the fun activities focused on teamwork. My favorite game was called Rise and Shine Relay. It was a relay race that involved a plethora of things ranging from hula-hooping to shouting out Bible verses. Not only did I gain a sense of accomplishment from playing the game, I also believe that this particular game caused me to catch the terrible cold I currently have. We had to bob for just the marshmallows in a bowl of Lucky Charms cereal and milk. I was not the first to go, so inevitably, I bobbed where others had done so before me, thus catching this wonderful virus. Other games included an eight-legged race in which you were tied leg-by-leg with your small group. This was also very fun, but resulted in many mud-covered bottoms, legs, arms and even faces. While playing a game of Capture the Flag, I learned two things. The first thing I learned was that I pretty much stink at Capture the Flag. The second thing I learned was that one of my best friends is as good as I am bad. Even though I was virtually no help to our team, she didn't make me feel bad and I am so grateful for the huge positive impact she had on me during the retreat. Fun games not only brought out the competitive spirit that usually lies dormant inside me, but also were a major factor in falling

asleep at night because we were all so exhausted.

Whether I was pouring my heart out into a praise and worship song, talking to my best friends, or praying quietly, I was experiencing Christ. I saw Him in a friendly smile and heard Him in song lyrics that sound as if they were written by Jesus Himself.

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I felt Him through the Cross Walk and while being prayed over by my small group. What I am trying to say is that during the Spring Retreat, I saw, felt and truly experienced Christ, and all of my doubts and fears were gone instantaneously. The moment I stepped off of the bus and sunk my feet into the muddy grounds of where we were staying,

I could feel Christ's arms around me and never have I been so sure of His love for me. The word retreat itself means to run away. In battle when you are getting weaker and the enemy is closing in, you must retreat! This provides the chance to build yourself and your army back up and come back to battle even stronger than before. Just so, as Catholics we are constantly in battle and sometimes need a break from fighting the everyday battles. This retreat proved to strengthen my faith and now I am fully ready for anything the world can throw my way. "For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory." Deut. 20:4 ♥

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Recipients



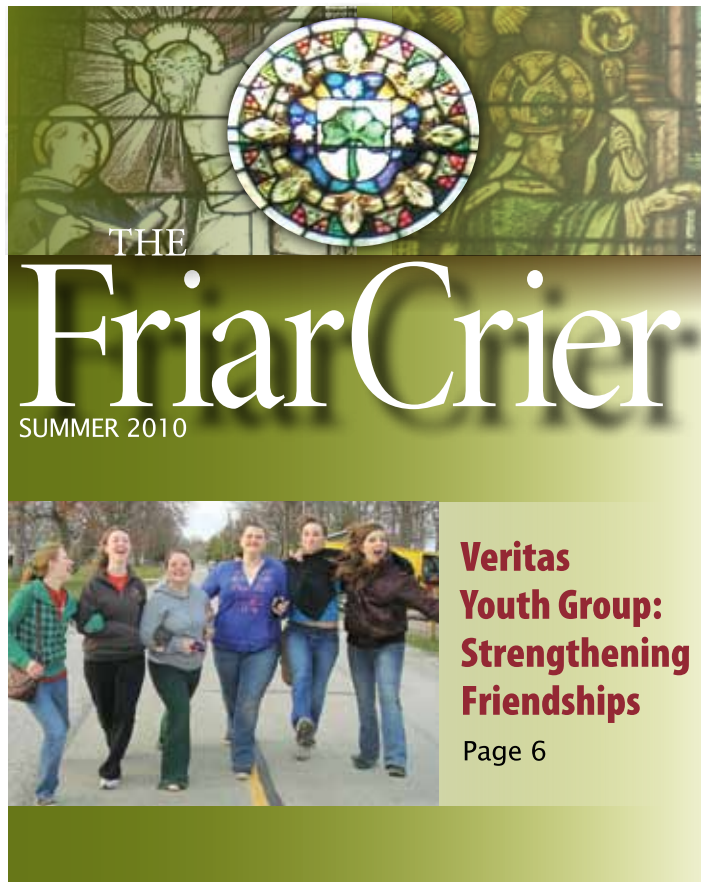
First Holy Communion with Frs. LaCasse and Blau



Confirmation with His Excellency, Bishop Frederick Campbell

Flowers decorate the statue of St. Patrick honoring his feast day.





First Communicants show their love for Mother Mary at the Annual May Crowning.



Blessed Virgin venerated at May crowning

