



ST. CLARE HERALD

A Publication of the Stewardship Council
Living the Mission of the Parish

*Worshipping and working together . . .
To evangelize, to educate and to serve each other and the community.*

March 4, 2007

Vol. 2 No. 2

God is the source of all . . . In Gratitude we give back our Time, Talent & Treasure.

TIME

Hospitality Sunday 2007

A good annual community activity usually starts small and continues to grow. The winter Hospitality Sunday is one such event. Last year, Hospitality Sunday was held close to National Immigration Week in the Catholic Church and also close to the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. Both these events of the Church imply hospitality and welcoming. This year it was held on the Sunday before Lent. In the future, Hospitality Sunday will be held after Christmas but before Lent. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all. At the liturgy, folks were recognized and gifts were given. New Capuchin Friars in the area joined in the Parish festivities. There was great food, great fellowship and hard workers. ***The estimated hours of volunteer time is too much to count, but for the sake of the work of the Kingdom, it was priceless. Thank you to all who took the time to celebrate our Parish life together.***

The Parish Needs Some of Your Time...

- Parish Ministry Sunday – April 29th Mass and Covered-Dish Luncheon – The Stewardship Council is in the process of planning for Ministry Sunday. As part of the preparation, there is a workshop on “Organizing for Volunteers” on **Tuesday, March 13th** at 7:00 PM in Saint Clare Center. The workshop will address “What is Essential for Recruiting?” and “Why Have Ministry Sunday?” Invitations were sent out for this workshop to those who are involved in parish ministries, but it is open to all parishioners. Call if you plan to attend so that we can be prepared.

TALENT

Behind the Scenes Blankets for Babies

The Parish is blessed to have the talents of Kathleen Geletko who works with the youth of the Parish. Kathleen has been instrumental with helping the youth provide such items as blankets that have been given to newly baptized children of the Parish. These gifts have been given out to the children on Hospitality Sunday. Kathleen is one of the Parish’s “Ever Ready Bunnys” who keeps cranking out ideas and projects with the youth.

The Parish Needs Your Talents...

- Young Musicians. Young parishioners who are taking music lessons and have an interest in music. Liturgical music in the Parish can be enriched by its youth. Are there budding musicians in the Parish? Call 412-233-7870. Ms. Madlyn (“Maddie”) DeRito is on board and ready to work with you.

TREASURE

Good Response

The response to the “Faith in Action” has been good. The mere fact that families have taken time to respond is the biggest help. It is good to see that parishioners are doing what they can. Some parishioners have returned the cards stating that they are already doing all that they can do. This also is a big help for Pastoral Planning. If you have not returned your Pink Card, the Stewardship Council would still like to hear from you.

The Parish Needs Your Treasures...

- Door Prize Donations for Ministry Sunday - April 29th - The Stewardship Council needs your help. They would like to give away door prizes at the Ministry Day Covered-Dish Luncheon. To off-set the cost of these door prizes the Council is asking for donations of **new items** that will be assembled into “Theme Baskets”. If you have an item that you received as a gift that’s just “not you” you can re-gift that item to us. Some suggestions: beauty products, non-perishable food items, jewelry, candles, toys, small appliances, gift certificates, etc. You can leave your donation in the designated box at the back of church or drop it off at the parish offices weekdays between 8AM - 4PM, by April 2. Call Kathy Ulmer at 412-233-7870 if you have any questions.

Saint Clare of Assisi Parish

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

Administrative Office - 460 Reed Street, Clairton, PA 15025
Phone: 412-233-7870 Fax: 412-233-0742 e-mail: stclareparish@comcast.net



STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION CORNER...

Liturgical Music Minister...And...A Great Confirmation Celebration

New Music Minister and Organist

On Ash Wednesday, the Parish welcomed Madlyn DeRito (known as "Maddie") to Saint Clare of Assisi Parish as its new Music Minister and Organist. Early in Maddie's career, she played the piano and organ at the Middle Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, PA, at the New Derry United Methodist Church and at Saint Paul's United Church of Christ in Derry, PA. While working at these sites, she directed choirs, both adult and children. She also substituted at various places.

In 1999, Maddie had the opportunity to be a Director of Music Ministry at Saint Bede Roman Catholic Church in Bovard, PA. She had the regular responsibilities of most Directors of Music Ministry in Catholic Churches. She recruited and started adult choirs, planned the weekend and holy day liturgies and worked with children. She also worked at Saint Matthew Roman Catholic Church in Saltsburg, PA. Her last position was at Saint Edward Church in Herminie, PA.

Maddie comes with a wealth of experience. She keeps herself updated in the field of liturgical music by participating in workshops organized by the National Pastoral Musicians (on the local level) and the American Guild of Organists. She has worked with children and enjoys working with them. She has a great sense of dedication, is frank and has a great sense of humor.

Maddie comes to us ready to build on the foundation set by Michele Niedziela, who provided leadership for the liturgy music for the New Saint Clare of Assisi Parish, formed in the early 1990's. The parishioners of Saint Clare do sing out as a result of Michele's efforts and now is the time to work at developing a broader base of young singers and musicians.

We are glad to have Maddie as part of our faith community and are looking forward to working with her. We also welcome her mother, Ann, and her daughter, Alanna.

Summary of Confirmation Celebration

The day after Maddie started working in the Parish, sixteen of our youth were confirmed by Bishop Paul Bradley at one of our Cluster Parishes (Holy Spirit). The Church was filled to capacity. Besides the candidates, their sponsors, friends and families, other Saint Clare of Assisi Parishioners joined in on the celebration of the Spirit in the lives of our youth.

Kristen Dotterway (the Parish volunteer photographer) was one of the lectors, and Heather Sopko and her cousin, Sara Eichler were altar servers. James DaBaldo and Tim Booth were greeters. Tiffany and Justin Guittap were servers at the cookie and punch tables at the social following Confirmation. Several of our choir members added their voices with the Holy Spirit Choir and Vince DiAntonio provide a brass sound to round out the sound provided by Holy Spirit's Music Director, Bob Maxwell. Rosanne Maksin, our Confirmation teacher, worked with Marina Cocco, the Catechetical Administrator from Holy Spirit, to make sure that the liturgy went off without a hitch.

Needless to say, our candidates felt at ease as they answered a majority of the questions asked by the Bishop during his homily. Saint Clare of Assisi Parishioners were confident and joy-filled as we all celebrated God's gift of the Spirit beginning its maturing process in our youth. Thanks to all the candidates, sponsors, families, friends and the parishioners at large who made the day one to remember. And a great big thanks to the cookie bakers! The baked goods went fast! The occasion was a great witness to the Catholic Church in the Diocese and in the Deanery and the community of faithful people, known as Saint Clare of Assisi Parish. The evening was a lesson of Gospel-living.

***Direct all communications regarding material in "The Herald" to
the Parish Offices at 412-233-7870
or E-mail stclareparish@comcast.net.***