



NOVEMBER  
2009

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor's Pen  
Page 2
  - Awakening Faith
  - Home Visitation  
Page 3
  - Parish Profile  
- Dan Caprara  
Page 4
- Eucharistic Devotions  
Page 5
- St. Paul Parish Sacrament  
Preparation Programs  
Underway!
  - A Message From  
The Youth Director
- Advent is Right Around  
the Corner!
  - WOW  
Page 6
- Catholics Confront  
Global Poverty
  - Going Green
- Catholic Charities -  
Financial Life Skills
  - Did You Know
- Welcome New Members  
Page 7

# St Paul Catholic Church

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

# Thanksgiving

**November** is often referred to as gratitude month. This is the time of year when we remember our blessings and give thanks to God for all his gifts. Gratitude has an important part to play in Christian worship. When we acknowledge all of the ways we've been blessed by God, and give him thanks, we forget about the hurts we suffer and the wrongs that have been done to us. We focus not on our weakness, but on God's strength—not on our loneliness, but on the union with God and with one another that has been made possible in and through Christ. The Greek word for "thanksgiving" has the same root as the word Eucharist. And we Christians are convinced there is no greater way to give thanks to God than to share in the body and blood of his son in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. This is the worship that heals our love—which has been wounded by sins of lust, bitterness and fear. This is the worship that makes us whole again after we have been divided by politics, ideology and petty jealousy. When we are focused on our blessings, and express our gratitude to God, how can we feel sorry for ourselves? And when we acknowledge all the gifts we have received from a good and gracious God, how can we be envious (or covetous) of our neighbor's gifts? What must we do to be healed, to become holy? We must thank God for his goodness to us. We must open ourselves to the power of his love and let his healing power (his grace) enter into our minds and hearts. We must give ourselves to him wholly and completely so that he can restore us to our true selves. May it also be a time of healing and wholeness—for each of us, for our nation and for the Church. May our observance of Thanksgiving extend far beyond one day, or even this one month, and become a way of life, an expression of stewardship, for all God's people. May our thankfulness lead us to the Eucharist, and may our worship bring us the wholeness and healing of love. This November, join us in placing our focus on gratitude by participating in Eucharistic Adoration and area Thanksgiving celebrations.



*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." – Philippians 4:6*

Excerpts from Dan Conway - The Good Steward Vol. 6 • No. 11 • November 2008

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC



# from the *Pastor's Pen*

Halloween has come and gone. The leaves have turned colors and most have fallen. The farm lands have produced abundant fruit and the smell of pumpkins is still in the air. With the beginning of November there is reason to celebrate THANKSGIVING and to be grateful for what we have and are. November is truly a time to pause and give thanks. Our pilgrims knew what they were doing. They had their priorities right. We have many reasons to thank our God. My thoughts focus around three themes for thanksgiving: our Eucharistic Devotions, Stewardship of Treasure and Ecumenism.

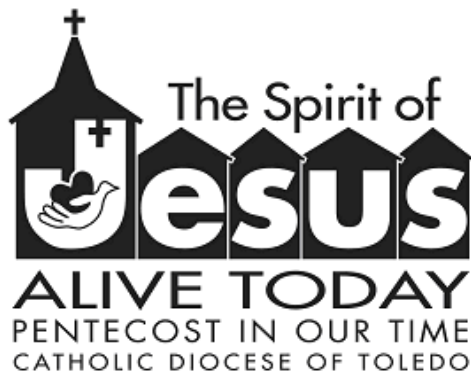
The second week of November we will focus on the gift of the Eucharist as we celebrate Eucharistic Days on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>. (See related article in this newsletter.) Visiting priests who have served us in the past will share some thoughts and reflections with us that will help us appreciate the gift of the Eucharist that is ours, day in and day out. O Sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine. All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine! Come to our Eucharistic Devotions!

The middle weeks of November, and especially on November 15<sup>th</sup>, we will concentrate on Stewardship of Treasure. Having reflected on the Stewardship of Prayer (Time) at the beginning of Lent and the Stewardship of Service (Talent) at the beginning of the school year, we take time to complete the theme of Stewardship, the Stewardship of Sharing (Treasure). Personal witnesses will be given by some of our parishioners on the weekend of November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners will be asked to return their pledge cards the following weekend. More than ever we are in rather desperate need of financial resources to maintain and continue our services to our parish and community families. Faith and gratitude will continue to motivate and inspire our efforts.

On Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, the Eve of Thanksgiving Day, we will gather with other Christian churches at the First Presbyterian Church here in Norwalk at 7:30 p.m. to join in our annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Our own Fr. Eric Mueller will preach the homily. Much growth has come to our churches in the area of ecumenism. This is particularly true in regard to our relationship as Catholics with our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church. Members of both Churches rejoiced when the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification was signed in Germany by representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican on October 31, 1999, exactly ten years ago. And closer to home, Catholics and Lutherans in Northwestern Ohio joined to give thanks when Lutheran Bishop Marcus Lohrmann and our late Bishop James Hoffman signed the Covenant between the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Toledo in September of 2001. This important milestone document was subsequently renewed and re-signed by Bishop Lohrmann and Bishop Leonard Blair in October of 2006. Local efforts continue to unite our churches into the one Body of Christ.

As we pray at each Mass that we celebrate: Let us give thanks to the Lord. It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

- Fr Frank



The home visitation phase of *"The Spirit of Jesus Alive Today: Pentecost in Our Time"* has been completed and we are beginning to see results. Our goal was to visit and share information to 8400 households in our area about the Catholic Church and our three Catholic parishes. We have heard nothing but wonderful comments. Thanks to those who have been messengers of the Good News and thank you to the people who were very courteous and friendly toward us. We have planted some wonderful seeds of faith in the hearts of the people of our community. We really think that we will see some people returning to the Catholic Church and other people whose faith in God will be strengthened because of our outreach and hospitality. Please welcome any new faces you see in the congregation and watch for some results of this effort.

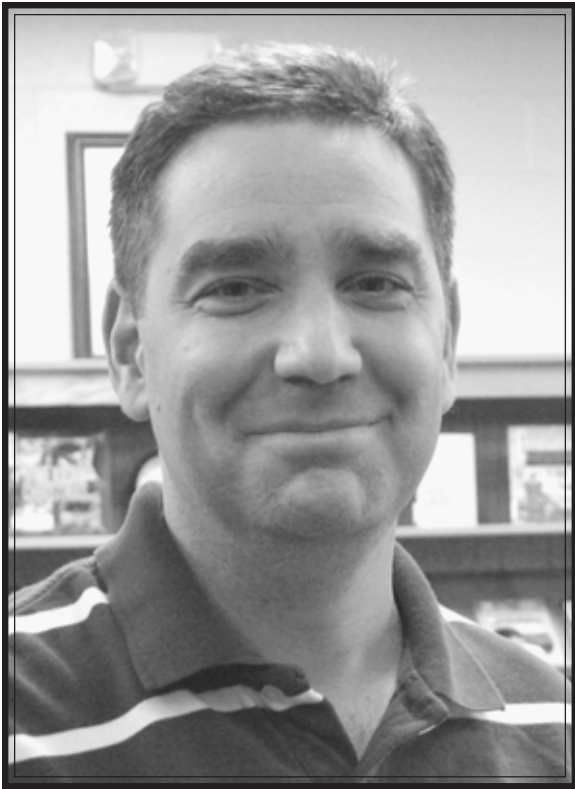


L - Mary Ellen Stehle, R - Jane Schaffer

## **"Awakening Faith" – An Introduction**

The Home Visitations are finished and we are beginning to see the results of our efforts. Catholics who have been inactive are beginning to re-connect with the Church again! This is wonderful! As a parish, we are ready to offer ways for folks to return to active faith. An **"Introduction to Awakening Faith"** evening will be held on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m. in the Gathering Space. This will be an informal welcoming time for people to meet one another, enjoy some refreshments and find out about the full 6-week "Awakening Faith" program that will help people re-connect with their Catholic faith. The full program will begin on January 25, 2010. So, if you have been inactive yourself or if you know someone who has been inactive, please come or bring someone to the **Introduction to Awakening Faith** evening on November 16<sup>th</sup>!

- Marian Bermudez



## Parish Profile

# *Dan Caprara*

If St. Paul Parish is a driving force in the community, a visible church that reaches out to people in need and helps to resolve problems, it is because of parishioners like Dan Caprara. He and the other members of the Social Concerns Ministry Team are hoping this is the result of their efforts over the last three years.

Dan is one of the original members of the Social Concerns team, led by Pastoral Associate Marian Bermudez. He was serving on the parish's pastoral council at the time it recommended a ministry that would focus on outreach in the community.

Since the seed of that idea was planted, the team started projects on a small scale, like the Salvation Army diaper drive, for example. A big hit for two years has been the Social Services EXPO held at St. Paul, where people with various needs could find help from more than 30 community agencies. Also, the Team earlier this year

worked with a county task force to help people facing foreclosures and job losses.

These are just some of what the team has worked on. But the newest and most adventurous undertaking for the ministry is an upcoming project with other churches to build a Habitat for Humanity house. Plans are underway for that.

"It's about getting our church involved in the community," says Dan. "The need is so great. It takes such a small effort to change what goes on in our community."

Dan believes it is inevitable that outreach projects at the local level have a ripple effect on society as a whole.

There's no doubt it is hard work to plan such major events, especially when the team has to corroborate with other agencies, groups or people.

But, as Dan says, "The hard work just melts away. The rewards and satisfactions... you just can't measure that.

"The commitment is very small for the rewards it can bring to your life. It makes you feel fortunate that, with all that is going on in the economy or with people struggling to pay bills, you really don't have it so bad because you are able, in some small way, to help your community."

The Social Concerns Ministry has about eight members, but a few more were expected to join, including Dan's wife, Connie. The couple has two sons – Jacob, a sophomore, and Lucas, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, at Norwalk Catholic School. Both boys are in band and cross country. Jacob also is a lector at Sunday Masses.

Besides raising two busy boys, the Capraras both work – Dan at Mayflower and Connie at Northern Ohio Medical Specialists. Dan also is an usher and a member of the junior high and high schools advisory board. Yet, Dan says instead of being too busy to volunteer at church, his family is enriched by their service because they often participate in activities together.

"You can lead more by example than by words," says Dan. "We might not have a lot of treasures, but we have more than enough time and talent. To be able to share that in different ways is very rewarding."

# Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can serve as “an inexhaustible source of holiness.”

Pope John Paul II, encyclical: *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*

## Eucharistic Devotions

*A reflection on Evangelization and the Eucharist*

### Sunday, November 8, 7:30p.m.

“Hospitality and the Eucharist”

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Homilist: Fr. Dave Cirata, Pastor, St. Jerome, Walbridge

### Monday, November 9, 7:30p.m.

“Healing and the Eucharist”

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our savior Jesus Christ.

Homilist: Fr. Chris Kardzis, Pastor, Holy Angels, Sandusky

### Tuesday, November 10, 7:30p.m.

“Eucharist and Mission”

“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the *source* and *summit* of the entire Christian life. It is the *fount* from which all the Church’s power flows. [Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy] Another way the faithful can deepen their spiritual lives is through worship of the Holy Eucharist outside of mass.

Eucharistic adoration is an *extension* of the celebration of the mass “and prepares us to participate more fully in the celebration of the Eucharistic mystery.” [USCCB] In our worship of the Blessed Sacrament we acknowledge Christ’s presence in the Eucharist and can nourish and deepen our relationship with Jesus, our redeemer.

Come and join us for this time of prayer, renewal and growth in Christ’s gift of the Eucharist!

## St. Paul Parish Sacrament Preparation Programs Underway!

**First Reconciliation** children & their parents will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> Gathering beginning Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Parents choose either Saturday from 9:00-10:30 a.m., Sunday from 12:15-1:45 p.m. or Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space.

**Confirmation** candidates & sponsors will have their 1<sup>st</sup> Gathering beginning on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Sponsors & students choose to attend either Saturday from 9:00-10:30 a.m., Sunday from 12:15-1:45 p.m. or Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. The Confirmation Rite of Enrollment will be celebrated at the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Church on Sunday, November 15, 2009.

- Marian Bermudez



## *a message* from the Youth Director

### Calling all YOUth!

The newly created St. Paul Catholic Church Youth Core Team invites all youth to get involved in connecting faith and life. Our goal is to create teams of youth and adults in the areas of Liturgy, Service, Retreats, and Social. **Have you ever wished that adults would consult youth on what would enhance their relationship with Jesus Christ and others?** Here is the chance. Youth can step up to the challenge to be on one of the teams and help design experiences that youth and their friends would attend.

This experience is different, it is not about building programs—it is **about building relationships,**

**especially a relationship to Jesus Christ**—because it was for people, not programs, that Jesus lived, died, and rose.

Several experiences have already been scheduled. A Youth Mass on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm is open to the entire parish community, but the liturgical responsibilities, along with the music, will be youth led. Come enjoy the upbeat music! Then, on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> the annual “Make a Difference Day,” will take place for the Norwalk community. **Step out—and be involved in creating a means for the youth of St. Paul parish to be life giving to others.** For more information, questions, or comments, please call or email: Sara Fitzgerald, 419-668-6044 or [saraf@stpaulchurch.org](mailto:saraf@stpaulchurch.org).

### Advent is Right Around the Corner!

How do Catholic adults “prepare” for Advent & Christmas? (The answer is not shopping!) What do these seasons mean to us and why does the Church spend a block of time from the end of November to January celebrating them? To explore these questions, an “Adult Morning of Preparation for the Advent/Christmas Seasons” will be held from 9:45-11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> in the Juan Diego room of the Parish Center and repeated in an evening session on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 p.m. Marian Bermudez will facilitate the sessions.

## WOW

The November WOW SOCIAL for widow/widowers will be held November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at St. Pauls Church, Norwalk in the gathering space. The fare for the evening will be potluck with meat and beverage provided. Please bring a dish to share and bring a friend to see what we are all about. Last month 37 people attended and a great evening of fun, food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

For info call Rose Riedy at 419-668-4540.



**Sign up** to join "Catholics Confront Global Poverty", and be one of a million Catholics working to confront poverty. (Go to [www.crs.org/globalpoverty](http://www.crs.org/globalpoverty) to sign up online. Be sure to put "Diocese of Toledo 43697" in the Name of Organization Box. Sign up as a family too!) SIGN UP NOW!

**Initiative leaders: Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**


**The Goal** of "Catholics Confront Global Poverty" is to educate and mobilize one million Catholics in the United States to

1. defend the life and dignity of people living in poverty throughout the world, and
2. urge our nation to act in response to the many faces of poverty.

**Read** "The Faces of Global Poverty" which provides a framework for the "Catholics Confront Global Poverty" initiative. Or, read the summary of what the campaign hopes to accomplish. ([www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty))

The "Catholics Confront Global Poverty" initiative is inspired by Pope Benedict's January 1, 2009 World Day of Peace Message: Fight Poverty to Build Peace. Our Holy Father declares: "Effective means to redress the marginalization of the world's poor through globalization will only be found if people everywhere feel personally outraged by the injustices in the world and by the concomitant violations of human rights." To fight poverty effectively we also need to know the many faces of poverty. Next month, we will look more closely at the Catholic Church's teaching about people living in poverty and the Church's experience with those struggling in poverty.

- Marian Bermudez

**Green Tips-**

- One of the easiest and most ecologically sound practices you can take up is composting. Composting helps reduce the amount of waste going into landfills and also creates "black gold" that benefits your gardens or potted plants and the ecosystem in many ways. If you're new to composting and need some basic information, log on to [www.howtocompost.org](http://www.howtocompost.org) and look for our link.

**Catholic Charities - Financial Life Skills**

Catholic Charities is pleased to announce the beginning of a Financial Literacy Program. If you are finding your monthly budgets not stretching far enough or if your bills have gotten the best of you, then you might be able to find some help here. This program is provided through a grant from the Erie Huron CAC. Our first workshop is scheduled for **November 18, 2009 3 to 5:30pm at St. Paul's Parish Center**. For more information please call Melissa Stallkamp @ Catholic Charities 419-668-3073.

***Did you know..*** you can receive the parish newsletter via email in PDF format instead of through regular mail? Choosing the email delivery option saves paper, ink, postage and time - and you will get to see all the pictures in color! To begin receiving the newsletter via email, please send your email address to Geri Dow at: [gerid@stpaulchurch.org](mailto:gerid@stpaulchurch.org)

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### **St. Paul Boosters \$100 Daily Drawing Winners from September**

- Kathy Miller
- Jack Weisenberger
- Ireta Nay - twice
- Lisa Baltes
- Dolly Ruffing
- Doug Colvin
- Jennifer Springer
- Cincy Malcolm
- Bernice Stein
- Bob Myers
- Adolph Fischer
- Carter Kellogg
- Eugene Foti
- Mary Newland
- John Borgia
- Mary Bleile
- Rita Fulton
- Marion Coy
- Rosemary Conney
- Rosemary Egle