

PASTOR'S COLUMN

THE INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP OF JESUS

WHEN Jesus is near, all is well and nothing seems difficult. When He is absent, all is hard. When Jesus does not speak within, all other comfort is empty, but if He says only a word, it brings great consolation.

Did not Mary Magdalen rise at once from her weeping when Martha said to her: "The Master is come, and calleth for thee"? Happy is the hour when Jesus calls one from tears to joy of spirit.

How dry and hard you are without Jesus! How foolish and vain if you desire anything but Him! Is it not a greater loss than losing the whole world? For what, without Jesus, can the world give you? Life without Him is a relentless hell, but living with Him is a sweet paradise. If Jesus be with you, no enemy can harm you.

He who finds Jesus finds a rare treasure, indeed, a good above every good, whereas he who loses Him loses more than the whole world. The man who lives without Jesus is the poorest of the poor, whereas no one is so rich as the man who lives in His grace.

It is a great art to know how to converse with Jesus, and great wisdom to know how to keep Him. Be humble and peaceful, and Jesus will be with you. Be devout and calm, and He will remain with you. You may quickly drive Him away and lose His grace, if you turn back to the outside world. And, if you drive Him away and lose Him, to whom will you go and whom will you then seek as a friend? You cannot live well without a friend, and if Jesus be not your friend above all else, you will be very sad and desolate. Thus, you are acting foolishly if you trust or rejoice in any other. Choose the opposition of the whole world rather than offend Jesus. Of all those who are dear to you, let Him be your special love. Let all things be loved for the sake of Jesus, but Jesus for His own sake.

Jesus Christ must be loved alone with a special love for He alone, of all friends, is good and faithful. For Him and in Him you must love friends and foes alike, and pray to Him that all may know and love Him.

Never desire special praise or love, for that belongs to God alone Who has no equal. Never wish that anyone's affection be centered in you, nor let yourself be taken up with the love of anyone, but let Jesus be in you and in every good man. Be pure and free within, unentangled with any creature.

You must bring to God a clean and open heart if you wish to attend and see how sweet the Lord is. Truly you will never attain this happiness unless His grace prepares you and draws you on so that you may forsake all things to be united with Him alone.

When the grace of God comes to a man he can do all things, but when it leaves him he becomes poor and weak, abandoned, as it were, to affliction. Yet, in this condition he should not become dejected or despair. On the contrary, he should calmly await the will of God and bear whatever befalls him in praise of Jesus Christ, for after winter comes summer, after night, the day, and after the storm, a great calm.

The Imitation of Christ
Thomas à Kempis

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 2, 2008 ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. +Sadie Galdys by Barb Virigiver

Sunday, August 3, 2008 ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. +John Snider by the Family

11:00 a.m. +Sheri Everson by Tom & Gloria Anderson

5:00 p.m. +David Sheehan by Matt Sheehan

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

9:00 a.m. +Antony Hoan Nguyen by Hoa & Muoi

Nguyen

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

9:00 a.m. Patrick O'Daly by Peggy Finn & Family

Friday, August 8, 2008

9:00 a.m. +Maria Tran & Vy Tran by Hoa & Muoi

Nguyen

Saturday, August 9, 2008 ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 p.m. +Joe Lewandowski by the Levan Family

Sunday, August 10, 2008 ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. +Sadie Galdys by Grandson Mike and Family

11:00 a.m. +Joseph Bui Thu by Hoa & Muoi Nguyen

5:00 p.m. +Sheri Everson by Winnie & Dick Moored

Word and Communion Services are held Monday through

Scripture Readings for:

Sunday, August 10, 2008 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:9z,11-13a Ps 85:9-14 Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33

**Let us pray for one another with one mind and heart
to the Lord our God**

NIC 0

Patricia Mills

NIC 1

Donna Huebner

NIC 9

David Johnson

Walter Lutkenhoff

Mary McLellen

NIC 13

Conrad Balazs

NIC 14

James Ferguson

Miriam Wiscovitch

NIC 16

Christine Deridder

Jo Paasch

Ann Syrba

NIC 20

Darlene Arsenault

Kevin & Kyle Friar

Suzanne Sanchez

Joan Stein

NIC 26

Joanie Start

Deanna Stipe

NIC 30

Rita Vangorder

NIC 31

Joseph Rau

NIC 35

Sophie Anderson

Others to remember:

Beth Hoekstra
Tia Lancaster
Richard Closterhouse
Bob & Dolores Klocke
Krista Knapp
Bill DeWeerd
Michael Priest
Holly Sheeran
Salena Slanka
Jim Szyperski
Denise VanDyke
Adrean Watkins
Alex Wilson
Military on active duty

Readings for the week of August 4 - August 9:

Monday: Jer 28:1-17 Ps 119:29,43,79-80,95,102 Mt 24:22-36

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2,12-15,18-22 102:16-23,29 Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Dn 7:9-10,13-14 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9 2 Pt 1:16-19 Mt 17:1-9

Thursday: Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:12-15,18-19 Mt 16:13-23

Friday: Na 2:1,3;3:1-3,6-7 (Ps)Dt 32:35c-36b,39,41 Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Heb 1:12-2:4 Ps 9:8-13 Mt 17:14-20

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

We offer our prayers and support to the family of *Kathie Makowski* who died this past week. And also to *Fran (Martin) Rini* on the death of her mother, *Marie Ricketts*. May they rest in the peace and love of God.

WORSHIP

Sometimes it seems that there are so many needs and so little resources. We have become an overscheduled and overextended society. We can find ourselves emotionally strained and drained by the end of the day—physically exhausted, financially strapped, and spiritually depleted just from the living of what we consider a “normal day”. Is it any wonder that we can feel inadequate to offer ourselves to the needs of others? It often feels as though we simply have nothing left to give, barely enough for ourselves. Yet, isn't this just what the disciples in Matthew's Gospel of the loaves and fishes experienced when they said to Jesus “five loaves and two fish are all we have...” I can relate to their sense of inadequacy, not to mention, perhaps their fear that their own hunger would not be satisfied. How many times have I wanted to rest my own spirit even as the needs of others have been put before me? We must remember that Jesus promises there will be enough. We will be enough, He will make us enough—if we stay close to Him, and seek the will of God in our lives. “They all ate and were satisfied” there was more than enough... We must trust that when God leads us, wherever He leads us, we will be not just enough, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, *more* than enough.

JOIN US AT ST. ALPHONSUS FOR A MASS OF HOPE
Fr. Denis Ryan C.Ss.R. will be offering the Mass for those who suffer from cancer or other long-term illnesses, their loved ones and caregivers. We will also remember those whose lives have been taken by sickness. This is a Mass of Hope for the living, Hope for the healing, and Hope for a cure. Our Mass of Hope will be held on August 21 at 7:00 pm at St. Alphonsus located at 224 Carrier NE.

Mary Evett

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday, August 15, 2008
Holy Day of Obligation

There will be a Vigil Mass on Thursday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m. and on Friday, August 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Attention all College Students and Young Adults. You don't want to miss our first **Young Adult Retreat** on Saturday August 9th. Pick up a flyer in the back of church and return it to the Parish office by Wednesday August 6th!

WITNESS

Urgent Type-O Blood Need.

Michigan Community Blood Centers, the nonprofit blood bank that provides 100% of the blood supply to hospitals in this area, is *critically low on type O-negative blood and very low on type O-positive blood*. If you are of either of these blood types please consider donating as soon as possible. If you already have an appointment...keep it! If not, please go to www.miblood.org to find a local donation site or upcoming blood drive in our community. Click on “Blood Drives” then click on ‘Find A Blood Drive’. It's a matter of life!

Circle Theatre Presents An Entertaining Fundraiser for GRACE.

Help support programs of the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) by coming to *Crowns* on Tuesday, August 25, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. in the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center.

The musical *Crowns* explores black history and identity as told through the experience of a young black girl who has moved south. Characters use their “crowns” to tell tales of everything from the etiquette of wearing hats to their historical and contemporary social function. Gospel music underscores and supports the rich, engaging narratives.

There is a reception from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and the play begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person. Call Lisa Mitchell at GRACE at 643-0227 for reservations or more information.

Free Use of Home Health Care Equipment Available.

Your Parish Health Ministry has gathered an inventory of medical equipment that's available for parishioner use. There is no charge or time limit on their use. *Your only requirement is to return the equipment clean and ready for the next parishioner's use.* The inventory includes crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, a hospital bed and more. You must call Al (554-7721) to request items or to schedule pick-up and return.

Please note: there is a need for additional shower stools. Please call if you can help out. Donations to the inventory are handled in the same process. The Parish Office does not track inventory and is not able to accept items. Call Al!

Pencil It In!

It's hard to believe that Festival is now two weeks past. Every advertisement in print, TV and radio seems to be reminding us that back to school and a whole new round of family activities are just around the corner. Here's a few key events and dates that you should pencil into your calendars regarding Faith Witness activities and events coming soon:

GOD'S KITCHEN: The first Saturday of each month.

- September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 6.

GLEANERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY: The first Saturday of each month except November and December:

- August 23, September 27, October 25, November 15 and December 20.

PARISH BLOOD DRIVE:

- Sunday, October 19

KNOW YOUR PARISH MINISTRY FAIR:

- Saturday & Sunday, September 20 & 21, after all Masses.

Watch the weekly calendar in the bulletin for the dates for the monthly blood pressure and sugar checks and other events as they come up!

Vince Desmond

EVANGELIZATION

"Thus says the Lord: All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" (Isaiah 55:1)

The weather people are predicting temperatures in the 90's with similar elevated humidity this weekend. Any of us who are doing any work outside this weekend, will likely experience that parched thirst that icy cold water quenches best. The "thirst" Isaiah is referring to is that thirst for knowledge of and union with God. This metaphor has more impact during the heart of a Michigan summer verses its impact in February. Our thirst for God seems to also have times of more urgency and less urgency. The important thing to recognize is that the thirst quenching love of God is always available.

You can help in the work of quenching thirst – **Eucharistic Ministers** are needed! Please see sacristan Wayne Ball and sign up before or after any of the Masses this weekend. We seem to especially need ministers for the 11:00 AM Mass. Training will be provided.

Multicultural Language School

School will begin soon and volunteers and teachers in the Multicultural Language School will have their first meeting and training session on Saturday, August 9th in the Family Center. We are also looking for new volunteers for this coming semester. Training will be provided – we are looking for people who have the desire to share their first language with people wanting to learn a second language. The combined meeting and training session will begin at 10 AM.

Nursery volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday Morning nursery and Sunday mornings during the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. Please contact Anne Beauchamp at 460-1824.

Serving with joy,
Dcn. Mike Dordan

Attention bowlers! Would you like to bowl with fellow parishioners in a mixed adult league? No experience necessary! We have openings for the 2008-2009 season at Spectrum Lanes. We bowl every other Sunday at 3:30 pm. For more information, plan to attend a league formation meeting in Room 3 on Sunday, August 10th, after the 11:00 am Mass. Or send an email to Mike Bush at mlbgolf@iserv.net.

Attention Lectors and Altar Servers:

It is time again to make up a new schedule for the months of September, October and November. Please email schedule@stmmagdalen.org or call the parish office at 455-9310 to let me know when you are NOT available to serve. If any altar servers would be available to serve at weddings, please let us know.

Nancy Baum

SPIRITUALITY

Hello Everyone,

Last weekend was filled with some moving experiences. It began with a wedding. This wedding was everything that it could possibly have been. If there was any stress or anxiety I couldn't see it. It was pure joy, love and anticipation. When we think about the Sacrament of Marriage, we often think about the celebration itself; the pomp and frills and confuse that with the substance. I know that it is important that everything be beautiful and special for the day, but what I came away with was the memory of this couple who had truly joined their life with Christ. Yes, the church looked beautiful, the wedding party and the guests were decked out and the flowers were glorious, but that was overshadowed by the radiance of the couple as they stood and promised each other everything they are.

The second experience was attending my first Quinceanera. This celebrated the passage of a girl as she becomes a young woman. The ceremony spoke of her gifts of life, love and faith, each gift represented by a keepsake and presented by someone special in her life that has offered her love, support and guidance. It spoke about her faith and her commitment to God. As I watched her parents walk with her down the center aisle, I was moved to tears for the second time in as many days. Both of these celebrations were joyful and poignant and yet I was slightly embarrassed to get so choked up. Then I realized that it is within these moments that we feel the presence of God and the joy and happiness that comes from that presence is what moves us to tears. To see the love of spouses, parents, family and friends mirrors the love God has for us. That love is consuming, overwhelming, comforting and exhilarating. It is because of that love that we are able to realize our dreams and hear the voice of God deep within us which leads us on in life and calls us to be one with Him.

God's Blessings,
Molly Wisdom

We would like to thank the parents and Godparents of the child Baptized last weekend for allowing us as a faith community to reflect on our own Baptismal promises and to offer our support to their child in their journey of discipleship. Please welcome into our faith family:



Aubrey Sharon Trent

"Gather Under God's Big Top"
2008 Elementary Retreat
August 18-22, 9-11:30 am



High School & Middle School Leader Meetings:
Wednesday, August 6th & 13th 6:30-8:30 pm

Registration Forms Available in the Gathering Area
and on the Web Site

HOSPITALITY AND VOLUNTEERS

Our **'Know Your Parish'** weekend will be held September 20 & 21 this year. This will be your opportunity to see what ministries we offer here at St Mary Magdalen and to find a place where you can share your gifts.

Over the next several weeks I would like to highlight the ones that are part of my mission.

KITCHEN HELP:

We are an active parish that gathers frequently around a meal. I am looking for people, young/old, men/women, who would like to help prepare food to be shared by others. You would be contacted prior to an event and the time commitment would be as long and as often as your schedule allows.

COOKS:

Would you like to take on the challenge of cooking for a crowd? When we hold our Newcomer Dinner 3 times a year I look for someone who would like to make a wonderful dinner for those new to the parish. I am also looking for someone who would be willing to substitute for our Wednesday suppers during Faith Formation in case one of our regular cooks is unable to make it.

Look for the Kitchen Help or Cooks table at the Know Your Parish weekend this fall. These are great ways to meet and get to know others.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, August 3, 2008

6:30 p.m. S.O.S. in Room 4 & 5

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Co-Op in Nursery

6:30 p.m. Elementary Retreat Mtg

Thursday, August 7, 2008

7:00 p.m. "Over 55" Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 9, 2008

Blood Pressure / Sugar Check after 5 p.m. Mass

10:30 a.m. Young Adult Retreat

Sunday, August 10, 2008

Blood Pressure / Sugar Check after 9 a.m. Mass

12:00 noon Bowling League Meeting in Room 3

6:30 p.m. S.O.S. in Room 4 & 5

Crafters Wanted:

St. Mary Magdalen Holiday Craft Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Barb Dodde at 554-1941 or email her at dodde@att.net for an application or more information.

