

# Magnificat

*My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord*

*And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.*

*Luke 1: 46*

Volume 9, Issue 3  
June/July/August 2011

## SAINT MARY'S PLAZA COMUNITARIA

By Noemi Hernandez

Saint Mary's is blessed with the gifts of kindness and multiculturalism. On this regard, our parish is graciously providing spaces for the human development of people who come from various ethnic groups and ways of living. One of these spaces is "Plaza Comunitaria".

Among the Hispanic population of our parish, there are people who left their birth country without having the option to complete their elementary school years. Having the opportunity to conclude school sharpens the capacity they have to integrate themselves in this country more easily.

"Plaza Comunitaria" in Saint Mary's was born in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate in Boise and the Mexico's National Institute for Adult Education. It works as a learning center that supports Spanish-speaking adults to learn to read, write and complete primary and secondary education in their native language at their own pace. Upon completion, people receive a diploma from the Secretary of Public Education in Mexico. The goals of "Plaza Comunitaria" at Saint Mary's are to provide students with a solid framework that gives them the opportunity to transition to ESL (English as Second Language) courses with a higher rate of success, to support the human development and productivity of our community in this country and, to prepare them for higher education opportunities.



Saint Mary's "Plaza Comunitaria" is run by educated parishioners that willingly volunteer their time and knowledge for the good of others. One of them told me, "It is a blessing to share one's gifts and [it is] very satisfying to witness how they [students] overcome obstacles in learning. It's inspiring."

The program started in June 2010. Since then, it has also developed an ongoing parallel course in computer skills and ESL classes. It also has capabilities to support the studies of people who want to apply for a GED diploma. Last May, Saint Mary's Plaza Comunitaria celebrated Zobeida's graduation as she concluded her secondary education.

"Plaza Comunitaria" is another of Saint Mary's jewels. As our parish's Food Bank nurtures those with food needs in our community, "Plaza Comunitaria" provides academic nourishment for those who didn't have such opportunity earlier in life. It is a pride for the Hispanic sector of our community and the whole parish. I want to express great respect to students and teachers that participate in this project. I apologize if unknowingly, I am leaving someone out but I want to acknowledge the efforts of Gloria Muñoz, Irene Ramos, Hernan Gutierrez, Rodrigo Garibay, Esther Huerta, Saul Huerta, Gerardo Caracas, Rudy Prado, Ruben Irigoyen and Magaly Carrillo who make this project happen.

Inside This Issue	
Plaza Comunitaria	1
Father Faucher	2
Prayer Networks	3
Cookie Sales Report	4
New Roman Missal	5
Prison Ministry	6
School Review 2009-2011	7
Father Arnie Miller	10
Richard & Donna Vering	11
Vacation Bible School	12
Spanish Teachers	13
Prayer For The World	13
Food Bank	14
Salt & Light	15
Food Bank Pictures	16



## PARISH FINANCES

By Father Tom Faucher

I want to write about parish finances. As someone who has been a pastor for a long, long time, I have gone through more than one recession. It is always a difficult time for any parish and this recession is truly worse than the others.

No one has much money. That means that people have less money to give to the church. But the expenses of operating a parish just continue, so it is hard to make ends meet.

But I do think that we need to make a few things clear. The parish is stable and actually doing as well as it can do in these times. We do have a debt on the church building and the recession means we cannot have a big fund drive to eliminate the debt at this time. But the debt is to the diocese and they understand our situation. We are one of many parishes in this position and there is nothing to fear about the future of the parish because we have a debt. When the economy gets better it will be paid off.

The same is true of the school. It struggles financially and is doing well to make its financial situation better. There are always people [in what is called the parking lot grapevine] who want to predict that the school is in danger of closing. They just make this stuff up. I am never sure why some people enjoy doing this, but in every school there is the parking lot grapevine. I think these people are the same ones who buy tabloid newspapers at the grocery store and believe what is in them.

There is no danger of the school closing. As both an academic institution and a Catholic institution it has never been better.

One of the criticisms I receive is that we spend too much money on the church. We have expenses for operating a church. Over 90% of the people who have contact with the parish only have contact at Sunday Masses. I have the obligation to make that a good experience with good liturgy, including good music and good environment. I admit I am criticized because we have a paid choir director and pay some of the other musicians. I am also criticized if flowers are purchased rather than donated. This past Easter because of the absence of some office staff the regular collection for flowers was not taken up and the bill to the parish without compensation was higher than expected. When we have brass for special feasts such as Christmas and Easter, most of the time the cost of those musicians is donated. We have not bought new vestments for many years and when we did they were donated by my nephew. The Gospel Book was a donation from my family as well.

Parishioners, including me, have bought or made all of the altar cloths. The banners are all home made, the last ones for Easter [deeply criticized by some for being too fancy and too expensive] were made and given to the church by Father Jarboe. The Eucharistic ministers to the sick now usually buy their own pixes for taking the Blessed Sacrament to the sick. We have people make purificators so we do not have to buy them.

We have many new people coming to Saint Mary's and one of the things that many of them say is they appreciate the beauty and decoration of the church. For the main reason we exist – the praise and worship of God, especially at Sunday liturgy – we spend a very small portion of the parish budget.

We have an excellent Development and Finance Council, an exacting Parish Business Manager, and a rigorous bookkeeper. The school has an excellent School Governing Board and a marvelous Finance Committee. Every penny contributed to Saint Mary's is well taken care of and used wisely.

I am pleased with how we are doing. But we know that we need to do better. This fall we will have a program to increase the parish offertory income. That is one place we truly can improve, even as we keep a very tight lid on expenses.

Father Tom Faucher

## PHONE PRAYER NETWORK

By Joanne Lechner

Researching the start of the phone Prayer Network took the beginning back to possibly Father John Morgan and Sister Betty Shumacher, January 1992. There were directions on how to pray and how long to pray. Tom Sheehan and Grace Schonhardt were the earliest leaders to be identified. Tom wanted intercessors to adopt a policeman and daily pray for that person but that didn't seem to be accepted. Many of the original members are now deceased.

Lenora Brown, current facilitator, joined Saint Mary's Prayer Network 15 years ago and Tom Sheehan was still head of it. Currently 32 parishioners participate in the eight phone chains. The amount of calls varies. Some weeks there can be a call every day, some a few per week. Lenora sets the prayer schain in motion at 6:30 p.m. in the evening. Emergency calls are sent out immediately. Updates and praise reports occasionally occur.

When Lenora was asked, "Why do you do this?" She responded, "It's important to me. I like praying for people, connecting with others. Reports back have been quite positive. There are so many things I can't do any more. This is one thing I *can* do." She added, "It's a good ministry for people who are shut-ins. It's such a reward to pray for people. Once in a while a call back report is just wonderful!"

She also commented that it is very rewarding to know that you are helping others. "Some people really need the support and others feel good about being able to do that."

Angie Purcell said, "It's kind of dreadful to hear so much misery. It's heart wrenching; it becomes heavy. Other times, 'Thank you, prayer answered, I am so grateful!' That keeps you going; it's new breath for continuing."

Thank goodness there are those who pray. It's a special ministry.

If you would like to present a prayer request by phone or want to join this telephone prayer network, please contact Lenora at 376-5446.

## E-MAIL PRAYER NETWORK

Approximately five years ago a devastating baby situation came to my attention which moved me to send a prayer request with regular updates to every E-mail address I have, including a contact at United Water Company, a couple of Idaho Statesman reporters who turned out to be lapsed Catholics, one an alumni of Saint Mary's School whose initials are TW, and other "public" contacts. It was the story of a five month old baby needing a heart transplant and began with the parents discerning whether or not to proceed with the transplant. They had learned that he would need an unbelievable number of operations by the time he was 21 because a transplanted heart doesn't grow.

In the three months that followed I sent regular updates to over 500 households. The parents decided against the heart transplant and while they didn't receive *the* miracle healing they did experience God's grace at work. The baby became free of the terror he had showed in Pediatric ICU each time a nurse approached his bed for another injection, blood draw, etc. His parents took him home and he died a month later in the arms of his loving and peace-filled family who were graced with the knowledge that their choice was acceptable to God. The presence of God's love at his funeral was as obvious as the fragrance from the many bouquets.

As the journey continued many people were sending me prayer requests for babies so I named the *temporary* prayer chain the Baby Prayer Network. By the time of the baby's death multiple daily prayer requests started arriving for adults and I soon realized that God had "duped" me into starting a major prayer chain.

**(Continued on page 4)**

## E-MAIL PRAYER NETWORK (Continued from page 3)

I agree with Angie that sometimes the prayer requests tear at your heart and seem to be impossible situations, and you count your blessings. However, knowing the connectedness and dedication of the 450+ households that have remained in the network gives one strength in the prayer warrior journey and in one's own life since one can relate to many of the prayer requests in some way. Knowing that there are many lay people, ordained priests and deacons, professed brothers and sisters in 14 states, coast to coast, and one Salesian priest in India who spent two summers in Idaho, praying with you is a blessed experience in being a part of God's healing power.

Updates and praise reports are frequently requested so we hear of God's compassion, love, mercy and miraculous gifts. Even when a journey ends in death the grace of peace, freedom from fear, love and consolation has been reported.

43 Saint Mary's households participate in this E-mail prayer network.

If you would like to present your prayer request by E-mail or join this almost daily prayer network as an intercessor, please contact me at [prayerandnews@cablone.net](mailto:prayerandnews@cablone.net).

### COOKIE SALE PROJECT

Report by Rita Brilz

With sales and donations, we added \$5003.00 to Saint Mary's Scholarship Fund. There were so many bakers that I do not feel right in publishing names because I will probably miss one. Thank you to *all* the bakers. I would like to give a special thank you to three women who helped each and every time. They are: Elby Cisler - her lemon bars and aprons; Fran Dalton - her pumpkin bread and towels; and Beth Carpenter - her delicious shortbread cookies. I want to say a most grateful THANK YOU to ALL who baked, purchased or helped in any way to make the COOKIE SALES so rewarding.

I have been involved in this Ministry for FIVE years. I could not have been as successful as I have been if I didn't have such wonderful helpers: Jo AnneCanderan; Carolyn Brennan; Kay Helgeson and her Granddaughter, Dani. There are many more who could be mentioned.

In the five years we have been selling cookies, these are the places where the profit has gone.

1. HELP TO BUILD THE NEW CHURCH
2. ALTAR LINENS FOR THE NEW CHURCH.
3. LANDSCAPING COSTS FOR THE NEW CHURCH.
4. CURTAINS FOR THE CRY ROOM (so our brides could get dressed for their weddings: not in the bathroom), NEW CRADENZAS IN THE NARTHEX
5. SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

I am not sure of the exact amount that has been raised.

THANK YOU to all the people in Saint Mary's Parish who baked and bought cookies!



## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE ROMAN MISSAL

### Sixth in a series

By Father Marcos Sanchez

In slightly more than five months, the Diocese of Boise, with the rest of the English-speaking dioceses in the world, will begin praying the Mass using a new translation of the Roman Missal. In a series of articles on this transition, the diocesan Liturgical Commission has addressed the reason for the changes, and has touched on the changes to the text to be found in the Introductory Rites. This article will take a closer look at the Eucharistic Prayer, and examine some of the changes you will hear and say during the Eucharistic liturgy on the first Sunday of Advent this fall.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with collection, the priest prays over the gifts of how God provides for us through the ordinary - such as the work of human nary; that is, the bread of life. When the sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to that we all play an important part in this ther's heart and hands to our world.



the Preparation of the Gifts. After the bread and wine. This prayer describes work of others, and also relates what is hands - to what will become extraordinary. The priest asks the assembly to pray "that my God the almighty Father," he indicates sacrifice. We want to become the Fa-

At the conclusion of the Preparation of the center and heart of the Mass, begins. The priest and the people exchange a dialogue at the beginning of this prayer. The priest and the entire community unite to address God and his marvelous deeds. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray to God the Father, through the Son, that the Holy Spirit will transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. We also pray that we are transformed, so that we who are "filled with his Holy Spirit may become one body, one spirit in Christ." It is important that we pray by listening carefully to what the priest prays, and by making it our prayer in the silence of our hearts.

Most of the changes in this part of the Mass are to the priest's prayers. Some changes are small in wording or punctuation; the sentences are longer and more involved; the vocabulary, broader. For example, after the priest washes his hands, he invites you to pray, saying these words: "Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." This expression, in keeping with the Latin text, implies that more than one sacrifice is being offered. The Mass is a single sacrifice offered by all present, each baptized member making that offering by virtue of his or her priestly role. In 1 Peter 2:5, we find that we are meant to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Another notable change is the response: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his *holy* church." The word "holy" appears in the typical Latin edition, echoing the description of the church in the Creed.

After the opening dialogue, the priest prays the Preface. The Preface begins with a phrase such as, "It is truly right and just." All the prefaces always give a specific reason why we give God thanks on this day. As well, people come to praise God through different paths; these paths lead to God and the realization that God is goodness beyond our understanding. The Holy, Holy, Holy affirms the divinity of Christ and is a prayer that continues the Preface. In the new translation: "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!*" the assembly joins with all of creation and especially with the angels (hosts), whose prayer this originally is, as with one voice the entire communion of saints gives glory to God.

The Eucharistic Prayer comes to a close with the priest's doxology and the people's Amen. The doxology will be slightly different: "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever." The order of words is altered in the new translation and more closely imitates the flow of the Latin. In addition, we have the three Persons of the Trinity in succession, which means that the prayer is offered to God the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.

**(Continued on page 6)**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE ROMAN MISSAL (Continued from page 5)

As we welcome the new translation of the missal, we will experience the challenges and growth that come with all change: Continue to watch the ICR, Idaho Catholic Register, for additional articles on this translation. For more information, check the diocesan Web site at [www.catholicidaho.org](http://www.catholicidaho.org). There you will find previous articles and many other resources on the new text and what your community will be praying on the first Sunday of Advent this year.

*Father Sanchez is a member of the diocesan Liturgical Commission and parochial vicar at St. Nicholas in Rupert and St. Therese Little Flower, Burley. He can be reached at [fathermarcos@gmail.com](mailto:fathermarcos@gmail.com).*

### PRISON MINISTRY AT SAINT MARY'S

Bill Teske has been visiting male prisoners in Ada County Jail since 1996. He became involved when Deacon Ralph Pearce, a counselor by profession, started prison ministry.

There are three men trained for this ministry who visit the jail by rotation. Bill is the only one from Saint Mary's. There are six dorms of men and each dorm has an opportunity to choose to participate by rotation. Not all dorms can be covered each Sunday. On an average, only one or two men participate in each group.

Prison ministers arrive every Sunday at 2:45 p.m. and begin their 1 ½ hour sessions at 3:00 p.m. Over a period of time they might see participants 2 to 3 times during their jail stay. They do recognize the repeaters.

Father Camacho provides bilingual missalettes for Liturgy of the Word. The parts are numbered so as long as the volunteer minister can count in Spanish he can help the Spanish speaking men keep their place. The scriptures are read and in place of a homily there's an invitation for dis-cussion and the message of the prayer closes their time together.



as the volunteer minister can count speaking men keep their place. The homily there's an invitation for dis-priest's homily is shared. The Lord's

When asked, "Why did you choose to be a part of Prison Ministry", Bill replied that he always tries to live the Corporal Works of Mercy and this is one of them.

*What's in it for the prisoners?* Bill said that being in jail is a time for reflection for many. "It's an opportunity for receiving the truth at a time when they are ready for it."

He always feels good about his time at the jail although it may not always be a positive experience. "We can only hope that we make a difference.

More volunteers are always needed. It would be better if there were two together. Volunteers need to be mature Catholics excited about passing on their faith to people of all ages. People can contact Bill if they are interested in learning about prison ministry. There is a process of filling out an application, having a background check, and an orientation and education program.

There are women prison ministry volunteers at the county jail but none from Saint Mary's. If you are a woman or a man interested in learning more, you can contact Father Jesus Camacho, Diocesan Director of Prison Ministry, 429-9196.

## SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL REVIEW 2010-2011

Submitted by: Marianne White, Principal

### Catholic Identity:

Saint Mary's School is a place where students, staff, parents, and the church community work towards being disciples of our Lord. We model ourselves after Christ's disciples through prayer, kind deeds, loving words, and hard work. Prayer is an integral part of our day. Before the teachers greet their students, they gather around the statue of the Blessed Mother to offer prayers of praise as well as taking the opportunity to pray for their families, students, and the larger Saint Mary's community. The teachers then join their students and parents to pray together through song before beginning the school day. Saint Mary's students demonstrate their commitment to their faith by planning and participating in our weekly school mass and designating the type of offertory gifts that will be shared (time, treasure, food bank, Corpus Christi House, etc.). As an example of how students live their faith, they have participated in helping the larger Boise community by gathering blankets for the homeless, raking leaves for neighbors, donating mittens to underprivileged children, and raising money for the Haitian Relief Fund. Every Saint Mary's class "adopts" a Homebound Friend from the community to pray for, send cards to, and visit throughout the school year. We then honor our "friends" with a special Mass and luncheon at the end of the school year.

### Stewardship:

Saint Mary's School focus is on Stewardship activities. As a school we host a number of stewardship opportunities, within our parish, the Treasure Valley, and throughout the world. As a staff we personally took field trips to better understand the mission of Corpus Christi House, Saint Mary's Food Bank, and Sanctuary House. It was an eye opening experience for our staff.

### Stewardship Activities:

- Japan Earthquake fund drive, our school initiated and invited all of the Catholic Schools in Idaho to participate in an aide project. Funds were collected and sent to Catholic Relief Services. As a Diocese of schools we raised over \$8,000.00 in this endeavor
- Salt and Light Radio Donation
- Raised money for new song books
- Penny challenge to support a bus for the Treasure Valley Catholic Schools Sports program.
- Rake up Boise Saint Mary's School students, staff, and parents participated.
- Glove drive for Corpus Christi House
- Monthly donations of canned food were collected for the Saint Mary's Food Bank.
- Raised money to help the homeless at Corpus Christi House.
- Donations to Sanctuary House.
- Raised donations for Saint Gertrude's Convent
- Raked up Fr. Millers lawn

### Demographics:

Our goal at Saint Mary's School is to continue to increase our cultural diversity. During the past five years, we've increased from 14% to 28% in cultural diversity.

### Enrollment:

This past school year we increased our enrollment by 10% from 2009-2010.

**Finances:**

Our 2010-11 budget reflects a reduction of \$122,000.00. We laid off our Accountant, Marketing Director, and reduced the janitors hours, in addition to other budget cutting measures. The Diocese accounting staff has been working successfully with us to maintain a balanced budget.

Our donations from parishioners have increased substantially with the onset of the school envelope that was added to the parish envelope mailing. In addition, our alumni have stepped up to support our scholarship fund. A group of elderly ladies in the parish, aptly named "The Cookie Ladies" sold cookies once a month at the Masses to raise funds for scholarships. They independently raised \$5,003.00.

FACTS Tuition Management was a gift that we received from a donor for a three year time period. FACTS has been the most successful business decision Saint Mary's School has implemented. Parents were required to sign up on FACTS in order to manage their tuition. All parents except for a few exceptions (those that required aid) participated. We are very grateful for this kind donation that allows us to successfully manage tuition

**New Initiatives****Spanish Instruction:**

We began Spanish Instruction with our Kindergarten students 2010. The program has been so well received that we have decided to offer Spanish instruction to all of our classes this school year. We are blessed with two very capable volunteers that are willing to expand their efforts to each grade level.

**My Access:**

We introduced a new tool for student writing this school year, My Access. Our upper grade students participated in a pilot program to increase their writing skills. It is a web-based instructional writing program with hundreds of prompts covering narrative, persuasive, informative, literary and expository genres. Not only does it have prompts applicable to literature, but it also provides cross-curricular writing opportunities in areas such as science, math, social studies, and religion. After submitting an essay, students receive immediate feedback and are given an overall score on a 6 point scale, as well as a score in specific areas of Focus and Meaning; Content and Development; Organization; Language, Use and Style; and Mechanics and Conventions. Because it is web-based, upon the teacher's directions and discretion, students may work on writing from not only school, but also from home.

Over the course of this year, students' quality of writing has increased dramatically. Some students receiving overall scores of 3's and 4's on their final submissions in the beginning of the year, are now receiving 5's and 6's for their final submissions. My Access has definitely proven to be a useful tool in the success of our students' writing growth and abilities.

**Camp Invention:**

We have been looking for ways to utilize our school facility during the summer months. We were fortunate to form a relationship with Camp Invention, a nationally known Science Camp for grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We successfully ran the program last summer and plan to continue to offer Camp Invention this summer.

**Glory Children:**

We offered a summer program for Autistic Children this summer, working cooperatively with Glory Children Inc. The program served up to 20 middle school age children with all levels of diagnosed autism. In lieu of a rental fee for our facility Glory Children has offered to assist us in painting the downstairs classrooms, as well as the hallway upstairs.

**Staffing:**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Carol Herring, moved into a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teaching position. We hired Mr. Andrew Jones, an alumnus of Saint Mary's School to serve as our 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. In addition, Mr. Bob Tanner, a retired teacher returned to Saint Mary's School to serve as our Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

### **Alumni Development:**

The development of our alumni as a resource for the school has been one of our primary focuses for this school year. Knowing that alumni development was critical to the on-going success of our school, the principal solicited funds from a few select alumni in order to provide a stipend to hire a Director of Development and Alumni Relations. A retired teacher, Mr. Bob Tanner was selected for this position. .

### **Ongoing Initiatives**

#### **Stanford University's EPGY St. Mary's Educational Partnership**

Stanford University's **E**ducation **P**rogram for **G**ifted **Y**outh (EPGY) in conjunction with Saint Mary's School offers online courses in mathematics and language arts for elementary, and middle school students. These courses have grown from over 40 years of research at Stanford University. In addition, the mathematics course has fully-differentiated curriculum models suitable for gifted students.

The EPGY Course Sequence makes it possible for Saint Mary's School to extend our differentiated curriculum to meet the educational needs of our most advanced students.

During the 2010-2011 school year, Saint Mary's fully implemented this program for our students. Our students participated in Mathematics and Language Arts & Writing course offerings. These courses were offered before school, in the Technology lab with a proctor. Participating students ranged from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, the program helped to financially support the schools operating budget.

Spring MAP scores for those participating students showed marked improvement in the course area, with the majority of students exceeding their MAP goals for the year.

### **Marketing:**

Donna Winsky Pearson, an alumnus, volunteered to take over our website that our former marketing director had begun, but not completed. Donna runs Winsky Site Effects a web development company. Our site went live three months ago under her direction. In addition, she keeps the site up to date adding our current events as needed.

Our technology committee made a decision to have a two tiered web presences. The first tier has been created for the general public. The second tier is an internal site for our Saint Mary's School community; it involves confidential information.

In lieu of a Marketing person on staff, we have asked our parents and Saint Mary's community to be actively engaged in a "Word of Mouth". The "Word of Mouth" campaign has served us well. The School Governing Board put in place a financial incentive for referrals. Our enrollment for next school year is currently at 178, which is higher than it's been at this time of year, in the past six years.

### **International Outreach**

Saint Mary's School continues to be the only Catholic School in the Treasure Valley that has formed a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security; we are able to offer I-20 status to students from outside the United States. This year we hosted 6 international students, five from S. Korea and one from Taiwan.

### **National Catholic Education Association Involvement:**

Saint Mary's School continued its active involvement in NCEA. Principal White serves on the NCEA Executive Board. In addition to meeting with the Executive Board she presented for NCEA in San Francisco and New Orleans this year. The involvement provides us with a lens into best practices throughout the nation in Catholic education.

## WE WALK BY FAITH

By Father Arnie Miller

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was recently dining with a parishioner and we were having a wonderful evening of conversation when the parishioner said that, "It is amazing that you seem to have gotten thrown off of the horse and yet you just got back up on the horse and continue riding." She asked me what it was that made me able to do that. She was wondering what it was in my spirituality that helped me to recover. As you all know I had a seizure on February 1<sup>st</sup> and was hospitalized for a period of time. At first I was worried about having another seizure but this has left me with time. God has taken this tragedy and turned it into a resurrection experience for me thanks to all of your prayers. I believe that my belief in the spiritual teachings of St. Gregory of Nyssa has helped me to emerge from this experience stronger than ever before. To me the theology of St. Gregory of Nyssa is the good news of the Gospel.

The Greek word which best sums up Gregory of Nyssa's thought is EPEKTASIS. This is the continuous striving forward to deeper stages of the Christian life. It is best understood within the context of Philippians 3:13: "Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it (perfection) my own, but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." To Gregory God is infinite and can never be completely attained by our minds but we can enjoy ourselves in a perpetual ascent toward God. Once on the road to God we never cease moving forward. According to Gregory we continually fall short of ultimate unity and stability in the divine good yet never weary in reaching out towards it. The spiritual life becomes a paradox which at first glance is unsettling. To Gregory the journey towards God is an unlearning of preconceived ideas.

The EPEKTASIS then is a perpetual progress that Gregory talks about in the life of Moses. Moses always found another step towards God that lay beyond the highest one he had achieved. Desire for God is the fuel of this spiritual ascent. A person is constantly moving from one holy beginning to another holy beginning. I believe that the seizure that I had was one of these new holy beginnings. My medicine has been changed because of it and the result is that I have no side effects of anxiety any more and am more capable of being the person God intended me to be. Straining forward Gregory says "one forgets and has no recollection of the past. One of my favorite books of the Old Testament is the Song of Songs and Gregory comments on this book and explains this spiritual movement of EPEKTASIS in this manner:

"The cause of their love is the scent of the perfume in which they eternally run, they stretch out to what is in front forgetting what is behind. We shall run after you toward the scent of your perfume."

When we make this spiritual progress the present state of God's goodness we are in is only the beginning of a more transcendent better stage. This EPEKTASIS helps me to maintain the Christian virtue of hope in my present condition. I am hopeful that I will not have another seizure. The superior good which God has in store for me in the future blocks out any recollection of the past as the Holy Spirit helps me to move ever deeper into the reality of the virtues of Christ. Hope always draws the soul from the beauty which is seen to the beauty that is beyond always kindling desire for the hidden through what is constantly perceived. To Gregory the ardent lover of beauty although receiving what is always visibly beautiful as an image of what is desired yet longs to be filled with the very stamp of the Archetype which is Christ. I am living in the joy of this present stage of joy and progress. I am now looking forward to what God has in store for me in the future as a priest. A person still thirsts for that in which he is constantly filled to capacity by God and he constantly asks to attain more as if he had never partaken, beseeching God to participate in him, not according to his capacity to partake, but according to God's true being.

I like Gregory's description of the spiritual progress that is made by moving in life through the wisdom books of the Old Testament. Proverbs gives us instruction in the virtues and gives us worldly rewards for our efforts. The lessons of vanity in Ecclesiastes temper our worldly attitude received in Proverbs as we attain information through the humiliations and disappointments of daily life. This leaves us with the Song of Songs for our fulfill

ment as human beings. In the Song of Songs desire is at the service of our upward motion towards God.

To Gregory we are as if a perfume jar with the perfume poured out and yet we have traces of the perfume still lingering within us. Our human nature is reflective of God as being made in the image and likeness and it is this which allows us to participate in the divine life. Desire and agape both stand in need of migrating to God.

I pray that in the stage of spiritual progress that I am in that God will continue to show me the greater glory of his love in the next step. It is so beautiful that our souls have the potential to keep on expanding into the infinity of God. I pray God will fill me with a holy desire for him so that my experience of him in the Eucharist and in prayer will be ever more fulfilling. The Corpus Christi helps me in my advancement toward God.

*I pray that the finiteness of all of the souls who partake of the Eucharistic Christ at St. Mary's will have a continual spiritual expansion into the infinite love of the Trinity. May all who are wounded from their past be healed so that they can move forward towards a future where all will be in Christ and in the love of the Father. In this time of crisis in the mystical body of Christ give us hope in the spiritual progress of us as individuals and as a Church which is on a pilgrimage toward the end time. Help us to realize that our movement through space and time is nothing more than an advancement in the love and knowledge of God. We need to understand that our likeness to God is achieved through stages.*

As a people of God in the Church we attach ourselves to God while traveling through space and time and separate ourselves from that which is not beautiful (sin) and become attached to the true beauty which is God. We have to trust that AKOLUTHIA which is the progress of the entire Church is a logical progression for us in the intellectual realm, moral development, and natural stages of human growth. AKOLUTHIA is a steady progress toward the spiritual goals of the Church. I pray that God will increase in us the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity and bless all of our prayer lives and participation in the sacraments so that AKOLUTHIA can be completed. Thank you for all of your prayers during my time of trial. I have felt many graces from you and once again I am participating in APOKATASTASIS and AKOLUTHIA. Thank you Jesus for your incarnation death and resurrection which allows us to participate in the spiritual progression of creation!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Arnie Miller

## A LETTER FROM RICHARD AND DONNA VERING MOVING TO SEATTLE



We moved to Boise in Spring of 1978. We had been here for a short time and decided to experience what it was like in the other parishes of Boise. After experiencing their liturgy and friendliness all three of us (son Isaiah) decided that there's a warmth and "down to earth feeling" here at Saint Mary's and thus, it has been our home for 33 years.

You reached out to us in so many ways as when we experienced sickness, hard times and good times. We are truly grateful for all your kindnesses and we will miss you as real friends.

Thank you for helping us to grow, for your love and concern. You will always be in our hearts. As we move to Seattle to be near our son, his wife and little granddaughter, keep us in your prayers.

*Richard & Donna, may the Lord bless you and keep you until we meet again .*

## PANDAMANIA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

By Meg Lawless

June 13<sup>th</sup> through June 17<sup>th</sup>, 35 children from age 3yrs to 5<sup>th</sup> grade attended vacation Bible School. They were led by twenty Jr. High youth and adults.

Catholic Identity was the theme. **Trinity.** One of the central teachings of our faith is the doctrine of the Trinity. We believe in one God, but we also believe that there are three divine Persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As Catholics we are called to help make the Triune God visible through the sacraments. We baptize, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in the presence of the Risen Christ. We receive the Eucharist, we are in the presence of the Triune God – a God of relationship with us. Each time we do good works for one another, we participate in the life of the Trinity.

**Intercession.** God is joined in the angels and saints, and together they comprise the mystical Body of Christ. We ask the prayers of the saints as part of our own prayers on earth. Just as we ask the saints to pray for us, we also ask the angels and saints to aid us in our daily life.

**Virtue** Virtues are good moral habits that help us make good moral decisions, avoid sin, strengthen character, and perform good deeds. There are two types of virtues, theological virtues and human or moral virtues. The theological virtues are faith, hope and charity. Among the moral virtues are the four cardinal virtues that help us lead a moral life: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Jesus is the model of virtue. As people of faith, we are called to be like Christ every day – trusting in the Father, caring for our neighbor, and making choices for the common good.

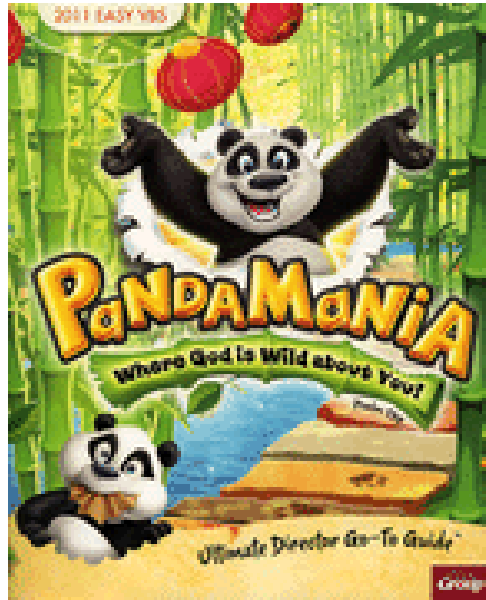
The opposite of a virtue is a vice. Although we strive to live virtuous lives, as human beings we do not always live up to our moral potential. When we make mistakes, when we lose hope, even when we struggle with our faith, our all-loving God is always ready to forgive and offer us another chance to live a life of virtue.

**Domestic Church** Because of his love for us, God took on human form in Jesus to teach us how to live and to “take away the sins of the world.” The Church teaches us that the domestic church - the family- is the foremost place where we encounter Christ and learn to follow his teachings. Shortly after Jesus died and rose to new life, house churches became the main place for early Christian worship. Family and friends broke bread together, preached the teachings of Jesus, and prayed together. Today the faith lived and practiced at home is an intimate reflection of the wide Church. Sharing a prayer before a meal, learning to trust and forgive one another, and supporting each other in hardship are hallmarks of the domestic church.

Because of his love for us, God took on human form in Jesus to teach us how to live and to “take away the sins of the world.” The Church teaches us that the domestic church - the family- is the foremost place where we encounter Christ and learn to follow his teachings.

Today the faith lived and practiced at home is an intimate reflection of the wide Church. Sharing a prayer before a meal, learning to trust and forgive one another, and supporting each other in hardship are hallmarks of the domestic church.

Each day also included learning about a person of faith, Bible stories and verses, songs, games, treats. The Friday finale included a concert of songs learned and a potluck with campers and families.



confirm, anoint, and marry, all in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And when we experience the real, living God, we are participating in the life of the Triune God.

his heavenly Kingdom by all of us together they comprise the mystical Body of Christ. We ask the prayers of the saints as part of our own prayers on earth. Just as we ask the saints to pray for us, we also ask the angels and saints to aid us in our daily life.

and spiritual habits that help us

## THE SPANISH TEACHERS AT SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

By Virgi Blaine and Erika Delva



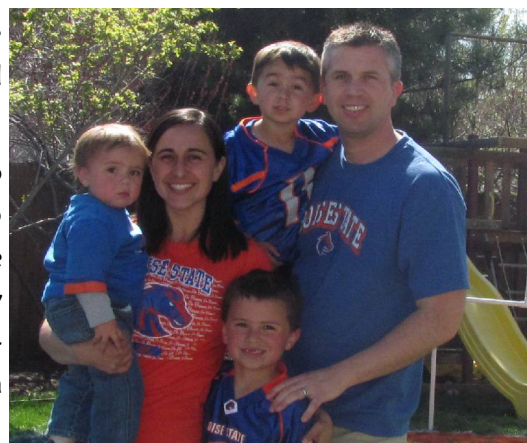
We are Virgi Blaine and Erika Delva. Virgi is the mom of 3 beautiful boys, Mateo (6 ½ yrs), Lucas (4yrs.) and Joaquin (1 ½yrs). Erika has two wonderful kids, Fernando (6 ½ yrs.) and Mariana (3 ½ yrs.).

This past fall Mateo and Fernando entered Kindergarten at Saint Mary's Catholic School. For Virgi, this was a new adventure for her family and they were excited to be a part of a new school community. For Erika and her family, it was a joyful moment.

Luckily, we both had the opportunity to regularly help out in our sons' classroom. We taught a Spanish class for the Kindergarten students every Wednesday. The students were very enthusiastic about

learning Spanish and picked it up quickly. Through songs, stories and written activities we were able to teach them important vocabulary and also integrate some knowledge about Hispanic culture. Virgi especially enjoyed hearing them sing the song, "Juanito", about a little boy that uses all his body parts to dance. Erika was delightful teaching the kids how to make a piñata the same way that her grandmother and her mother taught to her. They did such a great job!

Children have such an affinity for learning new sounds and are so open to learning about other cultures that it is the perfect time to introduce a language and then continue it. Having foreign language as a part of our children's elementary education was a big priority for us. We are thrilled that Saint Mary's staff and parents are supportive of continuing these classes for all grades. Teaching Spanish has been such a great experience for us!



### A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

By Rabbi Harold Kushner

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect. Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly so that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty. And let the mountains teach our hearts To reach upward to heaven. Amen

## MOVE THAT FOOD BANK!

By Joanne Lechner

3890 W. State Street is the address of the new location for Saint Mary's Food Bank. September 12<sup>th</sup> is the target date for the move and help will be needed. It is hoped that the Knights of Columbus will assist but if there are others who would like to volunteer, please call the office and leave your name and contact information.

Isabelle Yale said that even though the space is larger, the rent is less!

When the need for a new refrigerator and freezer was announced, a couple, for whom Father Faucher had been celebrant at their wedding thirty years ago, told him after Mass that the Food Bank should pick out the freezer they wanted and they would pay for it. Soon after another parishioner came forward and provided the new refrigerator. Thank you to these generous people!

Many people connected to Saint Mary's worked on this renovation under the direction of Bob Ancin. Bob Middleton was head carpenter. Assistants, Dan Appel, Mark Crewson, Red Edwards and Rich Malone, did demolition, built walls, shelves and cabinets, painted and re carpeted floors for a month.

Current needs at the Food Bank are hand soap and toilet paper (there's never enough of either), canned tuna, canned tomatoes, cereal, baby wipes, hot dogs, chicken, meat of any kind (remember the new freezer) baby pull ups.

About 8 or 9 years ago there was encouragement to adopt a particular food and donate it monthly. That pattern was very successful! There's a need to repeat that request. Please contact Isabell Yale, 850-6818, and let her know your food adoption item.

Bulk buying from Costco or other such stores may be the least expensive but occasionally grocery stores have great door buster prices too.

Enlist your neighbors to contribute to help those in need. We had our neighbors dropping off large packages of TP on our porch for a few years while that was our adopted product. However there was a great need for hand soap and now we are asking them for hand soap.

More workers will be needed as soon as the Food Bank reopens at the new larger location. During the summer BK and college students assisted. All are welcome as long as you can move quickly.

### IDAHO FOOD BANK PARTNERSHIP

IFB is a partner agency and the primary provider of emergency food, the hub for local food banks. Local food banks, such as Saint Mary's, identify products needed and IFB purchases Grocery Alliance products in large quantities so local food banks can buy them at low prices. IFB only charges cost of labor. They make no profit on the food.

They drop off fresh and frozen products directly to the local food banks.

IFB is an education center offering series of focus meetings so food bank workers can network with each other while learning local and national information about food banks of programs to feed the hungry. IBF is also a source to learn about grant opportunities. A new series will be offered this fall.

Watch for an open house later in September. Perhaps you can bring hand soap and TP!





## SALT & LIGHT RADIO

By Keith Pettyjohn

Priest Appreciation Dinner at the station, Wednesday, June 8th, was attended by 12 priests from the Diocese. Everyone had a fun time and those priests who had not yet recorded a Station Identification (you may have heard some of them at the top of the hours), were able to do so.

The Salt & Light Radio sponsored golf-tournament to support the Diocesan Vocations Dept. was held Friday, June 17th, at Shadow Valley Golf Course. The event was a big success, raising nearly \$6,000.00 to split evenly between Salt & Light Radio and the Vocations office.

Salt & Light Radio-Magic Valley (KTFI, 1340 AM) is scheduled to be on the air sometime in July. Construction progress is coming along nicely and a ground-blessing ceremony by Father Mike St. Marie was held on Monday, June 13th.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25th, Salt & Light Radio's 2nd Anniversary Party. As we did last year, we will be sponsoring a live music fest, with performances from choirs in every parish in the Treasure Valley. A carnival with games and horse-rides for the kids will also accompany a barbecue of hamburgers and hot-dogs. Come and join the fun or listen to the event live on 1140AM!

About a year ago, we instituted a Parish Advisory Committee (PAC), comprised of two representatives from each parish in the listening area. The representatives from each parish are to be nominated/confirmed by the parish priest and serve renewable one-year terms. Father Arne Miller nominated Bill Smart and Michelle Hill to be the two representatives from St. Mary's Parish. The role of the PAC members is to attend a monthly meeting at the station (last Wednesday of every month) and to share with the group the following items:

- \* Any feedback, positive or negative, about the programming on Salt & Light Radio.
- \* Any calendar events coming up in their parish that may be worthy of producing a Public Service Announcement (PSA).
- \* Act as a conduit to help promote Salt & Light Radio at the parish and to keep the priests informed of the activities of the station.

If you would like a turn to represent Saint Mary's Parish on the Parish Advisory Committee (PAC), please contact Keith Pettyjohn, [skradio@integrity.net](mailto:skradio@integrity.net).

**24/7 Listener-Supported  
Idaho Catholic Radio  
KGEM 1140 AM English**

### OUR MISSION

To evangelize and teach, through multi-media communications, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with the fullness of Truth of the Roman Catholic Church. We strive to be Salt & Light (Mt 5, 13-16) to all- to promote and build up Christ's body, the Church.

<http://saltandlightradio.com/kgem/>

You can listen live Online by going to their site and clicking on "LISTEN LIVE NOW."

## Magnificat

The purpose of Magnificat is to provide parish news and a forum for communication within Saint Mary's Catholic Community. This newsletter is E-mailed bi-monthly to all households who have registered their E-mail address. If your household has E-mail and you didn't receive the Magnificat or a notice it can be read Online, please contact

magnify@cableone.net  
and register your E-mail address.

Published bi-monthly

Publisher: *Holy Spirit*

Pastor: *Father Thomas Faucher*

Editor: *Joanne Lechner*

Spanish Speaking Community Reporter:  
*Noemi Hernandez*

Technical Support: *Mike Lechner*

magnify@cableone.net  
344-2782

Magnificat is on the Web

<http://stmarysboise.org/magnificat.html>

