



Holy Childhood
of Jesus
Parish Newsletter

Church Chatter

Volume 10, Issue 2

Fall, 2010

Parish Potluck Features Father Oscar Lukefahr

By John Pettinger

Everyone in Holy Childhood Parish is invited to participate in a parish potluck followed by a presentation by guest speaker, Father Oscar Lukefahr, on Thursday September 16, 2010, in the school cafeteria.

We are very honored to receive a visit from this renowned author and teacher. Fr. Lukefahr gives parish missions and retreats, celebrates weekend liturgies at various parishes, and teaches religious education classes for adults, teens, and children.

His presentation for us is entitled "What It Means to Be Catholic." Father is a Vincentian priest living in Perryville, Missouri. Ordained in 1966, he taught in seminaries and high schools for six years, and then served as a parish priest for nineteen years.

In 1991 he was appointed director of Catholic Home Study Service, a program offering free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. Fr. Lukefahr is the author of nine books and workbooks: "We Believe...", A Survey of the Catholic Faith; We Live to Know, Love, and Serve God; We Pray: Living in God's Presence; We Worship: A Guide to the Catholic Mass; The Search For Happiness; A Catholic Guide to the Bible; The Privilege of Being Catholic; Christ's Mother and Ours; and The Catechism Handbook.

You can find out much more at www.amm.org/chss.htm, by clicking on the link to "Want to Know More about Catholic Home Study Service".

Sign-up for Potluck Dinner

Parishioners should sign up for the potluck after all Masses on the two weekends prior to the presentation, September 4-5 (Labor Day weekend) and September 11-12.

Please give the family name and number attending; and put an "X" in the proper column for the choice of type of dish you wish to bring.

Small Christian Community Fall 2010 Registration

After the presentation there will be an opportunity to sign up for a Small Christian Community. The sign-up cards will have spaces for: contact information, top three choices for days of the week and times. The Fall Session of SCC will be starting in October. John Pettinger co-ordinates the SCC for our parish and is happy to answer questions to help you get started with a group.

Father Lukefahr's books and workbooks

Father Lukefahr will bring a supply of his books (for \$5 donation) and workbooks (for \$1 donation) in case anyone would like to pick up a copy of them at that time.

HOLY CHILDHOOD WELCOMES FATHER ABRAHAM

By Bill Huff



Father Abraham O. Adejoh was born in Okpo, Nigeria on July 27th, 1979, the first boy, and fourth of 8 children. He was ordained by Bishop Braxton on May 22, 2010 at the Cathedral in Belleville. He says he received his name from his grandmother.

His family now lives in Abuja, which is the capital of Nigeria, and one of the most beautiful cities in Africa. The weather in Abuja is warm, but not humid. Although the temperature is usually in the 70's to 80's most of the time, Father says that in December and January it gets really, really cold — sometimes down to about 50 degrees!

Instead of the four seasons we have, Nigeria basically has a rainy season from May to October, with the rest of the year being in the dry season.

Abuja is in the center of the country and the land there is flat prairie just like around here. The northern part of Nigeria has lots of hills and mountains and the southern part is covered with thick forest.

As a child, Abraham liked to be outdoors. He played soccer, volleyball, lawn tennis, and liked to run in races. His parents did not particularly approve of his outside activities however, because they were so protective of him, and were afraid that he would get hurt.

Father Abraham's parents are very successful in Nigeria. His mother owns a private hospital and his father has a pharmacy as well as rental property. His father started out as a teacher and later became a congressman. Mom wanted Dad out of politics however, and he eventually became the country's superintendent of schools. Father Abraham says his family is deeply religious. His father was pastoral council chairman for many years.

Even as a boy in grade school, Father Abraham always wanted to be a priest, but being the first son in a family is a big deal in his culture. He hesitated to tell his father of his desire to become a priest

because he didn't want to disappoint him. Dad wanted him to become a doctor, run the family businesses, and remain close to home. He even went to medical school for two years to become a doctor, but the calling to be a priest was still strong.

But on April 12th, 1998, while he was in medical school, God spoke to him in a dream.

Father Abraham will never forget that night. God told him to go and talk to his dad on July 17th about becoming a priest. That was how he got up the courage to talk to his father about the priesthood.

He woke his father at 4:00 A.M. on July 17th in 1998 to tell him that he wanted to be a priest. He told his father that he realized how much his father wanted him to go into business and he hoped dad would not be disappointed in him. He said his father paused for about five minutes, then he said that Abraham was a gift to him from God, "... and if that same God wants you to serve Him, who am I to say no".

Being the first son in Father Abraham's culture carries many extra responsibilities. Typically the "next of kin" (first son) inherits everything, along with instructions on how to distribute the wealth to the rest of the family. Father Abraham had to legally transfer that responsibility to one of his younger brothers. He had to give all that up in order to become a priest.

Father Abraham's training led him to three different seminaries for different programs. He first went to St. Peter the Apostle Seminary in Eruku, Nigeria, for a one-year spiritual discernment to become a priest. Then Bishop Ephrim Obot of Nigeria, sent him to St. Aquinas Major Seminary in Nigeria, which is a campus of the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome. There he received degrees in philosophy and theology. Finally he went to Sacred Heart Seminary in Wisconsin for a special program on pastoral activities.

Father Abraham says that preaching is the best part of being a priest. He says that his ideal assignment would be to become a parish priest somewhere. He really wants to be with and serve the people. He says he was "ordained for the church and for the people." We welcome Father Abraham to Holy Childhood, and we hope he enjoys his stay with us.



PSR NEWS

BY MARILYN BYRNE
DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Parish School of Religion, better known as PSR!

We meet on Sundays in Holy Childhood School from 9:00 am to 10:15 am. The program is for all Catholic families with students who attend public school, in grades kindergarten through 8th. The enrollment fee for PSR is \$50.00 per student.

Second and Eighth are sacramental grades. In second grade the children are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

In the Eighth grade the students are prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation.

As part of Holy Childhood PSR program the students in these grades must have attended PSR classes or religious education instruction in the prior year.

The attendance policy for all students is that they attend PSR classes regularly. Students in the sacramental grades (2 & 8) are allowed to miss up to 2 Sundays, and these must be excused absences.

These are the volunteer Catechists for the 2010 - 2011 school year:

K - Pat and Tabitha Zimmermann
1st - Amy Klein and Stacie Funk
2nd - Laurine Scott and Michelle Renth
3rd - Timothy Byrne and Kevin Abington
4th - Cara Dickhaut
5th - Connie Schulte and
Christopher Morene



6th - Scott Clayton and
Mary Kate Bernal
7th - Johann Abington and
Kelsey Abington
8th - Dean Wombacher and
Julie Benner
Office volunteers:
Angie Karpel and
Linda Wombacher

In addition to class time, Holy Childhood PSR program offers students the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.

In October we hold a special Rosary service, and we do several service projects.

Last year we sent boxes to Afghanistan at Christmas time, and during the Spring the students collected money for Chile, Haiti, and the Food Pantry.

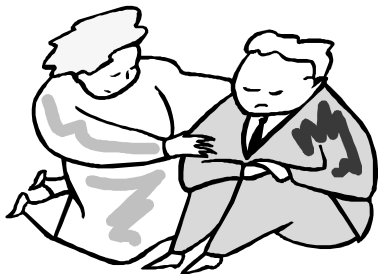
We welcome all our new families and hope to again have a successful PSR year. God Bless!



WOMEN OF THE PARISH

The Holy Childhood Council of Catholic Women is an organization created with you in mind! Every woman, 18+, in the parish can find fulfillment by sharing our common goals of working for the good of the parish in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Come and share a girls' night out! Every meeting gives you an opportunity to meet the other women of our parish, to laugh together, pray together and enjoy the programs and refreshments. The best cooks in the parish belong to HCCCW! Our first meeting of the new season is Tuesday, September 14, at 7:30 in the Parish Center.

TRY US – YOU'LL LIKE US!



Social Services Ministry

By Jodi Gardner

The purpose of the Social Services Ministry of Holy Childhood Parish is to offer information to parishioners about community resources and social service agencies that assist with life issues.

Coping with the death of a loved one, care giving for an elderly or disabled family member, or finding a family counselor are just a few of the issues that arise in our everyday lives.

Members of the Social Services Ministry have worked in the field of social services, are knowledgeable about what sources could offer practical and emotional support, and can put parish members in touch with helpful services.

Any consultation with a Social Services Ministry Resource Contact follows confidentiality guidelines, and could be the start of services that make a difficult situation more manageable.

No question is too small or large – any question about social services issues is welcomed. Ministry Resource Contacts include: Jodi Gardner (566-2347), Dolores Dauber, LeeAnn Funk, Karen Zacharski, Pat Steinberg, Colleen Hopp, and Sandra Hakanson. Thanks also to committee members Pat Fletcher, Dee Bechtoldt, and Nona Morgan, who assist with projects and planning.

A few examples of when we can help: a man married for 55 years is recently widowed and would benefit from a grief support group; a mother and father are fearful that their teenager is abusing a drug or suffers from depression; a neighbor has questions about what services may help an elderly neighbor who lives alone; a family member was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease.

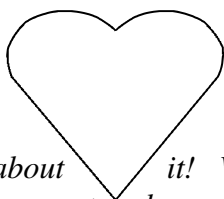
Although our social services ministry was started by and is for the benefit of our own parish members, the whole Belleville Diocese places a similar emphasis on this type of ministry.

The diocese has recently requested that each parish have a liaison to Catholic Charities of Southern Illinois, which includes Catholic Social Services, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Urban Programs, Ministry to the Sick and Aged, and other agencies.

Jodi Gardner will serve as the liaison, to educate parish members about these available diocesan services and their mission.

Don't forget to check out the Social Services Ministry literature display in the parish center for brochures and information about helpful social services, or call any one of us for further information!

WHY I



MY SCC

By Linda Zacharski

"Think about it! When was the last time you sat down and read your Bible? Most Catholics own a Bible...but some don't! And many don't read it, much less study it."

This was the topic of a recent column in Liguorian magazine by Father Rick Potts, C.Ss.R. He reminded us that one of the teachings of Vatican II, nearly 50 years ago, was that Catholics should read the Bible.

Many Catholics encounter the Bible only in the readings at Sunday Mass, and often don't pay much attention. But Father Potts points out that the Bible is our chief guide to the Christian way of life.

It becomes obvious that each of us needs to read and understand what the Bible has to say to us. At Holy Childhood we have the perfect opportunity to help each other in this endeavor.

This fall, several small Bible-study clusters will again be coming together in our parish. Groups of 8-12 adults are forming to meet together regularly in people's homes, using a scripture-based guide to assist in greater understanding of God's word and how to implement it into our lives.

Coming together in our Small Christian Communities (SCC) to study the word of God is intended to form us into Jesus' disciples – to help us move from where we are spiritually, to where we want and ought to be.

Although, each SCC is unique, we generally start and end each session with a prayer, then read the scriptural selection for our lesson.. We use booklets with short readings for each lesson, so you don't have to carry a Bible with you when you come.

Just as Jesus gathered around him a small group of disciples and engaged them in dialog about what it meant to participate in the kingdom of God, we are trying to learn how to follow His way.

In the Gospels, we read that He asked His listeners questions that caused them to

think and re-evaluate who Jesus is and who they were called to be. The Bible invites us to explore God's word and contemplate how we might respond to it.

In our SCC, a few provocative questions, based on the scripture we've just read, are included in the guide. Discussion of the ideas that are generated by these questions, makes up the last component of the lesson. Some people have ideas to share and others like to listen and think things over. There's no pressure to assert an opinion, if you're not ready.

The Small Christian Communities meet on various days of the week to accommodate the needs of many people. Different groups use a choice of booklets that supply background and explanations to highlight what Jesus' words mean for us today. Each group has a facilitator to assist in focusing the discussion of thoughts and ideas throughout the session.

As people in the group get more comfortable with each other, they begin to bond together as Jesus' disciples did.

Close your eyes and picture yourself sitting informally in a circle of friendly faces. Someone reads, someone else responds. Your mind opens to the concept. You're suddenly aware of a perspective that never occurred to you before.

The exchange continues, sometimes with agreement, sometimes leading to another observation or question to add to the conversation. You find it stimulating to hear the ideas that emerge — maybe even from you. Suddenly you feel a euphoria flooding warmly through you. That's SCC in a nutshell!

You owe yourself the opportunity to feel that thrill on a weekday. The grace that fills you will take you through the rest of the week, no matter what else goes on in your life. Find the time and make the first step toward a closer relationship with God! Sign up for an SCC now. You won't regret it.

Welcome Committee By Joe Wingate

BAPTISMS

The Welcome Committee would like to acknowledge those who have been baptized in our parish during 2010.

We welcome these, our newest children of God:

1/17 Annamarie Kennedy
1/17 Seth Kennedy
2/27 Elijah Dominguez
3/13 Todd Perreault Jr.
4/3 Cheryl Orlet
4/10 Lillian Loewe
4/11 Luke Beck
4/18 Meghan Keller
5/15 Erin O'Leary
6/6 Collin Fertig
6/19 Katelyn Schanz
6/27 Theresa Johnston
6/27 Alanna Johnston
7/4 Nicholas Smothers
7/4 Matthew Smothers
7/11 Celeste Grodeon
7/18 Maisyn Wittenstrom
8/21 Gideon Love
8/22 Keeley Stroot

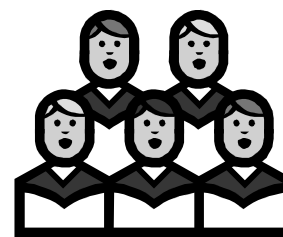


Welcome Sunday is always the 1st Sunday of the month.

The Welcome Committee invites everyone to take a few extra minutes after Mass to stop by the parish center for coffee, juice, donuts, and fellowship.

This is a good time to say hello and catch up with old friends and to meet new families moving into our area who are joining our parish family.

PRAISE THE LORD WITH SONG —



About 7:30 on Wednesday evenings, laughter and song can be heard ringing through the sanctuary at Holy Childhood. No, it's not someone breaking into the sacramental wine. It's the Adult Choir rehearsing for a Sunday liturgy.

This mix of fellowship and practice may not seem like work, but the dedication to learn new music, and refine parish favorites, can be heard when the choir provides the music on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at the 10:30 am Mass.

Led by Mary Kay Pritchett, who also accompanies the choir on organ and keyboard, the 16-member choir is seeking new members to swell the joyful harmony in honor of the Lord. Rehearsals begin September 8, in the choir loft at church. Share your vocal talents. We practice every Wednesday at 7:30 during the school year. Come join us and have some fun!

Holy Childhood of Jesus Catholic
Church
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