



**Holy Childhood  
of Jesus  
Parish Newsletter**

# Church Chatter

Volume 10, Issue 3

Advent, 2010

Season's greetings from the Holy Childhood Pastoral Council! As the new liturgical year is upon us, we wanted to send our warmest greetings to everyone in the Parish.

We'd also like to reintroduce our body to the Parish and to remind everyone about the role we strive to play.

Weeks back the council made a retreat to set goals for our year and to welcome our new and returning members into the fold. One of the topics we discussed was identifying what our role exactly is — and isn't!

The Pastoral Council doesn't make rules to dictate what the parish believes — that comes from Rome through the Diocese. We were not formed to take over any of the existing ministries such as ushers, lectors, and any of the dozens of other groups who make our parish go — they have done and continue to do a great job.

The Pastoral Council was started years back when the old Parish Council was divided into two groups. The Finance Council was assigned to deal with the business and economic issues facing the parish, while we have been commissioned to develop the spiritual, social and emotional welfare of the parish.

To put it another way, the Pastoral Council is a body focused on communication between the different groups of the Parish to best help them work together. We are tasked with building bridges between different ministries when larger endeavors make it necessary.

We serve as a sounding board for our Pastors when they want to get the pulse of the Parish before making their decisions. We also work to bring questions and concerns of the Parish to our leaders — Pastors, committee heads, etc. — so they can address them.

We try to find answers and solutions for parishioners who don't understand why our parish is doing something — whether those actions are local decisions or from external sources.



## PASTORAL COUNCIL

**By Chris Levrault, council president**

We look to create an overall message of community within the parish by providing services not covered by particular committees/service groups.

We do our best to prepare the Parish for any policy changes sent from the Diocese and to explain the rationale behind them.

We are comprised of a cross section of the Parish in terms of age, duration with the parish, gender, background, family size, etc. Each nominated by fellow parishioners to serve staggered three-year terms, we try to express the various viewpoints found throughout our parish to the best of our abilities.

But to do this, we need your help. If there are concerns or questions you have, please bring them to our attention. The simplest way is to leave us a message at the rectory or email us at [holychildhoodPC@yahoo.com](mailto:holychildhoodPC@yahoo.com).

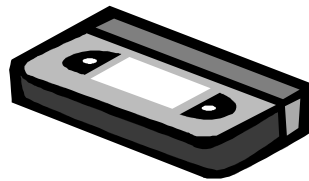
Most weekends, you can also stop any of us after Mass to talk informally or give us a handwritten note with your questions or your suggestions.

Does the sign on 6<sup>th</sup> street need to be renovated? Do you feel the PSR and the School's Confirmation classes should try to work closer together? Are you curious about the upcoming changes being made in the wording of the Catholic Mass? These are all issues that we have addressed (or begun to address) in meetings over the past year.

Also, if you don't have any specific concerns but would like to expand your role at the Parish in some way, please contact us. We'll work to help you do so by getting you in contact with the right parish group who can use your talents or maybe even help you create a new group to serve our Parish. And in the end, that's our goal to serve the Parish so that it can serve the community for many years to come despite whatever changes may arise.

To a Blessed New Year and many more to come,  
Holy Childhood Pastoral Council —  
Christopher Levrault, President

## HELP NEEDED FOR NEW VIDEO LIBRARY



Holy Childhood School is currently organizing a video library. The video library will be set up similar to a book library, so that videos can be checked out to be viewed at home or in the classroom.

Current videos are being organized into categories such as; Family Friendly Entertainment, Inspirational, Nature, Saints, Biblical, and Historical. If you have any videos you would like to donate or loan to the library, please bring them to the school office. In addition, H.O.P.E. (Holy Childhood's Organization of Parents and Educators) has agreed to purchase a variety of some of the latest releases for the library.

There are a lot of Catholic films on the market that are both entertaining and

help you grow in your faith. Most of these types of movies are not readily available in the video rental stores or through the public library.

This could give those people who are interested in learning more about a saint, for example, (but don't have time to read the book) an opportunity to do so. The library will be a great resource that will be readily available for the HCS teachers, PSR, or anyone interested in learning more about their faith.

Anyone interested in contributing to this exciting project please contact Christeen Wingate at 1-618-980-8345.



## ***SMALL VICTORIES*** **NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**By Susan Anderson**

Christmas is all about the birth of a baby, a very special baby. What better time to come and learn about the 3,700+ babies Small Victories Ministry has saved in the last 10 years! Come and hear Angela and Dan Michael's incredible story, see a live ultrasound, tour the "womb service" RV, play games, and celebrate what Christmas is all about!

H.O.P.E (Holy Childhood Organization of Parents and Educators) will host Small Victories Ministry at their Christmas Celebration on **Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** in the school cafeteria

Holy Childhood's high school youth ministry, CYO (Catholic Youth Organization), has been helping and supporting Small Victories Ministry for the last couple of years. They have been going to Hope Clinic in Granite City, IL

every month and standing as powerful and prayerful witnesses to life. They have also held fundraisers like "Bottles for Babies" and "Cupcakes for Life" to help support Small Victories and the women who decide to keep their babies.

After the Holy Childhood Jr. High youth ministry's (Edge) lock-in last spring, over 28 youth put their faith into action standing as witnesses in front of the clinic in the rain one Saturday morning in May. Come see and learn what our parish youth have been doing to support life.

In lieu of a gift exchange, cash donations or gift cards towards their ministry will be greatly appreciated. Everyone is invited to attend. To learn more visit [www.smallvictoriesusa.com](http://www.smallvictoriesusa.com).



## TEENS ROCK THE CHURCH



On Wednesday, Nov. 17 Holy Childhood's CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) hosted an event like no other it has held before.

The evening started out with **Oddwalk Ministries** entertaining the crowd with their upbeat and interactive music. Teens from Holy Childhood brought their friends and families packing the church nearly full with jiving people of all ages.

Holy Childhood's own Rick Turcotte on the drums kept the rhythm hot, while Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnston kept the audience in stitches with their comedy, interspersed with songs of joyful noise using lyrics straight from the psalms.

After everyone got a dose of handclapping, toe-tapping fun, next up was Justin Fatica.

Co-founder/director of the nationally acclaimed **Hard As Nails Ministry** since 2002, Justin Fatica has touched millions of lives and inspired many people to find out about God's magnificent love with his upbeat, intense approach.

Justin's message of love and care shook up the crowd at Holy Childhood that night. Many who had suffered in silence took a stand, and got up and told their stories.

Justin challenged the lifestyle of everyone in the crowd, calling them to live for Christ daily, and "Give it all you got!"

A special thank-you goes out to all of the contributors who helped make this special event possible, along with our CYO leaders; Ron Hulliung, Kathy Renth, Debbie Hulliung, and Ken Zacharski.

It was a spirit-filled night, thanks to all those who attended.

Here are just a few of the hundreds of comments people had to say after the event...

**Kari Berthe** "I'm thankful that our church brought in such a wonderful speaker, Justin Fatica, last night! Powerful message and great for everyone there. Did you know that you are amazing because that is how God made you?"

**Jonny Amann** "Justin Fatica = AMAZING!!!"

**Jordan Rasch** "Just experienced the BEST night of my life... I love everyone and you are AWESOME!"

**Emily Renth** "Thank you Justin Fatica for making me realize I am not alone! For making me realize that it doesn't matter what other people think. What really matters is what my Father thinks!"

# Holy Childhood Council of Catholic Women

HCCCW is the parish club for women. It was established about 75 years ago as the St. Ann's Altar Sodality to foster love and reverence for the House of God and to provide items for the church and altar, including bread and wine for Mass, altar linens, candles, and flowers.

In spite of the name change, the spirit of the organization remains as a unifying connection for the women of the parish to come together to coordinate their energy and ideas for the betterment of the parish.

Over the many years of its existence, the ladies have faithfully continued fulfilling all of the altar needs. But they have also expanded their interests into many other facets of parish life.

Just as Jesus could always count on the women among His disciples to care for the physical needs of others, so the parish counts on the HCCCW to work at the Blood Drives, provide food for funeral lunches, help with Welcome Sundays, work at the Food Pantry,

visit parish members who are in nursing homes or assisted living, assist in delivery of Meals on Wheels, and provide Christmas cookies for the Bishop's annual Christmas Dinner for the Poor.



The HCCCW Quilters are responsible in large part for the success of the Parish Picnic each summer. These women quilt every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm and on Tuesday evenings as well.



Together they produce approximately 60 hand-stitched quilts each year for the Quilt Bingo. They would love to teach this time-honored needlecraft to newcomers who would like to join them.

The HCCCW always welcomes new members and is happy to have added a lively bunch of parish women to the roll this fall.

Once a member, most women form close relationships within the club and remain members for life. After age 75, the nominal \$3 annual dues is waived and ladies become honorary members. Our two eldest living members are Edna Heimann, 104, and Edna Zinck, 103.

We generally meet on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center.

However, the annual Christmas party is being held this year on Sunday, December 12, at 12 noon in the parish center. It includes a dinner catered by Tony's Place for \$9.50. See the Sunday bulletin for details of reservations and optional gift exchange.



# Catholic Men for Christ Conference

By Joe Wingate

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual *Catholic Men for Christ Conference* in St Louis is being held on January 29, 2011. Each of the past three years, Holy Childhood Parish has had the most attendance for this event from the Illinois side of the river.

This year the Holy Childhood Men's Ministry has been active in communicating the conference to the Belleville Deanery within the Diocese, hoping to further publicize this great event.

If you have never attended the conference before, you'll see men from all over the St Louis region come together for one day to celebrate their Catholic faith —



the faith bestowed by Jesus Christ and passed down by His Apostles.

The day's events include wonderfully faith-filled speakers who give vast testimony to our great faith. The speakers this year include Danny Abramowitz a former NFL player who played for the New Orleans Saints and currently appears on the network TV station EWTN program called "Crossing the Goal".

Also speaking will be Richard Lane an empowering and inspirational speaker deeply rooted in his Catholic faith.

Priests from the surrounding area will be available throughout the day for the Sacrament of Confession, a wonderful sacrament given to us by Jesus in order to cleanse ourselves from the damage of Sin. A chapel will also be present for Eucharistic Adoration, where we can join together and worship our Lord.

The last part of the day concludes with the greatest gift given to us - the sacrifice of the Mass. We are participants in a biblical unfolding before our very eyes, where our Lord returns to us under the auspices of bread and wine.

Truly there is nothing better on earth, as the Mass serves as a precept of the heavenly kingdom we hope to join one day.

Information pertaining to the conference as well as registration can be located on the Internet at: <http://www.catholicmenforchrist.org/>



# Holy Childhood's St Vincent de Paul Society

By Bill Huff



In 1833 six students at the University of Paris, got together for the first meeting of a "Conference of Charity" that was placed under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul. They would later become know as the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

By 1860, the society had grown to 2,500 Conferences, with more than 50,000 members. Today the society has 875,000 members spread among 46,000 conferences in 107 countries on 5 continents, doing their work around the world.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one of the oldest charitable social and humanitarian organizations. It is seen today as a huge international movement of charity and social action. Its members want to witness to the fraternal love of Christ among the poorest. One of the six original students was Frederic Ozanam, a French scholar, who was just 20 at the time.

Frederic Ozanam, afraid of a coming struggle between the "haves and the have nots", said, "There are many people who have too much, and who want still more. There are very many more who do not have sufficient, who have nothing and who want to take if people won't give. A struggle is starting between these two types of people. This struggle threatens to be a terrible one. On one side is the power of gold, on the other the power of despair. We must jump in between these opposing armies, if not to prevent at least to soften, the encounter."



Ozanam said he wanted "to wrap up the whole world in a network of charity." In 1835 after weeks of heated discussion, the organization decided to divide up the founding Conference into different sections.

With this decision the members of the fledgling Society showed that they wanted their movement to spread outside the borders of their parish, their city, their country, even their continent, in order to take root in all regions.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was officially recognized by Church authorities in August, 1845, and has been confirmed by succeeding popes. It has always faithfully retained its lay status, the essential element which characterizes it.

Holy Childhood has an active St. Vincent de Paul conference. It was basically started years ago by a member of our parish named Ernie Touchette who, along with his wife Jean, ran a food pantry out of their basement. Later a couple of the other churches in the city offered to help out financially.

Unfortunately there are always some people who take advantage of the good deeds of others. They would

go from church to church looking for help. One week they would be Catholic, next week they would be Baptist, and on and on. To combat this the churches all came together to form the Mascoutah Concerned Christian Alliance. The Concerned Christians, as they are commonly known, monitor and coordinate all the relief efforts in our city, as well as operating the city food pantry.

Our St. Vincent de Paul conference works in conjunction with Concerned Christians to help people in Mascoutah who have trouble paying rent/mortgage payments or when utilities are about to be shut off. Payments are always made to the utility company or to the bank/landlord, never to the clients themselves.

When someone requests aid, their request is evaluated and then two people from the Society visit them to check out the situation before any money is spent.

People requesting aid can only receive help once every 12 months. Both St. Vincent de Paul and Concerned Christians make disbursements from their own accounts. The charter of St. Vincent de Paul does not allow donations to be made to other charities.

Last year, Holy Childhood's St Vincent de Paul along with Concerned Christians helped 458 people in Mascoutah. They spent \$7,901 doing so. Concerned Christians, with their larger contributor base, spent even more.

The money St Vincent de Paul disburses comes from direct contributions and from second collections for the poor at weekend Masses during Lent. There are also several special collections that take place throughout the year such as the "Souper Bowl" collection every January.

The Belleville Council of St. Vincent de Paul sponsors a job skills seminar to help clients prepare for a job interview, helping with resume writing, interviewing techniques, and dressing for interviews. They have a program that they call "Gear-up" which provides dress apparel for low income people who need it for their jobs.

The youth of our parish who belong to Edge have volunteered to help with this collection as a service project for a month. They have provided collection baskets at the entrances of church and in the school for this clothing.

The Belleville council also offers a "Money Talk" class which teaches people how to stretch their money and offers common sense approaches to budgeting and finance.



By Joe Wingate

Our Parish Family has been enriched with many new members who look forward to making meaningful relationships within the sphere of Holy Childhood. We reach out a warm hand of welcome to the following who have joined our parish since the beginning of 2010.

**Claudia McCain**  
**Mary Beth Varner**  
**Shawn and Janel Housley**  
**John and Renee Lattina**  
**John and Christine Barttelbort**  
**Lisa Bishop**  
**Francisco and Sherri Guzman**  
**Gary and Jeanine Johnston**  
**Joseph and Rachel Symmes**  
**Helen Friederich**  
**Christopher and Tanya Morene**  
**Johnathan and Edith Redfern**  
**Scott and Jennifer Brown**  
**Steven and Lindsey Stroot**  
**William and Theresa Kaiser**  
**Joseph and Barbara Sturman**  
**Michael and Kimberly LaJoye**  
**Emilio and Tina Ruizsoriano**  
**Kevin and Lorissa Tiller**  
**Stephen and Erin Philow**  
**Evelyn Hommel**  
**Shaun Wagner**  
**Frank Eddleman**  
**Mike Lance**  
**Erin Reed**  
**Lu Fields**  
**John Ross**

**Parish Baptisms  
Since October 1**



**Brandon Klein**  
**10/2**  
**Daniel Wingate**  
**10/9**  
**Bailey Seibert**  
**10/10**  
**Ethan Mueth**  
**10/24**  
**Noah Woodrome**  
**11/7**  
**Ethan Biebel**  
**11/13**

# BOOK REVIEW: *The Sparrow*

by Mary Doria Russell



So you think you're not interested in reading science-fiction novels? That's what I thought until, somewhat reservedly, I picked up this book recommended by a friend. I was hooked from page one!

Get ready to stay up all night reading. Mary Doria Russell's first novel is an astonishing literary debut, which reads more like a page-turning tale of suspense. *The Sparrow* takes you on a journey to a distant planet and to the center of the human soul.

It is the story of a charismatic Puerto Rican Jesuit priest and linguist, Emilio Sandoz, who leads a twenty-first-century scientific mission to a newly discovered extraterrestrial culture. Sandoz and his scientist companions (who include other Jesuits, an atheist, a Jew and a lay Catholic) are prepared to endure isolation, hardship and death.

The Jesuits take on this mission to learn, not to proselytize, so that they may come to know and love God's other children – for the greater glory of God. They meant no harm.

But nothing can prepare them for the civilization they encounter, or for the tragic misunderstanding that brings the mission to a catastrophic end. Once considered a living saint, Sandoz returns alone to Earth physically and spiritually maimed, the mission's sole survivor--only to be accused of heinous crimes and blamed for the mission's failure.

This futuristic story takes place from the years 2019 to 2060. The United States is no longer the predominant world power, having lost two trade wars with Japan, which is now supreme in both space and on Earth. Poverty is rampant. Indentured servitude is once more a common practice,

and "future brokers" search ghettos the world over, for promising children to educate in return for a large chunk of their lifetime income.

In clean, effortless prose and with captivating flashes of wit, Russell creates memorable characters who navigate a world of exciting ideas and disturbing moral issues without ever losing their humanity or humor. Both heartbreaking and triumphant, and rich in literary pleasures great and small, *The Sparrow* is a powerful and haunting book.

This novel is an examination of faith and what it means to question, or even lose, one's faith. Many of the characters begin to question their beliefs, or, in some cases, grab hold more firmly. Faith, love, and the role of God in the world drive the plot of this story.

*The Sparrow* is a novel of ideas and characters. Not the sort of ideas which make the reader gasp and say "Wow," but the type of ideas which make the reader continue to think about them long after the book has been set aside.

Russell presents her ideas through characters who are extremely likable. *The Sparrow* is more philosophical than many science fiction novels and makes the reader think about the questions of religion it raises.

If the action occasionally slows to allow more philosophical and religious discussion, it does so in order to make *The Sparrow* a stronger novel -- a parable about faith--the search for God in others as well as Out There.

Russell received the John W. Campbell Award on the merits of *The Sparrow* and its sequel, *Children of God*. Since the completion of these two books, she has written and published two historical novels.

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## "Theology of the Body" for Teens

Starting the first Wednesday of the new year, **Jan 5, 2011**, there will be a class starting for teens. Called "Theology of the Body", it is a program that teaches abstinence in a way that teens can really grasp it.

It is a twelve week long program, that consists of a presentation about 20-30 minutes long followed by a discussion period.