

Parish VOICE

Fall 2013 VOL.XXI NO. 51

St. Vincent de Paul Conference Provides Invaluable Service

St. Charles Parish has been hosting a St. Vincent de Paul Conference (SVdP) for over 30 years. The demands on its program have never been greater. Feeding and providing support to maintain a normal semblance of living to many families in San Carlos is a challenge. Yes, there are many San Carlos families who struggle financially and barely survive.

Maria, a 28 year old mother of two young children struggles each month to maintain her home and

put food on the table. The man of the house left several years ago without providing any support. Maria works full time and shares one of two bedrooms in their apartment with her son and daughter. This allows her to rent out the second room to help support her family. We all know how costly raising a family is and with school and daycare included, a challenge we all can all understand.

Sandra is a 75 year old widow. She is fortunate to own a condo, but has taken on the responsibility of supporting her disabled adult daughter and granddaughter. She is also providing assistance to her granddaughter while she is in nursing school. The expenses to maintain this household are immense. But, she continues with her faith and seems to make ends meet.

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Dear Friends:

This is addressed to all the godparents of our community: are we fulfilling our roles as godparents? When we undertook this role, there were a few things we committed to. The first is that by both word and example we would assist in passing on the faith to this child. The second was that we stood as representatives of the church into which the person is being baptized. That we made a promise on behalf of the Church that we would assist in providing a community of faith that would help the child grow in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. This means that the Church would provide opportunities to grow in the knowledge of the faith, participate in the Gospel demands to care and be of service to one another, to be part of a community, and to gather together to worship in thanksgiving for all that we have received. Are we doing our part?

This edition of the Parish Voice is

focused on the response to our Baptismal call as a community to provide opportunities for faith formation, to provide outreach to those most vulnerable and in need, and to gather to worship and give thanks. These programs and ministries are not reserved for only a few but require the time, talents and treasures of all who believe in the commitment made by godparents. Every time we have welcomed a new member into our community, we have committed each and every one of us to be instrumental in providing for the faith formation of this individual.

To accomplish this task, some members have become teachers and catechists in our classrooms. Others have taken on roles of assisting those in need with food, clothing and shelter. Still others have taken on ministries in worship and visiting those who are unable to be with us at our worship on Sundays because of age, sickness or being

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Maria and Sandra have called upon St. Vincent de Paul at times for assistance with rent and utility bills. They are also receiving bags of groceries and food vouchers monthly to supplement their food needs.

These are only two stories of many here in "affluent" San Carlos! The financial means and support for the SVdP program at St. Charles come directly from the St. Charles community. All work is done by volunteers and funding is received through the Fifth Sunday collections during the year, and the SVdP offering boxes within the church. Our teams make daily home visits to support our neighbors with food supplied from the Second Harvest Bank and food vouchers purchased with donated funds.

As Catholics we believe we were born into our Faith through Baptism. We believe we are here to give back to God through his children. This is a commitment and a responsibility we have to our Creator. This is not an option! "The preferential option for the poor", is

a phrase which came from the Vatican II Council and has become a principle within the Catholic Church. In our work, the needs of the poor and vulnerable must come first!

Our new Papal Leader, Pope Francis, chose his name to associate himself with the saint who is most identified with caring for the poor. It is clear that the center of his papacy is caring for the poor! An example we can not ignore.

Providing for those in need, especially within our community through St. Vincent de Paul, is an important part of this commitment we made to God through our Faith.

Please! Please! Please consider joining our volunteer group and supporting this program financially to help those who are struggling here in our St. Charles community.

"The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Service at Mass

There are multiple ministries which support our Mass, the central event of our faith. Please con-

sider serving as an usher, lector or Eucharistic minister or in the choir or helping with hospitality. Our youth can be choir members, altar servers and sacristans.

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in prison.

The number of members who are active in these ministries and programs is staggering but so are the demands. As we approach Stewardship Sunday on the weekend of October 12-13, it might be a good time to reflect on our responsibilities as members of a community, to see where our time, talents and treasures can be best utilized to fulfill our Baptismal responsibili-

ties. It is one thing I have learned about the community when they learn of a need, there is an unbelievable response.

To quote Albert Schweitzer: "I do not know what the future may bring but the one thing I do know is that the ones who will truly be happy are those who sought and found how to serve."

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Dave

Baptisms

Kelsy Isabella Kraska

Serena Eloise Kraska

Tiago Santarelli Chu

Bella Macaela Vasquez

Tulah Chicconi Cooper

Ella Marie Garber

Sebastian Gustavo Porras

Parker Wyatt Harrison

Tyler Morgan Harrison

Patrick Brian Kiler

Viola Elizabeth Rodkin

Ethan William Ellis

Mia Reagan Sperry

Reese Elisabeth Sperry

Elizabeth Carolyn von Scheven

Jaclyn Sarah von Scheven

Stella Jo Elizabeth Buhr

Christopher Driscoll Law

Marea Grace Orrell

Jacob Ethan Cannon

Aurelia Grace Ramirez

Teagan Elyse Wood

Leonila Edith Revels

Callie Christine Waarich

Ava Ann Lopez Amoroso

Alexa Maren Conkling

Please consider participating in our Eucharistic Adoration - the First Friday of every month in the Parish Center chapel from 9:00 a.m. until 10 p.m. - "be still and know that I am God."

Faith Formation—Opportunities

Our parish religious education program supports parents in their role of primary educators in the faith of their children and welcomes volunteers to help in this endeavor. The program includes religious education classes for **Grades Kindergarten through 4th** – which currently are in need of assistants for all grades on Mondays (3:30 to 4:30 p.m.). Leaders (adults or teens) are needed for the **Children's Liturgy of the Word** which meets from September through June during the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass (behind the altar on a drop in basis for 20-25 minutes) and all materials are provided.

Our **Scripture Camp** which is held for a week in June each year is in great need of volunteers to become involved in planning and implementing the program for next year as the current directors are retiring. This wonderful ministry has allowed our children to have fun learning about God's love and has been put on by the Parish for 15 years. Please consider helping.

You can email Michelle at mbaeza@stcharlesparish.org about any of these ministries.

Men's Club

All men of the Saint Charles community are invited to participate in our monthly programs which are great ways for men in our Parish to meet a wonderful group and share in our life's successes, opportunities, and struggles. Topics include those related to our children, men's health, spiritual guidance and a variety of sports-related topics. Please check the Bulletin for details. A \$20 admission charge covers dinner, entertainment and popular door prizes. Hope to see you soon—Mike Ramey, President.

Ministry to the Homebound

St. Charles' Ministry to the Sick, Elderly and Homebound shows love and care for our parish members who for reasons of health or infirmity cannot be with us as we gather for worship. Volunteers bring Communion to the homebound. They drive to appointments and run errands such as grocery shopping and picking up prescriptions. They also bring meals to parishioners in need and help at the monthly Senior Luncheon. We have a great need for **volunteers to take parishioners to and from Mass.**

The Ministry encourages you to consider volunteering some of your time to spend with these members of our parish, connecting with them and lending a listening ear. Please contact Kathy (591-7349 ex. 402) or at kfagliano@stcharlesparish.org.

WINGS

Women in God's Spirit encourages individual spiritual growth through a balance of prayer, study, life sharing, and fellowship. Our regular monthly meetings are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meetings include refreshments and time to meet and talk to other women.

WINGS also supports the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** which knits and crochets simple items for the homeless shelter in Redwood City, our wounded warriors at the Veterans Hospital, chemo caps for Kaiser Hospital, baby blankets for Lucille Packard Hospital, and prayer shawls for those who are going through a difficult time. The gifts are created on your time with no deadlines to meet.

Charlie's Angels—Trip Support

In November, teens from Charlie's Angels, our high school youth group, will be going again to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme this year is: Signed, Sealed, Delivered. This is the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the country and is a life-changing experience of being part of the larger Church community and includes inspiring keynote presentations, prayer, concerts, workshops and liturgy.

Fundraisers include a bake sale on Oct. 20, a Haunted House on Oct. 26, and an Advent sale on Nov. 9-10 as part of the WINGS boutique.

More Service Opportunities

The St. Charles Parish website (www.stcharlesparish.org) includes additional details about these ministries and descriptions of more ministries, faith formation activities and parish groups which could use your time, talents and/or treasure. You can also contact the **Parish Office at 591-7349**. Please take a moment to find an opportunity that you can seize!

Weddings

**Thomas Charles
Gonzales &
Rebecca Inez Aoanan
April 6, 2013**

**Adrian Nagrampa
Almazan &
Kimberly Alisa Pallen
May 24, 2013**

**Matthew Brian Johnson &
Colleen Michele Haesloop
June 15, 2013**

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VOICE
Parish

WELCOME
TO THE
WILD WILD
WEST

FALL FESTIVAL

Thursday
September 26th
Late afternoon/evening
Booth Setup

Saturday
September 28th
1 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Live Entertainment:
—the Jim Stevens Band

Friday
September 27th
3 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Festival Opens

Sunday
September 29th
12:00 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Live Entertainment:
—the Band Explorer

Monday
September 30th
8 a.m. - Done
Tear Down & Clean Up

On-line registration is
accessed through:
www.stcharlesparish.org;
click "Support Us" on the far
right and in the drop down,
click "Parish Festival" and
then click on the Volunteer
button and follow the instruc-
tions.