

From our Seminarian

By Dustin Collins

Everything is going well here in Oak Ridge. They have me involved in several aspects of life here at the parish. My many jobs include working with the youth group, visiting those in the nursing home or hospital, helping to serve Masses, working in the food pantry, and helping in the parish's thrift store. The weeks here have passed by quickly, and it is hard to believe that my summer is about over. I will keep all of you posted on all of my information once I get to Saint Meinrad in the fall.

Parish Pastoral Council

By Vandy Nachazel

I would like to thank all those who have served on the PPC over the past two years as we have been rewriting our by-laws and redefining our committees and purpose. A special thanks to Frank Marcello who has served as our Chairperson during this period. The new 2008-09 PPC will meet on Tuesday, September 16, at 7 pm in the parish hall. We plan to meet the third Tuesday of each month until May or June and then reconvene in September 2009.

Notre Dame's Mission Statement is, "We, the people of Notre Dame Catholic Church, exist for the Mission of Christ, which is the building up of God's Kingdom." In order to implement this Mission, the PPC has three purposes: 1) Recommend and implement policy in consultation with the pastor for the entire parish community based on the Mission of the Parish (develop collegial relationships between the pastor and the laity in discerning and caring for the faith community's needs); 2) Offer the parish a vision for the future, i.e. general direction, prioritize goals/objectives, and formulate long/short range goals with all sharing in the decision making process; 3) Share in the missions of the parish, the diocese, and the universal church. To help accomplish our Mission for 2008-2009 are:

Chairperson: Vandy Nachazel 638-8718

Vice Chairperson: Jim Thompson 623-7468

Secretary: Pam Botta 638-9093

Administration: Jack Siersma 787-9141

Communications: Grimoaldo Jimenez 972-2449

Education/Formation: Lisa Loewenkamp 636-1308

Parish/Family Life: Loretta DeRuvo: 639-0071

Social Justice: Ray Jones 787-9117

Spiritual Life: Susan Collins 639-9382

This is YOUR PPC. We can only succeed if we have your input as we attempt to recommend and implement policy, etc. The meetings are open to all parishioners, and you may address the PPC upon identification and recognition by the chairperson. If you have thoughts, questions, or concerns, please contact the appropriate committee chairperson or attend a PPC meeting.

VBS Remarks

By Mary Maggert

Having the opportunity to share Vacation Bible School with my two grandchildren was so rewarding. Both girls commented "How much fun it was learning about how Jesus spent his life." They loved baking bread each night, making spice bags, and playing the games. Thank you for a great job!

By Jean Weaver

And Roger & Jo Ann Brown

What a great family activity! As first year participants, we were pleasantly surprised at how much we enjoyed our roles as shopkeepers for the marketplace. We hope that this glimpse into life in Biblical times was a rewarding and enriching experience for everyone who took part in the event.

Youth Leadership Institute

By Rachele Fenter

The Youth Leadership Institute has inspired me to take a better stand in my youth group. It feels like it has awakened my ability to be able to speak out and help be the voice of the youth. To get our youth active, we need to know what *they* want; and YLI helped teach me ways of communicating with them, seeing what they desire for activities, and getting them involved. After YLI, I feel I have the courage to speak out a little bit more, which will help me with the other activities that I take part in for the Church. YLI has helped push my leadership abilities to the next level, and I hope to be able to spread what I obtained from it to the other youth members.

By Stefania Collins

The Youth Leadership Institute was a great experience for me. I made two new friends from different parishes in the diocese. I learned many new things, but my favorite was learning about my personality. We had to take a test online before we attended the institute, and during the class we were given a booklet entirely based on our own personal results. This helped us to realize our leadership skills and the skills of others.

By Zachary Ptacek

YLI was a very useful tool in developing my skills in youth ministry. When I went last year, I was an extreme introvert. YLI was one of the things that helped to draw me out of my shell. The courses that every student at YLI went to were very informative and taught useful skills for youth ministry. Many of the courses offered were very informative and invoked contemplation on many subjects such as poverty, discrimination, and evangelization. Overall, YLI is not only a place to learn how to be a better youth minister, but also a place to learn how to be a better person.