



New Logo Unveiled

Bob Sandford, Coeditor

With all the changes at Saint Thomas More, our communications committee decided it was time for a new logo to express the new-found energy that has emerged in our parish in the last few years. Born of the work of our ad-hoc logo group and the donated work of Trozzolo Communications, the logo reflects a parish that is moving forward, with its eyes set on fulfilling its mission to be a more “welcoming, inclusive and loving community” (from our mission statement-see bottom left of this page).

The cross is reminiscent of the stained glass that distinguishes our church building. The color version pictured here consists of a burgundy back with gold letters and gold backdrop for the cross. The colors are meant to be warm and inviting, yet bold and distinguishable. Burgundy’s richness

reminds us of our deep faith tradition. It is also one of our school’s colors. Gold expresses our desire for a faith that will stand the test of life’s trials.

Many thanks to our ad-hoc logo group for their thoughtful input: Father Don Farnan, Blake Mulvany, Don Allen, Joe Davidson, Michele McInerney, and Kevin Gray. †

Our primary logo (top left of this page) and secondary logo (right) will be soon be appearing on all parish publications, signs, and many other places in color and in black and white.



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Our Mission

The mission of St. Thomas More Parish is to provide a welcoming, inclusive, and loving community by proclaiming and living God’s Word through worship, education, and social justice.

New Web Site Coming Soon

Bob Sandford, Coeditor

A web site can be a powerful tool for building up the Kingdom of God. In recent years, our current site, at the request of parishioners, has been developed into a valuable source of up-to-date information. Popular tools like the event calendar and online bulletin have been added. Our online bulletin alone is accessed over one thousand times a month on average.

With the growing widespread use of web-based technologies and given the tools that have become available, the site is being redesigned to make it an even better tool for ministry and community life.

A Web Site Committee was formed a few months ago and was charged with

identifying the tools that would best serve the Saint Thomas More community. As a result, in the coming months you will see a new site at www.stmkc.com with many exciting features like a site search box on every page, volunteer opportunity listings, e-mail delivery of the bulletin, and online contributions. The new site will also allow parish groups to use the site for their communication needs. †

If your parish group would like to make use of the new site to communicate, educate, recruit, etc. contact Bob Sandford at (816) 942-2492x212 or bob@stmkc.com

More News

...is a quarterly newsletter of the Saint Thomas More Parish community in Kansas City, Missouri and is mailed to all active, registered parishioners. Submissions are open to all parish groups

Submissions

...can be sent to the editor. The Spring issue is to be delivered June 1, 2009. Submissions are due March 31, 2009. E-mail submissions are preferred. Photo submissions should include information about what and/or who is depicted and can be in electronic or printed form.

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STM School Celebrates Service

Kathleen Cuddy

"Catholic Schools Celebrate Service" was the theme for this year's Catholic School's Week, January 25-31. Saint Thomas More celebrated with a week's worth of fun and service-oriented activities that involved the entire Parish community. The week kicked off with a school open house and student art displays after the 9:00AM and 10:30AM Masses with the help of STM eighth graders serving as tour guides.

The STM fifth graders also kicked off a special canned food drive, called Cyclones Can, to benefit Operation Breakthrough. STM competed against other area Catholic Schools to collect cans with a goal of 6,000!

In addition to the open house and canned food drive, other celebration activities included a living rosary, an all-school Mass with parents serving as lectors, gift bearers and choir members, a teacher/staff appreciation day, a student appreciation day with crazy hats and Chiefs spirit wear and a classroom door decorating contest.



STM school students help load canned goods collected during Catholic Schools Week into an Operation Breakthrough truck.

A special visit was made by KC Wolf, the KC Chiefs mascot, to award the sixth grade students as winners of a nutrition and physical activity contest, sponsored by the Midwest Dairy Council and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Special thanks goes to Sheryl White, Catholic Schools Week coordinator, and all of the Catholic Schools Week volunteer committee for planning

such a terrific week. Most of all, STM students thank the parish community and our wonderful teachers and staff for their ongoing commitment to our thriving and vibrant school! †

Saint Thomas More School Alumni Association

By Kathy Maguire

The newly formed Saint Thomas More School Alumni Association is on the move! The Alumni Committee continues to develop our alumni list with updated information to help all STM alumni stay connected and involved with Saint Thomas More. The list will also be used to include alumni in the upcoming reunion on Saturday, June

27. If you, your child or someone you know wants to stay connected, please send their name, year of graduation, e-mail address and mailing address to Kathy Maguire at magoorstc@aol.com. †

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner March 3

Melinda Smith, Pastoral Council member

You are (we hope)! Join the Pastoral Council, Tuesday, March 3, in More Hall as we share in **"Dinner with Father Don."** A buffet dinner will be served at 6PM, followed by Father Don's "State of the Parish" address. He will reflect on his hopes and dreams for our parish and the progress he sees in our attempts to live out STM's Parish Mission Statement: *The Mission of Saint Thomas More is to provide a welcoming, inclusive and loving community by proclaiming and living God's Word through worship, education and social justice.*

Last year, the Pastoral Council asked our ministry teams to focus on being a "welcoming community" in all of their endeavors. Following Father Don's address, a representative of each ministry team will make a short presentation (3-5 minutes each) to describe how their team integrated

"welcoming" in their work. They will also share possible plans for the coming year when our focus will move to "inclusive."

"this... will be informative for all parishioners, no matter what their current level of participation is within the parish. The Council will be present... to hear the ideas, concerns and questions of our fellow parishioners."

Knowing that communication is key for our community, it is the Council's hope that this inclusive format will be informative for all parishioners, no matter what their current level of participation is within the parish. The Council will be present as a listening body to hear the ideas, concerns and

questions of our fellow parishioners. This evening will be one of many future opportunities for each member of STM to share with members of the Pastoral Council. It is only through listening to you and sharing in prayer, as a Council and individually, that the Pastoral Council can hope to continue discerning God's will for Saint Thomas More Parish.

R.S.V.P.

Reservations for dinner should be made through the Parish Office (942-2492) by Friday, February 27. If you are unable to arrive by 6PM, you are welcome to attend the presentation that will begin at 6:30. You will also have the opportunity to meet and welcome the three new members of the Council: Terrill Allen, Mike Chalmers and Frank Janner. Please join us for "Dinner with Father Don." †

Your Pastoral Council

(from left to right)

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The Pastoral Council is a visioning body that attends to the movement of the Holy Spirit in Saint Thomas More Parish by listening to their fellow parishioners.

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Stewardship of Time & Talent

Kristi Powell, Volunteers Coordinator

A parish the size of Saint Thomas More could not function without its wonderful volunteers. In November we sent out forms for volunteer opportunities in and around the parish. So far we have more than 320 people that have committed to give of their time and talent. This number doesn't include the people who were already volunteering.

You will notice in the right corner of the bulletin, the box titled "As for me and my house." This feature highlights a person each week that is doing volunteer work for the parish or for one of our outreach ministries. Check it out, because one of these weeks, it could be you!

Currently we are in need of ushers at the weekend Masses and the School of Religion needs some volunteers too.

If you have a form, you can still send it in. If you would like to pick one up at the parish office, come by during office hours. Thank you for all that you do. It is **you**, the volunteers, that make Saint Thomas More such a welcoming and inclusive parish. †

On Serving Others

"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

- Albert Schweitzer

If you would like offer your time or talent and would like help finding your niche, contact Kristi Powell at (816) 942-2492 x209 or kpowell@stmkc.com. Also watch for the new web site which will feature volunteer opportunity listings.

Helping Hands is Off to a Great Start

Phil Paschang

Whether the cause is a struggling economy, an aging community, or an unexpected calamity, it's clear that there is a great need for personal assistance among our parishioners and neighbors. Last May, STM staff member David Butel, along with a small group of parishioners, decided to create a network of willing and able volunteers at Saint Thomas More to address a wide variety of issues quickly and efficiently.



Helping Hands helpers take a break after a job well done.

We were overwhelmed by your response to our request for volunteers. We now have a database of some 144 households including more than 250 men, women, and children from grade school age to well past retirement. If we have had any drawbacks, it would be that we haven't been able to put all the volunteers to work. Stay with us, volunteers, we need you and appreciate you!

So far, we have served about 50 customers, some multiple times and some on an ongoing, even weekly basis. Our best estimate is about 80 volunteers have spent countless hours on projects. We have mowed, pruned, painted, hauled, moved, raked, and rebuilt. We have visited, shopped, furnished, delivered, and written. We helped rescue two families from domestic violence. This doesn't begin to do justice to the efforts of the hard working volunteers who so selflessly gave of themselves.

On a good day, we made a lasting impact on the life of another human being who really needed help. We would probably all admit that we got more than we gave, and the camaraderie that has evolved among the volunteers is special.

Finally, we need your assistance. It shouldn't be a surprise that many people, sometimes even in great difficulty, hesitate to ask for help. We need you to be snoopy; be alert for friends and neighbors who have had a setback, have suffered a loss, or are just having a hard time with daily living. We can offer everything from manual labor to simply being there with someone. †

Contact David in the parish office (942-2492 x210 or dbutel@stmkc.com) to volunteer yourself or recommend a service for someone in need.

Stewardship Cabinet on the Move at STM

Mike Kleinman & Joan Sandford

The Stewardship Cabinet, directed by Jim O'Sullivan, Jerry Haake and Mike Kleinman, is busy trying to increase the spiritual and material investment of parishioners in their parish. Here's what the cabinet teams are working on.

Prayer

Bob Miller coordinates the monthly First Friday Adoration and is working on adoration times for Lent. Please watch for specifics in the bulletin and plan to spend some quiet time in More Hall 'Chapel' this Lent.

Alumni Services

Kathy Maguire and team are planning the second alumni event for June 27, 2009. Are you on their list to be invited? If not, contact Kathy at magoorstc@aol.com! Name, year of graduation and email address are being collected now for all STM graduates.

Memorials

With the new construction, a team that includes Nicole Pierce and Patty Waris are looking at a memorial wall or a brick program. They are also hoping to pull together a "want" list for future memorials. Recently, donations were received in memory of Toni Goers for the new church nursery.

Communications

Michele McInerney and Don Allen have been working with parishioner Pasquale Trozzolo, whose company, Trozzolo Communications, donated the work of coming up with a new logo. The team, working with staff member Bob Sandford, is in the final stages of developing the new web site. (See article on p.1) Keep watching the web site to see the change!

New Parking Lot Enhances Mission

Bob Sandford, Coeditor

Father Don, with input from the Building Committee and the Finance Council, has approved moving the construction of a new parking lot on the north side of the parish office from Phase II (an undetermined future date) to Phase I (the current Phase). This would provide new parking spaces to replace the 24 prime parking spaces (of which 15 are designated for the handicapped/elderly) that would have been lost in the original Phase I plan. In the short term, this means we will have much needed additional convenient parking for our aging population, thereby enhancing our mission to be welcoming and inclusive. In the long term this will give us expanded parking to accommodate larger masses when church seating is added in Phase II.

Planned Giving

Twelve charitable rollover donations (in excess of \$62,000) were received in 2008 from IRA holders last year. Phil Paschang, Mike Kleinman and team are planning to sponsor an Estate Planning Seminar this year. Details will be in a future bulletin.

Annual Fund

The Annual Fund is in the black to date and Todd McCullough and team will closely monitor the budget through the second semester.

Future's Team

The Future's Team is a group of young parishioners that have been set in motion to keep STM current and to help address the current and future needs of the parish. They are involved in several aspects of parish life including welcoming, technology and education and stewardship. They are a high energy group that is going places! †

Joining the STM Stewardship Cabinet

If you are interest in furthering the efforts of one of the Stewardship teams, contact one of the people below.

Jim O'Sullivan	josullivan@midwesttrust.com	(913) 469-1075
Jerry Haake	jerryhaake@aol.com	942-5380
Mike Kleinman	mkleinman@kc.rr.com	941-8033
Blake Mulvany	blake@stmkc.com	941-7953

Why Now?

- In the current Phase I plan, additional reserved handicap/elderly parking will be designated where current parking is east of More Hall. This parking would still require walking 200 feet to enter through More Hall and use the new elevator. The new parking lot would provide much more convenient access to our handicapped and elderly.
- We will save money on not having to haul dirt in for backfilling.
- It will create more space for construction vehicles and employees during the current construction period.

see "Parking" on page 11

Second Annual STM Souper Bowl Held

David Butel, Pastoral Associate

Saint Thomas More Parish held its second annual Souper Bowl on Saturday, January 31, at Avila University.

Brother Louis Rodemann from the Holy Family Catholic Worker House was the keynote speaker at the STM Souper Bowl, talking about the work of the Catholic Worker House and those they serve. Proceeds from our Souper Bowl went to support the work of the Catholic Worker House.

Parishioners Recognized

We also honored three Saint Thomas More parishioners who selflessly volunteer to help those who are in need. John Vohs and Tom Purcell each received the Bill Waris Service Award and Kelly Barry received the

Bill Waris Certificate of Recognition for Youth.

John's volunteer activities include picking up food from Harvesters and delivering it to Bishop Sullivan Center's food pantries each week. He also serves food at Holy Family Catholic Worker House twice a month, and he and his wife Paula have often allowed people to use their farm south of Kansas City for retreats and spiritual renewal.

Tom Purcell volunteers three days a week at Holy Family Catholic Worker House, cooking and serving food. He helped start the dental clinic at Seton Center and has gone on several dental trips to Guatemala. He has also volunteered numerous hours at the Upper

How it started

The genesis of the Souper Bowl began in 1990, inspired by a simple prayer by Brad Smith, a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, " Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, over \$50 million in food and money has been collected for food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities across the United States. The purpose of the Souper Bowl is to continue to draw attention to the problem of hunger. In Kansas City alone, over 60,000 people seek emergency food assistance each week while 36 million Americans struggle to get enough to eat.



Parishioners receiving the Bill Waris Award for outstanding service to those in need stand with Brother Louis Rodemann from Holy Family Catholic Worker House and Patty Waris. From left to right is John Vohs, Patty Waris, Kelly Barry, Brother Louis, and Tom Purcell.

Bill Waris Night at the St. James Food Kitchen

David Butel, Pastoral Associate

Thanks for Contribution

The Justice Ministry Team sent a contribution to the Bishop Sullivan Center to sponsor twelve "Bill Waris Nights" at St. James Food Kitchen. Below is a portion of the thank you note from the Bishop Sullivan Center:

Six years ago, we opened the soup kitchen and served dinner to about 150 people each night. Lately, we have been

servicing dinner to almost 250 people each night. Leading up to Christmas it was worse – we served 320 people one evening right before Christmas. You can be sure that the donation will be put to good use one night each month from August 2009 through July 2010. What a wonderful tribute to Bill!

*Sincerely,
Joe Quinn*

Room and Saint Monica School.

Kelly Barry is a senior at Notre Dame de Sion High School. This year, she has been coordinating the weekly service trips for the seventh and eighth grade students at Saint Thomas More School, leading groups of students in service to Villa Ventura, Operation Breakthrough and Wayside Waifs. Congratulations to each of them! †

Bill Waris Nights

The sponsorship dates for 2009 are August 5, September 8, October 7, November 4, December 3, and for 2010 are January 12, February 11, March 3, April 6, May 5, June 3 and July 14.

Guatemala Trips Information Night

Phil Smith

An Information Night will be held on Sunday, February 22, at 6PM in More Hall.

Information will be given and sign up will begin for STM's two summer trips to Guatemala: July 5-11 or July 18-25. If interested, please plan to attend because these trips fill up fast. Trip sign up is first come, first served and require a \$100 non-refundable

deposit. Travelers are required to have completed 8th Grade and are required to travel with a parent or sponsoring adult. Cost of the trip (airfare, room, board and transportation) is approximately \$1150 per person. First time travelers who are registered members of STM receive a \$200 discount. The trips are a wonderful combination of work, fun and prayer. To date, over

400 parishioners young and old, have considered these trips a trip of a lifetime. Please consider this wonderful opportunity. For additional questions, contact Phil Smith at (816) 353-1495 or psmith@dicksmithford.com. Remember the trips fill up fast, so if you want to travel, please bring your check book. †

Community LINC

Frank Janner

Parishioners Coming Forward

In response to the request for pledges of time, talent and treasure, thirteen parishioners have indicated their willingness to prepare apartments for new homeless families. After orientation, we will be assigned along with other teams as apartments become vacant when residents complete their programs. There are other volunteer opportunities, such as tutoring children or serving as a budgeter. If you are interested, call Cecile Denny, Volunteer Director, at (816) 531-3727 x5213.

LINC's Wish List

Fresh cleaning supplies are needed for residents' apartments. Take a bucket and fill it with a variety of household cleaners: window and counter sprays, furniture polish, toilet and bathroom cleaners, sponges and paper towels. Also needed are healthy snacks for the children programs. You can drop off your donations at the Parish Office and Frank Janner will deliver them to LINC.

20th Anniversary Celebration

On November 15, 2008 the historic Uptown Theater was filled with more than 400 guests as Community LINC celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The festive atmosphere was complete with entertainment from Mama Ray and her band along with master of ceremonies, Joel Nichols of KMBC-VT9, and auctioneer, Tana Guthrie of KUDL-FM. Patrons enjoyed delicious food and drink while they bid on a wide array of silent and oral auction items. The event brought in a record setting net of \$110,000 to support LINC's programs for homeless families. This was an amazing achievement in difficult times. Watch for announcements of the 2009 gala. †

A Christmas Basket "Thank You"

Each year, Saint Thomas More Parish collects food and toys for Seton Center and Saint Louis Parish Social Services as part of our Christmas Basket program. The food and toys are used by these agencies to assist families trying to provide a joy-filled Christmas for their children.

Below is a thank you note from Beverly Friday who is the coordinator of St. Louis Parish Social Services.

"We sincerely appreciate the gifts of love received from each of you. Some 500 people received food, clothing and gifts for their children during this difficult time. The number of people needing assistance seems to be growing. Contributions such as yours are a great support as we strive to assist the needy.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

The Blood Drive Needs You

Linda Heiman

Show Your STM Spirit! Try something new. You may save a life by donating blood. Our last blood drive had a low number of participants. For this upcoming blood drive on Tuesday, March 10, we would like to increase the number of units of blood donated by our large parish. We have extended the hours to make it more convenient. Blood can be donated from 1PM to 7PM in More Hall. It takes approximately one hour to donate. When you donate you will receive a coupon for a STM student to be able to wear spirit clothes on Wednesday, March 11.

Call Teresa Schnitker at 941-8171 or Linda Heiman 942-0052 to sign up or you can go to www.esavealifenow.org and use 'stthomasmore' as the sponsor code. Walk-ins are welcome. Be sure to bring a photo ID. For medical eligibility questions, call 1-800-245-7035. The eligibility requirements have changed over the years. So, if you have been turned down in the past, give them a call. You may be able to "save a life."

Children's Religious Education

Shara Lewis, Children's Ministries Coordinator

Saint Thomas More Parish offers many opportunities for children of all ages to further their religious education. These programs are still being offered, during the construction. No matter which program fits your needs, the fun is guaranteed!

School of Religion (SOR)

There is a wonderful education program, the School of Religion, for the weekly instruction of any child not in a Catholic school. Currently 69 children are enrolled, ages 3—16. The children learn about their faith, traditions and church history, and participate in service. We also use the same textbooks and curriculum found in the STM grade school. Some of our recent service included fundraising

for Wayside Waifs, Christmas Caroling at Villa Ventura, and delivering a meal to reStart homeless shelter.

Sacramental Preparation

Apart from that, a new spring class is being offered for older children who have not had First Communion and First Reconciliation, but who have been baptized. This "Sacrament Class" meets on Sunday mornings, 10-11:30 in the Parish Office. If you are interested, it's not too late to sign up! Please pray for these children as they enter Lent, preparing to receive these milestone sacraments.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word is an amazing way for children to

experience the Mass. Every week during the 10:30 Sunday Mass, the children are dismissed before the readings with adult leaders. They go downstairs, separate into two age level groups, and hear the readings at a level they can understand. The readings and discussion are adapted to be relevant to their lives and experiences. A child may participate one week or every week. Additional adult & youth volunteers are welcome. †

For more information about any of these programs, contact Shara Lewis : shara@stmkc.com.

Sunday Nursery

Shara Lewis, Children's Ministries Coordinator

The Sunday morning child care program is still up and running strong. Due to the construction, we are now located behind the school, in the small white, freestanding building (inside the movement classroom.). We offer childcare during the 9 and 10:30 Masses. Every week, we fill this space with games, toys, music, and coloring, and of course, tiny friends! If your little one is just not ready to sit through Mass, come visit us! We are also currently recruiting adult volunteers to work 1-2 Masses each month. †

If you would like more information, contact Shara Lewis at shara@stmkc.com.

Youth Confirmation

Cassie Gaughan, Confirmation Coordinator

Over 60 youth will be confirmed this spring. Please keep these young members in your prayers as they complete their preparation for the sacrament.

Youth who were not baptized at STM are turning in their certificates,

meeting regularly with their sponsors and writing letters to the Bishop to request the sacrament.

The two remaining preparation session dates are on Sundays: March 1 (with sponsors) and April 5. Candidates and sponsors will rehearse on Sunday,

May 3, at 4:45PM for the big night on Friday, May 15, at 7PM. A reception will be held after the service. †

(See the facing page for a listing our Youth who are preparing for Confirmation.)

Vacation Bible School

Shara Lewis, Children's Ministries Coordinator

Summertime is a time to.

- Make new friends!
- Sing songs!
- Play zany games!
- Enjoy sunshine and nature!
- Explore and discover!

Grab your hiking boots and join us for a week of high-action games, awesome music, wacky skits, Bible stories, and cool crafts! This will be held June 22-26 (Monday-Friday, 9AM-Noon. †

Register today! Call Shara Lewis at 686-4923 or stop in at the Parish Office to register or volunteer or for more information. Discovery Canyon is the place to be this summer!



Youth preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation are:

Audrey Amor	CJ Dimarco	Matt Lampo	Rachel Ramm
Meghan Angold	Ellie Edelman	Katie Markus	Kelsey Reid
Maresa Arnold	Paul Edelman	Laura Martin	Rebecca Richardson
Shannon Barry	Rachel Feierabend	Chris Martinat	Amy Rinaldi
Luke Becker	Haley Fritzlen	Guy Martinat	Ellen Romano
Alex Bednar	Dominic Gassman	Caitlin Mayer	Rachel Round
Kathleen Benson	Sara Gassman	Alyssa McKee	Trigg Routh
Daniel Bugler	Andrea Gnefkow	John McKenzie	Brittney Schieber
Patrick Burns	Caroline Gray	Bahyogah Mentee	Allison Schnitker
Brittney Cannon	Kristina Hagan	TJ Nee	Luke Tripp
Nick Cannon	Maggie Hair	Shane O'Brien	Brett Ungashick
Sophia Chang	McKenzie Hamrick	Eric Orscheln	Rachael Ungashick
Julie Crooks	Megan Henning	Rob Penniston	John VanBuskirk
Maggie Cunningham	John Ismert	Mary Pierce	Dan Wynn
Grant Deming	Sarah Kelly	Richie Ptacek	Callie Wyrsh
Mark Dierks	Quinn Kramer	Becky Ramm	Shannon Young

Knights of Columbus

John Kelly

The Saint Thomas More Council #14270 of the Knights of Columbus enters its second full year of fellowship and service to the parish and community with nearly 100 members.

At the December meeting, the council donated \$250 to Seton Center and \$250 (which was matched for a total of \$500) to Bishop Sullivan Center. Gift cards, worth \$200 each, were given to six different parish families to help make their Christmas brighter. The Council's sponsorship, through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, of Carlos Monterrey, a young man living in Peru, was renewed for 2009.

The MR (Tootsie Roll) Drive was a great success, with over \$2,100 collected, half of which will go to Cardinal Glennon Developmental Center's Knights of Columbus wing, and the other half to charitable organizations in our area that benefit those with intellectual disabilities, including F.I.R.E. (the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education).

More than 1,200 Roses for Life were signed by

parishioners at Masses January 10-11, and were then sent to our representatives in Washington as a demonstration of our support for life.

The Free Throw Contest was held January 18, and upcoming youth events include the Essay Contest and Poster Contest. Awards will be presented toward the end of the school year. Look for another 7th & 8th grade mixer in March.

Following on the success of the Columbus Day Dinner at RC's, Knights and their wives will gather for a Sweetheart Dinner on February 16 at Dos de Oros. These dinners look to become a monthly activity.

Our council recruitment drive is underway! The membership committee is visiting with gentlemen in the parish, and social events are planned to acquaint potential members with what the Knights have to offer. The larger our council is, the more we can accomplish! †

To join the Knights of Columbus, contact Grand Knight Gene Twellman at (816) 942-1473 or gtwellman@cs.com.

More Friends for 55+

Betty Mansfield

More Friends started the new year with a new slate of officers: President, Irene Weishar; Vice-President, Katherine Long; Secretary, Donna Murray; Treasurer, Dave Long; Membership, Mary Gordon; Publicity, Betty Mansfield; Social Charimen, Judy Furey and Joe Hamilton.

A Pot-luck and Bingo was held in January and on February 17, Father Don and Father Michael will lead a

retreat. A Saint Patrick's Day party is planned for Wednesday, March 11. †

Any parishioner, age 55 and over, is invited to join our group. For more information and membership, call Mary Gordon at 942-8234.

That Man Is You (TMIY)

Ed Van Buskirk

Chances are good that you have been hearing the buzz around the parish about the new That Man Is You (TMIY) program or maybe you are one of the 180 men who have been attending each Friday morning at 6AM. That is right...180 men at 6AM each Friday. Having this many men attend is a powerful statement of the importance of their role as husbands, fathers and authentic men of God and to learn how TMIY has inspired the men is profound.

At the end of the fall semester we shared with Father Farnan the full list of the men's comments about their TMIY experience. He was delighted with the comments and adds, "That Man is You is a tremendous program that is very uplifting for the men of our community. The program provides an authentic example for Christian men to rejuvenate their roles as husbands, fathers, grandfathers, businessmen,

A few comments from men who attended the fall semester:

"It (TMIY) continues to remind me of the importance of the marriage covenant and how it needs to be honored and nurtured."

"It has helped me identify the role men must play as husbands and fathers in the eyes of God, and how I prepare myself to serve in those roles."

"It helped me realize the consequences of society's actions and how to react against it in my world."

"Most Excellent!"

leaders of our community and servants of God. I am pleased that so many men are attending and hope to see it continue to grow and bear fruit in our families."

One of Satan's ploys is to separate us and make us feel alone. When we feel alone, we are vulnerable to doubt and deception, which are two more of Satan's favorite ploys. By coming together each Friday morning, we are strengthened by what we learn from the program and through the discussions with the other men.

Come see why That Man Is You has been so successful and how TMIY can help you stand up to Satan's false promises that bombard us in our culture. †

For more information contact Chip McKenzie at (816) 942-9261 or Ed Van Buskirk at (816) 215-1483.

Respect Life News

Katie Reichenberger, Coordinator

Father Habiger talk

The Respect Life Committee had a busy January! To commemorate the month in which the unfortunate passing of Roe v. Wade took place, we hosted Father Matthew Habiger, OSB on January 12. He spoke on the connection between Natural Family Planning and the Theology of the Body and nearly sixty people attended. The event was covered by Kevin Kelly from the Catholic Key. Father Habiger gave an inspirational call to action for everyone to encourage a Culture of Life as Pope John Paul II spoke so often about.

F.O.C.A. postcard campaign

In an effort to accomplish the Culture of Life, our parish participated in a diocesan-wide postcard campaign against the Freedom of Choice Act (F.O.C.A.). This Act will nullify restrictions on abortion currently in place, such as those dealing with partial-birth abortions and parental consent laws. We sent approximately 2,300 postcards to our Senators and Representative. Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the information! If you didn't have the opportunity to send a postcard, please contact Katie

Reichenberger at (816) 522-0318 or katier@eprkc.com. Also, please keep praying about this issue!

Coming events

There are many events occurring in the next few months. On Tuesday, March 10, there is a lobby day at the State Capitol. There will be a group leaving from Saint Thomas More. Jill Stanek, who inspired the Infant Born Alive Act in Illinois, is the featured speaker. The Respect Life Committee plans to host a luncheon for the 8th Graders as a thank you for help putting up the crosses last October. We will host a diaper drive on the weekend of May 2-3, so please watch the bulletin for more information! Finally, we will also be selling carnations after Masses on Mother's Day weekend to benefit Missouri Right to Life. Our next meetings are March 11 and April 8, both Wednesdays at 7PM in More Hall and everyone is invited to attend! †

If you would like to get more involved, please contact Katie Reichenberger, (816) 522-0318 or katier@eprkc.com.

Calendar Dates (Ash Wednesday through Easter Monday)

Date	Event	Time	Location
February 25	Ash Wednesday Masses	6:15AM, 8:15AM, 5:30PM, 7PM	More Hall
	School Mass	9:30AM School Mass	Flanagan Hall
	Rice Bowls begin	to be collected Palm Sunday	
26	STM School Play	7PM	Flanagan Hall
27	Boy Scout Fish Fry	4:45-7:30PM, every Friday in Lent except Good Friday	More Hall
	Adoration (every Friday in Lent)	8:15AM Mass until Noon	More Hall
27	Stations of the Cross (every Friday in Lent)	NOON	More Hall
28	Rite of Election	7PM	Cathedral
	School Parent Trivia Night	6:30PM	More Hall
March 1	CRS Sunday	Speakers at Masses	Flanagan Hall
3	Dinner with Father Don	6-8PM	More Hall
7	School of Religion Reconciliation Service	5:15PM	
10	Blood Drive	3-7PM	More Hall
11	More Friends Saint Patrick's Day Party		More Hall
13	School Spring Break begins	after NOON dismissal	
19	Saint Joseph Table (daily Masses will continue in More Hall)	Blessing after 8:15AM Mass, Pasta served 11AM-7PM	More Hall
28	Server Appreciation	Mass at 9AM, servers until 11AM	
April 5	Palm Sunday	usual weekend Masses	
7	Parish Reconciliation Service	7PM	More Hall
9	Holy Thursday	Service at 7PM	Gym
10	Good Friday	Stations of the Cross at noon	Flanagan Hall
		Service at 7PM	Gym
11	Holy Saturday	Service at 8PM	Gym
12	Easter Sunday	Masses at 6:15AM, 7:30AM, 9AM, 10:30AM, NOON	Gym
13	Easter Monday	8:15AM Mass only	More Hall

"Parking" continued from page 5

- We would avoid later tearing up new asphalt parking and drives that will be installed in Phase I.
- We will avoid inflation in future construction costs.

The Financial Picture

Moving ahead now will mean taking on some debt. While parish leadership and Father Don hold high the goal of remaining debt free, the pastoral need outweighs this. The cost of the lot will be about \$500,000. Given other parish funds that will be channeled into the project, we will be left with a debt of roughly \$210,000 at completion of construction.

The ultimate cost of this plan is the carrying cost on the debt, offset by savings on dirt for backfill, avoidance of

costs related to tearing up the parking lot and drives that are to be installed in Phase I.

How to pay for it – one possibility

If parishioners paying their capital campaign pledges now extend monthly payments by about four and one-half months, the debt would be repaid and the parish equity used in this plan would be restored.

Q&A

Look for parking lot Questions and Answers (Q&A) on the construction pages of the website and in future bulletins. If you have a question, send it in to Blake Mulvany, Director of Parish Operations, at blake@stmkc.com. †



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Masses held in Flanagan & More Halls

Weekend Masses: More Hall, Sat. 4:00PM, Sun. 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM, NOON, 5:00PM

Daily Masses: More Hall, M-F 6:15AM & 8:15AM, Sat. 8:15AM

Lent & Easter
See page 11.



Construction Information

As construction proceeds, check www.stmkc.com for updates and the latest photos.