



Summer 2010

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Our Mission

The mission of Saint 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.

A Long-Term Commitment of Time and Talent

By Kathy O'Renck, Member of Pastoral Council

Over this past year, stewardship has been a prominent theme at Saint Thomas More. Many people think of giving money to the church when they hear the word stewardship, but it actually means making the most responsible use of one's gifts and resources. Nowhere is the concept of using one's gifts more evident than through the music ministry at our parish. Year in and year out, our liturgical celebrations have been beautifully enhanced through the time and talent of choir members, cantors and musicians.

As I listened to our various choirs and ensembles sing during Holy Week and Easter, I began thinking about the gifts they bring to their ministry and the number of years they have devoted to this parish.

Did you know that Maris Haster has been singing for our parish since she was fourteen? She was also the first female cantor at our parish. Some say Joe Haster fell in love with Maris as she led the singing at Mass. Now they both sing in the celebration choir and they are one of several "singing couples" in our choirs.

Diana and Bob Suckiel have been in the ensemble since 1986. Diana plays the flute and Bob plays the guitar. Diana says there have been many changes over the years. Jim White was their long-time leader, but they have had at least eight different directors and, at times, have been without a director. But Diana says playing and singing at church is a part of them. "It is what we can give. It is who we are and what we do."

Jeanne Dreiling is another STM fixture. She went to STM grade school and began singing as a cantor at Mass when she was in sixth grade. She sang in choirs

and glee clubs throughout high school and college and continues her love of singing at STM.

Kathleen Dalton also attended STM grade school and began singing in church in the fourth grade. She has contributed greatly to the development of our choirs and ensembles in the past, but is currently unable to participate because of her work schedule. Kathy and Diane Teefey are two more choir members who had their start at STM grade school.

Many of our choir members and cantors have long associations with Father Bill Bauman as well. Charlie Huffman was in the RCIA program at Christ the King



The dedication of music ministers adds immeasurably to our worship. Pictured left to right are: Jeanne Dreiling, Jim Harris, Carol Rupp, Maris Haster, Joe Haster.

twenty-eight years ago when Father Bill was pastor there. Charlie has a degree in music and training in choral music. Of course, Father Bill recognized his talent and the rest is history. Carol Rupp, our Celebration Choir director took organ lessons from Father Bill. She has a PhD in music education and has been teaching music and directing choirs since she was twenty-one. She has been at STM for over fifteen years. Jim Harris says he started singing with Carol when he was sixteen years old.

"Commitment" continued on page 3

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 Fall issue is to be delivered August 6, 2010. Submissions are due July 6, 2010. E-mail submissions are preferred. Submission guidelines and deadlines are posted at www.stmkc.com - text search "More News."

Coeditor

Joan Sandford
816/ 942-2492x202
joan@stmkc.com

Art Director/ Coeditor

Bob Sandford
816/ 942-2492x212
bob@stmkc.com



Saint Thomas More Parish
11822 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131
(816) 942-2492
www.stmkc.com
information@stmkc.com

Operation Rice Bowl/Heifer International Report

David Butel

Your generosity in action

This Lent, parishioners were offered the opportunity to fast and donate the money they saved to either Operation Rice Bowl or Heifer International. We are pleased to report that the parish and school collected \$2301.65 for Operation Rice Bowl and \$1629.90 for Heifer International.

Seventy-five percent of the money for Operation Rice Bowl goes to support the work of Catholic Relief Services as they provide assistance in more than 100 countries worldwide. Twenty-five percent

remains in the diocese to support local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

The money collected for Heifer International will be directed to their Haiti project, aiding those who continue to try to recover from the devastating earthquake.

Thank you for your participation in our Lenten project. Your continued generosity will impact people who are in need in our country and around the world! †

Central City Grants

David Butel

Each year, the Justice Ministry Team awards \$10,000 worth of grants to agencies dedicated to working with people in need. This year, the grant recipients are:

Redemptorist Social Services

\$1500 to help purchase six new telephones.

Uplift

\$500 to help purchase appliances and furniture to assist clients in their endeavors to live independently.

TurnAround

\$2500 to help with ongoing case management and client emergency assistance expenses.

The Bishop Sullivan Center

\$500 to help people in their Employment Services program.

reStart, Inc.

\$1000 for their Family Emergency Shelter program.

Little Sisters of the Poor

\$2500 to help purchase a bariatric hospital bed for one of their residents.

Central City Schools

\$1000 which will be used to support tuition assistance grants for families.

Community of the Good Shepherd

\$500 to purchase a diamond bubble will that will engage participants as they move in front of the mirrored surface. †

A Stewardship Prayer

Lord God,

You alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life.

We praise you and thank you for your great power and your tender, faithful love.

Everything we are and everything we have are your gifts; and after having created us, you have given us into the keeping of your son, Jesus Christ.

Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love.

In His spirit, may we be bonded together into a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people.

In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talents, and our material and spiritual gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus.

*In His holy name we pray,
Amen.*

"Commitment" continued from page 1

"To be a member of any choir is quite a commitment," says Julie Donnelly who, with her husband Pat, have sung in various choirs at STM for twenty-six years. Rehearsal is weekly and usually an hour and a half. Preparation for holy days, including Christmas and Easter, can extend practice to two or more hours. Many singers and musicians make themselves available for weddings and funerals as well. Members must be prepared, know their music and have their instruments tuned and ready. Many musicians bring their own instruments, practice

additional hours on their own and arrive at church an hour or more earlier than the service to get set up and run through their music again. To serve as a cantor, musician or choir member quite often means sacrificing your holiday or giving up your Sunday morning, your out-of-town weekend or a Chiefs game.

I have mentioned only a few of the many people who devote themselves to the music and worship ministry at STM. Asked how they can make such a commitment of their time and talent, they say they do it for the love of God, for the love

of our community and for the love of music and singing. Their music stirs our hearts and brings us more deeply in touch with the prayers of the Mass and the scriptures. We are so grateful that they do what they do so well. †

stew•ard•ship (stü'ərd-ship), n. – *not a synonym for money*

Melinda Smith, Member of Pastoral Council

Over the past several months, the Pastoral Council, with input from parishioners, has been struggling to find one or two words that convey the core meaning of stewardship. It's not as easy as it sounds. Honestly, we are having more success in defining what it is not; thus the title for this article. Stewardship is not the new "buzz" word to disguise an appeal for monetary donations.

The individual members of the council have reflected on Jesus' teaching that everything we have is a gift from God and how we use these gifts is our gift back to Him. This counter-culture concept requires a belief that basics, such as who we are as a person and where our place is among God's other children, are gifts from our Creator. In contrast, society's high regard for success emphasizes what individuals can accomplish to make more money and gain more power and recognition. Jesus' message of stewardship challenges Christians to listen to God's will for each of them and to use all the gifts God has given them for the common good.

Stewardship, as a way of living, requires us to trust in God; to give

up control, which is scary, yet liberating, at the same time. Do we really believe God's promise to be with us always, guiding and directing our lives and the use of our gifts to do His will, not ours? As in a human relationship, this trust is built upon open and honest communication through prayer, remembering that listening is as important as speaking. It also requires patience as we wait for God's answer.

***Stewardship** is a way of living, demonstrated by caring for one another and generously sharing the gifts God has given us.*

A valid concern regarding stewardship is, "This all sounds great, but let's be realistic. At the end of the day, bills still need to be paid." Herein lies the paradox of living a life of stewardship in a secular world. As Mother Teresa said, "Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God - the rest

will be given."

Do we have the faith and trust in God to provide for us? The STM Pastoral Council believes we do. Our focus, under the direction of Father Don, is to facilitate stewardship as a way of life in Saint Thomas More Parish. Steve Roling, a former council member, has been given the assignment of directing the parish's efforts. Stewardship is a way of living, demonstrated by caring for one another and generously sharing the gifts God has given us. It is not a synonym for money and we expect every parishioner "to hold our feet to the fire" as we strive to make our intentions and actions of stewardship pure. As we continue to vision the spirituality of stewardship, we welcome your thoughts, ideas and actions on how we can further deepen our commitment to creating a loving, welcoming and inclusive community. †

A Little Dancing Goes A Long Way

Tricia McCullough

Maybe you haven't considered it, but there are many benefits to dancing. It's obvious that dancing promotes flexibility, coordination and physical endurance. I have also heard and read that it can relieve stress, contribute to a positive well-being and can even stimulate your mind unlike many other physical activities. But one very important impact dancing is having right here in our STM community is bringing people together to offer new opportunities for children!

STM father-daughter dance

On April 10, fathers escorted their daughters to the Father-Daughter Dance sponsored by STM-for-All in collaboration with Girl Scout Troop 528, led by Tracy



Matt and Madison enjoying a memorable evening together.

Stewart. After months of preparation, More Hall was magically transformed into "Candy Land" for the night and the guests were met with lollipops, gumdrops, peppermints and gingerbread in every shape and rainbow color.



Kindergarten girls showing their true colors on the dance floor.

Colleen Teasdale, STM-for-All Development Chair and former art teacher, created and painted some of the most fabulous decorations that looked good enough to eat. A square meal was replaced by a fancy spread of colorful cupcakes, chocolate desserts and a variety of treats baked by moms and other parishioners. Mark Dierks played the hits and father-daughter favorites that gave energy to the dance floor and kept it covered with smiles!

I would like to thank the dedicated STM-for-All members, Tracy Stewart and the 5th grade Girl Scouts, parishioners and parents who pulled together and created a memorable event for the girls and

their dads. All the proceeds from the father-daughter dance go toward STM-for-All's initiatives to help children with various special or learning needs realize their true potential at STM.

Dancing with the stars at Rockhurst high school to benefit BMA Foundation

This summer another dancing event will ultimately provide additional educational opportunities for Saint Thomas More. On Saturday, June 12, Dancing with the Stars will come to Rockhurst High School. The Brian Mitchell Anselmo (BMA) Foundation and Brian's family and friends hold this event to honor the memory of Brian Anselmo, an STM and Rockhurst High alum, whose life was cut short in 2008 at the age of 28. Our very own Father Don, reigning champ of Cristo Rey's Dancing with the Stars March fundraiser and Alex McManus will be two of the star dancers at this year's BMA event that also includes an auction and dinner by top chefs, Jasper Mirabile and Johnny Caracci. At only \$60 donation per person, this is one event you will want to attend! For details, visit www.bmafoundation.org. Contact Jerry Anselmo at 816-803-1842 or bmafoundation@gmail.com to make your reservation. †

What is STM-for-All?

STM-for-All is a ministry within STM that advocates for inclusion across our STM community. We are a group of parents and parishioners and faculty, volunteering to help define a welcoming culture that embraces our students and parishioners and the unique abilities they bring....into our classrooms, on the sports fields, and in our church.

We actively pursue opportunities to raise funds to pay salaries for additional staff that is needed in our school to support our special kids. We believe that, many children, identified with a special need or not, benefit by having additional resources both inside and outside of the classroom setting and all the kids will benefit by having their siblings, neighbors and peers accepted and welcomed into our school.

Saint Thomas More School Alumni Reunion

Kathy Maguire

Saturday, June 26, 2010 is the date of the STM Grade School Reunion. 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the first graduating class from Saint Thomas More.



All alums are invited to attend. Details are still being planned, but we will begin our celebration with Mass and then a party in Flanagan Hall (the old church and current school cafeteria & auditorium).

We will have tours of the school, food, beverages, reminiscing and lots of catching up. We sent out a "Save the Date" e-mail the first of April. If you are an alumnus and you did not receive this e-mail, then we need your information. We have created a spread sheet of all alums

and the information includes: year of graduation, name, maiden name if applicable, e-mail address, mailing address and telephone. We will be sending out an e-mail invitation the first of May; to be sure you are "in the loop," please send this information to magoorstc@aol.com. We hope we will see you on June 26. Please pass the word. †

Check us out online:

- **on Facebook:** <http://groups.to/stmalumnigroup/>
 - **on the school site:** www.stmcyclones.org
 - **Sign up for our e-newsletter** at www.stmkc.com (Look for the "Email me!" section of the home page to click and sign up.)
-

STM Volunteerism on the Rise

Kristi Powell

We are off and running after the latest Time and Talent sheets have been sent out and received! We have almost 500 volunteers! Seriously, what would Saint Thomas More be without you?

From Helping Hands to adoration, from altar care to Justice Ministries outreach, people understand that stewardship is not about money. It's about how you can give of yourself to God, thanking him for the blessings

he has given to you. You all have given back in such an amazing way. You are all an example of stewardship in action. Thank you so much for all you do. †

If you would like to volunteer your time and are not sure what you would like to do, please contact Kristi Powell at 942-2492 x209 or kpowell@stmkc.com.

Blood Drive a Success

Linda Heiman

The blood drive on March 2 was a huge success! We had 88 people come to give blood and collected 68 usable units for area hospitals. Thank you to everyone who participated. Saint Thomas More students who had an adult donate were able to enjoy an out of uniform day.

Next blood drive June 30

The next Saint Thomas More blood drive is Wednesday, June 30, 3-7PM. The summer months have the

greatest need for blood and have the smallest number of donors. Please take some time from your busy summer schedules to donate blood at our next drive. To sign up online, go to esavealifenow.org and use the sponsor code "stthomasmore" or you may call Linda Heiman at 816-942-0052 or contact Teresa Schnitker at 816-941-8171 or tschnitker@kc.rr.com. Walk-ins are also welcome. Please remember to bring a photo ID. †

A "Boys Hope" Invitation

We'd love to have you visit us and see first-hand what a positive atmosphere our scholars enjoy as they learn and grow into successful, productive members of our community. We're sure you'll be pleased and impressed.

Tours are scheduled the first Tuesday of every month

at 4:30 p.m. Our next tour will be May 4. Plan about an hour...you'll find it time well spent. You are welcome to visit any month.

If you'd like to join us, please just give us a call at 913-381-1030 or e-mail Bob at rdiekmann@bhgh.org. Visit our website: www.bhghkc.org

Community LINC

Frank Janner

Helping those in need gain independence

Community LINC had a very productive year in 2009. Fifty-one families, comprising 66 adults and 112 children, were provided 47,750 bed-nights of shelter in LINC's apartments at 40th and Troost.

On average the resident families decreased their dependence on public assistance by 48% and increased the income they earned by 71%, thus becoming taxpayers. Sixty-seven percent of the families retired debt and 69% moved to permanent housing after graduating from the program. A two-year look back survey showed that 82% of LINC graduates remained in permanent housing; 31% received no additional services.

In 2009 LINC's Board inaugurated a Rent Party, reminiscent of the parties friends would put on during the Great Depression to raise money for others rent payments. This fundraiser brought in over \$150,000 for support of LINC's programs.

Respect Life Committee

Ann Verhulst, Chairman

Each January, we loan our crosses and signs (the ones we display on the lawn at STM in October) to another church to use. This year Oakwood Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, displayed them and received many favorable comments from their congregation and neighborhood. We are thankful that so many help us spread this pro life message. A special thanks goes to parishioner Michael McGlinn for creating the signs for us.



Ten members of our Respect Life Committee attended the Kansans for Life Valentine Banquet, featuring guest speaker, Lila Rose.

While at the Missouri Right to Life statewide lobby day in March, in Jefferson City, we heard the debate by the House of Representatives on one of the pro-life bills. This bill would guarantee that women receive a 24-hour waiting period and all information necessary to make a truly informed choice concerning abortion. At the rally following the debate, we were informed that the bill passed overwhelmingly. Cheers were heard throughout the Capitol Building. Now the bill goes to the Senate.

We will host an 8th Grade luncheon on May 4 in

Coming soon

Donations and hands needed for renovating apartments

During the year, two LINC apartments were renovated by teams from Saint Thomas More. Watch for information on the timing of next apartment and consider joining the team and/or contributing to the cost of the renovation.

Fall Rent Party

Watch for the date of the next rent party this fall.

Check their website for current needs

LINC is always in need of cash contributions, in kind contributions and volunteers. Check out the "donate" page at www.communitylinc.org for information on current needs. †

For more information about our parish's involvement with Community LINC, call Frank Janner at 942-9621.

appreciation for the students' help putting the crosses on the church lawn last October. Saint Thomas More pro-life t-shirts are given to the students and worn by them on the day of the luncheon. They also receive a little feet pin, a "Pure Love" booklet and a chance to win a pro-life rosary.

We participated in the Gospel of Life Convention on April 17. The Respect Life Committee purchased an ad in the convention book that was given to all who attended. A diaper drive was held May 1-2 to benefit Birthright and the Crisis Pregnancy Center. **Mother's Day Carnation Sale will be held after the Masses on May 8-9.**

Attending the Missouri Right to Life statewide lobby day, (pictured outside the Governor's office) are (left to right) Judy Budde, Bill Louis, Mary Poppa, Ann Verhulst and Lynn Melcher. (Not pictured: Allan Verhulst, John Halloran and Michael Horton.)



If you would like to be part of our committee, participate in our meetings (2nd Wednesday of each month, 7PM, More Hall) or just be informed of our events, contact Ann Verhulst, 816-763-5247 or aaverhulst@yahoo.com.

Give to STM by Making Every Day Purchases

There are many ways you can stretch your dollars to contribute to STM, making purchases you make anyway. Check out the following opportunities:

Scrip Program

Purchasing Scrip is like purchasing pre-paid gift cards for a specific store, e.g., purchase a \$20 card for Hy-Vee for \$20...and use it whenever you choose. Scrip is a national program with hundreds of participating retailers, including both national and local stores. Each store determines the percentage that is contributed back to the local school, in this case STM School, varying in amount from 1% to 20% of the purchase price. (You still receive the full value of the card!)

Some of these cards are available for purchase after weekend Masses. To find out more about the Scrip program or see a list of other stores and the percentage given to the School, visit the school website (www.stmcyclones.org) and click on "Scrip Info" under the Files/Forms link. Order forms (available on-line or in the school office) and payment are due at the school office by Mondays at noon and cards may be picked up on Friday afternoon. Questions? Please contact Colleen Effertz at ceffertz@kc.rr.com or 943-0936.

STM Sonic® Nights

Share a meal, receive a great deal and support STM-for-All's mission of an inclusive community. The Red Bridge Sonic devotes the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 4-8PM, to STM's parishioners, family and friends. Kid's meals are discounted to \$1.99 and 10% of the sales

Giving Opportunities

Jenni Beck, STM Development Director

Double or Triple Your Contribution to STM

You may be able to double, or even triple your charitable contribution to STM through your company's matching gift program! To determine your eligibility, ask your employer or human resource representative if your gift to a Catholic school can be matched. You may also visit www.diocese-kcsj.org and go to "offices and agencies, stewardship, matching gifts" to find a list of companies that match charitable gifts.

If your company offers such a program, all you need to do is obtain a matching gift form from your employer. Include the completed form with the gift and submit it to Jenni Beck at the school. We will do the rest! Please contact Jenni at j_beck@stmcyclones.org or 942-5581.

benefit our community. Senior Citizens receive a discount, too. Thanks Tom Elkins, Sonic Manager, for your continued support.

Religious Items Available

An assortment of religious items can now be found in our beautiful display case in the narthex. In cooperation with I. Donnelly, these are available for sale. As a convenience to our parishioners and guests, these items are for sale one day during the week (initially on Tuesdays after the 8:15AM Mass) and after the weekend Masses or can be purchase during office hours at the parish office.

If you don't see what you want, visit www.idonnelly.com for their entire line of products**. Order Forms will be available and the items will be shipped directly to STM. If you have any questions or think you might like to volunteer, please call Jennifer in the Parish Office 942-2492 x219.

** Pricing on their website is wholesale only; retail pricing is an additional 25%. However, I. Donnelly's is generously donating that 25% back to STM. The retail price is what you will pay at the store, so save yourself on gas, skip the drive down to the store and know that your purchase also gives to STM church. †

Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity

Did you know that you can make a gift that will pay you an enhanced return for your life, allow a current tax deduction, designate Saint Thomas More Parish/School as beneficiary, and promote your values?

Please contact Jenni Beck at 942-5581 x4204 or jbeck@stmkc.com for more information. A confidential and detailed illustration of the gift may be prepared and you can decide whether a charitable gift annuity is right for you. †

Do you have a story to tell?

Joan Sandford, Coeditor

We are looking for stories of stewardship. Have you read "As for Me and My House" in the parish bulletin? In this feature, we tell about parishioners who step forward to model good stewardship by helping others, at STM church or elsewhere. We know you, as a parishioner,

have a story to tell and probably know others that do wonderful things with their time, talent and treasure. You never know how the story you tell might inspire others! If you have a story to share, please send it to Joan at 942-2492 x202 or information@stmkc.com. †

Help Wanted

Joan Sandford, Coeditor

Have you been trying to find your niche at STM? Is your schedule haphazard and every-changing? Do you find it difficult to go somewhere to give of your time? Have we got an opportunity for you!

Many times we are in need of people to call fellow parishioners. These calls can be as simple as asking others what we can pray for on their behalf or calls to check in on parishioners who might be having difficulty. They

can include calling to track down parishioners who have moved, but did not include a current phone number, or calls to thank parishioners for their donations or pledges. **You** get to choose which kind of calls you would like to make. If you enjoy talking to people, this might be something for you!

For more information, contact Joan Sandford at 942-2492 x202 or joan@stmkc.com. †

Parish Office Closed Monday June 28 - Friday July 2

The Parish Office will be closed the week of June 28-July 2 due to a sewer pipe repair. Several restrooms, including our first floor restroom which is most accessible to visitors, have been unusable because of a broken

pipe. We apologize for any inconvenience. Contact instructions in case of emergency, etc., will be on the main parish phone, 942-2492. †

Men of STM

By Chip McKenzie

The Men of STM have completed our second year of the That Man is You program. We are looking forward to next year's program which will begin in September. Keep an eye on the bulletin for further details.

The Men of STM continue to meet Friday mornings this summer starting May 21 after 6:15AM Mass. They will be discussing Rediscovering Catholicism, a wonderful book written by Matthew Kelly. Women are also invited to this series! Please join us. If you have questions or want to get a copy of the book call Greg Mertes at 816/520-0692.

The Men's **golf tournament** on May 7 is shaping up to be a roaring success to raise important funds for the parish and those in need. †

A reflection from David Dudzik on what TMIY means to him:

"My journey began almost two years ago at the very first ever That Man Is You (TMIY) session at Saint Thomas More. For me, going to church on Sunday was good enough to satisfy my religious involvement. While TMIY sounded like a good opportunity to participate in, I was sure I didn't have the will power to go to this class at 6AM on Fridays every week. I went to the first session and was completely impressed by how many STM men attended and how the information and discussions related directly to me. 52 sessions later, I still feel the same way about TMIY as I did at my first session and I always look forward to the next.

TMIY has opened my eyes to many great things about our faith. It has taught me how to be a better father to my young children. It has given me guidance on how to be a better husband. It has shown me to be a member of our faith community by getting involved and serving needs greater than my own. And it has given me a great group of men at table 13 that help each other with their journeys. It's almost as if we have formed our own fraternity. An example of our "fraternity" was on Good Friday when every member from our table met at Good Counsel church for Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy and confession. It was the best holy week I have ever experienced... all because of TMIY. Thank you, Ed Van Buskirk, for bringing TMIY to STM."

If you have any questions or want to participate in these or any of the programs sponsored by the Men of Saint Thomas More, please call Chip McKenzie at 816/942-9261.

Vacation Bible School Monday-Friday, June 21-25, 9AM-Noon

Shara Lewis, Children's Ministries Coordinator

Summertime is a time to . . .

- Get together with friends
- Sing songs
- Play zany games
- Enjoy sunshine & nature
- Have a blast!

Baobab Blast has it all! Be a part of God's Great Get-Together at Baobab Blast! Set under the impressive African Baobab Tree, children will have the opportunity to hear God's word, explore and create through fun-filled crafts and games, learn new songs while experimenting with fun instruments, and engage in meaningful mission projects.

VBS is open to all children in pre-school through 4th grade.



Baobab Blast needs volunteers, too! No experience required - just a desire to be a part of God's community.

Register online, through the STM website. We'll see **you** under the Baobab Tree! †



You can reach Shara Lewis at 816-942-2492 x205 or shara@stmkc.com

Dates to remember:

Friday	May 7	Men's Golf Tournament
Sunday	May 9	Respect Life carnation sales
Tuesday	May 11	STM-for-All Sonic Night, 4-8PM
Saturday-Sunday	May 15-16	Town Hall meetings after all Masses
Saturday	May 15	Jr. High Open Gym Night, 7-9PM
Sunday	May 16	High School Open Gym Night, 8-10PM
Tuesday	May 18	Final 8th Grade Mass, 8:15AM
Wednesday	May 19	8th Grade Graduation, 5PM
Thursday	May 20	8th Grade Dinner Dance, Ritz Charles
Saturday-Sunday	May 22-23	Ministry Fair
Tuesday	May 25	Used Uniform Sale, 7:30AM-Noon
Friday	May 28	Last Day of School
Saturday	May 29	Jr. High & High School Cosmic Skating, 7-10PM
Sunday	May 30	50th Wedding Anniversary Mass, 3PM, Cathedral
Friday	June 18	More Friends' Brunch in the Park
Monday-Friday	June 21-25	Vacation Bible School, 9AM-Noon
Friday	June 25	Family Fun Knight, 5-10PM
Saturday	June 26	STM School Alumni Reunion
Monday-Friday	June 28-July 2	Parish Office closed for repairs
Sunday	July 25	Seton Center Back-to-School Drive
Saturday	July 10	1st Group of Guatemala travelers depart
Saturday	July 24	2nd Group of Guatemala travelers depart
Tuesday	August 17	First Day of classes at STM School
Saturday	September 11	Parish Picnic, 4-9PM
Saturday	November 13	School Auction

Easter Vigil 2010



Legacy Society Forming

Father Don Farnan cordially invites you to become a member of the Saint Thomas More Legacy Society.

The STM Legacy Society honors those who have graciously named Saint Thomas More Parish as a beneficiary in their estate plans, such as; wills, trusts, retirement accounts and insurance policies. Legacy gifts help to secure the long-term strength and security of Saint Thomas More Parish. Your future gift will create an enduring legacy of support that will

benefit the parish for generations to come. Members will be invited to occasional gatherings with Father Don to celebrate and thank you for your generosity.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

- 1 Peter 4:10

To become a member

There are response cards available in the parish office or on our website. (Search for keyword "legacy.")

Simply return the response card. No minimum amount or formal documentation of your future estate gift is required. Names are publicized only if consent is given. All information you provide will be kept in the strictest confidence. †

The Ministry Fair is coming! (May 22-23 after weekend Masses)

Kristi Powell, Volunteers Coordinator

The Ministry Fair is coming! At Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. They are then sent forth to spread the Good News of God's love. We, as Jesus' disciples are called to go and spread the good news to

others through our actions and words.

The gifts God has given to us are to be shared with others. As Teresa of Avila said, "Jesus has no hands but ours, no feet or voice but ours." We are the hands, feet and voice of

Jesus!

What are your gifts? How can you share them? Check out the Ministry Fair and find a way to use your skills to continue the mission of Jesus by being Good News to others. †

What's Next for Saint Thomas More Parish?

Joan Sandford, Coeditor

We are using our narthex and elevator regularly, our parking lots fill and empty and fill again. Our school has windows that don't leak, we are growing as a Catholic Christian community and reaching out to others. Our capital campaign debt should be paid off by the end of 2010. Now what?

Most (or all?) would agree that there is always room for improvement. The survey that was mailed to everyone in April (and due back April

30) is being tabulated and the results will be in soon. Do we need closer church parking, additional meeting space or to improve our church sound system or More Hall kitchen? As a parish and individually, what would help us to grow spiritually? Are we serving people (both within and outside of STM boundaries) in a way that is most helpful to them? Do we need to focus on funding the education of our children or developing a youth ministry program?

Are we becoming better stewards of our time, talent and treasure, both individually and as a parish?

After all Masses on the weekend of May 15 and 16, Town Hall meetings will be held in More Hall.

The survey results will be available and we welcome additional input at the Town Hall meetings! For more information, please contact Joan Sandford at 942-2492 x202 or information@stmkc.com. †

Youth Ministry Update

Joan Sandford, Coeditor

Confirmation

Eleven years ago, the Diocese required an eighteen month program to prepare youth to be confirmed. Youth could not be confirmed before they became sophomores. After many discussions with pastors, youth leaders and others, the Diocese now promotes a program to be completed within one semester, Confirming as young as freshmen. Last month, Bishop Finn Confirmed 120 youth at Saint Thomas More: sophomores who were prepared last fall and freshmen who were prepared in the spring.

Complete Youth Ministry

Another difference with confirmation is that it is to be connected to a total parish youth ministry program. Youth ministry is working with youth in any way that helps them become a part of the Catholic Christian community and grow to become responsible adults. In other words, almost anything goes: involving youth in parish leadership and ministry, providing social community builders such as dances and movies, teaching life skills such as

changing oil in the car or balancing a checkbook, offering Bible studies, providing service opportunities, offering seminars on career planning, worshipping and praying together, leading discussions on avoiding negative peer pressure, etc. With such a vast range of possibilities available and given such tight student schedules and the availability of a great array of Catholic high school activities, youth ministry at Saint Thomas More can be difficult to develop.

What it will take

What is needed to help youth ministry at Saint Thomas More to succeed? First it takes a leader who will coordinate the efforts. Johnny Greenhalgh, who has served as Confirmation Coordinator this semester will become our full time youth director on July 1 and is already beginning to put things in place.

Then it takes youth to be a part and to help plan and lead. It also takes parents who are willing to support their youth being a part of the program, making time in an already busy schedule to drive to another

activity, encouraging their son/daughter to become involved, helping to provide food for events, etc.

Finally, it takes community support; it takes a village. One person cannot keep in contact with or meet all of the youth ministry needs of several hundred youth. As with all of us, youth relate to different personalities and, therefore, a varying team of leaders is needed...a team made up of people of all ages. Adults not on the "core team" are needed to encourage youth they know to be involved in youth ministry and the life of the parish, to extend a personal invitation. Adults can also be involved peripherally by offering to teach a specific life skill, write letters of encouragement, drive or chaperone an event or provide food. (If there is food, youth will come, right?) †


For more information on how you can be a part of youth ministry at Saint Thomas More Parish, as a youth or adult, contact Johnny Greehalgh at Johnny@stmkc.com or 942-2492 x214.



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11822 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131
www.stmkc.com

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**LET YOUR
VOICE
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**TOWN HALL MEETINGS
MAY 15-16 AFTER ALL MASSES
IN MORE HALL**

**PARISH PLANNING SURVEY
RESULTS ARE BEING TABULATED
AND WILL BE POSTED SOON AT
STMKC.COM AND IN OUR BULLETIN**



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